

# CLUE+ ANNUAL REPORT 2022



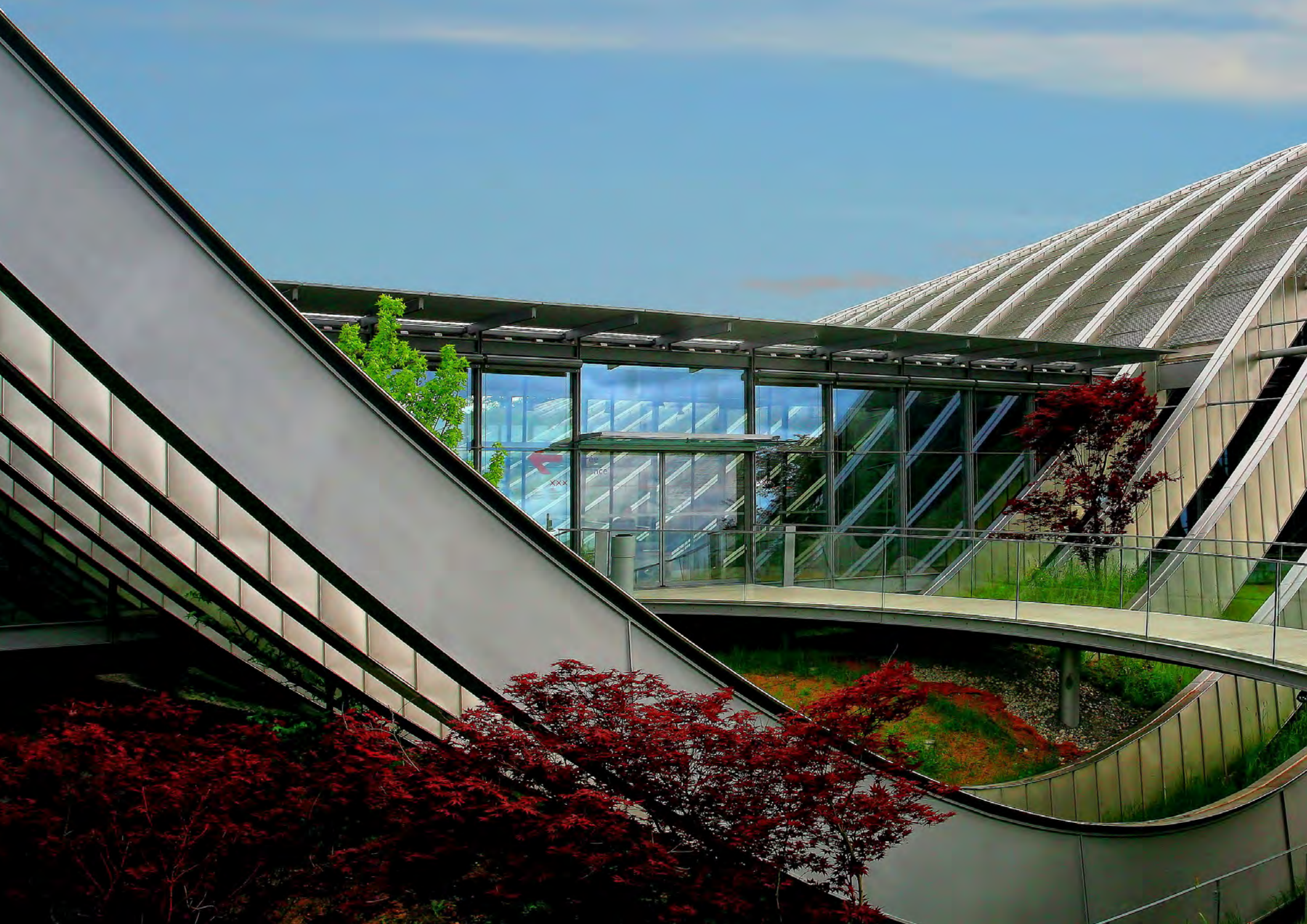
**CLUE+**

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR  
CULTURE, COGNITION, HISTORY AND HERITAGE



VRIJE  
UNIVERSITEIT  
AMSTERDAM









# CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Our programmes</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Inclusive Landscape Transformations	2
2.2 Environmental and Health Humanities	4
2.3 Globalization, Capitalism, Colonialism	5
2.4 Knowledge in Context	6
2.5 Traces of the Transcendent	6
<b>3. Achievements</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. Conclusions and strategy 2023 - 2026</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Appendix: Facts and figures</b>	<b>16</b>





↑ The Mezquita in Cordoba, Spain. © Photo Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+.





# VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

## CLUE+

Interfaculty Research Institute for Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2022 CLUE+, the Vrije Universiteit interfaculty research institute on Culture, Cognition, History and Heritage, has entered a new phase, after years of expansion and intensification. On the one hand, this new phase is one of consolidation of the success of the previous years and of the number of researchers engaged. On the other hand, the research focus has been aligned with new challenges, themes and research leaders. For one, the institute has now explicitly dedicated itself to the theme of *Connected World*, one of four central profile themes of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; CLUE+ aims to investigate today's most pressing societal challenges, linked to *Connected World*. The main questions that we explore are how people around the world have grown more connected due to globalization, migration, and digitization, and how disconnection can be countered. CLUE+ researches the *Connected World* from a historical, philosophical, cultural, and social point of view. In doing so, CLUE+ provides a unique platform for academics in multiple faculties to meet each other and engage in dialogue, particularly those in the cultural, social, and spatial sciences. The numerous interdisciplinary research projects under the CLUE+ banner prove the continuing success of our grassroots approach to collaboration across the academic landscape. These projects have been gathered under the heading of five new research programmes. In the present annual report, we will first introduce these programmes, their aims and themes and the centres and partners involved, after which we will present their accomplishments for the year 2022.



