

A photograph of three graduates in black gowns and caps, with red and yellow stoles, standing in front of a large arched window. The central graduate is a woman with glasses, smiling slightly. The two other graduates are men, one on the left and one on the right, both looking towards the center. The background shows a large, arched window with a grid pattern, and a chandelier hangs from the ceiling.

“Open-minded spirits with a dream”

Ten inspiring honorary doctorates

**marking the 400th anniversary
of the University of Groningen**

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Open-minded spirits with a dream

The 400th anniversary of the University of Groningen is being marked by the awarding of ten honorary doctorates to people who have made an exceptional contribution to society, academia or politics. Why were these ten in particular chosen? What unites them and why are they shining examples for the University of Groningen?

Nine of the honorary doctors were proposed for their major academic achievements by the nine faculties of the University. Their work is a source of inspiration for current and promising research fields at the heart of the Groningen faculties. 'We honour the fundamental principles of academia by choosing these people', says Rector Magnificus Elmer Sterken. 'All nine are hard-core researchers of outstanding quality, and what is also noticeable is how personally driven they all are to contribute something to the world from the heart of academia.' They thus reflect the ideal of modern scholarship – working on social implementations based on hard theoretical knowledge and fundamental research.

For example, the economist Dani Rodrik is a prominent specialist in the field of international trade flow with an impressive academic output. Using solid analyses and well-founded theories, he works on realizing social and political stability and prosperity for the entire global population.

Another good example of the combination of hard scholarship and social involvement is the work of the didactics specialist Robert E. Slavin, honorary doctor in Behavioural and Social Sciences. He conducts empirical research on the effectiveness of teaching practices and educational programmes. His ambition is to provide good teaching to all children, starting in primary schools in underprivileged areas. He is trying to achieve this goal with his school-wide programme 'Success for All'. He is passionately campaigning to politicians and policymakers for the use of evidence-based teaching programmes: 'We can't simply say that it doesn't matter if it works. We cannot continue in ignorance.'

Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, who will receive social honorary doctorate, also works from the hard core of entrepreneurship – creating turnover and realizing profit. At the same time he represents sustainable entrepreneurship and human and nature-friendly production processes. His motto, 'serving society', actually applies to all ten of the honorary doctors of the 400-year-old University, states Janka Stoker, Chair of the Lustrum Advisory Board and professor of leadership. 'We have chosen these people because they are inspiring examples. They are idealists with the drive to make the world a better place and promote their ideals. I see a definite link here with transformational leadership. These people are not here for themselves. They are able to reach beyond themselves and achieve something really major. They are able to make a difference.'

Of course we are dealing with ten very different people, each with their own history and motives. Nevertheless, there are several more uniting features that can be listed. What is noticeable in the filmed interviews with the honorary doctors is their open spirits and drive to innovate. They are open to unexpected insights and dare to follow new, previously unexplored ways. For example, the physicist Renata Kallosh gave lectures on classical mechanics. Through her teaching of this classical theory she discovered the universality of dynamic systems. She is now the driving force behind research projects on the interface



between string theory and cosmology.

All of these pioneering thinkers have the ability to follow their own routes. They choose their own directions and want to realize their ideals. This is one of the characteristics of truly great scholars, says Rector Magnificus Sterken, they have a dream on which they can work freely. Sometimes it is a very personal dream, as in the case of molecular biologist Ronald M. Evans, who is being awarded an honorary doctorate in the medical sciences. Both his father and his brother died of cancer. The young researcher could not develop a treatment in time to save his brother, but this event provided the motive to work enthusiastically on fighting chronic diseases. For years he conducted fundamental research on the relationship between hormones and diseases. The final result of his quest was a revolutionary discovery in the field of endocrinology which has resulted in new treatment methods for heart disease, diabetes and cancer. He and his research team are now working on realising a new dream – a drug against obesity.

Freedom of thought and the drive to pass on knowledge dovetails with the 400-year tradition of the University of Groningen, states Rector Magnificus Elmer Sterken. The Academy was founded in 1614 by the people of the city and its environs, from the belief that the development and transfer of knowledge was useful for society. The University of Groningen grew into an institution that nurtures free thinkers with an eye for innovation and an open view of the world. The University is emphasizing this rich tradition by the awarding of these ten honorary doctorates.

