



Assessing Quality and Relevance of Humanities Research



Academic Research

Necessary Part of a Vital Knowledge Society

- driven by curiosity
- risk and (repeated) failure
- unpredictability / serendipity
- timespan – short / long
- conceptually identical for all disciplines
- range from fundamental to applied

Academic Research at Crossroads

- research is part of larger innovation process, both technical and social
- operating at the cross roads of
 - excellence in (international) competition, fields / institutions
 - relevance for (democratic, sustainable) society, local, national

Growing Influence of Civil Society

“a transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view on the (ethical) acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the Innovation process and its marketable products.” (von Schomberg 2011)

Public engagement

Open access

Gender equality

Ethics

Science education

Social justice

Sustainability

→ EUROPEAN VALUES

Demanding Policy Context for Academic Research

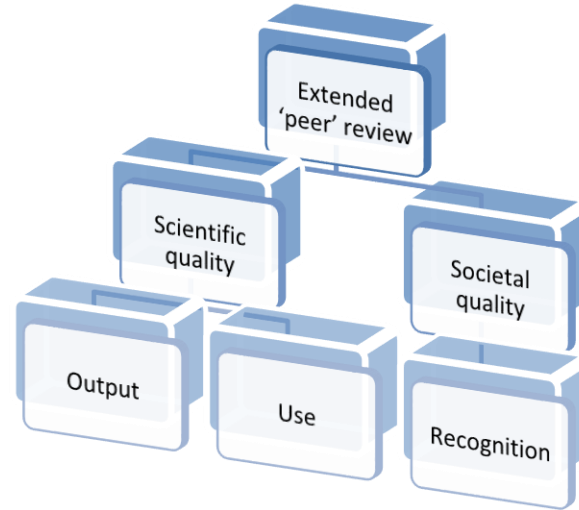
- **2012: TOP SECTOR POLICY/NWO:** Stimulating collaboration in the golden triangle between science, industry, policy/society: Energy, high tech, water, agriculture and food, creative industry, ...
- **2014: SCIENCE VISION:** International Excellence, Maximum Societal Impact, Cradle for talent
- **2015 NATIONAL SCIENCE AGENDA:** combining forces, strategic choices
<http://www.wetenschapsagenda.nl/home-2/?lang=en>
- **EU HORIZON 2020; GRAND SOCIETAL CHALLENGES:** health, food, energy, climate, transport, secure and inclusive societies
- **UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:** poverty, hunger, clean water, inequality, responsible production and consumption, peace,
- **RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (RRI)**

Dutch National Evaluation Protocol SEP 2015-2021

**PEERS, OTHER EXPERTS
and STAKEHOLDERS**

**EQUAL ATTENTION
IN ASSESSMENT**

**INDICATORS
BOTTOM UP**



SEP Indicator Scheme

Disciplinary variation possible

	Scientific quality	Relevance to society
Demonstrable output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sc. articles (refereed vs. non-refereed) • Sc. Books, classification of publishers • Other research outputs (instruments, infrastructure, datasets, softwaretools, designs) • Dissertations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (policy) reports • Articles in professional journals • Other output (instruments, infrastructure, datasets, softwaretools, designs) • Outreach-activities, public lectures, exhibitions,
Demonstrable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citations • Use of datasets, softwaretools, etc. by peers • Use of research facilities by peers • Reviews in scholarly journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patents/licences • Use of research facilities by societal partners • Projects with societal partners • Contract research
Demonstrable recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific prizes • Personal sc. subsidies • Invited lectures • Membership of sc. committees, editorial boards, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public prizes • Valorisation funding • Positions paid for by public parties • Memberships of public advisory bodies

Meaning for the Work Floor?

Local: Self evaluation report: includes SWOT, data for the indicators, and a perspective on the policy context: *Top sectors, Strategic choices of the universities, H2020, contribution to technological and social innovation, National Research Agenda*

National/field: Bottom up development of indicators, the research field / discipline decides which indicators represent best how work is done in the field, and how it is communicated, stakeholders can be included

→ Indicators for scientific quality, for societal relevance

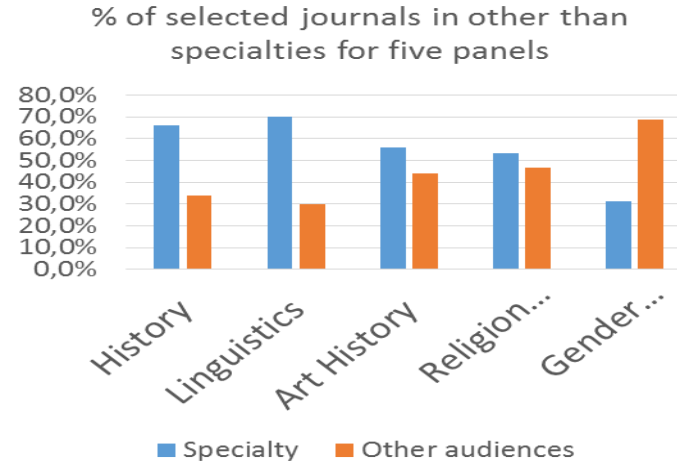
NL Humanities Project

Focus on indicators, quantitative and qualitative, that fit humanities research

- **Scientific quality:** use of journals, books, publishers, in different fields
language issues, databases (Google, Bing, Google Scholar,
specialist databases (f.e. parliament, Nexis Lexis))
- **Societal impact:** audiences, products/output, patterns of communication;
develop qualitative measurements (narratives, case studies)
- *Guidelines and website:* <https://www.qrih.nl/nl/>

