



Maastricht University

FASoS

Research Institute

Report 2021

FASoS



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Introduction



The pandemic was still with us in 2021, and its effects on people's time and energy for research continue to be felt. In 2020, many researchers could benefit from work done before the pandemic hit. But weeks and months of lockdowns and online teaching took their toll on research and writing. Nonetheless, FASoS colleagues did submit grant applications and engage in research. They also continued to publish, and many found creative ways to engage with the huge variety of societal partners interested in our work.

One of the early slogans when the pandemic started was "we are all in this together". It quickly became clear that this was sadly not the case. Excess mortality affected some more than others. Lockdowns were harder to bear for those in smaller homes without outdoor space. Education was more difficult for those without strong internet connections. Colleagues with young children at home took on new roles as school teachers. Many international colleagues and students were unable to visit family and friends in far away places.

FASoS is well equipped to understand these inequalities. In the following pages, you can read about some of our efforts to make the world a better place. With the help of ICT services, our data steward and the university library, we are working hard to make our data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), focusing on findable and accessible. Willemine Willems discusses her PhD research which examined how specialist healthcare is being relocated to community clinics, and what that shift means for fairness in healthcare. Eliza Steinbock is working with museums to understand how they can be more inclusive to different groups of visitors, not only in their physical accessibility but also what artworks are displayed and how they are framed.

You can also learn more about the work of Yf Reykers, who studies the responses to crisis situations. This work is even more urgent, as the war in Ukraine broke out as we prepared this report. Adam Dixon and Imogen Liu discuss their work on Sovereign Wealth Funds, the growth of which is changing relationships between states and markets in ways that are important for the global economy.

The Faculty Board published its new [Strategic Plan, 2021-2025](#). We highlight our commitment to supporting the rich diversity of FASoS research. Our research staff come from 28 different countries. We also represent different disciplinary, theoretical and methodological traditions, and have a variety of ways of interacting with the various societal groups interested in our research, ranging from policy makers in the European Commission to migrant organisations in Senegal and cultural heritage institutions in Maastricht.

On behalf of the FASoS Research Institute, I very much hope you enjoy reading about our work. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Prof. dr. Sally Wyatt
Associate Dean for Research

Research Programmes

FASoS consists of four distinct research programmes, each made up of an interdisciplinary team of researchers.



Arts, Media and Culture

Arts, Media and Culture (AMC) analyses the dynamics of cultural change by studying how developments in the arts and the media respond to socio-cultural and political changes, and also how cultural artefacts and practices shape social and political cultures. Research focuses on the practices in which cultural artefacts are produced, distributed, and received. Approaching these topics from an interdisciplinary angle, the group's research draws on insights from art and philosophy, literary and media studies, cultural history, and gender studies, as well as the social sciences.



Globalisation, Transnationalism and Development

Globalisation, Transnationalism and Development (GTD) studies globalisation through the flows of people, goods, capital and ideas that connect localities in the Global South and between Global South and North. Its two foci are transnational migration bridging migrant sending and receiving contexts and transnational exchanges for development focusing on the way political elites and global capital influence how development is thought about and conducted. It draws on expertise in development studies, anthropology, sociology, human geography, and political science. Projects are multi-sited, mixed-method, and grounded in fieldwork.



Maastricht University Science, Technology and Society Studies

Maastricht University Science, Technology and Society Studies (MUSTS) studies how modern societies are shaped by science and technology; and vice versa, how social and cultural conditions shape technological innovations and scientific discoveries. MUSTS research draws on a combination of philosophical, historical, sociological, and anthropological approaches, focusing on cultures of research and innovation. The focus of MUSTS work typically moves between micro-level studies of local practices and macro-level questions of governance, policy, and morality, making it relevant for policy makers, academic debates, and society at large.



Politics and Culture in Europe

Politics and Culture in Europe (PCE) brings together political scientists, historians, and philosophers with an interest in Europe. The process of European integration since 1945 and questions of European democracy, governance, and foreign policy are central to the research agenda. Researchers study the European Union and Europeanisation, contribute to debates on multilateralism and the global order, and take an interest in transnational history. Methodologically rigorous, the emphasis of PCE is on fundamental research with societal relevance.

Graduate School



FASoS has its own Graduate School that provides training for PhD candidates associated with all of the research programmes. In 2021, we had 40 internal candidates. We also welcome external PhDs, and currently have 43.

