

Young Academy Groningen

Year Review 2017

April 6, 2018

Introduction

The Young Academy Groningen (YAG) is an independent organisation within the University of Groningen (UG). The YAG is formed by a group of top talented researchers that aims to be a voice for all Early Career researchers at the UG. The YAG formulated the following identity statements and missions:

Identity statements:

The YAG is:

1. an incubator for ideas, to the benefit of both research and policy;
2. celebrates the core values of academic freedom and integrity;
3. represents and fosters diversity in the academic community;
4. is a platform for the development of academic leadership.

Missions:

1. to stimulate dialogue and collaboration between disciplines, within and outside of the University of Groningen;
2. to give a voice to early-career researchers at the University of Groningen to influence policy;
3. to promote investment in the professional development of early career researchers at the University of Groningen;
4. to explore new approaches for connecting academia and society, with particular focus on the Northern Netherlands.

With this document we provide an overview of the organizational processes and activities that have been carried out by the Young Academy Groningen in 2017 in order to contribute to our missions.

1. Membership, Organisation and Meetings

1.1 Membership: At the end of 2017, the YAG consisted of 22 active members. In addition to 14 active founding members, eight new members joined the YAG in 2017; seven were chosen via a selection process: Prof. Ming Cao (FSE), Dr. Simon Friederich (UCG), Dr. Joost Keizer (Arts), Dr. Sonja Pyott (UMCG), Dr. Gert Stulp (FBSS), Dr. Susanne Täuber (FEB), and Dr. Marieke van Vugt (FSE). One member, Dr. Erin Wilson (Theology) was invited to join the YAG by virtue of her membership to the National Young Academy, De Jonge Akademie (DJA).

In 2017 three of the 17 founding members left the YAG: Dr. Jan-Willem Veening (FSE) moved to the University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland and Dr. Dorina Buda (Spatial Sciences) moved to Leeds Beckett University in Leeds, United Kingdom. Prof. Lude Franke (UMCG, 2017 member of DJA) stepped down from the YAG due to lack of time to devote to YAG activities. The three members are the first group to join our YAG Alumni Network. The aim of the YAG Alumni network is to extend the YAG network within and outside the UG. Former members can serve as a sounding board for current YAG initiatives, collaborations and projects, facilitate international exchange, and informally advise current members and working groups.

In November 2017 the YAG opened up the 2018 call for Young Academy members. A total of 57 applications were received by the closing date of December 15, 2017. The outcome of the new member selection process was completed in February 2018 and resulted in the selection of seven new members, Dr. Laura Bringmann (FBSS), Dr. Jan-Willem Bolderdijk (FEB), Dr. Nanna Hilton (Arts), Dr. Tina Kretschmer (FBSS), Dr. Jocelien Olivier (FSE), Dr. Saskia Peels (Arts) and Dr. Ward Rauws (Spatial Sciences). The new members will begin in April 2018 and be officially installed as members on October 1, 2018.

Table 1: Overview of YAG member composition per faculty (2016-2018) (See Appendix 1 for a full member list)

Faculty	Members 2016 (M/F)	Members 2017 (M/F)	Members 2018 (M/F)
Arts	3 (1/2)	4 (2/2)	6 (2/4)
FBSS	-	1 (1/0)	3 (1/2)
FEB	-	1 (0/1)	2 (1/1)
FSE	6 (2/4)	7 (2/5)	8 (2/6)
KVI	-	-	-
Law	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)
Philosophy	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)
Spatial Sciences	1 (0/1)	-	1 (1/0)
Theology	1 (1/0)	2 (1/1)	2 (1/1)
UCG	-	1 (1/0)	1 (1/0)
UCF	-	-	-
UMCG	4 (3/1)	4 (2/2)	4 (2/2)
Total	17 (9/8)	22 (11/11)	29 (13/16)

1.2 Updates on YAG Organisation:

The YAG is organised in four working groups, centered around the mission and identity statements, and is headed by the Young Academy Board. Here is an overview of our current organisation:

YAG Board:

For the first half of 2017 the YAG Board composition was:

- Prof. Diederik Roest (Chair, Policy portfolio)
- Dr. Marie-José van Tol (Deputy Chair, Interdisciplinary portfolio)
- Dr. Dorina Buda (Deputy Chair, Diversity and Internationalisation portfolio)
- Dr. Merel Keijzer (Deputy Chair, Outreach portfolio)

Dr. Dorina Buda took sick leave at the beginning of 2017, during which time she was replaced by Dr. Han Thomas Adriaenssen.

