



Utrecht Young Academy

## Word of Welcome

Dear reader,

When academics quote Winston Churchill's "Never waste a good crisis" in these strenuous days, I find myself in conflict. Yes, this crisis may create opportunities outside of the normal compass - new views on and solutions to our economic, cultural and social challenges. "Let's build the university of the future", a new Utrecht Young Academy member said encouragingly during our recent groovy zoom-meeting. All very true. As the new chair of Utrecht Young Academy I focus on the beginning of a new Utrecht Young Academy year, which started at the universities' Dies on 26 March. We now comprise four generations of members and have a track record of many inspiring projects - and more to come. #UYAgothis! At the same time, maybe we should restrain from immediately attributing meaning to this crisis and sometimes just... stay silent for a while. May we please have some room to lament? To feel sad or discouraged? So let's make bold plans for the future and yet keep a sound mind by not skipping all the stages of grief at present. Composure in times of COVID-19.

Yours,

Martine Veldhuizen  
Chair of the Utrecht Young Academy



## The Utrecht Young Academy appeals to Utrecht University leadership at Pathways to Sustainability Conference

The Utrecht Young Academy appealed to the Utrecht University leadership to step up sustainability ambitions and sign a [pledge](#). The Climate Action Pledge calls for both the acknowledgement of the high risk of our current national policies and the urgency of action, as well as key suggestions for an adequate response to the climate crisis. The President of the Executive Board, Anton Pijpers, stated the Board supports the pledge and will adopt the pledge and concomitant actions.

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## The Utrecht Young Academy welcomes nine new members

In January 2020, we selected nine excellent academics from Utrecht University who have obtained their PhD less than eight years ago. The members come from various backgrounds and disciplines. We look forward to the exciting new ideas and contributions of our nine new members.

[OUR NEW MEMBERS](#)



## How can we bridge the gap between researchers and vmbo students?

The Utrecht Young Academy and non-profit organisation JINC initiated a vlog project to answer real-life research questions with vmbo students. They created vlogs together on themes such as climate change, identity and the power of language. A special premiere of the vlogs in the University Hall concluded the project.

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## Breakfast Town Hall Meeting

Our Town Hall meetings serve to connect early career lecturers and researchers with members of the Utrecht Young Academy and each other. Being at the interface between academics, policymakers and university management, we meet up twice a year to

engage in meaningful conversation. Our Town Hall Meeting in February was centered around the theme 'Recognizing and Rewarding'.

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## Alliance of four Young Academies: challenging future generations

Future generations face unprecedented challenges. Towards this end, the Young Academies of Utrecht University, Utrecht Medical Center Utrecht, Eindhoven University of Technology and Wageningen University & Research have committed to work together to address pressing societal challenges. The alliance stimulates passion-driven projects with participation of researchers from across the four institutions.

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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 Public Engagement Taskforce, the Open Science Community Utrecht, and in formulating the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

[OUR MISSION](#)



### Interdisciplinary cooperation on 1punt5 climate videos

To communicate the manifold consequences of climate change, UYA has produced the video series "1punt5", in collaboration with the Faculty of Science communication office. In short videos, several faculty members reflect on the necessary public understanding of global warming and its consequences from the viewpoint of their disciplines.

[WATCH HERE](#)



### The road to Open Science

The Open Science Community aims to make scientific research openly available to people within and outside of academia. Two members of the Utrecht Young Academy discussed several aspects of Open Science during the first Utrecht Open Science Symposium at the Faculty of Science in February.

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## Keep an eye out for...

### ON THE PROMISES AND PITFALLS OF INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Does interdisciplinarity always improve science? A diverse group of UYA members collaborate to explore the promises and pitfalls of interdisciplinary science. The aim of this project is to come up with a model that can help universities with future research.

### THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF PRIVACY AND INCLUSION

This project will develop a tool for employees and HR policymakers to find out what the do's and don'ts are of registration of privacy sensitive information of their employers. This tool enables the organizations to make the tension between privacy and inclusion discussable.

### MATERIAL COLLABORATORY PROJECT

A variety of Utrecht Laboratory researchers have one thing in common: a fundamental interest in materials. Through hands-on workshops that focus on a specific material, the project connects academic research to society and the issues that are important to us and the world. The first edition explores various abundant forms of carbon.

### LANGUAGE BUDDY PROGRAMME

Because of the corona crisis, vulnerable high school students in Utrecht are in danger of getting behind with their language development. Members of the Utrecht Young Academy can make a difference by becoming a buddy for one of these students and having weekly online contact with them. This programme is organised by Utrecht University and Taal Doet Meer.

### TOWN HALL MEETING: UTRECHT UNIVERSITY IN 2034

Through our [Town Hall meetings](#) we aim to connect early career lecturers and researchers with members of the Utrecht Young Academy and each other. Our next Town Hall meeting will focus on the theme 'Utrecht University in 2034'.

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

## Contact

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