Research Centres

The faculty is home to six dedicated research centres. These centres act as hubs to bring together researchers from FASoS and other UM faculties. They also facilitate interaction with external academic and societal partners.

[The Maastricht Centre for Arts, Culture, Conservation and Heritage](#)

The Maastricht Centre for Arts, Culture, Conservation and Heritage (MACCH) brings together (art) historical, philosophical, sociological, economic, legal, and practical expertise in response to the increasingly complex challenges facing the fields of arts and heritage today.

[The Maastricht Centre for Citizenship, Migration and Development](#)

The Maastricht Centre for Citizenship, Migration and Development (MACIMIDE) brings together scholars working on migration from legal, citizenship, development, and family life perspectives. Researchers study the dynamics of transnational migration and mobility in a European and global context.

[The Centre for European Research in Maastricht](#)

The Centre for European Research in Maastricht (CERiM) provides substantial input to the UM's focal point of Europe and a Globalising World. CERiM is an interdisciplinary research venue creating synergies and stimulating joint projects between political scientists, historians, lawyers, and economists analysing the past and future of European and international cooperation in a changing global order.

[The Centre for Gender and Diversity](#)

The Centre for Gender and Diversity (CGD) studies the intersections between gender/age, and gender/religion, with a focus on the arts. Its researchers study art forms from high and popular culture, including fiction, poetry, film, photography, life-writing, performing arts, and children's media.

[The Maastricht Centre for the Innovation of Classical Music](#)

The Maastricht Centre for the Innovation of Classical Music (MCICM) studies the dynamics behind changing classical music practices and their societal contexts, and works with orchestras and others to actively shape classical music futures. To do so, MCICM combines academic research on innovation of performance practices with artistic research to renew classical music practices and music education in artistically relevant ways.

[The Centre for the Social History of Limburg](#)

The Centre for the Social History of Limburg (SHCL) is a documentation and research centre that focuses on the history of Limburg and neighbouring regions from the 18th century until the present day. It offers expertise and assistance for academic researchers and the general public by providing access to historical sources, maintaining a library collection, and the publication of an academic yearbook.



Ad hoc crisis responses: a curse for international organisations?

Yf Reykers



This interview was adapted to fit the layout of this report. For the full interview, please see [here](#).

It's a widely accepted notion: international organisations, such as the European Union and the World Health Organization, are created to solve collective issues. But when urgent crisis situations arise, such as the coronavirus outbreak or an imminent security issue, member states often choose not to work together on these issues inside the framework of these organisations. Instead, groups of countries tend to unite outside the framework of international organisations to provide ad hoc responses to these crises.

Yf Reykers, Assistant Professor in International Relations, studies – together with an international research team and with the help of a Norwegian Research Council grant – the impact that these ad hoc crisis responses have on international organisations.

Ad hoc crisis responses

“Ad hoc crisis responses are (re)actions that immediately follow a new threat. Examples are international reactions to the corona pandemic or terrorist threats in the Sahel region. Instead of jointly responding to an international issue through the framework of international organisations, states (and sometimes non-states) join forces in an ad hoc coalition.”

“Ad hoc coalitions can be defined as loose groupings of like-minded actors. They are formed when a crisis erupts and there are no established rules or bureaucratic apparatus in place. The size of these ad hoc coalitions differs. They are not necessarily small and can even be so large that they include all member states of an international organisation. The duration of their existence >>

differs per coalition. What is characteristic of ad hoc coalitions is that they usually fall apart as soon as the problem for which they were created has been solved,” Reykers explains.

Ad hoc crisis responses vs international organisations

The question arises why states form separate coalitions when they are already united in an international organisation that aims to solve collective problems. According to Reykers, the answer is twofold.

“International organisations have usually been around for years and have an established bureaucracy in place. When formal responses to crises have to be formed, or a decision to take action has to be made, it has to go through the bureaucratic apparatus. These decisions often require consensus or even unanimity in voting, which often takes weeks or months of negotiations to reach. Within ad hoc crisis responses, there is no bureaucracy in place and the coalitions consist of like-minded actors who have the same goal in mind. As a result, action can often be taken much faster.”