José Vicente Casanova (1951, Saragossa, Spain)

- José Casanova studied Philosophy in Saragossa, Spain, received his MA in Theology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and studied Sociology in New York, where he was appointed professor of Sociology at the New School for Social Research.
- He currently works as professor of Sociology of Religion at the Department of Sociology at Georgetown University (Washington DC) and heads the Berkley Center's Program on Globalization, Religion and the Secular.
- He is best known in his field for his book *Public Religions in the Modern World* (1994).
- He was awarded the Theology Prize by the Salzburger Hochschulwochen for his life-long achievement in the field of theology.
- Recent publications:
 - *Secularization, Religion, and Multicultural Citizenship* (2014)
 - *Secular and Sacred? The Scandinavian Case of Religion in Human Rights, Law and Public Space* (2014)
 - *Religious Associations, Religious Innovations and Denominational Identities in Contemporary Cities* (2013)
- José Casanova was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, because of his interest in the contemporary period and the relation between religion, secularism and globalization.



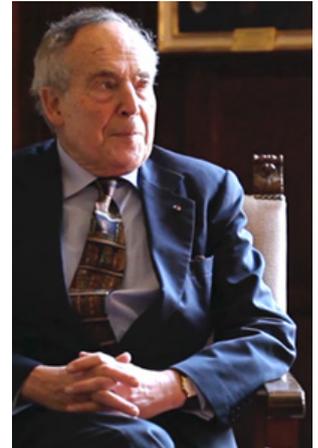
José Casanova is one of the leading scholars in the field of the sociology of religion, publishing and speaking widely on subjects concerning religion, globalization, migration and pluralism. His book *Public Religions in the Modern World* is considered a modern classic. In lectures and public discussions he speaks about various, often controversial subjects, like religious freedom, the role of gender and women in the Catholic Church, the influence of Jesuits on globalization, religion and the secular in modern China and civil rights in Muslim democracies.

Nowadays, he often speaks about the role of religion in urban societies in relation to violence, stating that religion can both be the problem and the solution to the fundamental issues of living together on this globe. In a recent discussion he states that we have to come to terms with the fact that we live in a world with many religions and human cultures. Instead of trying to convert everybody to one universal religion or culture, we should respect this plurality. Quoting Mother Theresa who said 'I love all religions, but I am in love with my own', he adds that he could embrace a proselytism which is compatible with such an attitude.

Sir Francis Geoffrey Jacobs QC KCMG (1939, Cliftonville, Kent, Great Britain)

- Sir Francis Jacobs was educated at the City of London School, Christ Church, Oxford, and Nuffield College Oxford. After graduation he practised as a barrister from Fountain Court Chambers in London. He appeared in many cases, including cases before the European Court of Justice and the European Commission and Court of Human Rights.

During his career he was Professor of European Law at the University of London and was Director of the Centre of European Law at King's College London, and from 1988 to 2006 served as Advocate General at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. He is a Bencher of the Middle Temple.



- Currently he is Professor of Law at King's College London.
- He is best known for his work on European law and as the first President of the European Law Institute aimed at the improvement of European law in general.
- Recent publications:
 - Founding Editor, Yearbook of European Law (Oxford University Press)
 - General Editor, The Oxford EC Law Library (Oxford University Press), 1986-2010.
 - The Sovereignty of Law: the European Way (2007)
- He was elected President of Missing Children Europe, the European Foundation of Missing and Sexually Exploited Children in 2007 and President of the European Law Institute in 2011. In 2005 he was appointed a member of the Privy Council and he was knighted in the New Year's Honours 2006.
- Sir Francis Jacobs was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Law because of his contributions to law reform and his ambition to improve the general understanding and appreciation of European law.

Sir Francis Jacobs is a distinguished jurist in the field of European law and human rights law. He continually strives to improve the quality of European law, contributing persuasive arguments to do away with shortcomings and illogical elements. He is praised for his lucid and logical style of writing.

Apart from his work as a professor and jurist he is deeply concerned with the fate of missing and abused children. As President of Missing Children Europe he emphasizes the importance of cooperation of organisations within the different countries in Europe to find missing children and to prevent and cope with abuse of children.