Amsterdam, September 2023

← Gert-Jan Burgers, director until 31.12.23

Sjoerd Kluiving, director from 01.01.24 →



## 2. OUR PROGRAMMES

CLUE+'s new phase is heralded by the introduction of five new research programmes on interdisciplinary themes, each led by a pair of established researchers. These programmes overlap and cooperate in many high-profile research projects. They support the institute's ambition to be an inclusive community for junior and senior researchers. Each of these programmes welcomes CLUE+ researchers from different faculties. The programmes are:

- Inclusive Landscape Transformations
- Environmental and Health Humanities
- Globalization, Capitalism, Colonialism
- Knowledge in Context
- Traces of the Transcendent

### 2.1 INCLUSIVE LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATIONS

**Programme coördinators: Dr. Linde Egberts and Dr. Niels van Manen**

#### AIMS AND THEMES.

The emerging climate crisis, the global pandemic and the growing digitalisation of society have profound effects worldwide and challenge our current ways of life. These trends and their effects have also raised awareness of the disparities between different groups in society, in terms of access to high-quality living conditions and of participation in decision making. Landscapes – as material and cultural manifestations of society – are a crucial scale at

which to do something about these disparities. Knowledge about landscape transformations and mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion are vital.

Landscape research has in recent decades grown enormously as a field of scientific endeavour, with a variety of disciplines offering new perspectives and methods and interdisciplinary programmes seeking to offer more holistic understandings.

Researchers involved in the 'Inclusive Landscape Transformations' programme contribute to this booming field by conducting transdisciplinary research into landscape transformations, both past and present. They conduct critical analysis of landscapes and spatial interventions focusing on power relationships, inclusivity, participation and emancipation. The ways in which history and heritage play through these processes of change are a key interest of the research. The programme promotes the building communities of researchers from a variety of scientific domains, conducting applied research in close collaboration with engaged societal partners and developing comparative perspectives on inclusivity in current landscape transformations and historical ones.

*Research centres and affiliated researchers include:*

- International Association of Landscape Archaeology
- Amsterdam Centre for the History and Heritage of Protestantism
- Amsterdam Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology



↑ Landscape transformations and climate crisis.

Photo: © Unsplash





- Amsterdam Sustainability Institute
- Amsterdam Young Academy
- Athena Institute
- Spinlab
- Researchers in Archaeology, Architectural history, Church and Religious History, Landscape Architecture, Environmental and GeoScience, GIS and Cartography, Governance Studies, Health Science, Heritage, History and Spatial Economics

*Engaged societal partners include:*

- Civilscape
- Monumenten & Archeologie Amsterdam
- Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed, afdelingen Landschap en Archeologie
- Rijkswaterstaat/Programma Rijke Waddenzee
- Waddenacademie

*Partnering knowledge institutes and platforms include:*

- Erfgoed Academie
- Kenniscentrum Ongelijkheid
- Reinwardt Academie

*Partnering dissemination platforms include:*

- Journal of European Landscapes
- Landscape and Heritage Book Series (Amsterdam University Press)
- European Heritage Tribune

## 2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES

Program coordinators: Dr. Kristine Steenbergh and Dr. Erin La Cour

### AIMS AND THEMES.

This research programme crosses humanities approaches to human-nature relations, health and medicine, and emotions and senses. Recognising that history, society, and culture shape all of these domains, the interdisciplinary fields of Environmental Humanities, Medical and Health Humanities, and the History of Emotions and Senses bring new cutting-edge perspectives to urgent issues from climate change and public health to individual wellbeing and help to understand the past and its lessons for the future.

In current research projects in the Environmental Humanities, we work with museums and cultural institutions to shape new relations between humans and the natural world, for example by looking at how Dutch culture relates to water and has coped with drought in the past. In collaboration with heritage institutes, in the Medical and Health Humanities we consider how collecting and interpreting 'forgotten' diseases such as AIDS influences the management of emerging disease threats today and, with the WHO, analyse how to adapt global policies to local circumstances. Also in the Medical and Health Humanities, we analyse how the theory and practice of graphic medicine comics can produce new embodied knowledge

↓ Poster Symposium Sink or Swim organised by Still Waters Run deep and the Environmental Humanities Center. © Bert Brouwenstijn

STILL WATERS RUN DEEP & ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES CENTER PRESENT:

## SYMPOSIUM


### SINK OR SWIM. SEARCHING FOR A SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH WATER


**Date:** Thursday 30 June 2022  
**Time:** 13:00 – 17:00  
**Location:** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, main building (room 8A-00)  
**Language:** English  
**Registration:** Free entry, please register via: [tinyurl.com/279b4v8v](https://tinyurl.com/279b4v8v)

'Sink or Swim' is an interdisciplinary symposium establishing an encounter between visual art, history, philosophy, ecology and governance, seeking to provide current insights and creative inspiration for building a sustainable relationship with water. Industrial processes of mining and extraction contribute to water pollution and climate change, threatening aquatic health and biodiversity. The unprecedented speed of human-induced climate change in turn, causes more extreme weather events. Droughts, heatwaves and heavy rainfall lead to urgent challenges of water scarcity for humans and in nature. To counter this course of events we urgently need to imagine more sustainable ways of interacting with and governing water.

**PROGRAMME:**

<p>13:00 Welcome and introduction            13:15-13:35 "It's not my fault!" – So what?  <i>Ethical considerations for climate change and sustainability</i> – Dominik Boll</p>	<p>14:45-15:05 <i>Water care</i>  <i>Science and policy in dark waters: has new European legislation made national water governance more sustainable?</i> – Nina Valin</p>
<p><i>Water welfare</i>            13:40-14:00 <i>The ecology of human modified delta lakes, a case study on Lake Markermeer, The Netherlands</i> – Harm G. van der Geest            14:05-14:25 <i>Concrete Reef</i> – Deep Time Agency (Miriam Sentler &amp; Wouter Osterholt)</p>	<p>15:10-15:30 <i>Early modern Amsterdam's hydrological assemblage: everyday practices of urban water</i> – Bob Pierik            15:35-15:55 <i>Making the city of Amsterdam climate resilient</i> – Daniel Goedbloed</p>
<p>14:25-14:45 <i>Interval</i></p>	<p>16:00-16:45 Q&amp;A with all speakers</p>





For more information: [www.environmentalhumanitiescenter.com](http://www.environmentalhumanitiescenter.com)



about illness, disability, healthcare systems, and caring. Through the lens of the History of Emotions and Senses, we explore how emotions are culturally diverse and analyse 'new' trends such as the democratisation of society, affective economies, and emotional regimes (emocracies). With computer science, chemistry, heritage science, and industry partners we also work to develop cutting edge

techniques in smell recognition and olfactory museology.

