Groningen Institute of Archaeology

Annual Report 2019

April 15 2020

**Reflection**

GIA has maintained its high level of output. The last few years have seen a change in publication strategy, where the number of peer-reviewed articles has increased significantly and the number of monographs has decreased. These figures testify to the structural change in scientific ambition of our staff, and is now transferred to the current group of PhD students (see below). The top publications mirror the increased success in high-ranking, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journals. At the same time, it remains crucial to publish primary data (Palaeohistoria, GAS, on-line databases).

GIA has continued its involvement with varied target audiences in society. Noteworthy is that these activities take place in all regions where GIA operates – the Arctic, the Netherlands, Italy, Greece and southwest Asia. It makes clear that our research achieves societal impact in diverse ways and with diverse stakeholders.

We maintained our high level of grant capture – some 47% of our budget derives from Dutch research grants (NWO) or the EU. Over the years we have become less dependent on NWO and increased our efforts and success in obtaining EU grants. A substantial part of these grants covers analytical and lab costs rather than staff salaries. The grants are mostly used to hire PhD students and some postdocs. The number of postdocs has decreased and requires more attention in future grant proposals. The small number of tenured staff and large number of current PhD students would benefit from the extra supervision capacity that postdocs provide.

GIA maintained the same level of new PhD projects and PhD defences. The throughput is less successful. There is a large number of PhD students with substantial delay. GIA – and GSH – will need to analyse whether the recent shift to alternative strategies (PhD on the basis of articles, no fieldwork-based projects) are sufficient to address this issue. The EU regulations of three year PhD project, loaded with lab work and secondments, may be a new source of delay. The current generation of PhD students has a clear gender imbalance: females strongly outnumber males.

**Top 10 scientific publications**

**Alessandri, L.**, Achino, K. F., **Attema, P.**, De Novaes Nascimento, M., Gatta, M., Rolfo, M. F. and **Gorp, W. van** (2019). Salt or fish (or salted fish)? The Bronze Age specialised sites along the Tyrrhenian coast of Central Italy: New insights from Caprolace settlement. *PLoS ONE*, 14(11), pp. 1-41. (Journal Impact Factor: 2.776)

Bailey, G., Galanidou, N., **Peeters, H.**, Jöns, H. and Menninga, M., eds. (2019). *The archaeology of Europe's drowned landscapes*. Coastal Research Library 35. Dordrecht: Springer.

**Çakirlar, C., Hurk, Y. van den**, Jagt, I., Amerongen, Y. van, Bakker, J., **Breider, R.,** Dijk, J. van, Esser, K., Groot, M., Jong, T. de, Kootker, L., **Steenhuisen, F.,** Zeiler, J., Kolfschoten, T. van, Prummel, W. and Lauwerier, R. (2019). Animals and people in the Netherlands' past: >50 years of archaeozoology in the Netherlands. *Open Quaternary*, 5(13), pp. 1-30. (Journal Impact Factor: 2.0)

**Cappers, R.T.J.** (2019). Cereal founder crops of sub-Saharan Africa and southwest Asia: Advantages and limitations. In: B. Eichhorn and A. Höhn, eds., *Trees grasses and crops. People and Plants in Sub-Saharan Africa and Beyond.* Frankfurter Archäologische Schriften/Frankfurt Archaeological Studies 37. Bonn: Verlag Dr. Rudolf Habelt, pp. 63-72.

**Desjardins, S. and Jordan, P.** (2019). Arctic Archaeology and Climate Change. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 48, pp. 279-296. (Journal Impact Factor: 2.246)

Keighley, X., Pálsson, S., Einarsson, B., Petersen, A., Fernández-Coll, M., **Jordan, P**., Olsen, M. T. and Malmquist, H. (2019). Disappearance of Icelandic walruses coincided with Norse settlement. *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, 36(12), pp. 2656-2667. (Journal Impact Factor: 14.797)

**Nieuwhof, A.,** Bakker, M., Knol, E., **Langen, G. de, Nicolay, J.A.W.,** Postma, D., Schepers, M., Varwijk, T.W. and Vos, P.C. (2019). Adapting to the sea: Human habitation in the coastal area of the northern Netherlands before medieval dike building. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 173, pp. 77-89. (Journal Impact Factor: 2.595)