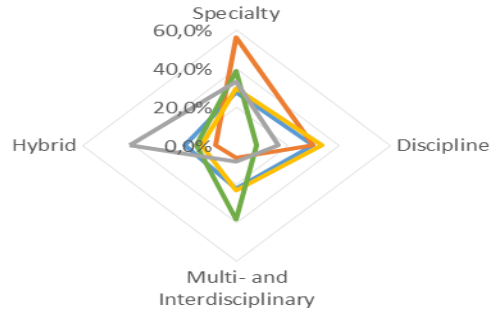
Diversity in Communication Patterns

- Panels selected journals and publishers per (sub)domain and per type of audience:
 - Specialty
 - Discipline
 - Multi- or interdisciplinary
 - Hybrid (both scientific and societal communication combined)
- ± 2000 journals put forward by 17 panels (VABB & CRISTin: each 10.000 journals)
- Diversity in subdivisions: from 0 to 18 specialties and subdomains



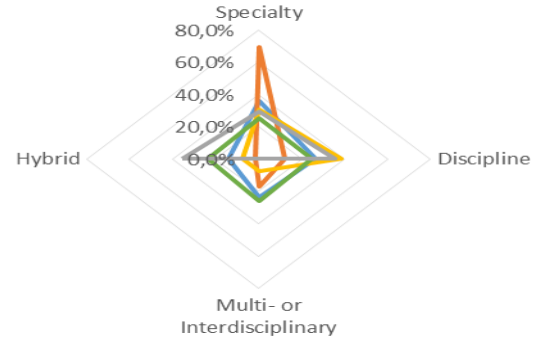
Test Profiles

Profiles Leiden University



- History
- History of Art
- Linguistics
- Cultural Studies

Profiles Univ. Amsterdam

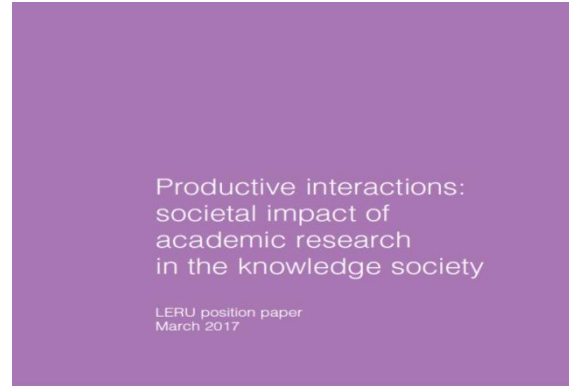


- History
- History of Art
- Religion and Theology
- Linguistics
- Cultural Studies

Hybrid Publications in Several Domains

Title	Societal stake-holders	Scholar Cites per 8 sept 2016	Domain
Annemarie Mol (2003) <i>The Body Multiple</i> , Duke UP	277	3359	Science Studies
José van Dijck. (2013) <i>The Culture of Connectivity</i> , Oxford UP	207	729	Literature
<i>James C. Kennedy (1995), Nieuw Babylon in aanbouw. Boom</i>	391	280	Political History
<i>Piet de Rooy, (2002) Republiek van rivaliteiten, Metz & Schilt</i>	277	151	Political History
Ernst van de Wetering. (1996) <i>Rembrandt. The Painter at Work</i> , AUP	168	150	History of Art
<i>Trudy Dehue (2008) De depressie epidemie, Augustus</i>	285	103	Science Studies
<i>Frits van Oostrom, (2013) Het woord van eer</i>	78	74	Philosophy
<i>Leo Lucassen & Jan Lucassen (2011) Winnaars en verliezers. Prometheus</i>	128	65	Economic History
M. de Winkel, (2006) <i>Fashion and fancy</i> , AUP	90	49	History of Art
<i>Henk te Velde, (2002) Stijlen van Leiderschap. Wereldbibliotheek</i>	232	41	Political History
<i>Marita Mathijssen (2002) De gemaskerde eeuw. Querido</i>	120	38	History
<i>Floris Cohen (2008) Herschepping van de wereld. Bert Bakker</i>	107	35	History
Wagenaar (2011) <i>Town planning in the Netherlands since 1800,</i>	69	25	History of Art

WILJAN VAN DEN AKKER & JACK SPAAPEN:



• University of Amsterdam • Universitat de Barcelona • University of Cambridge • University of Copenhagen
• Trinity College Dublin • University of Edinburgh • University of Freiburg • Université de Genève
• Universität Heidelberg • University of Helsinki • Universitat Ljubljana • KU Leuven
• Imperial College London • University College London • Lund University • University of Ljubljana
• Ludwig Maximilians Universität München • University of Oxford • Pierre & Marie Curie University
• Université Paris-Sud • University of Strasbourg • Utrecht University • University of Zurich

http://www.leru.org/files/publications/LERU_Position_Paper_Societal_Impact.pdf

Comprehensive Assessment

- Focus on more than scientific quality/excellence
- Include methods to evaluate societal impact
- Involve Stakeholders – preferably in design
- Address wider interests
- Innovate!

Conclusions

- Be flexible, but firm
- Room for bottom up approach
- Within a mandatory framework for all
- Improve build up of systematic data
- Allow narratives, case studies
- Involve stakeholders, productive interactions !

Thank You For Your Attention