Focal areas of interest for the Environmental and Health Humanities theme include:

- Environmental Humanities
- Health Humanities
- History of Emotions and Senses
- Embodied, Sensory, and Emotional Practices and Knowledge Production



- Environmental, Health, and Sensory Communication and Literacy
- Universities, Museums, and Heritage and Cultural Institutions
- Literature, Comics, Art, Science, and Technology

Research centers and affiliated researchers:

- Environmental Humanities Center Amsterdam
- ACCESS: Amsterdam Centre for Emotions and Sensory Studies
- PULSE Centre for Medical and Health Humanities

## 2.3 GLOBALIZATION, CAPITALISM, COLONIALISM

**Programme coordinators: Dr. Babs Boter and Prof. dr. Pepijn Brandon**

This programme is the successor of the CLUE+ program Global History, Heritage and Memory. Movements of people, their artefacts and ideas across space, and the connections between societies that arise out of those movements, are inherent to the human condition. Acceleration of such movements across the globe and the deepening impact this has had on local societies lay at the root of our current age of Globalization. The economic and political context in which this has taken place have been shaped profoundly by the emergence of capitalism as the dominant form of economic life, and the process of colonization and de-colonisation as key aspect of today's world of nation-states.

Researchers in this programme approach the problems and challenges of creating more equitable forms of global interaction from an explicitly trans-national angle. They try to unsettle established narratives on individuals, nations, and global interactions that have the nation as their methodological point of departure. They ask questions about the impact of transnational movements on national identity and global cultures and their representation in literature and other media. They track the complicated relationship between the formation of the nation-state and global practices, as well as the way in which the human imagination projected fictions and myths onto notions of nationhood.

*FOCAL AREAS OF INTEREST FOR GLOBALIZATION, CAPITALISM, COLONIALISM THEME INCLUDE:*

- Capitalism
- Colonialism and decolonisation
- Migration
- Trade
- Inequality
- Dispossession
- Citizenship
- Circulation of knowledge
- National identity/nationhood
- Transnationality and representation of (trans)nationality
- Imagination
- Myths
- Media and Literature

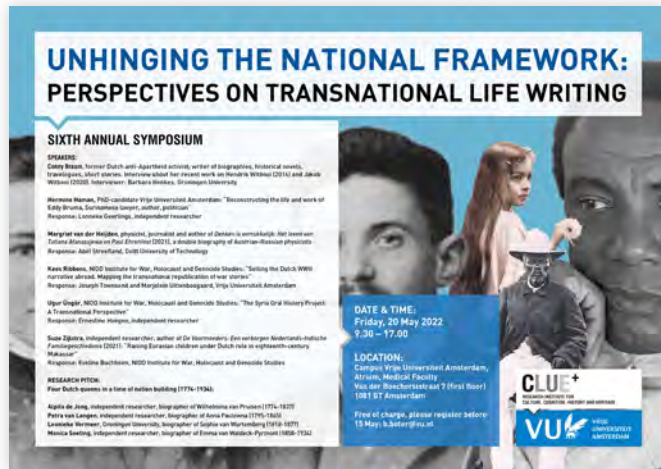
↓ The controversial statue of Jan Pieterzoon Coen, Hoorn, The Netherlands. Photo: © Bert Brouwenstijn





**RESEARCH CENTRES AND AFFILIATED RESEARCHERS:**

- Unhinging the National Framework
- Migration and Diversity Center
- HDC Centre for Religious History
- International cooperations:
- Global History Network
- Fudan/East China Normal University
- Centre for the Study of Slavery and Justice (Brown University)



**2.4 KNOWLEDGE IN CONTEXT**

**Programme coordinator: Dr. Ab Flipse**

**AIMS AND THEMES**

Knowledge and reliable information are central to almost all sectors of contemporary society. The Netherlands is sometimes characterised as a knowledge economy; democracy needs a knowledgeable citizenry; technological innovation requires scientific knowledge production and research and development; and reliable information and knowledge of various kinds form key ingredients for well-functioning journalism, media, medicine, law, government, and other sectors of society.

Researchers involved in the 'Knowledge in Context' theme work on fundamental and applied questions about knowledge and its production, maintenance, distribution, and use, as well as the processes that seek to undermine knowledge and its roles in society. They employ both systematic and historical perspectives in doing so.

**FOCAL AREAS OF INTEREST FOR THE KNOWLEDGE IN CONTEXT THEME INCLUDE:**

- Universities and other knowledge-centered institutions
- Knowledge in institutional settings
- Social and historical contexts of knowledge
- Misinformation
- Inclusion and exclusion
- Science and the big questions

**RESEARCH CENTERS AND AFFILIATED RESEARCHERS**

- Abraham Kuyper Center for Science and the Big Questions
- Simon Stevin Center for the History of Science and Humanities
- Ethos, Research and Debate Center for Societal Transformations
- Researchers in theoretical philosophy, history of philosophy, social, cultural and political philosophy, history of science and the humanities, religious studies, and theology

**2.5 TRACES OF THE TRANSCENDENT**

**Programme coordinators:  
Prof. dr. Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte and  
Prof. dr. Jessica Roitman**

In *Traces of the Transcendent* the study of religion and its influence on even secular societies is studied. How do religious traditions past and present colour modern societies and how do societies interact with those traditions?

The year 2022 saw the actual launch of this program, once the covid-19 pandemic died down. In a series of individual meetings researchers have sharpened their focus and prepared for a number of grant applications, the outcome of which will become clear in 2023. One of the results has been the programmatic 'Month of Sacred Nature' of the Faculty of Religion and Theology, held in April 2023, and prepared in 2022.

In searching for a fruitful form for this program several activities have been tried:



reading groups, lunch meetings, and lectures. Prof. dr. Chris Doude van Troostwijk started a collaboration with Prof. Carl Raschke (Denver) and has brought Raschke to Amsterdam for a number of meetings.

The result of our findings in 2022 is that for 2023 a new course has been set: individual meetings with researchers and fostering awareness among researchers of the Faculty of Religion and Theology and the Faculty of Humanities that this new CLUE+ programme can facilitate academic interaction across disciplines.

*FOCAL AREAS OF INTEREST FOR THE TRACES OF TRANSCENDENT THEME INCLUDE:*

- Religion and climate change/sustainability
- Artificial intelligence and theology/belief
- Religion and spirituality in organizations
- Religion and (legacies of) colonialism

→ **Traces of the Transcendent.**  
**What role does belief play?**

Photo: © Unsplash.