**Palermo, R.,** Glorio, G., Cella, F., Speranza, L., Castaldo, R. and Pierobon, R. (2019). Multiscale techniques for 3D imaging of magnetic data for archaeogeophysical investigations in the Middle East: the case of Tell Barri (Syria). *Archaeological Prospection*, 26(4), pp. 379-395. (Journal Impact Factor: 1.5)

Sevink, J., di Vito, M.A., **Leusen, P.M. van**, and Field, M.H. (eds) (2019). Distal Effects of Volcanic Eruptions on Pre-Industrial Societies. *Quaternary International*, 499A, pp. 129-290. (Journal Impact Factor: 1.952)

**Voutsaki, S., Wiersma, C.W.,** Neef, W. de (2019). The Ayios Vasileios Survey Project (Laconia, Greece): questions, aims and methods. *Journal of Greek Archaeology*, 4, pp. 67–95. (Journal Impact Factor unknown)

**Top 10 societal outreach activities**

Arnoldussen, S. (2019). Honorable mention at the Faculty of Arts Societal Impact Prize 2019 for the GIA Monastry Project (research of the Yesse monastry at Essen and Germania monastry Thesinge). Arts Festival Groningen University.

Çakirlar, C. (2019). Expedition of the Bone Attic. Part of the programme of the Arts and Science Festival. Groningen: De Nacht van Kunst en Wetenschap.

Desjardins, S. (2019). Set-up of a fieldwork course for local highschool students at the excavation site of Uglit, northern Foxe Basin, Nunavut, Arctic Canada, in collaboration with Inuit Heritage Trust (Iqaluit, Nunavut).

Jong, L. de (2019). *Funerary practices and identity in Roman Phoenicia in five objects*. Lecture at symposium dedicated to the exhibition 'The World between Empires: Art and Identity in the Ancient Middle East'. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Leusen, M. van, and Ippolito, F. (2019). Public lectures for the local population at the GIA fieldwork site in Città (Calabria).

Loonen, M. (2019). *Habiter le Monde: Ny-Ålesund, un village scientific*. Documentary on the fieldwork in the Ny-Ålesund Scientific Station in Svalbard. Boradcasts on TV Arte in France and Germany and TV5 in Canada.

Nieuwhof, A., Knol E. and Nicolay, J., eds. (2019). *De hoogste terp van Friesland. Nieuw en oud onderzoek in Hogebeintum*. Jaarverslag van de Vereniging voor Terpenonderzoek 101. Groningen: Vereniging voor Terpenonderzoek. Report of the contract research project on terp-mounds.

Nijboer, B. (2019). *Van Brons- naar IJzertijd en van Oost naar West*. Public lecture at the Satricumdag 2019. Amsterdam: Universiteit van Amsterdam.

Palermo, R. (2019). *Mapping and Digitizing a Landscape*. Course for Kurdish archaeologists the Erbil Civilization Museum.

Peeters, J.H.M., L.W.S.W. Amkreutz, K.M. Cohen and M.P. Hijma (2019). *North Sea Prehistory Research and Management Framework (NSPRMF) 2019. Retuning the research and management agenda for prehistoric landscapes and archaeology in the Dutch sector of the continental shelf*. Amersfoort (Nederlandse Archeologische rapporten 63). Report for the Dutch national government on the archaeological heritage management of the North Sea.

Raemaekers, D.C.M. (2019). *Indiana Jones, nazi's en migraties*. Lecture, part of the Silent Science session at the Noorderzon University. Groningen: Noorderzon Festival of Performing Arts & Society.

## SWOT-analysis

The following is based on the self-study of the 2019 Midterm Review (MTR).

*Strengths*

1. GIA has an excellent and increasing output level, both in terms of quantity and quality. These outputs confirms that GIA has high-quality staff that continue to perform well;
2. This output was supported by our world class collections in archaeobotany and archaeozoology and our support staff;
3. We built up and maintain good momentum with NWO in 2016-2019 with four post-doc and four PhD positions, and with EU H2020 – with ArchSci2020 and SeaChanges (in total 9 PhD's);
4. We have a large exposure to the general public and intensive collaboration with societal partners in many of our projects.
5. GIA is a close-knit research community in which undergraduate students, PhD students, postdocs and senior staff collaborate on specific initiatives.

