Lotnumber	Title project / summary	Contact
1	**Ervaringen met eenzaamheid en sociale isolatie onder patiënten met chronische nierschade** Eenzaamheid en sociale isolatie zijn belangrijke risicofactoren voor zowel psychologische als lichamelijke gezondheidsproblemen. Hoewel iedereen getroffen kan worden door eenzaamheid, lijken patiënten met een chronische ziekte, zoals chronische nierschade (CNS), extra kwetsbaar. Het sociale functioneren van mensen met CNS kan onder druk komen te staan door uiteenlopende achterliggende oorzaken, waaronder fysieke klachten, zoals vermoeidheid, intensieve behandelingen zoals dialyse, en psychologische gevolgen zoals angst, depressie en onzekerheid. Ook schaamte, het gevoel anderen tot last te zijn en maatschappelijke stigmatisering dragen bij aan sociale terugtrekking. Niet alleen kunnen gevoelens van eenzaamheid de kwaliteit van leven van mensen met CNS verminderen, maar ook kan het ziekteverloop verslechteren. Eenzaamheid kan leiden tot stress en slechtere zelfmanagement en therapietrouw, waardoor de nierfunctie verder achteruitgaat. Dit onderzoek wil door middel van gestructureerde interviews met patiënten en hun naasten en zorgverleners inzicht krijgen in hoe mensen met CNS gevoelens van eenzaamheid en sociale isolatie ervaren, welke belemmeringen en helpende factoren er zijn, en hoe deze kunnen bijdragen aan interventies die sociaal welzijn verbeteren. De resultaten zullen de basis vormen voor verdere subsidieaanvragen, met als doel een interdisciplinair samenwerkingsverband op te bouwen tussen collega's van de Faculteit der Sociale wetenschappen en de Faculteit Geneeskunde. Op dit moment wordt er nog geen onderzoek gedaan door de betrokkenen naar eenzaamheid en sociale isolatie	Dr. Sandra van Dijk sdijk@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	bij mensen met chronische nierschade, dus de KIEM-subsidie zal bijdragen aan het opzetten van nieuwe interdisciplinaire samenwerking op een nieuwe onderzoekslijn. Zo hopen we bij te dragen aan een meer holistische zorg voor mensen met chronische nierziekte.	
2	**Bewijskracht onder de Loep – Kritische Geletterdheid van Psychologie tot Criminologie** In een tijdperk waarin informatie overvloedig, maar betrouwbaarheid geen gegeven is, willen we studenten opleiden tot kritische denkers die bewijs niet zomaar aannemen, maar vakkundig onder de loep nemen. Met *Bewijskracht onder de Loep* slaan we de handen ineen tussen de faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen (Psychologie) en de faculteit der Rechtsgeleerdheid (Criminologie) om een innovatieve online module te ontwikkelen die studenten leert om wetenschappelijke literatuur te lezen zoals een rechercheur een zaak onderzoekt: met scherpzinnigheid, systematiek en een gezonde alertheid. Kritisch lezen betekent niet enkel het opsporen van zwakheden, maar juist ook het onderkennen van sterk onderbouwd bewijs. Onze studenten leren zo niet alleen wat ze moeten betwijfelen, maar ook wat ze met vertrouwen kunnen gebruiken in hun eigen werk. Hoewel studenten het belang van kritisch lezen erkennen, geven velen aan niet te weten *hoe* ze dat moeten doen. Bij Psychologie is daarom samen met studenten en onderwijsdeskundigen een online module ontwikkeld vol strategieën en oefeningen die bewezen effectief zijn gebleken. Kritische geletterdheid als vaardigheid is echter minstens zo belangrijk in de criminologie (waar men zich inherent bezighoudt met risicovolle, reële gevolgen, zoals onterechte veroordelingen of beleidsfouten). Daarom beogen we een vertaalslag te maken naar Criminologie en	Anouk van der Weiden a.van.der.weiden@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	de module systematisch in te bedden in beide masterprogramma's. Deze interdisciplinaire samenwerking verrijkt het project: psychologische inzichten in denkfouten en cognitieve bias worden gecombineerd met criminologische kennis over bewijswaardering en redeneren in juridische context. Zo leiden we studenten op tot science-based professionals die niet alleen evidentie gebruiken, maar ook de kwaliteit ervan durven bevragen.	
3	**Medicine in Image and Practice: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Japanese Medical History** This proposal aims to initiate a new interdisciplinary collaboration between the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Medicine (LUMC) through a joint public lecture series in autumn 2026 on Japanese medical history, linking medical science, visual culture, and historical inquiry. The initiative will involve shared teaching preparation, co-design of public events, and the use of rare Japanese medical sources from Leiden University Libraries. Funding will support student assistance and organizational costs.	Nadia Kreeft-Mishkovskyi, MA n.m.kreeft@library.leidenuniv.nl
4	**Our laboratories are going green** (Bio)chemical labs use a lot of energy and produce a lot of waste. Although many researchers and students would like to conduct their research in the most environmentally friendly way possible, this is not yet a common method for our scientists. The Leiden Institute of Chemistry of the Faculty of Science, the Archaeological Sciences Department of the Faculty of Archeology and the Green Labs LUMC would like to bring about change by joining their current expertises and perspectives, by community building and creating awareness, by making use of LEAF	Lian Olsthoorn-Tieleman l.olsthoorn@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	(Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework), by purchasing more environmentally friendly small equipment, and by using the new insights for future grant applications and education.	
5	***Pluralising Climates*: Fostering equitable exchange between Indigenous Knowledge Systems and climate science through multi-stakeholder engagements** In the last decade, governance bodies and policymakers show an increasing interest in the application of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) for addressing planetary challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Global scientific reports produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that IKS are under threat from biodiversity loss and climate change, while acknowledging that these may hold valuable insights to 'solve' these problems. Yet, IKS are still marginalised within these reports. What is further omitted from the scholarly debate more widely, is that these same hegemonic scientific knowledge frameworks are increasingly contributing to the marginalisation of indigenous ways of knowing and being in the world. Moreover, the ontological value of indigenous knowledge in science and policy is poorly understood, often leading to their instrumentalization for Western agendas in the name of ecosystem services, nature-based solutions or climate smart adaptation. In this interdisciplinary project, we wish to explore the potential for more equitable discussions to foster the exchange and mutual understanding of IKS and climate science for climate justice. We will organise multi-stakeholder engagement meetings with indigenous people (e.g. Maasai, Hadzabe) in northern Tanzania, with climate scientists, NGOs, journalists and policy makers. These encounters form part of our methodology, in which we seek	Dr Sara de Wit s.de.wit@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	to contribute to epistemic diversity for more inclusive climate change narratives, adaptation and education in which not only knowledge but also worldviews are taken seriously. Insights from this research will be made actionable and result in a policy brief, a scientific paper and an art exhibition.	
6	**Monitoring the direct and long-term immunological effect of post-exposure prophylactic regimens for leprosy** Leprosy remains a significant public health problem, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The disease primarily affects the skin and peripheral nerves, leading to irreversible damage if left untreated. Although effective treatment exists, current control strategies are inadequate to halt transmission. Preventive treatment of carriers of the bacteria causing leprosy, *Mycobacterium leprae* and *M. lepromatosis*, is key to prevent transmission and can prevent debilitating symptoms in those who would progress to disease. The World Health Organization has endorsed post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) using a single dose of rifampicin to reduce leprosy incidence in contacts of affected individuals. However, the efficacy of PEP remains debated, with concerns about antibiotic resistance and reports of varying effects on new case detection rates. Studies investigating the effect of PEP on *M. leprae* infection at an immunological level, have not yet been performed. This project aims to assess the efficacy of different PEP regimens by evaluating the host immune response to infection, as well as nasal carriage of leprosy bacteria in contacts of leprosy patients in Bangladesh. The interdisciplinary approach will integrate experience of the immunodiagnostics group for mycobacterial	Dr. Anouk van Hooij A.van_Hooij@lumc.nl

	infections (LUMC) on data collection in field trials, with the knowhow of extensive statistical analysis from the Methodology and Statistics department (Faculty of Social Sciences). The effect of PEP on infection will be studied both at the short-term (2-8 weeks after provision) and at the long-term (6 months follow-up). The generated dataset will provide crucial insights in the effect of PEP on transmission, guiding future implementation.	
7	**The multiple voices of Leiden: Multilingualism and linguistic diversity in the city** This project aims to collect filmed linguistic testimonies of inhabitants of Leiden with a migratory background. These testimonies focus on how these people experience the extent to which their language and cultural background is welcomed in Dutch society and how this affects their identity, sense of belonging, and general wellbeing. These testimonies will be shown in a mini-exhibition, where they are embedded in a context of information about Leiden as a multilingual city. The scientific goal of the project is to acquire more insight in the processes that affect language vitality and links between language, identity, and wellbeing. The societal goal is to create more tolerance for the situation and struggles of migrants, and more appreciation for the intrinsic value of cultural and linguistic diversity.	Rik van Gijn e.van.gijn@hum.leidenuniv.nl
8	**Unboxing the Past: Hyperspectral Imaging for Tangible and Intangible features in Heritage of Palm Leaf Manuscripts** This interdisciplinary project aims to unlock the tangible and intangible heritage of palm-leaf manuscripts from the Indonesian archipelago by leveraging hyperspectral imaging and computational analysis. These palm-leaf manuscripts are available from the special collections of Leiden University Library.	Prof Dr Ir Fons Verbeek f.j.verbeek@liacs.leidenuniv.nl