### 3. ACHIEVEMENTS

#### RESEARCH PRODUCTS FOR PEERS

CLUE+'s ambition as a centre of excellence has been sustained in particular by high quality publications aimed at peers, ranging from monographs to (peer-reviewed) journal articles and from the editorship of volumes to digital infrastructures. CLUE+ researchers regularly publish books and edit volumes with leading publishers (e.g. Routledge, Oxford University Press, Ashgate, Brill) and write articles for leading international journals. Prominent amongst these is the volume edited by CLUE+ programme director Pepijn Brandon, Lex Heerma van Voss and Annemieke Romein on *The Early Modern State: Drivers, Beneficiaries and Discontents: Essays in Honour of Prof. Dr. Marjolein 't Hart*.







Written in honour of the leading historian of war and state formation in the early modern Low Countries, Marjolein 't Hart, the chapters gathered in this volume examine the main drivers, beneficiaries and discontents of state formation across and beyond Europe in the early modern period. Hans Renes published a volume entitled *Landscape, Heritage and National Identity in Modern Europe*, which considers the relationship between landscapes, heritage and national identity in modern Europe. As part of the CLUE+ edited Landscape and Heritage Studies (LHS) series, Miel Groten published *The Architecture of Empire in Modern Europe: Space, Place, and the Construction of an Imperial Environment, 1860-1960*. This volume traces the entanglement of the European built environment with overseas imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Another significant publication was *Graphic Medicine*, edited by CLUE+ programme co-coordinator Erin la Cour and Anna Poletti, in which comics artists and scholars of life writing, literature, and comics explore the lived experience of illness and disability through original texts, images, and the dynamic interplay between the two. The volume *Social Virtue Epistemology*, edited by Mark Alfano, Colin Klein and CLUE+ programme coordinator Jeroen de Ridder, is a collection of 19 chapters that explores the place of intellectual virtues and vices in a social world. Additionally, René van Woudenberg published a book entitled *De toekomst is geen vreemde*, in which he argues that there are three types of future certainties: metaphysical, natural, and promises. This book was written for a wide audience.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

As part of its strategic plan, CLUE+ has also actively stimulated its staff to (co)-organize scientific meetings, from grant writing workshops for researchers in all stages of their careers, to informal lunch meetings on current research projects and fullfledged conferences. Amongst the latter stand out the international conference on Cultural Heritage and Spatial Planning, organised by the EU Marie Curie CLUE+ coordinated Innovative Training Network *HERILAND*, and the interdisciplinary symposium “Sink or Swim. Searching for a sustainable relationship with water”, organised by the Environmental Humanities Center. Also, CLUE+ co-organized the *Connecting Worlds Conference*, a two-day conference of the VU research profile theme Connected World. Other meetings include a seminar on Transnational Life Writing (May), the book launch of *The Early Modern State: Drivers, Beneficiaries and Discontents* (June, in honour of prof. dr. Marjolein 't Hart), a symposium on Corruption and Public Service in an Age of Modernity and Empire (November), and a master class by prof. dr. Anthony Bogues on the work of Caribbean radical thinker Sylvia Wynter (December). Also noteworthy is the CLUE+ Academic Living Lab “Amsterdam Diaries”, featuring five brainstorm sessions with Amsterdam-based partners in the fields of education, cultural heritage, culture, and history. This collaborative project is affiliated with the

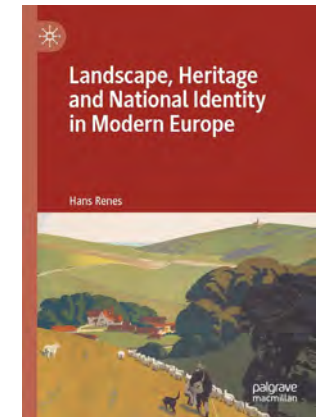


### SOCIAL VIRTUE EPISTEMOLOGY

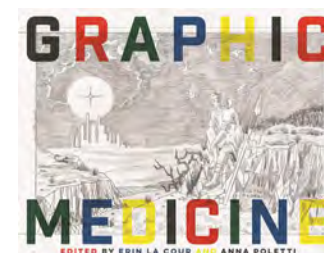
Edited by  
Mark Alfano, Colin Klein and Jeroen de Ridder



↑ Book cover of Social Virtue Epistemology, co-edited by CLUE+ researcher Jeroen de Ridder.



↑ Book cover of Landscape, heritage and national Identity in Modern Europe by CLUE+ researcher Hans Renes.



↑ Book cover of Graphic Medicine edited by CLUE+ programme co-coordinator Erin la Cour and Anna Poletti.



CLUE<sup>+</sup>-linked research group 'Unhinging the National Framework: Platform for the Study of Life Writing and Transnationalism'.

#### USE OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS BY PEERS:

Many of the CLUE<sup>+</sup> publications discussed above have had a significant impact on peers, as attested by websites such as 'research gate' or 'academia'. The same goes for products other than publications, such as the Netherlands state-of-the-art Isotope GEochemistry Laboratory, in short NIGEL. In 2022 the subdepartment of Geology and Geochemistry led by VU Professor Gareth Davies, received €4.85 million NWO Large grant to set up and equip a modern new laboratory for isotope geochemistry analysis. This ambitious and multidisciplinary research programme will help maintain the VU's leading international position. NIGEL has been established for use by national and international research groups from Earth and planetary sciences, archaeology, forensic research, and cultural heritage.

#### ACQUISITION OF EXTERNAL FUNDING

CLUE<sup>+</sup> is traditionally strong in acquisition in national and international competition. In 2022 several new projects were awarded, and ongoing projects received positive evaluations allowing them to continue. Among the new projects the largest are:

#### Land Grabbing Empire: State Strategies for Large Scale Land Transfers in Dutch Expansion (16th – 18th centuries)

Pepijn Brandon received an NWO Vidi for this project. Land Grabbing is an urgent global problem with deep historical roots. Brandon's project shows how the market-oriented early modern Dutch state applied large-scale land expropriation as a commercial strategy within and outside Europe. The Dutch example provides insight into the relationship between violence and the market in the development of agrarian capitalism.