*Weaknesses*

6. GIA's internal HR organisation can hinder collaboration between research chairs;
7. Our world-class collections are housed in out-dated facilities;
8. Many PhD students do not finish their work on time;
9. The number of tenured staff is relatively small making our continuity and improvement uncertain and vulnerable;

*Opportunities*

10. We can re-align our internal organisation into theme groups to strengthen the internal collaboration;
11. We can re-position our archaeobotanical and archaeozoological collections as UG assets because of their importance as DNA banks (that will allow genetic input from now extinct breeds in the development of new breeds);
12. The retirement of staff in the coming years will allow us to reshape GIA's research profile to make the best of new opportunities;
13. The refurbishing of the Harmoniebuilding is an opportunity to rethink the housing of our collections and lab facilities;
14. The UG will restart the option for sandwich PhD's with international partners. This will allow us to strengthen our collaboration with new and existing partners;
15. We can increase our visibility in and relevance for society by connecting our vision statement to relevant stakeholders and activities.

*Threats*

16. NWO has new regulations that restrict access to their schemes (new grant proposals cannot be sent in during the period a current NWO project is running). This may lead to a reduction in NWO-funded research and a reduction in the number of PhD's and postdocs;
17. NWO now requires that VIDI postdocs are offered a permanent position at the end of the project. As a result, the long-term staffing is strongly influenced by unpredictable NWO success rather than strategic appointments aligned to a specific research agenda;
18. The retirement of staff in the coming years may lead to a smaller number of tenured staff. First of all, replacement is dependent on students numbers (and these may decrease). Furthermore Dutch national politics may generate substantial cuts in the budgets for all university disciplines outside natural sciences;
19. GIA has nurtured a large pool of ambitious early-career researchers (PhDs, Postdocs). If academic positions and career progression are not forthcoming then many will become frustrated and even leave, robbing GIA of new talent;
20. A potential outcome of the rehousing plans for the Harmoniebuilding is that GIA will remain its current locations, and the current issues with our collections and lab facilities will persist.

## Progress since MTR

*Scientific relevance*

The peer-review committee in 2016 appreciated the grant capture, the impact of our scientific output and the size of our scientific output. This score is underlined by the strengths (SWOT nos 1-5). These have been continued at the same high level in 2019 and has been acknowledged by the MTR committee as well. We can improve our scientific relevance with several strategies – all but one in development. These are:

1. Rehousing our lab facilities and collections (SWOT nos 7, 13 and 20). This issue has been addressed with the Faculty Board and will be part of the GIA strategic plan (due Summer 2020) and rehousing plans for the faculty. NB: A potential outcome of the rehousing plans is that GIA is not part of it. This is a worst-case scenario. GIA needs the Faculty Board to strive for rehousing GIA (one building, updated facilities), also if rehousing in the Harmoniebuilding cannot be realised.
2. We eagerly await the formal restart of the UG bursary scheme, plus the IG will restart the option for sandwich PhD's with international partners (SWOT no 14). Together, this will allow us to strengthen our collaboration with new and existing partners, and will serve as platform for large new EU-funded grant schemes applications;
3. The PhD progression and completion rates can still be substantially improved (SWOT no 8). This is a continued concern, and needs to be addressed at the stage of selection and recruitment, research proposal, TSP and in meetings with supervisors. Requires further coordinated effort from GIA supported by GSH;
4. We can re-position our archaeobotanical and archaeozoological collections as UG assets because of their importance as DNA banks (SWOT no 11). This issue will be covered in the GIA Strategic Plan (see below);
5. The last few years interdisciplinary collaboration has allowed GIA to increase its scientific output, visibility and societal relevance – an issue also raised by the MTR committee. The NWO project (2015-2019) "The Avellino Event: cultural and demographic effects of the great Bronze Age eruption of Mount Vesuvius" combines interdisciplinary research with the creation of educational video clips and a documentary. The ITN SeaChanges project (2019-2022) combines archaeozoology with nature preservation policies; the NWO project Early Domestic Animals in the Netherlands (2020-2023) collaborates with tertiary schools for farmers.