	By integrating expertise from linguistics, history, computer vision, physics, biology, and conservation science, we aim to analyze material properties (ink composition, leaf degradation) and recover obscured texts or narratives from faded Old Javanese inscriptions. To that end, we will use a Specim FX10 hyperspectral camera to capture spectral data across the 400–1000 nm range to reveal hidden features without physical handling, preserving these fragile artifacts. The hyperspectral imaging complements regular digitization efforts. From regular images, we can partially transliterate a lontar document, while computational analysis augments automated transliteration and material characterization. This initiative fosters interfaculty collaborations, uniting linguists, historians, curators, and computational scientists in a novel approach to heritage science. Key outcomes include a digital archive of 10–20 high-quality manuscript images, conservation recommendations, automated manuscript transliteration, and a public exhibition to share findings. By digitizing and interpreting these manuscripts, the project enhances global access to Indonesian cultural heritage and positions Leiden as a leader in innovative preservation techniques. This seed funding paves the way for larger-scale digitization efforts, potentially attracting future grants. The project addresses challenges like degraded materials through pilot testing and interdisciplinary validation, ensuring robust results. It bridges technology and humanities to reveal socio-cultural, religious, and historical knowledge embedded in palm-leaf manuscripts, fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue and public engagement.	
9	**Sensing and Regulating Plastic Pollution in Urban Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Study of South-Holland**	Dr. Ian R. Simspon i.r.simpson@arch.leidenuniv.nl

	We propose to determine in which soil and/or sediment plastic can be found to identify distribution of plastics in an urban setting and the beginning of the "Plasticene", making use of an interdisciplinary approach. The aim is to assess plastic pollution and associated regulations in cities by investigating macro, meso and microplastics in urban deposition. By employing archaeological and environmental sampling, and evaluation of policy and legal regulations, the main goals of the study are to assign hotspots and map plastic pollution across an urban area, contextualise ambitions for cities to become waste-free in the historical and material framework of the study, and evaluate the limitations of legal regulations concerning urban plastic pollution.	
10	**The Horror Paradox: why is it so much fun to be scared? A science communication project.** What is so enjoyable about being afraid? Being afraid is part of human nature; sharing scary stories is something that spans all times and cultures. Horror films are popular, even when 50% of viewers experience fear while watching them. We are even willing to pay money to put ourselves in a situation that is scary: Haunted Houses, Escape Rooms, or Halloween events. This Horror Paradox is a fascinating phenomenon! The research question underneath this is: How do we cope with or best overcome our fears? Does being afraid also provide us with something good like an unforgettable experience that we can look back on positively, because we survived the thrill? This intriguing paradox forms the basis of **The Horror Paradox**, an interdisciplinary science communication project that makes science accessible through a mobile Haunted House: "**The Paradox Box**". Visitors experience anxiety in a controlled and safe setting and simultaneously learn how their body and mind react to this thrilling experience. In a	Dr. L.D. (Linda) de Voogd l.d.devoogd@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	collaboration between Clinical Psychology (Faculty Social and Behavioural Sciences) and Centre for the Arts in Society (Faculty of Humanities), we bring science to festivals such as Lowlands Science and De Nacht van Ontdekkingen (Night of Discoveries), where visitors undergo an experience and actively participate in scientific research. Here, we will have an interdisciplinary approach to answer the historic question: **Why is it so much fun to be scared?** We will combine knowledge from arts and humanities with empirical psychological research and clinical practice, together with citizen engagement.	
11	**Overcoming Barriers: The Role of Anxiety and Self-Efficacy in Physical Activity among People with Parkinson's Disease** People with Parkinson's disease (PwPD) often experience gait and balance impairments, such as festination, asymmetry, and axial rigidity, which increase the risk of falls. In addition, these impairments contribute to anxiety and reduced fall-related self-efficacy, which may subsequently act as barriers to physical activity. This is of concern because physical activity can improve both physical and psychological functioning in PwPD. However, the precise longitudinal relationships and independent effects of anxiety and self-efficacy on physical activity engagement in PwPD remain poorly understood. Furthermore, existing work often relies on patient reports to assess physical activity, which are known to lead to overestimation. This project aims to clarify these relationships by using objective data from wearable sensors to provide a more accurate assessment. By continuously monitoring physical activity over a week, the amount of physical activity and the rest-activity rhythm can be assessed. These findings can inform more tailored	Roel Weijer r.h.a.weijer@lumc.nl

	interventions that target anxiety and self-efficacy to promote active lifestyles in PwPD. The study uses data from the longitudinal Profiling Parkinson's (ProPark) cohort, which follows 660 individuals with PD over a three-year period. Participants undergo clinical assessments and wear movement sensors at home for one week following annual visits. Self-reported data, including the Parkinson Anxiety Scale and the modified Gait Efficacy Scale, are collected after the assessment and repeated at each visit. This longitudinal study will be used to examine how anxiety, self-efficacy, and physical activity influence each other over time, with the goal of guiding more personalized rehabilitation strategies.	
12	**Vertalen in Onderwijs in Inter-Culturele Editie (VOICE)/ Storytelling and Translation as Educational Methods (STEM)** Juist nu de huidige landelijke academische context de aard van internationalisering in het onderwijs op scherp zet, wordt het steeds belangrijker om over interculturele vormen van onderwijs na te denken. In deze pilot willen we in de vorm van een samenwerking tussen FGW en FGGA experimenteren met de meertalige achtergronden van onze studenten en van migrantenkunstenaars in Nederland. Door ons te laten inspireren door open workshops van deze schrijvers/ dichters/ performers/ beeldend kunstenaars uit andere culturele contexten, zullen we de studenten laten proeven aan andere talen (zowel taalkundig als artistiek gezien). Misverstanden, onbegrip en verwarring worden als uitgangspunt gebruikt om te leren luisteren naar dat wat onbekend is en om nieuwe manieren van verstaan te ontdekken.	Nanne Timmer N.Timmer@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	Eigen verhalen, creatieve werkvormen en vertaling -dit laatste in de ruimste zin van het woord- zal een centrale plek hebben in het STEM/VOICE-project. Door de interdisciplinaire samenwerking tussen geesteswetenschappen en “governance and global affairs” zullen we onderzoeken op welke manier artistieke praktijken, vertalen en meertaligheid zowel een educatieve als een politieke functie kunnen hebben. Doel is om tijdens dit jaar ook internationale verbanden te leggen met collega´s die soortgelijk werk doen in andere academische contexten. Dit om de mogelijkheden te verkennen om een internationaal netwerk op te zetten rond vertaling en artistieke vormen van onderzoek en onderwijs.	
13	**Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Professional Ethics in Academia** The proposed project brings together academics at Leiden University who work on professional ethics and academic integrity. It seeks to clarify the role-specific duties of academics and the implications for societal engagement, particularly in contract research, third-party funding, and dual affiliations in the public or private sector. The initiative arises from the observation that discussions on professional ethics in academia are often confined to specific disciplines. To foster interdisciplinary dialogue, the project plans to organize a workshop and an international conference involving participants from Leiden University and external experts. The outcomes will be compiled into an edited volume published by a recognized academic press, providing an interdisciplinary analysis of professional ethics in academia across various fields, while sharing best practices to uphold academic values in societal engagement.	Jan Vleggeert j.vleggeert@law.leidenuniv.nl

14	**Dissecting the role of biophysical cues on gastruloid development in synthetic supramolecular hydrogels** During embryonic development, cells undergo several changes in identity that lead to their specification from the zygote into the various cell types present in our body, such as blood or muscle, among others. Understanding how cells specify their lineage can lead to improved regenerative medicine treatments for numerous diseases, ranging from mitigating the impact of cardiovascular defects to curing diabetes. Nevertheless, investigating the early steps of cell-fate commitment in the mammalian embryo is both technically and ethically challenging. Hence, scientists use stem-cell-based models known as gastruloids, which have been shown to reliably recapitulate key aspects of development, to better understand these processes. While it is known that varying mechanical and biochemical cues during gastruloid culture can impact their cellular composition and morphological features, it remains unclear how these cues—individually or collectively—influence cell fate decisions that are essential for developing regenerative medicine-based therapies. In this pilot study, we plan to employ synthetic hydrogels to investigate their suitability in deciphering the independent roles of mechanical and biochemical cues in mouse gastruloid development. We will use supramolecular hydrogels complemented with fibronectin and laminin, structural proteins present in the extracellular matrix (ECM), to investigate their effects on gastruloid morphology and fate commitment using microscopy and RNA sequencing. In the future, we aim to extend this pilot by developing short peptide-outfitted supramolecular hydrogels that mimic these proteins. Our systematic approach will	Roxanne Kieltyka r.e.kieltyka@chem.leidenuniv.nl

	enable us to improve culture conditions for various organoid models and bridge the gap between fundamental research and clinical applications.	
15	**Expression in music: Semantics and emotion** Music and spoken language share commonalities such as communicating through auditory signals and utilizing timing and pitch differences. However, while language primarily conveys semantic meaning, instrumental music is typically considered to be expressive on a more emotional level. However, musicians often aim to communicate specific meanings through their performances. A pilot study with six pianists playing melodies with different metaphors in mind that varied in arousal and valence, found that emotional content primarily drove performance similarities. Measures of keystroke timing and velocity were analyzed and demonstrated a direct effect of mental imagery on motor performance. However, effective communication is determined by the receiver's interpretation. This research, therefore, aims to evaluate how well human listeners can recognize intended performance metaphors in music, considering timing and dynamics. A large online participant group will help understand individual differences in imagery ability, culture, age, and musical background. Additionally, the resulting findings will be applied in to generative music creation, to assess whether human-produced expressive cues can be utilized to improve our knowledge on human-machine interaction in the musical domain. This interdisciplinary research enhances our understanding of brain processes, non-verbal communication and musical performance and interpretation. In addition, the outcomes may inform generative AI in music, addressing criticisms that AI-generated music lacks expressiveness. Teaching these systems	Rebecca Schaefer r.s.schaefer@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	how to translate expressive cues to musical features could make AI-generated music more human and emotionally impactful, with applications beyond commercial music in, for example, healthcare settings. Our team, led by experts in psychology, music cognition, AI, and linguistics, seeks to enhance collaboration in domain and pursue additional grant applications.	
16	**MARKET POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY** In March 2025 Elon Musk threatened to turn off Ukraine's access to Starlink – a satellite communication system operated by his company Space X – which keeps the country's hospitals, military operations, and power plants online amidst the war with Russia. The event illustrated the extraordinary degree of power wielded by individual corporations in our economy, and the fact that they can use this power not only to influence economic outcomes, but also politics and democracy and even life and death. This is not the first time in history that democratic societies have had to contend with the concentration of economic power, and over the course of the 20th century various instruments have been put in place to regulate competition. Despite a well-established body of competition law, however, concentrations of market power have increased rapidly in the past 30 years, partly driven by changes in technologies and data-driven business models. This project combines legal, political science, and historical approaches to explore the limits of existing competition policy tools and what political intervention can do to limit negative impact of corporate concentration on society. Through a series of workshops facilitating encounters between Leiden University academics and regulators, civil society and trade union representatives and politicians, we plan to map out different ideas for countering	Dr. Vera Scepanovic v.scepanovic@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	market power and create a basis for future collaboration on research and policy projects.	
17	**Feasibility of Adjusting Physical Activity Timing for Healthy Individuals and Those at Risk of Cardio-Metabolic Diseases.** Cardio-metabolic diseases are widespread and place a significant burden on healthcare systems and society, highlighting the urgent need for interventions that reduce the risk of these conditions. The timing of physical activity (PA)—the time of day when PA is performed—may be a promising, novel target for intervention, as recent research has linked it to cardio-metabolic disease risk. For instance, we have previously shown that engaging in PA in the afternoon and evening appears to be optimal for insulin sensitivity. However, before developing interventions, it is crucial to assess whether individuals—especially those at risk for cardio-metabolic diseases—are willing and able to adjust their PA timing (i.e., feasibility). Without insights into feasibility, even theoretically sound interventions may fail in practice if individuals do not participate. Therefore, the overarching aim of this interdisciplinary project is to examine the feasibility of changing PA timing among the general population, particularly among individuals at risk of cardio-metabolic diseases. We propose a collaboration between epidemiologists from the Clinical Epidemiology department at LUMC and behavioral scientists from the Social and Behavioral Sciences. More specifically, we will investigate (1) the willingness and barriers to considering and adopting timed PA and (2) which individuals are most likely to undertake these changes. By doing so, we integrate questions of etiology (efficacy) with behavioral feasibility (effectiveness) regarding PA timing to enhance the future implementation of personalized, timed PA interventions.	Juriena de Vries j.d.de.vries@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