“In addition, countries are hesitant to give up their autonomy, which often has to be done within an international organisation. Take a look at for example the EU’s attempt to cooperate more closely in the field of defence. Many member states oppose sending troops

to the Sahel to counter terrorism under an EU flag, because their troops would fall under EU command, instead of national command. At the same time, you see that like-minded actors do take such actions outside the framework of the EU. The reason for this is that within an ad hoc coalition, you retain more control over your troops, because they are under national command, in contrast to military actions led by an international organisation,” Reykers says.

Long-term impact

“I am especially interested in finding out what impact these ad hoc crisis responses have on international organisations. The current literature mostly looks at the short-term effects of ad hoc crisis responses: they are faster and less bureaucratic. They also dissolve faster, but can easily be resurrected in a new compound, and with a new aim, when a new threat arises.”

“But what about the long-term impact? The euro that is spent on an ad hoc coalition cannot be spent on an international organisation. What is the use of international organisations when it becomes clear that ad hoc coalitions can solve the same problems faster and more efficiently? What does the existence of these coalitions mean for the legitimacy of international organisations? And does this teach us something about the liberal international order?” Reykers hopes to have answers to these questions soon. <<





Accessing, decolonising and queering the museum

Eliza Steinbock



This interview was adapted to fit the layout of this report. For the full interview, please see [here](#).

“Let’s say you are invited to someone’s house and they welcome you in, but you are in a wheelchair and there is no ramp in front of the house. Once you are inside, there are offensive pictures hanging on the wall. That will not make you feel as if you are welcome, will it? The same is going on in museums; they say they welcome everyone, but their collections are only accessible and appealing to some people.”

Eliza Steinbock, Associate Professor of Gender and Diversity Studies, aims at solving this problem. With a research team, they want to facilitate heritage spaces in addressing multiple issues of exclusion at once. “Through our research, we try to create a learning environment for the cultural sector. We provide readings, scholarly and informal discourse, and the space to raise

questions. Mostly, we aim at raising awareness among the cultural sector about issues of racism, heterosexism and ableism. By addressing multiple issues of exclusion at once, we are learning together how to develop criticality on the work floor.”

Cultural and financial shift

According to Steinbock, there are two forces at work which call for museums to become more inclusive and accessible. The first is a cultural shift. “Museums have generally been trusted authorities. Visitors have long assumed that they are neutral institutions and that they don’t have vested interests like a politician or a lawyer would have. But this idea is changing. Visitors are calling for actions to back up cultural institutions’ words. Because just saying that you are an inclusive and accessible heritage site is not >>

the same as actually being one. Are there, for example, touchable artworks for people with limited vision? Does the museum acknowledge its relationship to colonial legacies? Are artworks installed at heights for wheelchair users and children?"

Since the cultural sector in the Netherlands is largely paid for by taxpayers' money, it makes sense that museums need to regain trust from their visitors. "It's not just the white, Christian male who pays taxes, but people of colour and people with different sensory and cognitive needs as well. They should be anticipated as visitors too," Steinbock explains.

"Another incentive for museums to become more inclusive and accessible are the 2008 budget cuts. Museums were forced to get along with less funding so they were under pressure to sell more tickets to gain income. Many museums looked for ways to broaden their appeal, and increase their relevancy to groups not formerly targeted. To be able to address these groups convincingly, museums have to change their mentality, their ways of thinking about their role in society. Hence, not just the front of the house needs changing, but the back as well. This shift towards a more diverse pool of personnel, public, programmes, and partners brings in new networks, different canons, and new ways of doing exhibitions."

Rethinking inclusivity

"We started the project around the second wave of the Black Lives Matter movement. The entire sector experienced this together and the necessity for change became all the more clear," Steinbock explains.

"Of course some museums had already been busy with becoming more accessible and inclusive. The Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam for example had started its decolonisation process by dealing with questions of ownership, theft, and of returning pieces to their rightful heirs." Some attempts at inclusion were met with criticism. "In 2019, the Amsterdam Museum commissioned an artwork about prostitution. While the museum attempted to be more inclusive with the artwork, sex workers were upset about the victim narrative that the piece generated."

This criticism is not necessarily a bad thing, Steinbock points out. "The aim is not to take all the offense out, but to think about how to frame contested images to generate a dialogue. There is value in conflict. What is truly important here is that the conversation gets started about historically marginalised groups who are part of a greater public that has been stigmatised, ignored and neglected for decades, or even centuries." <<



Facts and Figures 2021



Amount of funding received

€ 1,486,311



Number of researchers, including PhDs

162



Academic publications

178



PhDs awarded

10

of whom 4 graduated
cum laude



Chinese Sovereign Wealth Funds: geopolitical tools or commercial means?