Ronald Mark Evans (1949, Los Angeles, USA)

- Ronald Evans received his BA of Science and PhD from UCLA, Los Angeles, and his postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University, New York. He began his career as a faculty member at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, and is also an Adjunct Professor in Biology, Biomedical Sciences and Neuroscience at the University of California, San Diego.
- He is a Professor and Director of the Salk Institute's Gene Expression Laboratory, as well as an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
- He is known worldwide for his work on hormones, especially for the discovery of a large family of molecules that respond to various hormones, leading to new treatments of metabolic diseases and cancer as well as influencing our daily health.
- Recent publications:
 - Insights into negative regulation by the glucocorticoid receptor from genome-wide profiling of inflammatory cistromes (2013)
 - A Role for Vitamin D in liver disease and cancer (2013)
 - A PPAR γ -FGF1 axis is required for adaptive adipose remodelling and metabolic homeostasis (2012)
- He was named the March of Dimes Chair in Molecular and Developmental Biology at the Salk Institute in 1998 and has received many awards and prizes, including the March of Dimes Prize in Developmental Biology (2003), the Harvey Prize (2006), the Albert Lasker Award (2004) and the Wolf Prize in Medicine (2012).
- Ronald Evans was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Medical Sciences to honour his breakthrough discovery of the role of hormones in the regulation of metabolism.



For over 40 years Ronald (Ron) Evans has studied how hormones behave in normal physiology and during a disease. His great moment came when he discovered a family of molecules, called nuclear receptors, which are activated by certain hormones and vitamins. These hormones help control the way the body processes for instance sugar, salt, calcium and fat.

The discovery of this missing link in the regulation of metabolism leads to new, promising treatments of metabolic diseases, cancer and asthma. In addition, this knowledge teaches us more about health problems like obesity and diabetes and may well lead to a significant improvement of health in general, especially in societies where rich and fatty foods are so popular.

Renata Elizaveta Kallosh (1943, Chernowitz, Ukraine, former Soviet Union)

- Renata Kallosh studied Physics at the Moscow State University, obtained her PhD and worked as a professor at the Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow and worked at CERN, Switzerland.
- Currently she works as professor of Physics at Stanford University, California.
- She is a renowned expert on string theory, gravity, black holes, cosmology of the early universe and properties of dark energy. In addition, she is one of the inventors of the attractor mechanism in black hole physics.
- She received a great many awards, from all over the world, including the Humboldt International Award and the Lise Meitner Prize of the Göteborg University and Chalmers.
- Recent publications:
 - Cosmological Attractor Models and Higher Curvature Supergravity (2014)
 - More on Universal Superconformal Attractors (2014)
 - Planck 2013 and Superconformal Symmetry (2014)
- Renata Kallosh was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Science and Engineering (formerly known as the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences) because of her great influence on the field of theoretical physics and because she is an inspiration to a whole generation.
- Renata Kallosh is known as one of the most famous experts in the field of theoretical physics. Her contributions to string theory have been extensive and she was instrumental in describing one of the first models of accelerated expansion of the universe. She is also one of the inventors of the attractor mechanism ruling black holes.



Back in the seventies, while she was still working in the former Soviet Union, Stephen Hawking met her at the Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow and invited her to Cambridge. In 1988 she left Russia to work at CERN for two years, before accepting a professorship at Stanford University, where she combines her research with teaching classes.

In general she is known for her work on string theory models, quantum gravity and black holes and their applications to cosmology and the accelerated expansion of the universe. One of her most successful papers about the accelerated expansion of the universe in string theory in 2003 was cited more than a thousand times in the Web of Science. Nowadays she is studying the quantum properties of extended supergravity and dark energy as well as the properties of the early universe.

Michael Steven Schudson (1946, Milwaukee, USA)

- Michael Schudson graduated at Swarthmore College, received his MA and PhD in Sociology from Harvard University and became assistant professor at the University of Chicago. He transferred to the University of California, San Diego, where he worked as a professor of Communication as well as Sociology.
- Currently he works as professor of Journalism at the Columbia University, New York.
- He is best known for his research into the history and sociology of the American news media, advertising, popular culture, Watergate and cultural memory.
- Recent publications:
 - Reluctant Stewards: Journalism in a Democratic Society (2013)
 - The Rise of Contextual Journalism, 1950s-2000s (with Katherine Fink, 2013)
 - Why Democracies Need an Unlovable Press (2008)
- He received a MacArthur Foundation Award (1990), was a Guggenheim Fellow (1990), and received the Murray Edelman distinguished career award (2004).
- He was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Arts because of the way his work fundamentally changed the way we study journalism and improved our understanding of the role of journalism in democracy and modern society.



As a professor of Journalism and Sociology Michael Schudson examines the role of journalism in society and its significance for a healthy democracy. He emphasizes the importance of accountability journalism for civic life and points out that vibrant, independent journalism suffers as a result of cutbacks, dwindling budgets and falling advertising revenues.