18	**Rechtmatige verstrengeling: verkenning van de juridische implicaties van quantumtoepassingen voor de consumentenmarkt** Dit jaar, 2025, is het UNESCO International Year of Quantum, waarin extra aandacht is voor de wereldwijde ontwikkeling en de implicaties van quantumtechnologie. Deze nieuwe informatietechnologie kan grote impact hebben op de samenleving, in sectoren zoals gezondheidszorg, defensie en financiële dienstverlening. Deze toekomstige mogelijkheden komen met vragen op het gebied van veiligheid, ethiek en recht. De Universiteit Leiden is een belangrijke speler in de ontwikkeling van quantumtechnologie, maar ook in de maatschappelijke landing van deze technologie. Leiden is historisch vooraanstaand in onderzoek naar quantummechanica én een brede universiteit, met kennis, aandacht en historie rond maatschappelijke zaken. De kennis op het gebied van 'recht en technologie' is van grote waarde in het ontwikkelen van juridische kaders voor nieuwe quantumtechnologie. De onderzoeksgroepen van professor Vanessa Mak (LAW) en Julia Cramer (FWN) zijn versterken de samenwerking tussen de vakgebieden door hun expertises en netwerken bij elkaar te brengen. Er is nog weinig zicht op de impact van quantumtechnologie op de consumentenmarkten. Zulk onderzoek kan alleen worden uitgevoerd in interdisciplinaire samenwerking. In dit KIEM project beogen wij de mogelijkheden en uitdagingen in de interactie tussen quantumtechnologie en consumentenrecht te onderzoeken. Dit zullen we doen door een literatuurstudie in samenwerking met student-assistenten van de twee betrokken	Julia Cramer cramer@Physics.Leidenuniv.nl

	faculteiten, een hackathon strevend naar creatieve oplossingen met interdisciplinaire studententeams en een symposium als afsluiting van het project. De verkregen inzichten verwachten we te publiceren in een visie-artikel en zullen direct bijdragen aan interdisciplinair onderwijs aan beide faculteiten.	
19	Gender and markets for sustainability: an interdisciplinary pilot study Gender inequities are pervasive across the globe. In acknowledgment of this and in a bid to create a more equal and just world, the Sustainable Development Goals includes achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Goal 5). Multiple areas of work require action to address such a complex challenge. The economic sector, particularly markets, is one characterized by gender inequity in different areas of the world. Livelihoods such as small-scale farming and small-scale fisheries rely on sustainable production and market access. Particularly in rural parts of the Global South, women play a key role in both formal and informal markets. They function as sellers, vendors, and traders, ensuring the continuity of market relations and transactions which do not only benefit their households but the broader communities in which such markets are embedded. Due to context-specific unequal social gender norms, women face discrimination, and challenges with cascading impacts on their well-being, their households, and communities. Here, we propose a pilot study that aims to explore how gender and development theories intertwine with normative questions around markets and socio-economic rights, as a basis for developing a conceptual framework on gender and markets. The objectives are: (1) map out overlapping knowledge areas between gender and development studies, and normative questions around markets; (2) identify	Dr. Aisa O. Manlosa a.o.manlosa@luc.leidenuniv.nl

	convergences in research gaps and questions in the last five years; (3) select a gap to further examine, and (4) implement a literature review to inform the development of an interdisciplinary conceptual framework on gender and markets.	
20	**Feeding on the fat – Exploring infection-associated dysregulation of lipid metabolism** Mycobacterial infections have killed more people in history that any other infectious disease. Treatment involves taking multiple drugs over many months, and usually results in toxic side effects. In addition, mycobacteria are becoming increasingly drug-resistant and we have no effective vaccines. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* uses lipids available in infected host cells to support bacterial growth and the production of virulence factors. At present, it is unclear whether other mycobacterial species also rely on host lipids, but if so, targeting these biochemical mechanism could provide an opportunity to develop novel antibiotics.. Our research aims to establish how pathogenic mycobacteria impact lipid metabolism in human cells and infected patients, by using a powerful mass spectrometry and genetic techniques. This research will improve our understanding of mycobacterial infections and help identify proteins that could potentially be targeted by novel antibiotics. This research project will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team of immunologists, chemists, and clinicians at Leiden University and the LUMC.	Madeline Kavanagh m.e.kavanagh@lic.leidenuniv.nl
21	**Guiding Without Controlling: Digital Parenting in Adolescence and Its Impact on Young Adult Mental Health** Parenting in a rapidly evolving digital world presents new challenges, as parents strive to balance the benefits of online engagement with potential risks for their children. While much	Dr. Elizabeth Buimer e.e.l.buimer@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	research has focused on how parents can protect children online, less is known about the effects of digital parenting practices themselves. These practices can range widely—parents may restrict, support, monitor, or educate about digital resource use; use them as rewards or punishments; or employ them for surveillance. The impact of these strategies may be particularly critical during adolescence, a developmental stage where autonomy, trust, and peer relationships are key to healthy development, yet where vulnerability to mental health issues is high. This complex dynamic calls for an interdisciplinary approach. With the Kiem grant, we aim to initiate a cross-faculty collaboration to explore how different digital parenting strategies affect adolescents. Our team includes experts in Violence and Violence Prevention, Forensic Family and Youth Care, and Criminology. We will conduct a pilot study examining the effects of diverse digital parenting approaches, including an investigation into possible gender differences in both parenting practices and their impacts. To foster interdisciplinary exchange, we will organize a seminar on digital parenting, featuring speakers and participants from at least three different faculties. This event will serve as a foundation for long-term collaboration. Ultimately, we aim to leverage future funding opportunities to expand this interdisciplinary network and deepen our collective understanding of digital parenting and youth development.	
23	**Are Humans Killing Their Home? An Analysis and Evaluation of the Crime of Ecocide** Anthropogenic climate change significantly and negatively impacts human and non-human natural systems. But are such	Jelena Belic j.belic@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	impacts morally wrong and, if so, should they be criminalized? Some legal scholars and practitioners have argued for decades that the destruction of the environment constitutes a distinctive type of crime. This movement received a new impulse when the International Expert Panel, gathered by the Stop Ecocide Foundation, proposed a new definition of the crime of ecocide in June 2021 to be included in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as the 5th international crime in times of peace (IEP, 2021). Although the proposal has gained significant traction in public discourse, the scholarly debate has so far been focused on specific legal issues such as those concerning the definition of mens rea requirement as well as the inclusion of the proportionality test. However, the concept of ecocide involves a much larger set of intricate conceptual and normative questions that are currently overlooked. This project aims to address at least some of those questions and offer provisional answers from a more interdisciplinary perspective. First, the project clarifies the normative foundations for any plausible definition of ecocide by addressing underlying moral, legal and political considerations. Second, it makes a practical contribution by engaging in the public debate concerning the adoption of the IEP's definition of ecocide to expand the discussion by considering the specific harm(s) and wrong(s) involved in the crime of ecocide.	
24	**Wanneer zijn burgers bereid liberaal-democratische principes te verdedigen in het migratiedebat? Pilootonderzoek in Nederland** *Recente verkiezingen in Europe bevestigen eens te meer het electorale succes van radicaal rechtse partijen. In Nederland trad de PVV toe tot de regering na jarenlange strijd in de oppositie. In andere landen zoals Frankrijk en Duitsland, blijft radicaal rechts*	Vasiliki Tsagkroni v.tsagkroni@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	op nationaal niveau in de oppositie. Traditionele partijen blijven de druk vanuit rechts echter voelen. Deze druk heeft in afgelopen decennia al voor belangrijke verschuivingen gezorgd: traditionele partijen lijken steeds meer het discours en de beleidsvoorstellen van radicaal rechtse partijen over te nemen, vooral op het thema van migratie. Dit discours en beleid kunnen helaas een bedreiging vormen voor liberaal-democratische normen over de rechtstaat, mensenrechten, en de bescherming van minderheden. Bovendien is het maar de vraag of het overnemen van discours en beleid een effectieve strategie vormt voor traditionele partijen. Houdt het burgers weg van radicaal rechtse partijen of worden burgers juist naar meer extreme meningen geduwd? En wat gebeurt er als traditionele partijen juist alternatieve strategieën vooropstellen die meer gericht zijn op de bescherming van liberaal-democratische normen? Door middel van een pilootstudie met Nederlandse burgers wil dit project deze vragen beantwoorden. Het project wil gebruik maken van focusgroepen met burgers alsook enquête-onderzoek om dit na te gaan. Het interdisciplinaire project richt zich op zowel electorale strategieën vanuit politiek-wetenschappelijk perspectief, en beleidsvorming vanuit bestuurskundig perspectief. Het project overstijgt disciplinaire grenzen om de verwevenheid van electorale druk en beleidsbeloften te kunnen vatten en te onderzoeken hoe huidige politieke dynamieken liberaal-democratische normen kunnen schaden of versterken.	
25	**Medische interacties: de interdisciplinariteit van Health Humanities** Medical Encounters beoogt Leidse onderzoekers uit de diverse faculteiten van de Universiteit Leiden bijeen te brengen op het uitgestrekte terrein van Health Humanities: de studie van de	Dr. G. Warnar g.warnar@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	menselijke ervaring van gezondheid, (medische) zorg en well-being. Het doel is de beschikbare expertise binnen de gezondheidswetenschappen, sociale wetenschappen en geesteswetenschappen te kunnen inzetten voor de verdere ontwikkeling van Leids interdisciplinair onderzoek binnen Health Humanities. Hoewel de studie van de (medische) zorg in de sociale, (inter)culturele en communicatieve context binnen verschillende faculteiten en instituten een plaats heeft, ontbreekt nu nog een gemeenschappelijke basis. Door onderzoekers uit te nodigen zich aan te sluiten bij het platform van Medical Encounters, wil dit project zorgen voor uitwisseling van expertise, inzichten, methoden en benaderingen die de Health Humanities in Leiden een eigen interfacultair en interdisciplinair profiel gaan geven. Centraal staat het idee van interactie in medische context en het doel is om op dit onderwerp samen interdisciplinaire onderzoeksprojecten (zoals beursaanvragen of pilot-projecten) en onderwijsprojecten (zoals een honours course en mogelijk een minor) op te zetten. Om het beoogde platform Medical Encounters gestalte te geven, zal een universitaire website met infrastructuur voor communicatie, blogposts, aankondigingen en uitwisseling worden opgezet. In 2025-2026 worden er maandelijks bijeenkomsten georganiseerd om de onderzoeks- en onderwijssamenwerking vorm te geven en in mei 2026 zal een tweedaagse interdisciplinaire workshop met Leidse onderzoekers en enkele invited speakers over Medical Encounters worden georganiseerd.	
26	**Impactful behavior change for population health: Building an interdisciplinary research agenda** The proposed project aims to formalize and strengthen an emerging interdisciplinary collaboration on **behavioral**	Pam ten Broeke p.ten.broeke@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	interventions for population health management, between researchers from the LUMC Department of Public Health & Primary Care (PHEG) and the Leiden University Institute for Psychology. The collaboration brings together expertise in medical decision making, health communication, humanities, behavior change, psychological determinants of health and implementation, to understand and influence behavior at individual, community and system level, in order to develop and implement effective, desirable, and sustainable interventions for improving population health and reducing health disparities. The collaboration is currently at an early stage, and formalization has been hindered by time constraints, lack of coordination, and disciplinary boundaries. This KIEM funding will enable the team to build a shared mission and vision, identify complementary research themes, and create a joint research agenda with strong academic and societal impact. It will also support the identification of funding opportunities and the strategic involvement of patients and citizens through co-creation. Planned activities include four interactive events from Fall 2025 to Spring 2026: a research showcase, two strategic sessions to map expertise and co-create with citizens, and a final session to align priorities with funding opportunities. The initiative is new but grounded in existing institutional partnerships, including the Health Campus The Hague, and it will provide a structure for sustainable interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange, and future joint ventures in research, education, and public engagement. By integrating citizen perspectives early, the project also pioneers more inclusive agenda-setting in interdisciplinary health research.	