Adam Dixon and Imogen Liu



This interview was adapted to fit the layout of this report. For the full interview, please see [here](#).

How are Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) made legitimate as state actors in the economy and financial markets? And how is state capital reshaping the political economy of global development? Adam Dixon, Associate Professor of Globalisation and Development, and Imogen Liu, PhD candidate, attempt to find answers to these questions.

Understanding state capitalism through Sovereign Wealth Funds

“In our research, we use SWFs as an empirical entry point to understand the changing relations between the state and the market,” Dixon and Liu explain. “SWFs are state-owned investment funds, many of which invest across asset classes in major global markets. Since the early 2000s, the number of SWFs has exploded as has their total assets under management. Governments, particularly

major commodity exporters and those with significant foreign exchange reserves, were looking for ways to invest their wealth to earn higher returns. Setting up SWFs were a means to achieve this.”

According to Dixon, “the emergence of and explosive growth in the number of SWFs worldwide has led to an unsettling debate regarding their legitimacy in the global political economy. This is largely because many originate from non-liberal political economies, such as China. Some suggest that SWFs represent the (re)emergence of state-led capitalism subject to geopolitical motivations that threaten free markets. Others consider SWFs as a counterbalance to market short-termism. Regardless, SWFs challenge the norm of markets being free of state interference.” >>

SWFs as a political tool?

“Given SWFs are established by governments, some believe that these funds have political motives and that SWFs only invest in assets that are of geopolitical interest to a country instead of in assets that yield the highest returns. But in reality, political and commercial motives cannot be disentangled. Our research starts from the assumption that there is no clean separation between states and markets. States have always played a role in creating, shaping and regulating markets,” Liu explains.

Nevertheless, Dixon can understand European concerns over Chinese SWFs. “No country has developed as fast as China has. This has major implications for the global economic order. At this point, everyone wants to know what China is doing and what the implications are of China’s global rise. It is understandable that European countries are critical of – or at least concerned about – China’s growing economic presence at home and abroad. But this does not mean that China’s SWFs, or other Chinese state-owned enterprises for that matter, are necessarily guided by geopolitical motives.”

“Let’s take a look at Chinese and European investment policies,” Dixon says. “Brussels adopted the European Green Deal in 2019 which aims to make Europe climate neutral by 2050. Coincidentally, the European

Investment Bank (EIB) has recently started investing in sustainable companies. Does that mean these investments by the EIB are politically driven? Or do these investments simply ensure high returns? If China prioritises investing in ‘green’ technologies and companies, and mobilises one of its largest SWFs, the China Investment Cooperation (CIC), to do so, should we assume this is a politically driven investment instead of a commercial one? How is this different from what the EU would like to do?”

“Besides that,” Liu adds, “SWFs can invest in companies, but to take the CIC as an example, the vast majority of its holdings are non-direct, that is, they own less than 10% of the companies they invest in so they do not own enough to control these companies or what these companies are producing.” Dixon agrees and continues: “if China wishes to make a geopolitical statement or gain geopolitical power in a certain area, it has other diplomatic means of doing this than via SWFs. This does not mean that Chinese state capital investments are free of geopolitical effects even if investments are made on an exclusively commercial basis. As we said before: it is very difficult to separate the state and the market, but the main goal of SWFs is to generate higher returns on investment.” <<





Fair healthcare in primary care plus centres in Maastricht

Willemine Willems



This interview was adapted to fit the layout of this report. For the full interview, please see [here](#).

In 2013, the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport designated nine pioneer sites in the Netherlands as testing grounds for new ways of delivering healthcare. One of these pioneer sites, located in Maastricht, is primary care plus, the relocation of specialist healthcare to community centres. In her dissertation, PhD candidate Willemine Willems researches the fairness of this new type of healthcare. “Through exnovation – the observation of and reflection on daily affairs within an organisation, or in this case during a medical consultation hour – I examine how fair healthcare is achieved. I mainly focus on how doctors and patients navigate new circumstances, how they cope with resistance, opportunities and chances, and especially how they approach this together,” Willems explains.