#### NWO Rubicon for Tamarinde Haven

CLUE<sup>+</sup> researcher Tamarinde Haven has been awarded a Rubicon grant for her research into 'responsible supervision by the supervisor and the PhD candidate'. She conducts this research at the Danish Center for Studies in Research and Research Policy in Denmark.

#### Paul, Syriac Christianity, and Judaism: Syriac Interpretations of Romans 9–11

Hanna Hoogenraad received NWO funding for this project (main supervisor: Bas ter Haar Romeny). Christians have typically attributed a key role to Romans 9–11 in their view of Judaism, and Syriac Christians are no exception. However, it has not been investigated how Syrians used this text as the basis of their perspective and why it differed from that of many western Christians. By analysing for the first time all preserved Syriac biblical commentaries on these chapters, some of which are as yet unexplored, this project will



← Prof. Dr.  
Pepijn Brandon.



← Dr. Tamarinde Haven.



← PhD candidate  
Hanna Hoogenraad.



↓ Dr. Norah Karrouche.



contribute significantly to our understanding of Jewish-Christian relations, as well as to the comprehension of the history of biblical interpretation in the formative period of Syriac Christianity.

#### **DEXTER-DC: a 'digital rolodex' for micro-archives**

Norah Karrouche received CLARIAH and NWO funding for this project. DEXTER-DC contributes to the discoverability and reusability of micro-archives by designing a web application for the annotation of both online collections and micro-archives. The application consists of a set of components that is interoperable with existing research infrastructures. The application functions as a kind of 'digital rolodex', allowing individual researchers and research teams to register previously inaccessible micro-archives

→ ↓ PhD Candidate  
Teun van Dijk.

without the need for full digitisation and allowing others to refer to them as to any other online collection, and to create and explore analytical annotations in a standardised and sustainable way.

#### **Anchoring Asceticism in Late Antique Gaul: Interiority, Paideia, and Community in Lérinian Hagiography**

Teun van Dijk received NWO funding for this project (supervisors: N.M. Vos; Bas ter Haar; Olivier Ekster). The project investigates conceptualisations of interiority and the Self in the corpus of hagiographical texts connected to the fifth-century monastic community of Lérins. It will examine how the conceptualisations of the human interior expressed in these narrative texts were anchored in Greco-Roman philosophical, didactic and cultural traditions – whether directly or indirectly – and how this anchoring contributed to the exhortative as well as transformative goals and effects of these texts.

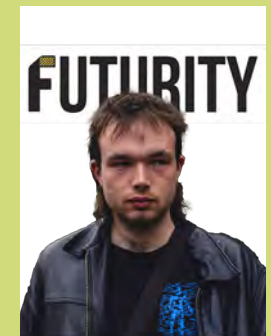
#### **Disability and Self-Governance: a Global Microhistory of Het Dorp Community and its Cultural Heritage from the 1960s**

Mónika Baár received an NWO Open Competition SSH- grant for the project: *Disability and Self-Governance: a Global Microhistory of Het Dorp Community and its Cultural Heritage from the 1960s*. The project seeks to answer how engagement with the concept of disability can contribute to writing more inclusive histories. It pioneers this concept as its central analytical category for

undertaking the first comprehensive historical study of Het Dorp: a self-governing, accessible residential community for people with severe physical disabilities and chronic illness near Arnhem which was initiated in 1962 by the largest telethon in Dutch history.

#### **Foreclosed Futurity: Contemporary Illness Life Writing Beyond the Narrative Wreck**

For this PhD project Max Casey received funding from the NWO PhDs in the Humanities (main supervisor: Diederik Oostdijk). Medical humanities scholars often argue that the ability to narrate one's life within a coherent, linear story is beneficial for patient wellbeing and their healthcare outcomes. Such narratives, though, are often seen as requiring a foreseeable and

↓ Prof. Dr.  
Mónika Baár.↑ PhD Candidate  
Max Casey.



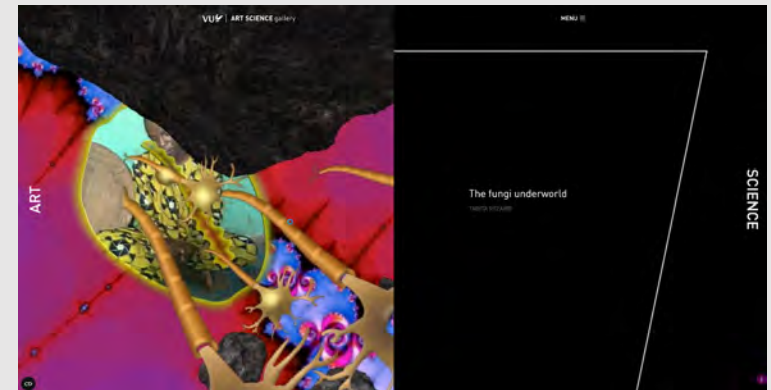
comprehensible future in order to be written, most often based around recovery from illness. This research will open up a dialogue with societal partners, including healthcare professionals, about this issue. Moreover, it will theorise a concept of foreclosed futurity to understand how subjects narrate their lives and construct their identities when illness cannot be overcome and has left their futures uncertain and unpredictable.