His research is firmly rooted in a combination of sociology, history and political communication, providing him profound insights into matters like objectivity, citizenship and democracy. He often stresses the fact that we will never love the press, but we need it all the same.

Dani Rodrik (1957, Istanbul, Turkey)

- Dani Rodrik is a graduate of Harvard College, holds a PhD in Economics from Princeton University, and was the Rafiq Hariri Professor of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, between 1996 and 2013.
- Currently he is the Albert O. Hirschman Professor in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.
- He is considered to be one of the leading economists of the world and is famous for his original thoughts and research on globalization and economic development.
- He was awarded the inaugural Albert O. Hirschman Prize of the Social Science Research Council (2007), received the Leontief Award for Advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought and holds several honorary fellowships.
- Recent publications:
 - The Globalization Paradox (2011)
 - One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth (2007)
 - Has Globalization Gone Too Far? (1997)
- Dani Rodrik was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Economics and Business to honour the way he has influenced thinking about the current social and economic challenges of the world.



Dani Rodrik is an academic who is able to bridge the gulf between academic research and political reality, combining theoretical and empirical research. In his work as a professor of Economics he carries out research into international economics, economic growth and development, institutional and political economics. He has profound views on what good economic policy is about and what drives governments to either adopt or reject such policies.

In the present global context he argues that it is impossible to pursue democracy, national self-determination and economic globalization all at the same time. Countries should put their own national priorities first when the international demands of globalization come into conflict with democracy and their social and political stability. In that light he favours a leaner form of globalization.

Paulus Gerardus Josephus Maria Polman (1956, Enschede, The Netherlands)

- Paul Polman studied Business Economics at the University of Groningen, and received an MA in Economics and an MBA in Finance and International Marketing at the University of Cincinnati, USA.
- He is currently CEO of Unilever. He is Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and sits on the Board of the UN Global Compact, the Consumer Goods Forum, the UN Scaling Up Nutrition Initiative, the Dow board and the European Resource Efficiency Taskforce.
- He is particularly known for his active engagement in sustainable entrepreneurship and the promotion of business models which account for the needs of people and environment. At the request of the UN Secretary-General, he served as a member of the UN High Level Panel for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- His leadership awards include CEO of the year in 2010, 2011 and 2012, Business Leader of the World, the Atlantic Council Award for Distinguished Business Leadership, the First Award for Responsible Capitalism in 2012 and the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Medal in 2013. He was also awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Northumbria in Newcastle (2000) and the University in Cincinnati (2009).
- Paul Polman was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the University of Groningen in recognition of his contribution to entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

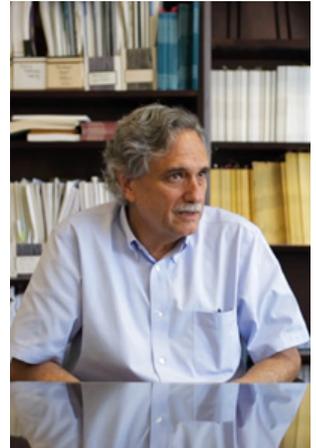


As an international business leader, Paul Polman is working with others to promote sustainable growth and deliver a more equitable world for all. He is a firm advocate of reducing CO₂ emissions and preventing deforestation. He regularly speaks about the effects of climate change and the need to promote food safety, and he advises the European Commission on the effective use of natural resources.

He is one of the founders of the Dutch Sustainable Growth Coalition, a group of Dutch multinationals, which aims to promote and contribute to a more sustainable society. He believes that, rather than simply chasing short term profits, companies have an obligation to reduce their environmental footprint and increase their social impact. Through Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan, he intends to demonstrate the possibilities inherent in sustainable business models. With his wife and children, he runs the Kilimanjaro Blind Trust enhancing the education of visually impaired children in Africa.