Primary care plus centres

“Especially in a new situation like this, it is interesting to see how fairness in healthcare is achieved and new routines are developed,” Willems says. “Look at for example internal medicine. Relatively many patients who come here lack trust in their bodies and/or in their doctors. Because the centres are so new, the specialist can arrange to see only one patient per hour. This gives the opportunity to try out whether extensively discussing with patients the whole set of symptoms they suffer from can help to get grip on their medical situation and as such to regain trust. The experimental character of the primary care plus centres thus gives room to develop new routines.” >>

“Of course, this is not to say that this type of healthcare is better for everyone. For example, some patients have to travel further to the primary care plus centre than to the hospital. And in these facilities, doctors only have access to instruments that a general practitioner also has. They therefore have to do without large devices that are at their disposal in the hospital. For some doctors, this provides a lot of creativity and it turns out that they often don’t need large test equipment. But I also saw that it was especially difficult for the eye doctor because you can’t see what’s wrong with an eye by just looking at it.”

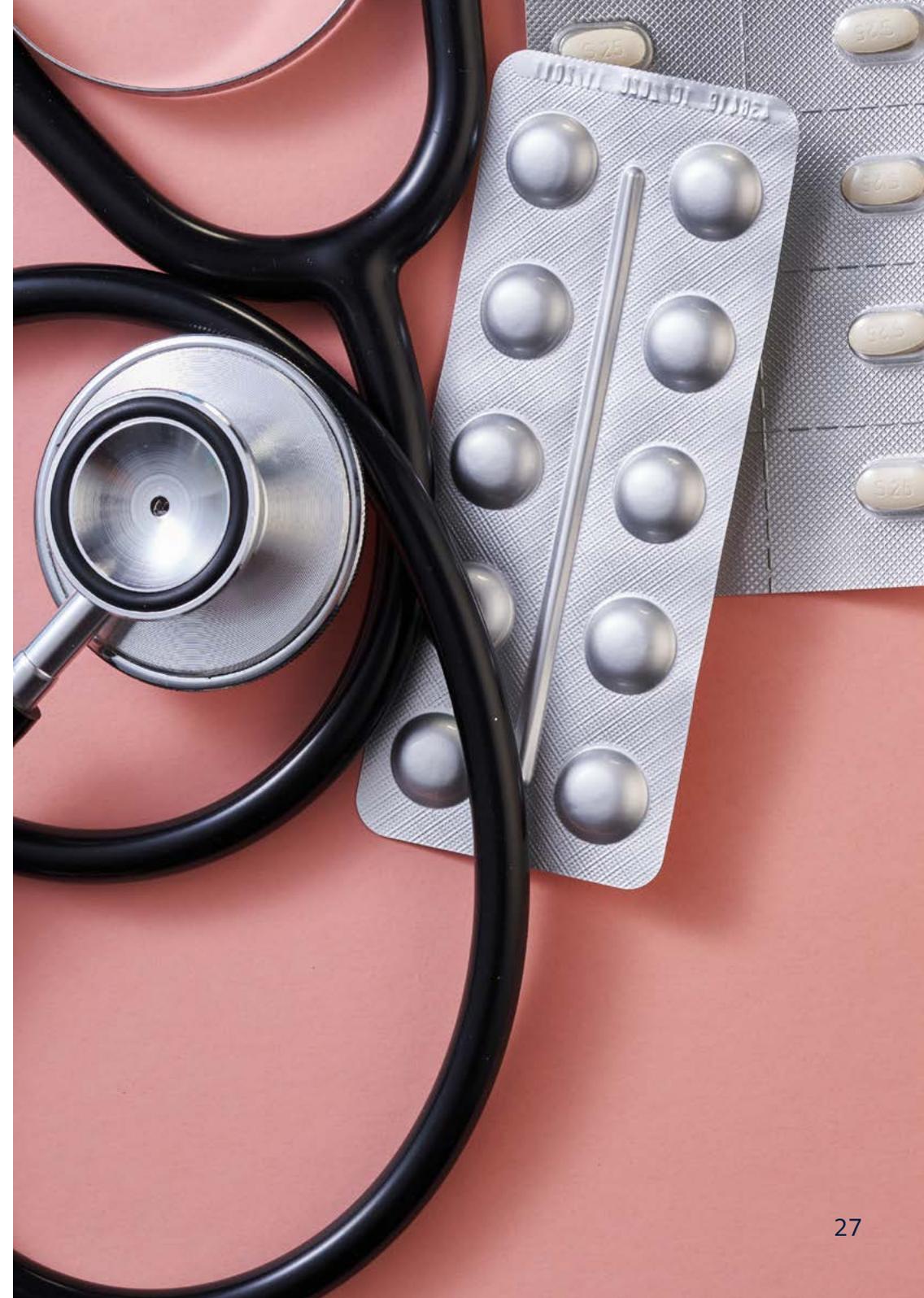
Promises made by primary care plus centres