#### OTHER NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS INCLUDE:

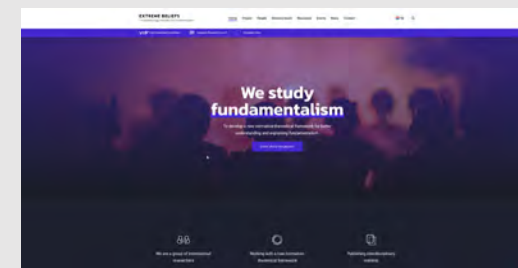
- **What went into the melting pot?** *Land-use, agriculture, and craft production as indicators for the contributions of Greek migrants and local inhabitants to the so-called Greek colonization in Italy (ca. 800-550 BC)*. NWO Open Competition funded and coordinated by Jan Paul Crielaard
- **FireScapes:** Towards an interdisciplinary understanding of wildfire risk mitigation in the Dutch landscape, Linde Egberts, Niels van Manen, Evelien de Hoop, Hilde Brouwers, Marleen de Ruiter, Sander Veraverbeke & Max van Gerrevink
- **Coping with drought.** An Environmental History of Drinking Water and Climate Adaptation in the Netherlands, 1550-1850. NWO Open Competition SSH, coordinated by Petra van Dam
- **Exploded View;** Artistic research project on landscape parks, funded by Mondriaan Fund, coordinated by Krien Clevis and Gert-Jan Burgers
- **H2020 EU Marie Curie ITN Heriland**, coordinated by Gert-Jan Burgers and Niels van Manen;
- **H2020 EU Marie Curie ITN Terranova**, coordinated by Sjoerd Kluiving
- **Crosslands**, funded by EU Erasmus+, PI for CLUE+ Gert-Jan Burgers
- **Natural Technology: Welcome to the Symbiocene**, VU ArtScience Gallery Exhibition, April-November 2022 (with podcasts by CLUE+ members and ArtScience Dialogues), coordinated by Katja Kwastek
- **The Social Epistemology of Argumentation** (ERC Consolidator Grant Catarina Dutilh Novaes). The key question of this project is: 'What does it take for a process of argumentation to improve our epistemic situation?'
- **Epistemic Progress in the University** (Templeton World Charity Foundation, coordinated by Rene van Woudenberg). Key question: 'How can universities more effectively make epistemic progress, that is, furthering the cause of knowledge, understanding, insight, rationality, and explanation?'
- **Extreme Beliefs: The Epistemology and Ethics of Fundamentalism** (ERC Starting Grant, Rik Peels). The project is devoted to a conceptual and normative assessment of fundamentalist belief.
- **Knowledgeable Democracy: A Social-Epistemological Inquiry** (NWO talent program Vidi, coordinated by Jeroen de Ridder). Key question: 'How to evaluate and

improve the knowledge-producing potential of liberal democracies'.

- **Responsible Use of Neurotechnology for a Safer Society** (NWO talent program Vici coordinated by Gerbert Meynen). Key question: 'How can neurotechnology be used responsibly to prevent recidivism and make society safer?'



↑ Website of the VU Art Science Gallery with past exhibition Natural Technology: Welcome to the Symbiocene exhibition.



↑ Homepage of the Extreme Beliefs: The Epistemology and Ethics of Fundamentalism project.



## LIST OF PHD DEFENCES

Again, in 2022 the number of PhD research projects produced and defended under the supervision of CLUE+ affiliated staff was high:

- [12-01-2022] **H. den Uijl** – *Practical Wisdom in Governance*
- [17-01-2022] **I. Speckmann** – *Bijeen om te eten*
- [10-02-2022] **J.P. Washam** – *Regenerating the Garden of the World*
- [24-02-2022] **S. Bergs** – *Control Copy: Digital Reproducibility and the Valorization of Contemporary Art*
- [02-03-2022] **J.D.K. van Jaarsveld** – *Transforming Masculinities in the Reformed Church in Zambia: The good men, the good life and the good news*
- [07-03-2022] **J.R. Smith** – *What Prevents Christian Adults from Learning? In fresh perspective, conversation and practice: John Hull's theological pedagogy as disruptive-inclusion*
- [22-03-2022] **H. Sulistyani** – *The Railway Station In Java*
- [01-04-2022] **I. Venderbos** – *From distinctive to plain and blurred*
- [06-04-2022] **M. Khalili** – *Reality in Perspectives*
- [24-05-2022] **J.S.K. Al Ahmad** – *Islam and Human Rights in the Discourse of Tunisian Feminist Intellectuals and Activists: Olfa Youssef, Amel Grami, and Zahia Jouirou on Advancing Social Justice*
- [25-05-2022] **E.A.M. Thabet** – *Religion and Democracy*
- [01-06-2022] **L.M. van Burgsteden** – *From debate to dialogue*
- [07-06-2022] **T. Parker** – *Jesus and Scripture*
- [15-06-2022] **D.O. Stairs** – *Discipleship Methods and Practices Within the Youth Ministries of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches (1945-2010)*
- [29-06-2022] **C.N. Wogu** – *Contesting Heritage:*

*Seventh-day Adventist Ecclesial Praxis in a Pentecostalising Nigerian Society*

- [30-06-2022] **C.M. Hutcherson** – *"Even When I'm Washing the Underwear?"*
- [15-09-2022] **W.J. de Vries** – *Imagining the earth. Prints as evidence in natural philosophical discourse, 1640-1740*
- [21-09-2022] **A. Das** – *The Graph of a Cry. Mapping the American Ghazal's Literary History, 1960-2010*
- [26-09-2022] **W. Fitria Ningsih** – *More than the Wedding Ring. Engaged Women of the Indonesian Nation-State Formation, 1940s-1960s*
- [27-09-2022] **J.G.M. Verhagen** – *Tussen de Dam van Drusus en de Zuilen van Hercules*
- [17-10-2022] **L.D. Thara** – *Reimagining the Neighbour (Ein-Ni-Chin)*
- [21-10-2022] **D. Meyrasyawati** – *Hijab Practices*
- [26-10-2022] **D.R. Hyde** – *"These are the Times"*
- [31-10-2022] **A.S. Antombikums** – *Open Theism and the Problem of Evil*
- [31-10-2022] **H.J. van Helden** – *Reformed modernity*
- [02-11-2022] **R. Lubs** – *Paul's Spirit of Peace*
- [04-11-2022] **J.T. Lowe** – *"The Practice that Prevails": Jonathan Edwards, Slavery, and Race*
- [07-11-2022] **H. Quadir** – *Freedom of expression in Islam and Liberal Democracies: A Comparison*
- [10-11-2022] **M.R. Wilson** – *It Seems Good To Us and the Holy Spirit: Reformed Decision-Making and the Missional Challenge*
- [14-11-2022] **K.B. Yorgio** – *Readings in the Tiqqune Sopherim*
- [16-11-2022] **D.L. Hames** – *Jesus Christ, the Word of God*
- [28-11-2022] **S.H. Gerber** – *The Ontological Demand*
- [01-12-2022] **R.A. Lockhart** – *Super, Natural Vancouver*
- [02-12-2022] **G.H. Holtrop** – *Epistemic Conservatism*

[05-12-2022] **V. Kiangte** – *Baptist Ecclesiology in Mizoram and Nagaland*

[12-12-2022] **B.J.D. van Vreeswijk** – *Vergeving en herstel*



↑ The Jakarta Station, Jakarta, Indonesia. Thesis H. Sulistyani - The Railway Station in Java © CLUE+.



