



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM

Faculty of
Theology

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL - APRIL 2017

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NEWS FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

This Newsletter of the *Graduate School of Theology and Religious Studies* is, I hope, of interest to all of you, PhD candidates and staff (teachers, supervisors, co-supervisors) alike. It is the very first I write in my role as director of the Graduate School. I am most grateful for all the work my predecessor, Dirk-Martin Grube, has done already and look forward to building on the foundations he and his team have laid.

The Graduate School aims to provide PhD students with first-class personal supervision by leading experts in what we hope is an exciting and stimulating research environment. We offer, at least that is what I hope when I am in this I-have-a-dream-state-of-mind, a challenging PhD

training and supervision programme and organize expert meetings and seminars in which you can present your work in progress, interact with fellow students and scholars from all over the world, and build your own network for an academic career and profession.

Our supervisors represent a wide range of academic disciplines, brought together in the domains of Texts & Traditions and Beliefs & Practices. These domains cover academic research in theology and religion in its wide variety (Biblical studies, history of Christianity, systematic theology, ecumenics, practical theology), Islamic studies, Buddhist, Hindu and Jewish studies, ethics, philosophy of religion, comparative religion, and so on and so forth. Our research projects aim to serve (and do serve!) the academic community, society and faith communities all over the world. That's something to be proud of! I hope you'll join our vision!



A NEW WEBSITE

Recently, the website of the Graduate School has been fully updated and will continue to be updated in the coming weeks and months. Please take a look at the [homepage](#) of the Graduate School. If you have any questions, comments or recommendations, please let our office know (grad.school.the@vu.nl).

ONLINE MODULES

Part of the mandatory courses of our [PhD training programme](#) will be offered online from September 2017 onward. Dr Leon van den Broeke and his team are currently devising an attractive series of online modules related to various disciplines. We hope to be able to show you some of the results soon.

RESEARCH GROUPS

One of the new regulations of our PhD programme is the presentation of research proposals in one of the faculty's research groups prior to submission to the Doctorate Board. Each of our two departments has three research groups.

Texts & Traditions (Prof. Matthias Smalbrugge)

Old Testament / Computer Assisted Analysis (Prof. Wido van Peursen)

New Testament (Prof. Bert Jan Lietaert Peerbolte)

Church History (Prof. Mirjam van Veen)

Beliefs & Practices (Prof. Gijsbert van den Brink)

- Lived Religion & Practical Theology (Prof. Stefan Paas)
- Religious & Cultural Diversity (Prof. Marianne Moyaert)
- Christian Beliefs & Communities (Prof. Gijsbert van den Brink)

The picture below shows a meeting of the Amsterdam New Testament Colloquium (Nieuwtestamentisch Werkgezelschap) in action.



MEMBERSHIP FEES - A REMINDER

According to the [VU doctorate regulations](#) which took effect on 1 September 2015, all PhD candidates are members of a Graduate School. For each PhD-candidate a team of supervisors is appointed that is accountable to the Graduate School of Theology. These developments – stronger supervision teams, free PhD-courses, and better overall quality assurance – require us to charge a [fee for membership](#) in the Graduate School. For the academic year 2017/18, the fee is Euro 500.

A gentle reminder! Please note that as from 1 September 2018 all registered PhD students will have to pay the yearly membership fee, including candidates who started before 1 April 2015. This, to be sure, has been communicated in an email d.d. 14 July 2016 and can be found also on our website. But if - despite all our efforts to reach you - you missed this email-communication for some reason, please let us know.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The agenda on the website of the Graduate School shows upcoming events, such as PhD ceremonies, seminars, meetings of the Doctorate Board and PhD committee, and so on. Please note in particular:

10 May 2017 - PhD Ceremony Gilbert Ross Dueck, *A Transformative Moment: Emerging Adult Faith Development in Conversation With the Theology of James E. Loder*

12-13 June 2017 - A joint two-day conference of NOSTER and SNTC (*Studiosorum Novi Testamenti Conventus*) on *Memory, Orality and Performance in the New Testament*, with Eric Ottenheijm (Utrecht), Arie Zwiep (Amsterdam) and Jens Schröter (Berlin). Location: Tilburg School of Catholic Theology, Oudegracht 61, Utrecht. For more information, see the website of Noster. PhD students will have ample opportunity to present work-in-progress (as part of their training programme).

19 June 2017 - PhD Ceremony Bart Kamphuis, *Against All Authorities: The New Testament for the Manuscript of Jan Hendrik Holwerda (1805-1886)*.

For details and more activities, consult the [agenda](#) on the website of the Graduate School and the homepage of the [Faculty of Theology](#).



This Newsletter will also be published on the website of our Graduate School. In case you should have missed this newsletter as an email and read this newsletter on our website, please let us know.



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