



Utrecht Young Academy

Word of Welcome

Dear reader,

"No one at our university will say they are against interdisciplinary collaboration", a member stated during our last meeting. The Utrecht Young Academy certainly will not, as our members generally enjoy being exposed to each other's disciplines. But when we carried out a poll during this same meeting, multiple concerns came up. What if we fail? What if interdisciplinary collaboration is overused? Is it rewarded the way we would like to? Do we want it to be taken into account during hiring decisions? We all agreed on one thing: interdisciplinary collaboration has the extraordinary potential to revitalise research agendas. If you glance at our newsletter, we do not only ponder but we also act: see for example our hands-on KlimaatHelpdesk, Town Hall Meeting on Diversity and Inclusion and the launch of the Centre of Unusual Collaborations founded in cooperation with the Young Academies of UMC Utrecht, Wageningen and Eindhoven. Enjoy.

Yours,

Martine Veldhuizen
Chair of the Utrecht Young Academy



Klimaat Helpdesk

The Utrecht Young Academy launches a new platform to answer questions on climate change

The KlimaatHelpdesk aims to answer any questions people may have on climate change. These questions can range from the physics and geography of climate change, but also its social, economical and psychological effects. Academics and experts will answer these questions, with independent reviewers checking the answers before publication on the website. The KlimaatHelpdesk is a project of the [Utrecht Young Academy](#) in collaboration with [Scientists 4 Future NL](#).

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Interdisciplinary, unusual collaborations to address societal challenges of today and the future

The Centre of Unusual Collaborations is established by the Young Academies of Eindhoven University of Technology, Wageningen University & Research, Utrecht University and UMC-Utrecht. The Centre promotes and facilitates opportunities for unusual research collaborations that aim for societal impact. Recently, we received the first round of applications for two grants: the Spark Grant and the Unusual Collaborations Grant.

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Applications for membership open

The Utrecht Young Academy is soliciting applications for new members. Excellent young researchers at Utrecht University (between 0 and 8 years after receiving their PhD degree) are eligible for nomination and can nominate themselves until November 12 2020. Spread the word around your network if you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member.

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Breakfast Town Hall Meeting

The Utrecht Young Academy invites all early career lecturers and researchers to its online Town Hall meeting around the theme *Diversity and Inclusion at Utrecht University* on November 9 from 09:00 - 10:00. Being at the interface between you, policymakers and university management, we want to engage in meaningful conversations and listen to you.

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A Voice for Young Academics

The Utrecht Young Academy gives a voice to young academics by reaching out to policy-makers in order to influence science and education policy in and outside Utrecht. Within Utrecht University, the chair of UYA is a member of the Advisory Committee Research (*Adviescommissie Onderzoek*). We are also represented through our members amongst others in the Centre for Academic Teaching, the Public Engagement Taskforce, the Open Science Community Utrecht, and in formulating the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

[OUR MISSION](#)



The balance between strategic and curiosity-driven research

"We need curiosity-driven science to set the ground and maintain required resources for quick responses in crisis situations." [Yvonne Vercoolen](#), Assistant Professor at the Centre for Molecular Medicine, joined the Utrecht Young Academy this year and blogged about the importance of curiosity-driven, fundamental research.

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The role of academics in the climate emergency

On August 31, the Utrecht Young Academy organised an online panel discussion on facing the climate emergency in academia. Prof. Valérie Masson-Delmotte shared her thoughts on the impact of climate change and its influence on the academic paths of the next generation scientists.

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How can we discuss privacy and inclusion at work?

Pascalie Ickenroth worked together with UYA members Martine Veldhuizen and Jojanne van der Toorn on their project *Privacy and Inclusion*. Pascalie created a set of guidelines for a conversation-starter tool that can be used when discussing this sensitive topic.

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Keep an eye out for...

THEORY LAB PROJECT

For our new project *Theory Lab*, four UYA members work together to raise awareness at schools about the danger of conspiracy theories. In the upcoming year, the group aims to bring this important topic to the attention of both students and their teachers through guest lectures in schools and through online texts on various aspects of conspiracy theories.

FOURTH GENERATION PROJECT

The project of the fourth UYA generation will investigate the different roles the future plays in education and research across Utrecht University. The research project will identify key complementarities, differences, and gaps that can serve as a basis for collaborations on education, research and societal engagement. In addition, short videos will capture various stories about the use of the future across the university to be able to show a diversity of engagements with the future.

ON THE PROMISES AND PITFALLS OF SCIENTIFIC INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Interdisciplinary team research has become the model for future science. But how do scholars who conduct multi-/interdisciplinary research perceive their level of multi-/interdisciplinarity and what is their frame of reference? Do scholars feel like they are getting appreciation for their multi-/interdisciplinary work? From whom would they like to get more appreciation, and in what way? We aim to answer these questions in our research project the coming year.

CENTRE FOR UNUSUAL COLLABORATIONS (CUCo)

The Centre of Unusual Collaborations organises three symposia every year aimed at facilitating new collaborations. The upcoming months, the Centre will focus on reviewing grant applications for unusual collaborations. Additionally, the Centre's physical location will soon be unveiled and a new website is under development to ensure that everyone can find CUCo both online and offline. If you would like to stay up to date on CUCo activities, join the mailing list by contacting [Florian Albronda](#).

Check out our [website](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#) to stay up to date with our projects and events.

Contact

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