27	“Hoop doet leven”: Protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland Het vrouwenkiesrecht, de achturige werkdag, het verbod op slavernij… Dit zijn verworven rechten die tegenwoordig vanzelfsprekend lijken, maar dat niet altijd zijn geweest. Sterker nog, aan de totstandkoming van deze rechten is vaak een hevige sociale strijd voorafgegaan. Ook vandaag de dag geven protest- en collectieve acties van sociale bewegingen aanleiding tot politieke ophef en publieke discussie. Tegelijkertijd staat Nederland niet bekend om haar rijke protestgeschiedenis of -cultuur, en wordt er geregeld argwanend gekeken naar de vermeende internationale invloed op de tegenwoordige ontwikkeling van sociale strijd in Nederland. Om kritisch en zorgvuldig te leren reflecteren op de impact en rol van protest en sociale bewegingen wordt er een zesdelige programmareeks georganiseerd aan de Universiteit Leiden. Tijdens het project *“Hoop doet leven” Protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland* gaan academici en betrokkenen bij sociale bewegingen in talkshowstijl met elkaar en het aanwezige publiek in gesprek. Kernvragen zoals “wat is de rol van protest in een democratie?”, “welke vormen van verzet vinden we geoorloofd en waarom?” en “hoe kunnen sociale bewegingen bronnen van hoop zijn?” fungeren als inhoudelijke leidraad, waarbij elke week één of twee sociale bewegingen centraal staan (zoals de woonstrijd, de queer- en vrouwenbeweging, of de gehandicaptenbeweging). De exacte uitwerking van de programma’s wordt vormgegeven in samenwerking met vertegenwoordigers van studentennetwerken aan Universiteit Leiden. De actieve betrokkenheid van deze studenten wordt gestimuleerd tijdens twee voorbereidende activeringsbijeenkomsten.	Mariska Jung m.d.jung@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

	De programmareeks heeft tot doel om bij te dragen aan de ontwikkeling van (publieks)onderwijs, het stimuleren van onderzoek, en het faciliteren van interfacultaire kruisbestuiving op het gebied van protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland aan Universiteit Leiden.	
28	**Lipid nanoparticle-mediated mRNA delivery in healthy and diseased hearts** Heart failure is a serious condition that results from the extensive loss of specialized cardiac muscle cells called cardiomyocytes (CMs), typically caused by a myocardial infarction (MI). Messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics are emerging as a very promising gene medicine for regenerative cardiac therapy. To date, lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) represent the most clinically advanced mRNA delivery platform. Yet, their delivery efficiency has been limited by their endosomal entrapment after endocytosis. Previously, Kros demonstrated that a pair of complementary coiled-coil peptides (CPE4/CPK4) triggered efficient fusion between liposomes and cells, bypassing endosomal entrapment and resulting in efficient drug delivery. The Kros group modified mRNA-LNPs with the fusogenic coiled-coil peptides and demonstrated efficient mRNA delivery in cardiomyocytes. As proof of *in vivo* applicability of these fusogenic LNPs, local administration via intramyocardial injection led to significantly enhanced mRNA delivery and concomitant protein expression. This represents the successful application of the fusogenic coiled-coil peptides to improve mRNA-LNPs transfection in the heart and provides potential for the advanced development of effective regenerative therapies for heart failure.	Prof.dr. Alexander Kros a.kros@chem.leidenuniv.nl

	In this KIEM grant we will further explore RNA delivery to heart tissue using the unique Miniature Tissue Culture System (MTCS) developed by Dr Kruithof (LUMC) to study the delivery of potential therapeutic mRNA to healthy and diseased heart ex vivo, and to identify novel ways to target diseased tissue selectively.	
29	Zintuiglijke prikkelverwerkingsgevoeligheid, centrale sensitisatie, pijngevoeligheid en kwaliteit van leven: differentiatie naar type pijn in een heterogene populatie met chronische pijn. Chronische pijn is een complex en heterogeen fenomeen dat gekenmerkt wordt door grote interindividuele verschillen in pijnbeleving en behandelingseffectiviteit. Dit interdisciplinair onderzoek richt zich op de rol van zintuiglijke prikkelverwerkingsgevoeligheid (ZPVG) in relatie tot centrale sensitisatie, pijngevoeligheid en kwaliteit van leven bij volwassenen met chronische pijn. ZPVG is een persoonsgebonden eigenschap die samenhangt met verhoogde gevoeligheid voor zowel interne als externe prikkels, een diepere verwerking van deze prikkels en een verhoogd risico op overstimulatie. Hoewel ZPVG in verband is gebracht met psychische en somatische klachten, is de relatie met pijngevoeligheid en centrale sensitisatie nog nauwelijks onderzocht. Theoretisch gezien zou ZPVG kunnen fungeren als een predisponerende factor voor centrale sensitisatie, een neurofysiologisch mechanisme geassocieerd met een verhoogde pijngevoeligheid en verlaagde pijndrempel dat een belangrijke rol speelt bij diverse chronische pijnsyndromen, waaronder fibromyalgie, chronisch vermoeidheidssyndroom en het prikkelbare darmsyndroom. Het project onderzoekt deze verbanden in een representatieve patiëntenpopulatie en maakt een differentiële analyse naar	Veronique De Gucht degucht@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	pijnsubtypen (nociceptief, neuropathisch, nociplastisch). Door gebruik te maken van gevalideerde meetinstrumenten en geavanceerde statistische analyses (mediatie en moderatie), beoogt dit onderzoek bij te dragen aan een beter begrip van de onderliggende mechanismen van chronische pijn. De **interdisciplinaire samenwerking tussen anesthesiologie en gezondheidspsychologie** maakt het mogelijk om zowel neurofysiologische als psychologische determinanten in samenhang te analyseren. De resultaten hebben niet alleen een belangrijke wetenschappelijke waarde, maar bieden ook klinisch relevante inzichten voor de ontwikkeling van gepersonaliseerde en mechanismegerichte behandelstrategieën binnen de chronische pijnzorg.	
30	Transkribus in het onderwijs: werken aan digitale geletterdheid met historische bronnen Het gebruik van AI en machine learning is de afgelopen jaren enorm toegenomen. Om kritisch en (zelf)bewust om te gaan met de mogelijkheden van digitale technologie, is kennis en begrip van de achterliggende principes en werking echter essentieel. Tegelijk is de inzet van AI in wetenschappelijk onderzoek ook breder dan de LLM-programma's die bij het brede publiek bekend zijn. In dit project zullen onderzoekers en docenten van LUCAS, het ICLON en de UBL de krachten bundelen om expertise en ervaring op het gebied van machine learning en AI te didactiseren voor het middelbaar onderwijs en als open leermateriaal te publiceren. Via Transkribus, een gebruiksvriendelijk platform voor Handwritten Text Recognition dat draait op machine learning, krijgen leerlingen en studenten toegang tot authentieke bronnen en geschriften, geput uit de rijke collecties van de Universitaire Bibliotheken Leiden. Daarnaast biedt Transkribus een kans om geschiedenis en	Alma Kuijpers a.j.kuijpers@iclon.leidenuniv.nl