↑ Cover of the *Vergeving en Herstel* (Forgiveness and Restoration) book by CLUE+ researcher Bernard van Vreeswijk.



### RESEARCH PRODUCTS FOR SOCIETAL TARGET GROUPS.

In order to fulfil its aim of creating societal impact, CLUE+ has organised a range of academic events targeted at various groups in society. One exciting example in 2022 is the presentation of artistic results of the *Exploded View* project on the Italian Via Appia park. Together with various scholars, stakeholders and practitioners – ranging from archaeologists, architects, planners to park managers and geographers, a volcanologist, a falconer and a crow (not to mention several volunteers and locals) – the artists have mapped different parts and layers of the Via Appia park. This has brought to light a diversity of new perspectives on this centuries-old heritage landscape. The results of this interdisciplinary research by heritage specialists and artists/researchers in Rome were exhibited in the form of new, exciting projects, film productions and installations in *Arti et Amicitiae* in Amsterdam, and the results of the project were presented in a final symposium at the VU.

Other outcomes for societal groups in 2022 include a wide range of events, media appearances, and other media attention, amongst which the following stand out:

- VU philosophers gave talks at the Night of Philosophy on April 2 (supported by CLUE+).
- Philosophers Ad Verbrugge, Jelle van Baardewijk, and other Ethos Center affiliates continued their highly successful YouTube interview series 'De Nieuwe Wereld'.
- University historian Ab Flipse continued the well-visited website [www.GeheugenvandeVU.nl](http://www.GeheugenvandeVU.nl), which popularises the history of the VU and makes historical sources accessible.
- The Stevin Center organised on November 10 the Conference 'Everything is interesting when you start digging into it' - Aspects of life and work of biologist Jan Lever (1922-2010)' (supported by CLUE+), and in collaboration with the University Library the exhibition 'A life full of wonder'.
- Theologian Gijsbert van den Brink initiated the 'Science Bible' – a modern Bible translation along with hermeneutical notes which interpret the gap between the ancient near eastern and Hellenistic cultures in which the Bible took shape and our own science-imbued world. A large number of activities were organised around this initiative.
- Historians Norah Karrouche and Ab Flipse started the research project 'Experiences of Dutch-Moroccan and Dutch-Turkish first-generation students at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (1980-2020)' (supported by CLUE+), with which they also want to contribute to the current discussion on diversity and inclusion.
- Vicenza Ferrara, Eduardo Corbelle Rico, Anders Wästfeld, Gert-Jan Burgers, Philip Verhagen and Eduardo Simao Da Graca Dias organised on 4-10 July 2022 the Crossland Summer School
- On 17 May 2022 Iris Burgers and Esther Starkenburg participated as speakers during the event Participatie in architectuur (1970-1990). Menselijke Maat en Veelstemmigheid.
- Conference organisation, Erin La Cour, "Isolation, Arts, Engagement," Amsterdam Comics Conference #3, 6-8 October 2022, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Keynotes: Anna Poletti (Utrecht University) and John Miers (Kingston School of Art); with support from NICA, ASCA, ASH, and CLUE+: <http://amsterdamcomics.com/conferences/fall2022/>.
- Conference organisation, Sjoerd Kluiving and Environmental Humanities Center, "Fashion in the Anthropocene: Towards a Sustainable Fashion Future," VU Amsterdam, 27 October 2022.
- Talkshow, Kristine Steenbergh, Talkshow Wild at Heart with Andrea van Pol, "Eco Love" 27 October, Tolhuistuin Amsterdam (with podcast).
- Masterclass, Kristine Steenbergh, Masterclass Eco-literature, 30 Oktober 2022, De Nieuwe Liefde, Amsterdam.
- Environmental Humanities Center, Entanglements lecture series with various speakers.



## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND STRATEGY 2023 - 2026

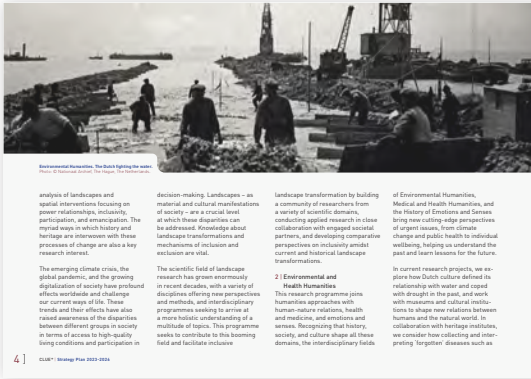
On the basis of the accomplishments presented above we think it is safe to conclude that in 2022 CLUE+ has performed along the lines praised by the international committee that assessed CLUE+ in 2021: not only with regard to research quality but also to societal relevance. Moreover, in the course of 2022 we have developed a new strategic plan for the institute, for the years 2023-2026. In this plan the following policy, content and institutional development goals have been set:

- Further developing our **interdisciplinary research** programmes;
- Anchoring **research in society**;
- Supporting **talent and knowledge exchange**;
- Expanding **international cooperation**;
- Striving to foster a **diverse, sustainable, and caring organization**.

These goals and plans have been presented in further detail in a special Strategy Plan for CLUE+ that was published in 2023.



← ↓ The CLUE+ Strategy Plan.  
© Design Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+.





## APPENDIX: FACTS AND FIGURES

In this appendix, you will find the figures regarding the input of the research staff, funding, and the success rates of the PhD candidates.



**TABLE 1. RESEARCH FTE**

Totaal	2022		2021		2020	
	#	FTE	#	FTE	#	FTE
Assistant professor <sup>1</sup>	72	15,16	61	11,68	67	13,86
Associate professor <sup>1</sup>	24	5,5	25	6,45	27	6,23
Full professor <sup>1</sup>	61	14	57	14,41	58	14,91
Postdoc <sup>2</sup>	39	18,98	26	14,52	28	11,44
Other <sup>3</sup>	9	0,79	4	0,65	9	2,43
PhD students <sup>4</sup>	67	50,24	67	44,02	73	48,71
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>104,67</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>91,73</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>97,58</b>

Note 1: Comparable with WOPI categories HGL, UHD and UD; tenured and non-tenured staff.

Note 2: Comparable with WOPI category Researcher

Note 3: These are researchers with research time/ FTE who do not fit into the previously mentioned categories (Endowed Professor, Research Assistant).