The primary care plus centres promised to lead to improvements in terms of quality, patient-centeredness and costs. Did this happen? “In terms of quality, general practitioners and specialists get to know each other better because of the frequent meetings. You see differences in knowledge between the two groups because they view things differently. This is not necessarily a problem: when collaborating, they do not integrate knowledge, but instead leave room for differences. This fragmentation in healthcare creates diversity, which is a fertile soil for creativity and improvement,” Willems explains.

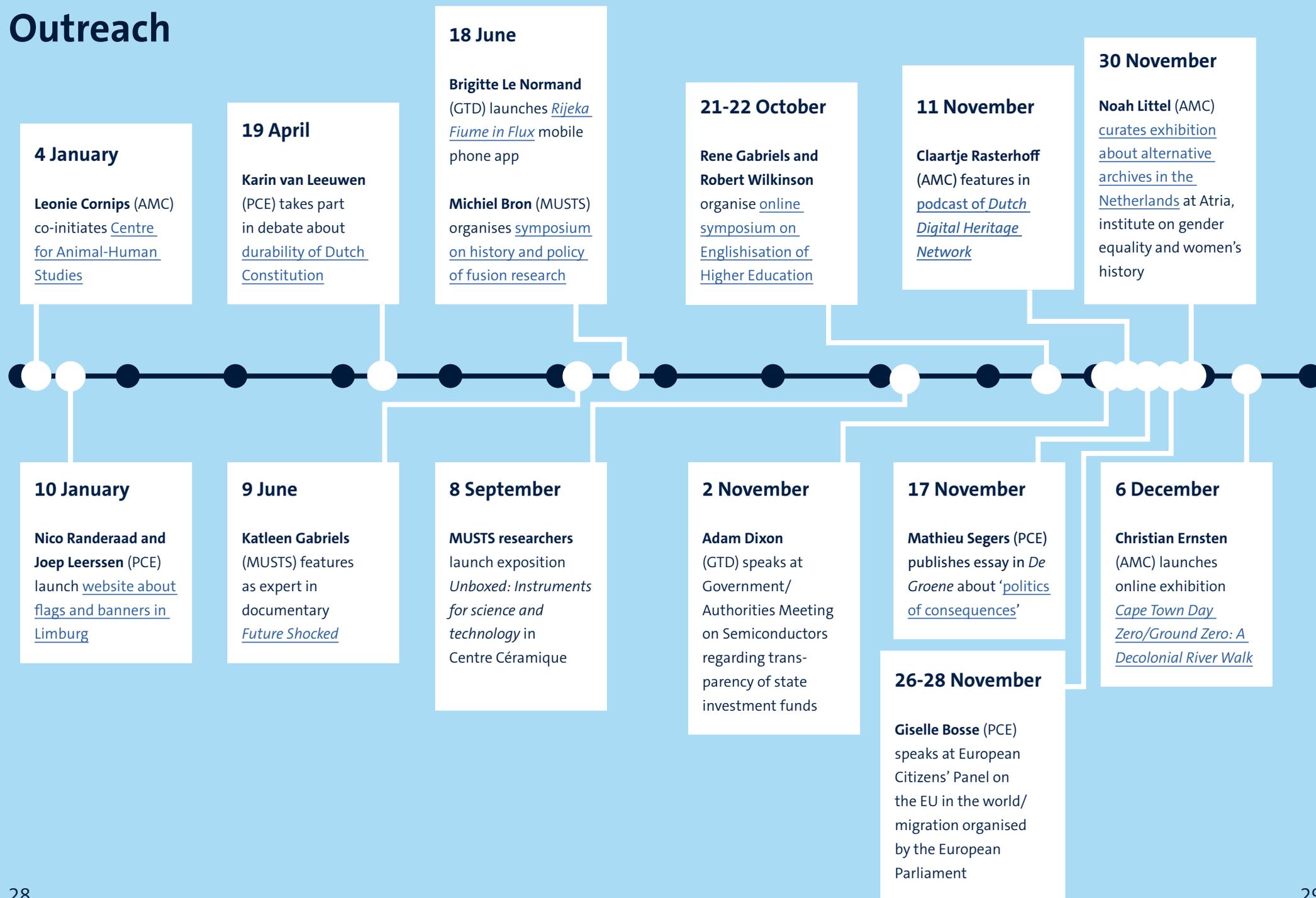
“In terms of improvement in patient-centeredness, you would assume that it is a nicer experience for patients to go to the primary care plus centre because it is usually closer to home, specialists are less rushed and doctors don’t wear scary white coats. Yet patients do not give any of these as reasons for being satisfied with the care they received. The main difference for them lies in the interaction with the doctor.”