	de taalvakken te combineren met informatica in de vorm van machine learning en AI. Om dit te bereiken zullen we een professionele leergemeenschap (PLG) starten waarin geïnteresseerde onderzoekers en docenten vanuit de Universiteit Leiden interdisciplinair samenwerken met docenten uit het middelbaar onderwijs om opdrachten te ontwikkelen voor toepassing van Transkribus in het middelbaar onderwijs. De resultaten van deze PLG zullen bewerkt en gepubliceerd worden als open leermateriaal voor middelbaar en universitair onderwijs op een platform van de Universiteit Leiden.	
31	**Using Efficient Chemistry to Identify New Antibiotics to Treat Clinically Relevant *C. difficile* Infections** Antibiotics are of utmost importance to the healthcare system as they are needed to treat bacterial infections and to enable modern surgical procedures. Nevertheless, as antibiotics usually also wipe out the healthy human microbiome, secondary infections with *Clostridioides difficile* are common after antibiotic treatment resulting in various symptoms ranging from diarrhoea to life-threatening inflammation of the colon. While *C. difficile* infections can usually be treated with antibiotics, recurrence of the infections, limited treatment options and development of resistance are important clinical challenges. For these reasons, new antibiotics against *C. difficile* are urgently needed. In order to efficiently develop such new antibiotics, we will form an interdisciplinary team with synergistic expertise in chemistry and molecular microbiology. The chemistry group from the Leiden Institute of Chemistry at the Faculty of Science has ample experience in the efficient synthesis of covalent inhibitors as candidate antibiotics with increased chances for activity. The molecular microbiology group from the Leiden University Medical	M.Sc. Miriam van der Veer m.s.van.der.veer@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	Center has longstanding expertise with the culturing and testing of *C. difficile* and is part of the Dutch National Expertise Center for *C. difficile* infections, which monitors the current variants of *C. difficile* in Dutch hospitals. In this way, we have access to the most relevant clinical isolates for testing. The proposed collaborative research team, thus, forms an ideal cross-faculty unit to test the most promising candidate antibiotics in the most clinically relevant *C. difficile* strains and, thereby, to optimize the chances to efficiently identify new antibiotics.	
32	**Prosody in brain tumor patients** Language is essential for communication. Increasing insight into how we communicate has demonstrated that linguistic and emotional prosody – the features of speech such as intonation, rhythm, and stress – are at least as important as other aspects of language. Brain tumor patients often suffer from communication problems. These are caused by the tumor itself, which disrupts brain networks important for language and speech, as well as by treatments, especially brain tumor surgery. Little is known, however, about prosody in brain tumor patients. Some of the problems encountered by brain tumor patients during their recovery, such as difficulties with interpersonal relationships and behavioral changes, may be related to their ability to produce and perceive speech prosody. This, in turn, can affect their ability to express and interpret emotions, attitudes, and intentions in the speech signal. The skills to do so, however, play an essential role in human social interactions involving speech. The goal of this project is – through an interdisciplinary collaboration between linguistics and neurosurgery – to gain	Prof. Mr. Dr. M.L.D. Broekman (Marike) m.l.d.broekman@lumc.nl

	insight into prosody in brain tumor patients, with the ultimate aim of developing a test that can be used during awake surgery to prevent the loss of prosody. Moreover, this project can highlight the importance of the role of prosody in speech communication, among patients, their caregivers and health care professionals in the postoperative rehabilitation phase.	
33	**Voices in Color: Exploring Patient Experiences, Intercultural Communication, and Strategies to Enhance Diversity in Clinical Drug Research** *This interdisciplinary initiative brings together the Faculties of Medicine, Science, and Social and Behavioural Sciences, to address health disparities in dermatologic care and research for patients with skin of color. By combining the expertise of research groups in dermatology, clinical pharmacology and psychology, this project aims to close structural and educational gaps that contribute to misdiagnosis, undertreatment, and underrepresentation of patients with skin of color in clinical trials.* *The project will begin with qualitative research using semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and surveys to explore the experiences, expectations, and communication dynamics of patients, dermatologists, and clinical trial researchers in relation to skin of color and diversity in care and research. In the second phase of the project, a symposium will present the findings and foster dialogue among stakeholders in healthcare and academia. The symposium will also provide education on improving intercultural communication and strategies to enhance diversity in clinical trial participation.*	Dr. Deepak Balak d.m.w.balak@lumc.nl

	The project's overarching goal is to generate actionable recommendations that will inform both clinical practice and drug development in dermatology, with a focus on intercultural communication. By integrating expertise from different disciplines, the project also establishes a foundation for new collaborations in research and education across faculties.	
34	**GALA: Geriatric Assessments with Language Technologies** Large language models (LLMs) are new technologies from the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that allow users to have human-like, natural conversations about virtually any topic. LLMs are the workhorses in ChatGPT and similar chatbots, and although new in healthcare, they receive increasing attention as their use could support the care for older people, for example in geriatric assessment of activities of daily living and frailty, the evaluation of quality of life and retrieving life goals, which are all essential determinants of care for older people. In current clinical practice, this assessment is largely performed by healthcare professionals, but it is time consuming. In the light of an increasing asymmetry between the increasing numbers of older people and decreasing number of healthcare workers, AI support in such geriatric assessments could help reduce caregiver workloads, that simply must treat more elderly in an equal amount of time. We recently developed a prototype of such a chatbot called Beatrix, driven by a LLM and state-of-the-art speech-to-text and text-to-speech models, and tailored to the care for older people. Beatrix is capable of administering questionnaires about quality of life and clinical frailty that are part of usual clinical care. The chatbot is also capable of summarizing the responses of older people in the conversation, into quality of life scores and clinical	Prof. dr. Simon Mooijaart (PI) s.p.mooijaart@lumc.nl

	frailty scores as is common in geriatric assessment. At this moment the prototype is being tested by older people, resulting in a list of further requirements and improvements. With the present project, we aim to further develop the chatbot for use in clinical care. We will integrate into the next version the findings from the first qualitative user experience tests and interviews that are currently ongoing. Furthermore, we will perform stakeholder interviews with clinical staff and hospital management and integrate those findings into a next version of the chatbot. Finally, we will perform a small clinical validation study to establish the clinical validity of the scores on clinical frailty and quality of life, as computed by the chatbot. The project bridges experts from advanced computer science (LIACS) with clinical care (LUMC) to leverage the fast-growing opportunities of AI to innovate the care for older people. This collaboration is new (<6 months), has not been published about yet, collaborators have never worked together before and did not yet receive any funding for the present work. Preliminary work presented here has been funded out of our own pockets and was conducted in everyone's 'spare' time. Still, this collaboration would benefit from funding to stay viable, e.g. in terms of available human resources, also from the perspective of applying for larger grants later.	
35	Friends and foes from the past – fungi within historical Leiden University collections Fungi are vital parts of ecosystems, but they can also harm infrastructures, cultural heritage, and even our health. Historical buildings at Leiden University harbor diverse fungal communities	Dr. S. Emilia Hannula s.e.hannula@cml.leidenuniv.nl

	that remain largely unexplored. Collection managers and historians who study historical books and objects view fungi as destructive agents threatening cultural heritage, while fungal ecologists recognize them as unique, and specialized biodiversity. This project brings these two perspectives together and aims to: 1) characterize the fungal diversity within Leiden University's historic buildings, 2) develop effective, preservation-friendly methods to control fungi, and 3) foster collaboration across disciplines to deepen our understanding of relationships between microbial life and human culture. We will isolate and identify fungi from building materials, book collections, and surrounding environments, investigate their growth preferences, and assess their origins. Special attention will be given to fungi that pose risks to property or human health. Since conventional cleaning methods like bleach would damage fragile historical materials, the project will explore alternative strategies to control or remove the fungi in the collections and buildings. Additionally, novel fungal species adapted to these environments may be discovered. Then, they will be named and preserved in culture collections for future research, education, and public outreach activities. This initiative emerged from a collaboration within the Leiden Biodiversity Network, which fosters interdisciplinary collaboration between Leiden researchers. The project will strengthen ties between facility management, research, and education,	