Note 4: Standard PhD (employed) and Contract PhD.

#### EXPLANATION TABLE 1.

When looking at table 1. Research FTE please keep the following in mind:

1. All types of researchers mentioned in the table are employed (tenured and non-tenured staff) or are contract PhD's.
2. The fte you see here are only for the research part of the employment. At the VU researchers often have an employment which consists of research, teaching and administrative duties.
3. The research fte are dynamic which means that due to strategic decisions by the faculty, the department and/ or the chairs the research fte can be reduced (for example for the benefit of the educational tasks) or increased (for example due to the fact that a research grant has been granted). These decisions can be made for an academic or calendar year and influence the figures shown in the table.



**TABLE 2. FUNDING IN PERCENTAGES**

Research unit	2022		2021		2020	
	FTE	%	FTE	%	FTE	%
<b>Funding:</b>						
Direct funding <sup>1</sup>	43,90	42%	39,61	43%	41,80	43%
Research grants <sup>2</sup>	32,26	31%	27,42	30%	28,67	29%
Contract research <sup>3</sup>	17,77	17%	15,54	17%	18,01	19%
Other <sup>4</sup>	10,74	10%	9,16	10%	9,10	9%
<b>Total funding</b>	<b>104,67</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>91,73</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>97,58</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	kEuro	%	kEuro	%	kEuro	%
Personnel costs	€ 122	56%	€ 109	41%	€ 106	48%
Other costs	€ 101	44%	€ 114	52%	€ 117	52%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>€ 223</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>€ 223</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>€ 223</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note 1. Direct funding (from the University).

Note 2. Research grants obtained in national scientific competition (e.g. grants from NWO and the KNAW).

Note 3. Research contracts for specific research projects obtained from external organizations, such as industry, government ministries, European organizations and charitable organizations.

Note 4. Funds that do not fit into the other categories.

**EXPLANATION TABLE 2.**

Table 2 is the standard SEP table of research funding in FTE and in percentage regarding the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and other cash flows.

Direct funding and expenditures of the supporting office of CLUE+ are distinguished from all other income (research grants, etc.) that has been raised with the support of CLUE+. This income is administered by the faculties that participate in CLUE+.

**TABLES 3A AND 3B. SUCCESS RATES PHD DEFENCES FROM FGW AND FRT**

FGW PhD's CLUE+								
Defence year	Gender ratio PhD's					Number of Defences		
	Standard & Contract Phd		External PhD		Total Male & Female	Standard & Contract PhD	External PhD	Total Defences
	Male	Female	Male	Female				
2017	1	1	4	1	7	2	5	7
2018	3	4	4	0	11	7	4	11
2019	5	3	5	0	13	8	5	13
2020	3	4	6	0	13	7	6	13
2021	7	7	5	1	20	14	6	20
2022	2	4	5	1	12	6	6	12
Total	21	23	29	3	76	44	32	76

FRT PhD's CLUE+								
Defence year	Gender ratio PhD's					Number of Defences		
	Standard & Contract Phd		External PhD		Total Male & Female	Standard & Contract PhD	External PhD	Total Defences
	Male	Female	Male	Female				
2017	0	0	10	1	11	0	11	11
2018	0	0	1	7	8	0	8	8
2019	0	0	15	5	20	0	20	20
2020	1	3	8	3	16	4	12	16
2021	2	1	22	3	28	3	25	28
2022	1	1	17	3	22	2	20	22
Total	4	5	73	22	105	9	96	105

**EXPLANATION TABLE 3A AND B.**

When looking at the standard SEP table regarding the success rates of our PhD's please keep the following in mind:

1. The figures shown at this table are the PhD's (standard and contract) of the Faculty of Humanities, who is the chair of CLUE+ and the Faculty of Religion and Theology.
2. The figures shown in the table are not representative for the success rate of all PhD's of the Faculty of Humanities or the Faculty of Religion and Theology, because not all standard or contract PhDs at this faculty are a member of CLUE+.





## COLOPHON

### Editors:

Paola Edixhoven  
Gert-Jan Burgers

### Brochure design and lay-out:

Bert Brouwenstijn, CLUE+/VU

Front cover photo: View of the city of  
Barcelona, Spain.

© Unsplash.







# CLUE+ organization in 2022

Director

**Gert-Jan Burgers**

Chair of the board

**Susan Legêne**

Coordinators CLUE+ Research Clusters

- **Linde Egberts** (FGW, dep. Art & Culture, History, Antiquity, coordinator of the CLUE+ cluster Inclusive Landscape Transformation);
- **Niels van Manen** (SBE, dep. Spatial Economics, co-coordinator of the CLUE+ cluster Inclusive Landscape Transformation);
- **Kirstine Steenbergh** (FGW, dep. Language & Literature, leading the CLUE+ cluster on Environmental and Health Humanities);
- **Erin la Cour** (FGW, dep. Language & Literature, co-coordinator of the CLUE+ cluster on Environmental and Health Humanities);
- **Pepijn Brandon** (FGW, dep. Art & Culture, History, Antiquity, leading the CLUE+ cluster Globalisation, Capitalism, Colonialism);
- **Babs Boter** (FGW, dep. Language & Literature, co-coordinator the CLUE+ cluster Globalisation, Capitalism, Colonialism);
- **Jeroen de Ridder** (FGW, dep. Philosophy, coordinator of the CLUE+ cluster Knowledge in Context);
- **Ab Flipse** (FGW, dep. Art & Culture, History, Antiquity, co-coordinator of the CLUE+ cluster Knowledge in Context);
- **Bert-Jan Lietaert Peerbolte** (FRT, dep. Text and Traditions, coordinating the CLUE+ cluster Traces of the Transcendent);
- **Jessica Roitman** (FRT, dep. Text and Traditions, coordinating the CLUE+ cluster Traces of the Transcendent).

Policy officer

**Rita van der Schriek-Hermans**

Strategic Research Advisor

**Linde Egberts**

Student assistant

**Margot Bakkes**

Art Director

**Bert Brouwenstijn**

Contact

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

CLUE+ office

De Boelelaan 1105

1081 HV Amsterdam

The Netherlands

E: [clue@vu.nl](mailto:clue@vu.nl)

Visit our website:

[vu.nl/en/about-vu/  
research-institutes/clue](https://vu.nl/en/about-vu/research-institutes/clue)