“In terms of costs, the reductions were expected to stem from the fact that the trajectory patients take is cheaper than when they go to a hospital because fewer unnecessary tests are performed. I show that this promise is based on the idea that you can influence the choices that doctors and patients make together by changing their environment. But that change of environment also has very different, more unpredictable effects, which do not always lead to direct cost reductions.”

“Overall,” Willems concludes, “primary care plus provides a range of opportunities to develop routines that align with what patients consider fair. Tracking and learning from these processes is at least as important as monitoring its outcomes in terms of patient-centredness, quality and costs.” <<



Outreach





Making FASoS FAIR

Maria Vivas-Romero and Sven Assink

In 2019, FASoS started the commitment to make its research FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable. This turn towards open science was a necessary one, but not an easy one. “We were one of Maastricht University’s last faculties to start implementing the FAIR principles, but due to the different nature of research done at FASoS compared to other faculties, in the beginning we didn’t know how or where to start,” Maria Vivas-Romero, Data Steward at FASoS, explains.

System in place

“Now we’ve developed a system,” Sven Assink, Information Manager at FASoS, adds. “Research that is funded, for example through the NWO or through the EU, needs to comply with FAIR and GDPR principles. When applying for funding, researchers first go to

our funding advisor who helps researchers with their funding application. The advisor refers the researcher to the data steward to draw up a Data Management Plan. The data steward then refers researchers to the information manager, who finds a suitable place to store the data. Preferably, data are stored internally, but when a researcher needs to collaborate with others on data, you need to find external data storage, and this storage needs to be GDPR-proof.”

“Especially when a researcher works with personal or sensitive data things can get tricky. We have many ethnographers at the faculty and researchers who rely on interviews. These types of methods generate data that need good GDPR checks, plus adherence to FAIR principles. That is when we put the researcher in touch with the >>

recently hired GDPR officer. The GDPR officer sets up GDPR requirements, such as a Data Processing Agreement, and after that, the researcher goes out into the world to collect data,” Assink explains. “Upon return, we encourage researchers to store the data they collected in DataVerseNL, an open access institutional data repository. When data are stored here, they get a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) and can be found by anyone in the world. Publishers are starting to ask for DOIs so there definitely is an added value here for researchers to store their data,” Vivas-Romero says.