	contribute to preserving Leiden's invaluable historical heritage, and provide a better understanding of non-human lifeforms that inhabit our historical buildings and collections.	
36	Establishing a Permanent Network to Foster Interdisciplinary Encounters between Assistant Professors Assistant Professors are in a unique position, in which they can actively shape the direction of their entire independent scientific career. At this career stage, connecting to peers from different faculties and disciplines is of extreme importance to lay the foundation for fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations. **Our goal in this initiative is to facilitate encounters between Assistant Professors of the different faculties of Leiden University and to enable new connections that will form the seed for many long term, interdisciplinary projects in research and teaching**. To realize this ambition long-term, we are convinced that a permanent, local Assistant Professor Network that institutionalizes these encounters is needed. For this purpose, we formed a core team of Assistant Professors across three faculties with ample experience in similar networks. We will organize recurring events open to all Assistant Professors of Leiden University to establish new interdisciplinary connections. In these meetings, we will have professional match-making sessions, in which Assistant Professors will present their interdisciplinary research and teaching ideas and, in this way, are able to find partners across our faculties to realize these projects with. In this way, our initiative will **bring Assistant Professors from all of our faculties together in an environment, in which they can most efficiently form new teams for interdisciplinary research and teaching**. Due to the permanent establishment of this network, the initiative will continuously lay foundations for a variety of	Dr. Stephan Hacker s.m.hacker@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	interdisciplinary projects and collaborative funding applications even far beyond the initial funding period of the KIEM grant.	
37	**Psychosociale veerkrachtfactoren als herstelmechanismen bij ernstig zieke patiënten na verblijf op de intensive care** Bij ernstige ziekte kan een behandeling op de Intensive Care (IC) noodzakelijk zijn. Deze intensieve zorg wordt steeds beter en daardoor overleven steeds meer ernstig zieke patiënten een opname op de IC. Deze gunstige ontwikkeling heeft een keerzijde. Er zijn namelijk gevolgen van een IC opname op de langere termijn waar weinig aandacht voor is. Er is vooral weinig bekend over de psychologische, cognitieve en emotionele consequenties van een IC opname. Dit wordt echter steeds belangrijker aangezien het aantal overlevenden van een ernstige ziekte blijft toenemen. Dit project heeft als doel te onderzoeken wat de beste omstandigheden zijn om gezond fysiek en mentaal te herstellen van een IC opname. Hiervoor worden beschermende veerkracht factoren in kaart gebracht naast risico factoren voor het ontwikkelen van symptomen van trauma, angst, depressie, fysieke of cognitieve klachten, tezamen ook bekend als Post-Intensive Care Syndroom (PICS). Dit wordt onderzocht middels een pilot met verschillende meetmethoden, waaronder een systematische review van de literatuur en een kwalitatief onderzoek onder professionals middels een Delphi methode. Deze gegevens worden vervolgens besproken in een expert meeting met als doel om de klinische zorg rondom deze patiëntenpopulatie te verbeteren en vervolgonderzoek en toekomstige subsidie aanvragen te inventariseren. Meer inzicht in veerkrachtfactoren kan helpen om preventieve maatregelen te nemen en om psychologische behandelingen te ontwikkelen die optimaal	Dr. Judy Veldhuijzen D.S.Veldhuijzen@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	gericht zijn op de behoeften van deze patiëntengroep met complexe multimodale klachten.	
39	**AMPK activation as host-directed therapy to improve tuberculosis treatment: computational characterization and prediction of intracellular pharmacology** Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant global health challenge due to the ability of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) to persist within immune cells, particularly macrophages. Inside these cells, Mtb can enter a state called phenotypic tolerance, where both its growth and metabolism slow significantly. This reduction in bacterial activity makes the bacteria less responsive to antibiotics, contributing to the prolonged duration of TB therapy. Recent research suggests that activating certain host cell pathways, such as AMPK (a key metabolic regulator), could "wake up" the bacteria, reactivating their growth and metabolism, and making them more susceptible to antibiotics and immune responses. Compounds like metformin (repurposed) and GW296115X, which activate AMPK, have shown potential in enhancing the immune system's ability to control infection and improving treatment outcomes. This project will investigate the potential of AMPK activation as an adjunctive therapy to enhance TB treatment. Using a bioluminescent Mtb reporter strain, we will monitor the behavior of Mtb inside macrophages under various treatment conditions, including antibiotics and AMPK activators. The data generated will be used to develop a computational pharmacological model that predicts how AMPK activation influences the dynamics of Mtb infection and can facilitate translation into clinical application. By combining experimental models with computational modeling, this interdisciplinary research between LUMC and Faculty of Science aims to provide	Dr. Robin van den Biggelaar r.h.g.a.van_den_biggelaar@lumc.nl

	valuable insights into how host-directed therapies can improve the effectiveness of TB treatments. Ultimately, the goal is to identify strategies that could shorten treatment durations, improve patient outcomes, and reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance in TB.	
40	**Groene ouders: hoe nemen we gezinnen mee in de transitie naar duurzaamheid?** De groeiende behoefte aan voedsel, water en energie zorgt ervoor dat de mensheid de planeet op ongekende schaal transformeert. De gevolgen zijn zichtbaar in klimaatverandering, landdegradatie, gebrek aan zoet water en afname van biodiversiteit. Dit heeft vooral grote gevolgen voor de generatie die nu opgroeit: de letterlijke kinderen van de rekening. Het zijn ook deze jonge mensen die een enorm potentieel bevatten om iets te doen aan de impact die we hebben als samenleving. Kinderen staan meer open voor het aanpassen van hun gedrag, zijn gevoelig voor de boodschap van bezorgde ecologen en activisten, en kunnen in gezinnen belangrijke transformaties in gang zetten. Verandering van gedrag vindt plaats in de context van scholen en gezinnen, waar het eigen maken van andere gewoontes grote gevolgen kan hebben. Toch wordt de rol van kinderen, en de gezins- en schoolcontext waarin ze zich bewegen, weinig meegenomen in het onderzoek naar duurzaamheid. Met dit project willen we de interdisciplinaire mogelijkheden verkennen om daar iets aan te doen. Door middel van een pilotstudie naar het effect van duurzaamheidsmotieven van kinderen binnen gezinnen willen we de impact van ecologisch bewustzijn in kinderen op gedrag in gezinnen onderzoeken. Daarnaast willen we een meerdaagse workshop opzetten (in	Peter Bos p.a.bos@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	samenwerking met het Lorentz Center) waarbij we een grote groep onderzoekers en experts uit diverse disciplines bij elkaar brengen om de mogelijkheden te verkennen hoe we de rol van kinderen, gezinnen en scholen een plek kunnen geven in de gezamenlijke ambitie naar een duurzamere samenleving.	
41	**Virtuality *in situ:* Urban Safety Design in VR** How safe does Leiden's urban environment make you feel? Does it change how you feel if we add CCTV or vegetation to a given location, or if we dim the lights? These questions seem simple at first glance. But for policymakers, it has proven difficult to answer them without actually implementing the proposed changes. In 2024, we delivered a VR project using the new, photorealistic technology of 3D gaussian splatting (3DGS) to help "predict" the potential efficacy of urban interventions on individuals' perception of safety. In partnership with Gemeente Leiden, we used 3DGS to scan and alter Station de Vink. Although it provided a useful tool to the Gemeente, this project was limited in scope. We now intend to build on our existing partnership, expanding our efforts with a new, more ambitious project. Rather than presenting users with a contained VR experience, as was the case with our previous pilot, we will embark on an *in situ* approach, placing users in an actual urban location and altering it in real time through the use of VR headset with a passthrough camera. This marks an entirely new area of research on an existing theme. Furthermore, we intend to give user's a number of scenarios *within VR itself*, rather than testing different, standalone VR scenarios against one another. Taking users through such a "portal" into a world of several interventions is a mixed reality (MR) approach, and departs from our previous research approach.	Nathan Saucier n.w.saucier@llinc.leidenuniv.nl