Robert Edward Slavin (1950, Bethesda, MD, USA)

- Robert Slavin received his BA in Psychology at Reed College, Portland, Oregon and his PhD in Social Relations from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.
- He combines his work as a part-time professor at the Institute for Effective Education at the University of York (England), with his job as Director of the Centre for Research and Reform in Education at the Johns Hopkins University.
- He is best known as the Chairman of the Success for All Foundation, which aims at improving the quality of teaching in order to meet the needs of all learners.
- He contributed to over 300 articles and book chapters.
- Recent publications:
 - Educational Psychology: Theory into Practice (1986 – 2015)
 - Two Million Children: Success for All (2009)
 - Educational Research in the Age of Accountability (2007)
 - Effective Programs for Latino Students (2000)
- He was awarded the Distinguished Services Award from the Council of Chief State School Officers (2001), the Palmer O. Johnson Award (2008), the AERA Review of Research Award (2009) and was appointed as Member of the National Academy of Education in 2009 and AERA Fellow in 2010.
- Robert Slavin was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences to honour his continual commitment to a more evidence based approach to teaching.



Robert (Bob) Slavin is involved in research aimed at improving education as well as evaluating different methods of teaching. He favours an evidence-based approach and has become a leading expert on school improvement, reading instruction and education reform policy.

He has the firm ambition to make sure that all learners benefit from education. He and his wife, Nancy Madden, began back in 1986 to create an effective, replicable model to help failing schools in the poor areas of Baltimore to improve their quality of education. The model they developed there became the Success for All model, considered to be the most effective way to reform and improve schools. It is widely used in the United States and in England.

Christine Marion Korsgaard (1952, Chicago, USA)

- Christine Korsgaard studied Philosophy at the University of Illinois and received her PhD from Harvard University. She taught Philosophy at Yale, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Chicago.
- Currently she works as Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Philosophy at Harvard University.
- She is best known for her work on moral philosophy and its history, practical reason, the nature of agency, personal identity, normativity, and the ethical relations between human beings and other animals.
- Recent publications:
 - Self-Constitution: Agency, Identity and Integrity (2009)
 - The Constitution of Agency (2008)
 - The Sources of Normativity (1996)
 - Creating the Kingdom of Ends (1996)
- She was the first woman to be invited to give the Locke Lectures at the University of Oxford (2002) and received the honorary LHD doctorate of Human Letters from the University of Illinois (2004).
- Christine Korsgaard was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Philosophy because she is one of the most influential moral philosophers today.



In the world of philosophy Christine Korsgaard is among the most influential Kantian philosophers of her day. Her highly original philosophical arguments and insightful work on the history of ethics are an inspiration to many. She is especially interested in moral philosophy and its history, publishing and teaching extensively on issues of metaphysics, the philosophy of action, theories of personal identity and personal relationships as well as normativity.

One of her objectives is to search for answers to philosophical issues like the problem of value, searching for the source of normative moral obligations. Her aim is not merely to explain moral obligations, but to justify them. To do so she looks to the past, to the writings of Kant and other philosophers from the past, especially Plato and Aristotle.

Andreas Karl Friedrich Faludi (1940, Budapest, Hungary)

- Andreas Faludi studied Architecture and Urban Planning at the Technical University of Vienna, and received his PhD in 1967, after which he started his career at the Oxford Polytechnic.
- He became professor of Urban Planning at Delft University of Technology. Subsequently he held a chair in Planning at the University of Amsterdam and a personal chair in Spatial Policy Systems in Europe at Radboud University Nijmegen, followed by a chair in Spatial Policy Systems in Europe at Delft University of Technology before retiring to be a guest researcher there whilst continuing to teach as a Senior Professor at Blekinge Institute of Technology at Karlskrona in Sweden.
- He is known for his research work on planning theory and methodology, concentrating on the study of Dutch strategic planning and European and comparative planning.
- He became European Fulbright Scholar (2000) and Fellow of the Bellagio Rockefeller Centre (2002) and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Swedish Blekinge Institute of Technology in Karlskrona.
- Recent publications:
 - Cohesion, Coherence, Cooperation: European Spatial Planning in the Making? (2010)
 - European Spatial Research and Planning (2008)
 - The Making of the European Spatial Development Perspective: No Masterplan (2002)
- Andreas Faludi was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Spatial Sciences because of his great impact on European planning as a frontrunner and leader of the academic debate.



Andreas Faludi has provided the field of planning with a firm theoretical foundation. He is the main editor of several academic compilations about a series of investigations into spatial planning, research and policy in Europe, published by the Lincoln Institute. He is known as the driving force behind the analysis of European planning and is considered to be one of the most outstanding authors on this subject.

In the nineties he pursued the notion of 'environmental planning' as an umbrella concept for various forms of Dutch planning, including spatial planning, water management, environmental planning, traffic and infrastructure planning. As a result of this debate the Dutch government intends to bring over 60 separate laws together in one overall environmental law.