*Viability*
The peer-review committee expressed its concerns with the viability of our research due to the very detailed manner in which we presented ourselves in the self-study: five research groups comprising the four chairs and a group of bioarchaeology – with a tenured staff of only twelve. This issue is addressed with the following actions:

6. GIA's internal collaboration has increased in recent years through the collaboration in grant proposals (ITN ArcSci, ITN SeaChanges), co-supervision of PhD students across chairs and the annual GIA PhD/post-doc day (since 2015). This point was also mentioned by the MTR committee. As a result GIA has become an tighter knit research community (SWOT 6);
7. This will be followed-up by the GIA Strategic Plan (due Summer 2020) (SWOT nos 9, 10, 12 and 17). This will describe our research vision and ambitions for the next decade and allow us to act strategically with the replacement of retiring staff. We abandon the idea of explicit theme groups – a proposal also considered unbalanced by the MTR committee;
8. Further increase collaboration at PhD and postdoc level. The collaboration between PhD's and Postdocs has already been strengthened by the annual GIA PhD/Postdoc Day. Furthermore a digital brochure is prepared (Summer 2020) that will contain relevant data on all current PhD projects and will allow new PhD's to identify potential partners throughout the year;
9. GIA has stimulated its associate professors to apply for *ius promovendi* (PhD supervision rights) to counter NWO's regulations that restrict access to their schemes (new grant proposals cannot be sent in during the period a NWO project is running) (SWOT no 16);

*Relevance to society*
The peer-review committee concluded that GIA is very active in reaching out to society. Nevertheless it was unclear to them who our targeted audiences are and why these are targeted. As a result it remains unclear how relevant to society GIA is. The MTR committee considers this aspect one of GIA's strengths. GIA has developed a vision document for the MTR – the TOP 10 activities in this annual report testify that GIA holds shared ideas on the societal relevance of our work. On the basis of that, the following action is needed:

10. We can increase our visibility in and relevance for society by connecting our vision statement to the relevant stakeholders and activities (SWOT no 15). This vision now needs to be reformulated to tie in with the specific target audiences and communicated.

## Appendix. SEP tables

| **Research staff** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | fte | fte | fte | fte | fte |
| Tenured scientific staff | 7,6 | 7,3 | 7,3 | 7,9 | 7,9 |
| Postdocs | 7,4 | 7,6 | 6,6 | 5,2 | 5,2 |
| PhD students | 15,3 | 14,5 | 13,8 | 19,8 | 18,9 |
| **Total research staff** | **30,3** | **29,4** | **27,7** | **32,9** | **32,0** |
| Support Staff | 8,0 | 9,0 | 8,4 | 8,4 | 8,4* |
| Visiting fellows | | | | | |
| **Total staff** | **38,3** | **38,4** | **36,1** | **41,3** | **40,4** |
| **relative support staff** | 0,21 | 0,23 | 0,23 | 0,20 | 0,21 |

* This number has been copied from 2018.

| **Main categories of research output** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Refereed articles | 17 | 34 | 28 | 31 | 44 |
| Non-refereed articles | 3 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| Books | 2 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Book chapters | 13 | 19 | 33 | 34 | 18 |
| PhD theses | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Conference papers | 4 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 4 |
| Professional publications | 44 | 52 | 45 | 57 | 43 |
| Publications aimed at the general public | 9 | 16 | 3 | 8 | 6 |
| Other (Web publication/site) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (Book/Film/Article review) | 9 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| Other (Poster, abstract) | 3 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Other (Other contribution) | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Other (Digital or Visual Products) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **112** | **159** | **152** | **173** | **146** |

| **Funding** | **2015** | | **2016** | | **2017** | | **2018** | | **2019** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **fte** | **%** | **fte** | **%** | **fte** | **%** | **fte** | **%** | **fte** | **%** |
| Direct funding | 13,8 | 46% | 13 | 44% | 16,4 | 52% | 16,4 | 50% | 16,8 | 53% |
| Research Grants ( NWO) | 10,5 | 35% | 11,1 | 38% | 9 | 28% | 8,7 | 27% | 7 | 22% |
| Contract research | 6 | 20% | 5,3 | 18% | 6,4 | 20% | 7,7 | 23% | 8,2 | 26% |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total funding (fte)** | **30,3** | | 29,4 | | 31,8 | | 32,8 | | 32 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Expenditure (k€)** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Personel | ? | | ? | | ? | | ? | | 1.621 | 70% |
| Other | ? | | ? | | ? | | ? | | 687 | 30% |
| **Total expenditure** | **?** | | ? | | ? | | ? | | 2.308 | |