42	Payment Politics: Mapping Alternatives to SWIFT in a Fragmenting Global Financial System For decades, global finance has relied on the payment messaging infrastructure provided by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). It is therefore an essential component for making cross-border payments globally. But not everyone is happy with this arrangement. Numerous countries, including Russia, China, and Iran, view the Brussels-based SWIFT as a strategic liability which exposes their economics to Western sanctions. For example, Russia was excluded from SWIFT following its recent invasion of the Ukraine. To evade this risk, they have sought to create various SWIFT alternatives. We know little, however, about the nature of these alternative systems or the political, legal, and economic conditions which impact their success. This new project, an interdisciplinary collaboration between Leiden Law School and the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, will fill this gap by investigating the politics of payment infrastructures. Its specific objectives are to (a) create a novel dataset of SWIFT alternatives; (b) conduct a comparative analysis of their features; and (c) investigate the political and economic dimensions of their implementation. By performing these tasks, this project will contribute to our understanding of international political economy and the politics of economic statecraft. Further, it will facilitate novel interdisciplinary insights on the interconnections between financial law and international relations.	Miles Kellerman m.g.kellerman@fgga.leidenuniv.nl
43	**Reading the Signs: Unlocking Historical Sign Descriptions with Large Language Models**	Victoria Nyst v.a.s.nyst@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	Sign languages are largely underrepresented in today's advances in language technology. The limited AI tools and research that are available focus primarily on video sign language data. However, the oldest sign language dictionaries are paper dictionaries in which the signs are represented with still images (drawings, and later photographs) or text descriptions. In particular, these early textual descriptions attempted to capture the main articulatory parameters of signs: handshape, location, movement, and palm orientation. As such, they contain invaluable information for lexical comparison of signs across dialects and languages, and their variation over time. Despite their importance, these textual descriptions have been largely overlooked in modern sign language research and technological applications. Much of the valuable historical and comparative data embedded in print dictionaries still remains untapped. Lack of automated tools for processing signs in print presents a substantial challenge to large-scale and cross-linguistic historical analysis of sign languages. To address this gap, we propose leveraging AI techniques to uncover these early textual descriptions. By developing methods that can automatically extract, interpret and compare these textual descriptions, we aim to provide a powerful tool for the historical study of sign languages. This exploratory project complements a parallel initiative focused on extracting linguistic information from still images of signs found in print dictionaries. It serves as a foundational step toward a larger goal: developing a unified platform that systematically integrates and compares various formats of sign language data—including video, image, and text.	
44	**SMART: Synthesis of Mechanism-based Antiviral Rational Therapeutics: ER a-Glucosidase II Inhibitors**	Dr. Marta Elena Artola Pérez de Azanza m.e.artola@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	SMART project aims to develop new, effective, and selective inhibitors for a-glucosidases, which play vital roles in biological functions and disease pathways, and are important for the replication of several viruses. The urgency of this research is underscored by the recent SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, highlighting the critical need for novel antivirals. By designing and synthesizing a novel class of inhibitors, termed cyclic sulfonimidates, we will unlock new avenues for selective therapeutic interventions by exclusively targeting a-glucosidaser-related processes. ER II a-glucosidase inhibitors, particularly 1,6-epi-cyclophellitol cyclic sulfate, represent a surperior host-directed broad-spectrum approach to combat viral infections. Through the synthesis and evaluation of new, unprecedented, chiral, glucose-mimetic inhibitors, we will broaden the scope of endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-resident a-glucosidase II as therapeutic targets. SMART is an interfaculty and multidisciplinary project that combines organic synthesis, biochemistry, cell biology and virology to explore a new chemical space, cyclic sulfonimidates with diverse medical applications, including the treatment if viral infections.	
45	**Gesproken taal oefenen met een AI-gedreven Talenbuddy** *We hebben bij het Talencentrum een test gedaan met een AI die gesproken tekst kan verwerken in vele talen, die draait in een veilige, universitaire omgeving. Deze AI bleek perfect om met scenario's en woordenlijsten in verschillende talen studenten te helpen met het oefenen van spreekvaardigheid.*	Gea Hakker G.C.Hakker@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	Met hulp van de Kiem-beurs willen we een website bouwen die deze technologie beschikbaar maakt voor studenten, en testen of het in de praktijk echt zo goed werkt als in de eerste tests. We hebben al een concept userinterface, die ontworpen is door een student die graag aan het project mee wil werken. Ook hebben we twee cursussen, een bij Geesteswetenschappen en een bij het LUC, waar we de tests willen gaan draaien. *Mocht het project een succes worden, dan gaan we kijken hoe we verder kunnen opschalen en meer functionaliteit kunnen toevoegen, zoals mogelijkheden om als student je eigen voortgang zichtbaar te maken, en een interface voor docenten om zelf een nieuwe talenbuddy aan te maken.*	
46	**Ableism bias in humans and large language models** Large language models (LLMs) are increasingly integrated into daily life, yet they continue to reflect biases that may disadvantage marginalized groups, including people with disabilities. While prior studies have explored biases related to race, gender, and socioeconomic status, ableism bias in LLMs remains under-researched, especially from a multilingual and human perception standpoint. Existing work has largely focused on English and used automated, quantitative methods to assess bias, overlooking how people perceive such bias in LLM-generated versus human-generated content. This interdisciplinary project addresses that gap by examining how disability-related biases—across physical, cognitive, and psychiatric categories—are perceived in persona descriptions written by both humans and LLMs. It also explores how these biases intersect with other factors of bias, such as gender and social class. The study will be conducted in two phases: first,	Alina Karakanta a.karakanta@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	generating descriptions using both human participants and LLMs; second, collecting participant ratings on sentiment, emotion, and social perception bias in the descriptions, as well as their emotional reactions. Conducted in English and Spanish, the research will offer insights into cross-linguistic patterns of ableism bias. The resulting dataset will support future work in thematic analysis and bias detection, and will be made publicly available under a Creative Commons license to encourage further study in this critical area.	
47	**Security Force Assistance in Southern Africa: Lessons from the British Military Advisory Training Teams, 1980-2000** Contemporary developments in the Sahel illustrate the contentious nature of security force assistance in Africa. In recent years, African governments have requested the removal of French and American military advisors and invited Russian operatives to assist in the training of their armed forces. As a result, Western militaries grapple with the question how to maintain a strategic presence in the African continent while avoiding accusations of neo-colonialism. This tension is exacerbated by a growing rivalry between Western governments and Chinese and Russian governments in global affairs. The proposed research project 'Security Force Assistance in Southern Africa' (SFASA) addresses will address this theme by analysing the role of British military advisors between 1980-2000. During the transition from colonialism to independence, Great Britain offered newly independent African nations the services of British Military Advisory Training Teams (BMATT). Advisors from BMATT were stationed in states such as Mozambique, Namibia,	Prof.dr. Jan-Bart Gewald j.b.gewald@ascl.leidenuniv.nl

	and Zimbabwe to aid in the establishment of new, postcolonial African armed forces. As the former colonial hegemon in the region, the position of BMATT was delicate. London desired a strategic presence in a volatile and geopolitically important continent, but was well aware of its complicated legacy. Furthermore, Britain's activities took place in the context of Cold War rivalry and thus competed with a flurry of Chinese, Russian, and North Korean training missions. For three decades, the BMATT archives in London were closed to the public. The SFASA project will be the first to make extensive use of this repository in order to develop a multi-year research program. This is a new initiative that will foster inter-faculty collaboration on African security at Leiden University, together with national and international partners.	
48	**Middeleeuwen @ Universiteit Leiden: Een interfacultair platform voor onderzoek, onderwijs en outreach** Verspreid over diverse faculteiten en instituten en vanuit verschillende disciplinaire invalshoeken houden Leidse wetenschappers zich bezig met de Middeleeuwen in hun onderzoek, onderwijs en outreach. Middels deze KIEM-beurs aanvraag willen we deze wetenschappers met elkaar in contact brengen en de zichtbaarheid van het Leidse onderzoek en onderwijs op het gebied van de Middeleeuwen intern en extern vergroten. Dit doen we door middel van het ontwikkelen van een online portaal (working title: "Middeleeuwen @ Universiteit Leiden" / "Medieval @ Universiteit Leiden") en het organiseren van een lezingenserie.	Marlisa den Hartog m.i.den.hartog@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	Op het online portaal brengen we informatie samen over bestaande initiatieven op het gebied van onderzoek (e.g., grote en kleine onderzoeksprojecten; informatie over de collectie middeleeuwse handschriften van de Leidse UB), onderwijs (e.g., de Minor Middeleeuwen en de Vroegmoderne Tijd) en 'outreach' (e.g., The Leiden Medievalists Blog; de podcast Middeleeuwse Toestanden, media-optredens van Leidse onderzoekers). Middels de lezingenserie brengen we niet alleen het nieuwe portaal onder de aandacht, maar bevorderen we ook contact, kennisuitwisseling en gemeenschapsgevoel van Leidse onderzoekers uit verschillende disciplines. Met dit project streven wij de volgende doelen na: 1. De aantrekkingskracht van de Universiteit Leiden voor studenten en onderzoekers met interesse in de Middeleeuwen vergroten. 2. Leidse mediëvisten zichtbaarder maken buiten de universiteit, onder andere voor journalisten, zodat hun impact op het gebied van wetenschapscommunicatie wordt vergroot. 3. Interdisciplinaire samenwerking tussen medewerkers bevorderen door op het online portaal een overzicht te bieden van alle medewerkers die zich met de Middeleeuwen bezig houden en hen door middel van de lezingenserie in contact te brengen.	
49	**RNA4US**: Researching New Avenues for Antivirals Against Alphavirus Unique RNA Structures Alphaviruses like Chikungunya virus and Sindbis virus are RNA viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes, causing fever, severe joint pain, and occasionally (fatal) neurological disease in humans. Currently no effective vaccines or antivirals are available.	Dr. Rene Olsthoorn olsthoor@chem.leidenuniv.nl

	This research proposal aims to elucidate the role of a conserved RNA structural motif in these alphaviruses that may play a role in their replication and hence provide an excellent target for developing anti-viral drugs. Analysis of the 3D structure of the RNA will be performed at the Leiden Institute of Chemistry (LIC) making use of their expertise and infrastructure. Studies with mutant viruses will be carried out at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) at the Molecular Virology laboratory of LUCID using their virological expertise, tools and BSL3 facilities. The results of this study will provide insight into the role of RNA structures in the replication of alphaviruses and their potential as anti-viral drug targets.	
50	**Building Bonds with Bricks** The objective of our project is to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers from LIACS (FWN) and LUCAS (FGW) through the innovative method of Lego® Serious Play®. Our initial focus will be on conducting a pilot program aimed at stimulating cooperation through play between these two institutes, with a specific emphasis on the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Heritage. We aspire to use this pilot as a steppingstone to submit a joint grant application (with the specific call yet to be determined) involving both institutes. Once the pilot proves successful, our goal is to expand the application of Lego® Serious Play® within Leiden University, both within the SAILS network and the LRS programme. Furthermore, we intend to extend its use to collaborative projects beyond academia, engaging external partners such as the Leiden City Council, thereby expanding its societal impact.	Mischa Hautvast m.hautvast@liacs.leidenuniv.nl
51	**Empowering Academics as Climate Leaders: An Evidence-Based Workshop Series**	Anne Urai a.e.urai@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	As the climate crisis intensifies, many academics feel a responsibility to take a leading role in driving the transformative changes needed. The lead applicant has previously developed the "academic doughnut" model, which adapts Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework to envision an academia that provides a just social foundation while respecting human and planetary boundaries. Based on this model, the applicants have created a workshop to empower academics to identify and change unsustainable practices. The workshop has generated significant international interest, with invitations to present globally and coverage in major media outlets. However, its reach has been limited by time constraints and lack of evidence-based evaluation. With this KIEM grant we will professionalize and scale up the workshops, rigorously evaluate its long-term impacts, and integrate the ideas with ongoing sustainability initiatives at Leiden University. The core research question is: can we change the culture of academia to move towards human and planetary sustainability? The project will involve developing shareable workshop materials, hosting regular workshops, conducting longitudinal interviews to assess impacts on participants' scholarly outputs, and embedding the ideas into existing networks such as Open Science communities. With a diverse team of academics from multiple faculties, the project is well-positioned to drive bottom-up cultural change towards sustainability across academia. By empowering academics as climate leaders, this work aims to mobilize the full potential of universities to address the defining challenge of our time.	