FAIR for qualitative data

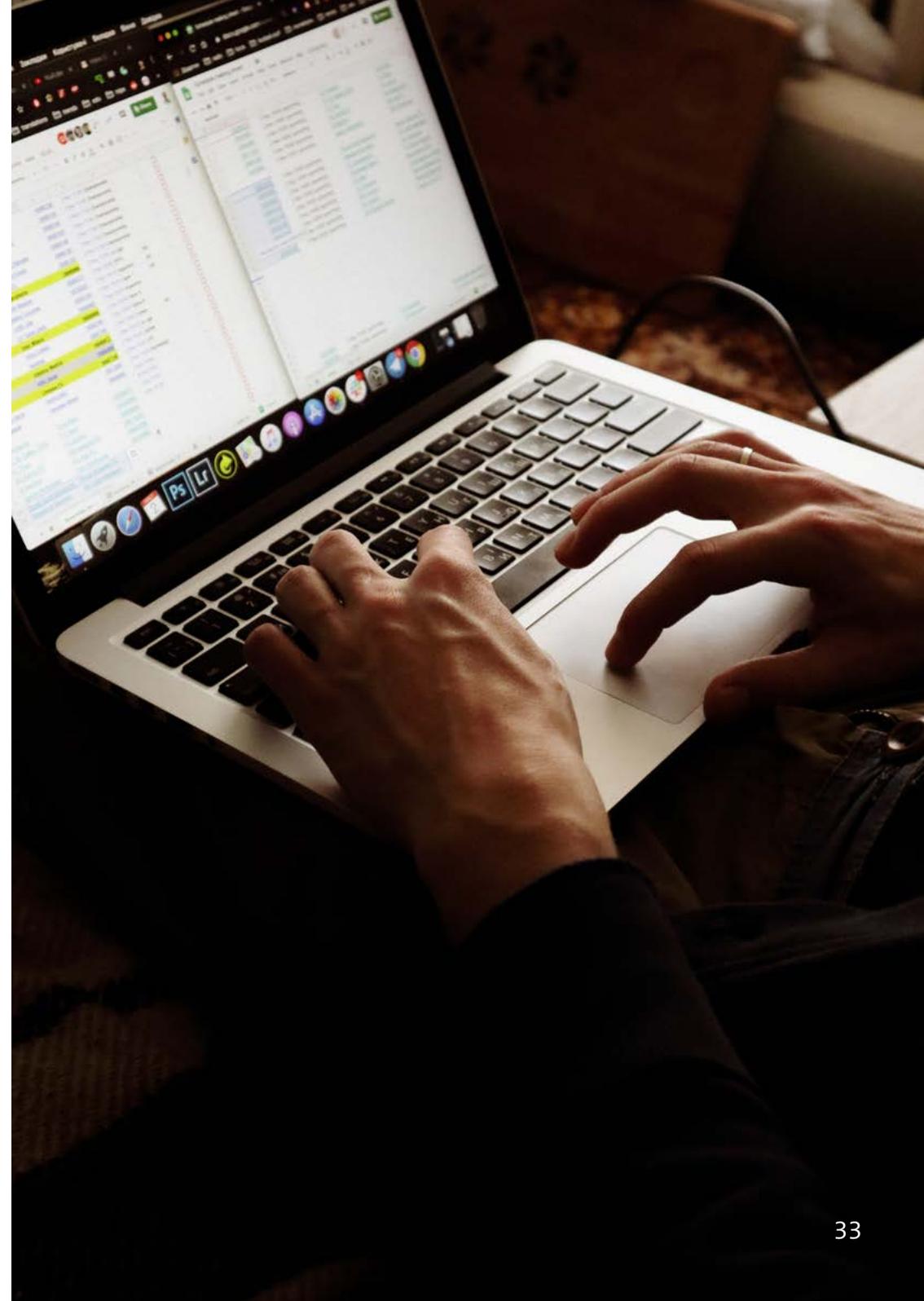
The open science movement is fairly new and you can't help but wonder whether everyone is equally open to making data FAIR. “One of the main challenges for our faculty is the type of data we use here. FAIR sounds as if it refers to computer science and big sets of data, which is not usually something researchers at FASoS work with. We are adapting FAIR so it fits qualitative data as well,” Assink explains.

“It is true that FAIR requires a cultural change,” Vivas-Romero says. “FAIR is especially challenging for established researchers who have not had to bother in the past about their data. And this isn't surprising. We know that making data FAIR requires an effort and can be viewed as an additional administrative burden on top of an already heavy workload. We try to take

this fear away by providing as much support as possible. What we have heard from researchers who are in the process of making their data FAIR is that it indeed takes time and effort, but that it is worthwhile because it helps them greatly when writing up their research, as they know exactly where to find their data. Some researchers at the faculty even call FAIR ‘an act of compassion and love’, because when making your data FAIR, you leave a footprint for future generations of researchers.”

Next steps

To make sure that the entire faculty makes its data FAIR, the next step for Assink and Vivas-Romero is to help master's students, and especially research master's students, make their data FAIR. Looking back, they are proud of what they have achieved so far. “We've started this entire initiative from scratch. It was trial and error, but we now have a working system in place and researchers know how to find us. The communication campaign at the beginning of our FAIR efforts has highlighted and advantaged our position within the faculty. In fact, it has ensured the cultural change we needed and has allowed us to keep improving and reaching our goal: to make all research at FASoS FAIR.” <<



Colophon

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