| Cohort | Input | | | | | | | Stopped | | | | Duration till defense (D) | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | total | female | | male | | non-Dutch | | in year 1 | | total | | D ≤ 4 | D ≤ 5 | D ≤ 6 | D ≤ 7 | D > 7 | | No D yet | | Elsewhere |
| 2011 | 3 | 1 | 33% | 2 | 67% | 0 | 0% | - | | 1 | 33% | - | - | - | - | 1 | 33% | 1 | 33% | 0 |
| 2012 | 3 | 2 | 67% | 1 | 33% | 1 | 33% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | 2 | 67% | 1 | 33% | 0 |
| 2013 | 2 | 0 | 0% | 2 | 100% | 0 | 0% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 2 | 100% | 0 |
| 2014 | 6 | 3 | 50% | 3 | 50% | 3 | 50% | 1 | 17% | 1 | 17% | - | - | - | - | - | | 5 | 83% | 0 |
| 2015 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 25% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 4 | 100% | 0 |
| 2016 | 8 | 5 | 63% | 3 | 38% | 7 | 88% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 8 | 100% | 0 |
| 2017 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 75% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 4 | 100% | 0 |
| 2018 | 5 | 3 | 60% | 2 | 40% | 3 | 60% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 5 | 100% | 0 |
| 2019 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 3 | 75% | - | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | | 4 | 100% | 0 |

| PhD groups | 2013 | | | 2014 | | | 2015 | | | 2016 | | | 2017 | | | 2018 | | | 2019 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | s | c | f | s | c | f | s | c | f | s | c | f | s | c | f | s | c | f | s | c | f |
| 1a. PhD employee | 2 | 23 | 2 | 6 | 27 | 0 | 4 | 27 | 2 | 4 | 28 | 3 | 2 | 29 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 4 | 27 | 4 |
| 1b. Tenured staff doing PhD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2a. UG PhD scholarship | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 2b. Externally funded scholarship | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 3. External funded PhD employee | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 4. Self-funded PhD | 1 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 0 |
| Unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **3** | **36** | **4** | **10** | **41** | **3** | **6** | **42** | **3** | **9** | **46** | **4** | **5** | **48** | **2** | **7** | **49** | **2** | **7** | **52** | **4** |

(s = started / c = current/ f = graduated with PhD)

| PI | Grant organisation | Grants |
|---|---|---|
| A.J.M. Scheepstra | NWO - Nederlands Polair programma | € 207.280,00 |
| D.C.M. Raemaekers, C. Çakirlar | NWO - Open competitie | € 763.590,00 |
| L. de Jong | NWO - Stichting Van Moorsel en Rijnierse | € 10.590,00 |
| | **Research grants (NWO)** | **€ 981.460,00** |
| C. Çakirlar | EU - ITN | € 1.062.479,52 |
| P. Tritsaroli | EU - MSCA IF 2018 | € 178.572,00 |
| H.A. Groenendijk | EDR | € 15.479,00 |
| J.A.W. Nicolay | Province Noord-Holland | € 11.000,00 |
| J.A.W. Nicolay | Province Friesland | € 4.620,00 |
| | **Contract research** | **€ 1.272.150,52** |
| | **Total funding GIA 2019** | **€ 2.253.610,52** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| S.P. Desjardins | Government of Nunavut, Department of Culture and Heritage * | € 6.583,00 |
| S.P. Desjardins | Inuit Heritage Trust * | € 2.831,00 |
| M. Hondelink | Universiteit Antwerpen - Bijzonder Onderzoeksfonds * | € 22.000,00 |
| M. Hondelink | Andrew Mellon Foundation * | € 2.250,00 |
| J.A.W. Nicolay | Province Noord-Holland | € 10.000,00 |
| C. Çakirlar | Netherlands Museum Anthropology Prehistory (SNMAP) | € 570,00 |
| I. Rom | Netherlands Institute in Athens (NIA) | € 500,00 |
| I. Rom | Groningen University Fund (GUF) | € 500,00 |
| I. Rom | Research school Archon | € 1.000,00 |
| I. Rom | Society fot the Promotion of Hellenic Studies | € 300,00 |
| | **Small grants and personel grants (*)** | **€ 46.534,00** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Total funding GIA, including small and personal grants** | **€ 2.300.144,52** |