52	**Poly-unsaturated fatty acids and their role in brain immunity** *Omega-3 fatty acids such, as Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), are essential for brain and nerve health. However, how these nutrients do their work in the brain is still completely unknown. We know that these fatty acids play a crucial role in the flexibility and elasticity of nerve cells, but are also of prime importance in the communication between nerve cells and the immune cells in the brain. The current hypothesis in the field is that these cells play a role in immune repression. This is evidenced by the fact that deficiencies or disturbances in omega-3 DHA metabolism are associated with inflammatory brain diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's disease (AD), and multiple sclerosis (MS).* *In this proposal, we aim to make and apply new chemical reagents that can tell us how the cells that have taken up a lot or a little of omega-3 fatty acids affect the cells that have taken them up. We do this by synthesising a traceable version of DHA that carries a traceable group one carbon in size that we can make visible and use to fish out cells that have taken up a lot of it. We will then characterise these cells. By watching how brain cells change when they take up the molecule, we want to learn to understand at the molecular level how DHA uptake changes the immune cells in the brain (and the nerves, and other support cells) and how this changes in diseased tissue.*	Sander van Kasteren s.i.van.kasteren@chem.leidenuniv.nl
53	**NNMT-MASLD: Using human 3D liver spheroids for testing new NNMT inhibitors for the treatment of metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease** Metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) affects up to one third of the world's population, with an even higher prevalence in patients with obesity and type 2 diabetes.	Bruno GUIGAS b.g.a.guigas@lumc.nl

	MASLD has a complex pathophysiology, characterized by hepatic lipid accumulation, inflammation and progressive fibrogenesis. Its spectrum extends from isolated steatosis to steatohepatitis (MASH), fibrosis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma, with limited pharmacotherapies. The interaction between parenchymal (hepatocytes) and nonparenchymal cells (immune and stellate cells) within their liver niche is central to MASH progression. 2D cell culture models are limited in replicating the complex architecture of human organs, leading to discrepancies in cell behavior and drug response. As such, development of animal-free human-based *in vitro* liver 3D models comprising the essential hepatic cell types are required to study complex cell interplay during MASFD/MASH progression and be used as platform for testing new drugs. Nicotinamide *N*-methyltransferase (NNMT) has recently been identified as a potential drug target for MASLD/MASH and highly specific and potent new NNMT inhibitors have been developed at the Institute of Biology Leiden (IBL). **Our innovative inter-faculty pilot project is aimed 1.) to develop a multi-cellular 3D spheroid MASLD/MASH model by gradual implementation of various human cells, and 2.) to use this unique platform for testing a portfolio of best-in-class NNMT inhibitors on hepatic steatosis, inflammation and fibrosis using state-of-the-art immunometabolic phenotyping approaches**. Altogether, our NNMT-MASLD project at the interface of medicinal chemistry, immunometabolism and clinical hepatology has a strong translational potential with possible long-term impact on therapeutic strategies for patients with MASLD/MASH.	
54	**Glocal Dynamics of Web Tracking: Privacy, Politics, and Governance**	Dr. Akrati Saxena a.saxena@liacs.leidenuniv.nl

	Web tracking technologies are integral to today's digital infrastructure, enabling the collection of behavioral data for algorithmic profiling, targeted advertising, and content personalization. While these practices offer personalized content and commercial benefits, they also raise significant concerns related to surveillance, privacy, and regulatory accountability. This project investigates the dynamics of web tracking in both global and local contexts, with a primary focus on the Netherlands. We analyze how tracking practices differ between global and local service providers, particularly in terms of algorithmic profiling and its implications for user privacy. Furthermore, we examine how political orientations shape regulatory approaches and tracking norms across jurisdictions, using Hungary, France, and the United States as comparative case studies. To assess the interplay between political context and data protection frameworks, such as the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the project explores how varying governance structures influence surveillance practices and user data treatment with respect to web-tracking. Our mixed-methods approach combines technical analysis of tracking practices with policy analysis to generate empirical insights and normative recommendations. Building on our insights, we ultimately aim to develop policy recommendations that enhance user privacy in a rapidly evolving political and technological landscape.	
55	**Towards cervical cancer elimination in Indonesia: lessons learned from the established screening program to improve coverage through an interdisciplinary lens** Few diseases reflect global inequities as much as cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is a preventable and curable disease when identified and treated in a precancerous or early stage, but due to	Marlieke de Fouw m.de_fouw@lumc.nl

	the lack of organized screening programs in low- and middle-income countries, women are diagnosed in a late stage and half of them die of the disease. Introduction and scaling up of sustainable cervical screening programs are considered key to achieve global elimination. In 2004 the Female Cancer Foundation founded by the Leiden University Medical Center set up a cervical cancer screening pilot project in three regions in Indonesia in close collaboration with the University of Indonesia. A simple and affordable method was introduced to screen women for cervical cancer: Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA). If the screening test was positive women were treated in the same visit with cryotherapy when eligible. The pilot project was found to be feasible and effective and therefore expanded to eight regions in collaboration with the Indonesian Cancer Institute. Thereafter, the successful initiative was taken over by the government and screening was implemented in all regions of Indonesia in a timeframe of 15 years. Over time, several innovations were introduced to overcome challenges in training and supervision of health providers, including consultations via a digital platform. The program has evolved successfully to a sustainable national screening program. Next to medical expertise, further local and interdisciplinary insight are now needed on how to increase the coverage of the national screening program to 75.	
56	**Een Rechtvaardige Benadering van Herstelbetalingen voor Historische Misstanden** *Het voornaamste doel van dit project is te onderzoeken hoe de discussie rond herstelbetalingen voor het Nederlandse koloniale en slavernijverleden past in een internationale trend van*	Otto Spijkers *o.spijkers@luc.leidenuniv.nl*

	modernisering en humanisering van de (internationaalrechtelijke) regels rond herstelbetalingen. Meer algemeen proberen we een benadering te vinden van de problematiek van herstelbetalingen voor historische misstanden die rechtvaardig is, recht doet aan de menselijke waardigheid, en oog heeft voor de politieke, historische, en juridische context.	
57	**Ancient Religions and the Materiality of Danger** Leiden University is the home to many specialists in the study of ancient religions. Up to now, our disciplinary boundaries have kept us from fully developing cooperation across Faculties – especially those of Humanities and Archaeology and their associated Institutes. Our aim is to bridge those divisions and allow the experts to fruitfully pool their resources. With the KIEM 2025 grant we will organize a conference on 'Ancient Religions and the Materiality of Danger' with intellectual, educational, as well as networking purposes. We have chosen to focus on the materiality of danger. Materiality combines the research specialisations of archaeologists and historians and is an important new element in the research field. We believe that if scholars combine their expertise around this theme we will be able to forge a new understanding of ancient religious life and its lived experience of danger. The longer term goal, which takes both the network and the result of the grant beyond 2025 is to invite selected speakers from the conference to submit a paper to a collaborative edited volume to be offered for publication to the series *Religions in the Graeco-Roman World* (Brill, Leiden). This book will provide proof of concept for our ideas and interdisciplinary approach.	Dr. Kim Beerden k.beerden@hum.leidenuniv.nl

58	**Post-translational collaboration to regulate the DNA damage response** The proposal aims to establish a collaborative pilot project between the Filippov group (LIC) and the van der Heden van Noort group (LUMC). The goal of the project is to initiate studies on the molecular mechanisms of the cross-talk between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitination of proteins in the DNA-damage response. These processes are post-translational modifications crucial for regulating protein function in living cells and have implications in various pathologies such as cancer, bacterial infections, and age-related diseases. However, the molecular mechanisms of the interplay between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitination, especially in the context of DNA-damage response, are poorly understood. The participating research groups have expertise in the area of bioorganic chemistry of ADP-ribosylation (Filippov) and ubiquitination (van der Heden van Noort). They plan to combine forces to study the cooperation of these two biological processes by synthesizing advanced ubiquitinylated ADP-ribose derivatives and applying them in structural biology studies of the DELTEX- and RNF-E3 ligase enzyme classes, which function as a bridge between ADP-ribose and ubiquitin. This pilot project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of synthesizing the hybrid ADP-ribose-ubiquitin molecular constructs and to prove their usefulness as probes in the structural studies of DELTEX2 and RNF114.	Dr. D.V. Filippov filippov@lic.leidenuniv.nl
59	***Who is afraid of constitutional review?* Juridische, economische en politieke inzichten uit de Braziliaanse prak** Op 10 juni 2024 werd het rapport van de Staatscommissie Rechtsstaat gepubliceerd, getiteld "De gebroken belofte van de	Dr. Luísa Pinto e Netto (UD) l.c.pinto.e.netto@law.leidenuniv.nl

	rechtsstaat – tien verbetervoorstellen met oog voor de burger". Voorstel nummer 5 van de commissie bepleit het afschaffen van het toetsingsverbod van parlementaire wetten aan de Grondwet (art. 120 Grondwet). Het toekomstige kabinet-Schoof heeft dit voorstel blijkens in het Hoofdlijnenakkoord omarmd. De discussie over rechterlijke constitutionele toetsing is echter omstreden. Tegenstanders wijzen op de controlerende rol van het Parlement, en vrezen voor politisering van de rechterlijke macht. Voorstanders zien het als een manier om de rechtsstatelijke cultuur te versterken en burgers beter te beschermen. Ons project beoogt deze discussie te verbreden aan de hand van een wetenschappelijk onderbouwde interdisciplinaire benadering, waarbij de Braziliaanse ervaring met constitutionele toetsing centraal staat. Brazilië combineert geconcentreerde controle door het Hooggerechtshof met diffuse controle door lagere rechters, wat nuttige inzichten biedt voor Nederland. De ervaringen uit Brazilië laten zien hoe een nieuwe constitutionele orde en democratische instituties zich kunnen ontwikkelen tezamen met rechterlijke toetsing. Brazilië biedt inzichten vanuit de *global south*, een perspectief dat slechts zelden in onderzoek naar de Nederlandse situatie aan bod komt. Door een workshop te organiseren met Braziliaanse en Nederlandse experts willen wij nieuwe inzichten aanjagen door constitutionele toetsing vanuit juridisch, politicologisch en economisch perspectief te bespreken en nieuwe samenwerkingen binnen en buiten de rechtenfaculteit van de Universiteit Leiden ontwikkelen.	
60	Ports, Youth and Urban Violence: Lessons for Europe from Transatlantic Dialogues	María Gabriela Palacio m.g.palacio.ludena@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	Gang-related violence and the recruitment of youth into criminal networks are increasingly shaping the urban landscapes of European port cities. Rotterdam, in particular, is experiencing challenges that echo patterns seen in cities like Guayaquil. While Latin America has long been a site for innovative security strategies, these experiences remain underexplored in European contexts. This interdisciplinary project brings together researchers from Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities and the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology to facilitate shared research and integrate interdisciplinary themes and policy reflection around youth vulnerability, security governance, and urban marginalisation. Through a workshop for policy dialogue, the project aims to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration within Leiden University while establishing a sustainable interfaculty collaboration platform, connecting transatlantic expertise in development studies, security governance, inequality, and urban violence.	