At the General Assembly in June 2017, the following members were unanimously voted in by the members as the YAG Board for 2017/2018:

- Dr. Marie-Jose van Tol (Chair) (Interdisciplinarity portfolio)
- Dr. Merel Keijzer (Vice Chair) (Outreach portfolio)
- Dr. Han Thomas Adriaenssen (member) (Policy portfolio)
- Dr. Bettina Reitz-Joose (member) (Diversity and Internationalisation portfolio)

The term of a Board member is for maximum two years. The YAG Board is supported by the YAG programme coordinator, Dr. Alicia Brandt (0,5 FTE).

The role of the Board is to oversee and stimulate the general activities of the YAG, to interact on behalf of the YAG with the RUG Executive Board and the Deans of the Faculties, and to act

as the contact point for the Young Academy Groningen. Moreover, the Board is responsible for organizing the yearly calendar and YAG budget. Each board members takes on one of the Working Groups as their focus and oversees the portfolio for that working group.

Four working Groups

The four working groups (WGs) directly link to the YAG's identity and mission statements and thus serve to put our ideas into action. All YAG activities and events are organized within the framework of the four working groups and each activity may involve collaborations between the different working group. (See Appendix 2 for the list of activities for 2017.) Each Working Group is headed by a WG Chair who manages the portfolio for the group.

The WG compositions are:

- Policy: Martine Maan (WG-Chair), Martijn Wieling, Michel Vols, Gert Stulp, Susanne Täuber, Han Thomas Adriaenssen (Board member)
- Interdisciplinarity: Simon Friederich (WG-Chair), Mladen Popovic, Irene Tieleman, Rudolf Fehrmann, Lude Franke, Cyril Moers, Marie-Jose van Tol (Board member)
- Diversity and Internationalization: Marthe Walvoort (WG-Chair), Erin Wilson, Ming Cao, Marieke van Vugt, Bettina Reitz-Joosse (Board member)
- Outreach: Sonja Pyott (WG-Chair), Pratika Dayal, Joost Keizer, Diederik Roest, Merel Keijzer (Board member)

Within the YAG there are two additional Project groups;

1. Yearly Project Group

The Yearly Project group consists of the new YAG members who collaborate on a Yearly Project with a budget of €10.000.

2. New Member Selection group.

The New Member Selection group consists of YAG members who organise the New Member selection round. The 2017 members were Merel Keijzer, Han Thomas Adriaenssen, Marthe Walvoort and Diederik Roest. The New member group is responsible for selecting external members for the selection committee. External members may include UG representatives from the KNAW, Deans, Directors, and former DJA members. For the 2018 round, the external members were Prof. André Aleman (KNAW member, UMCG) and Prof. Greetje van der Werf (Vice Dean, FBSS). The committee selected seven new candidates for 2018 YAG membership as mentioned under Section 1.1 above.

1.3 YAG Meetings

YAG Board: The Board meets together every two weeks to discuss YAG and WG items. Board members meet every two months with Rector Magnificus Prof. Elmer Sterken to discuss matters concerning the YAG and topics of interest for ECRs at the UG. The Board members aim to actively get to know all faculty deans, by organizing meetings with current deans, and also interact with other organizations within the University, such as Talent Development and YoungRUG. (See Appendix 2 for the YAG 2017 Events Calendar).

YAG Members

YAG General Assembly

Twice per year, the YAG holds a General Assembly. Attendance at these meetings are mandatory and they take place each year in June and December. The dates are set in the agenda at the beginning of each academic year. The *YAG Board sets the agenda for the General Assemblies*. All important and official matters regarding the running and functioning of the YAG are discussed and voted upon at these meetings.

June 2017 General Assembly Major outcomes:

- Voting in of New YAG Board members,
- Discussion and approving of upcoming calendar for the second half of 2017 (See *Appendix 1 for the YAG 2017 Calendar*),
- How to arrange PhD bench fees with Faculties for the YAG Interdisciplinary PhD projects. YAG members decided they will pursue it with their Deans. All Deans and Faculties involved in one of the YAG interdisciplinary PhD projects came to agreements on how bench fees are arranged.

December 2017 General Assembly Major outcomes:

- Voting and approval of Interdisciplinary PhD project topics for 2018 (See Appendix 2 for a description of the 2018 PhD project themes)
- Project Funding: YAG Project budget is not being used and the YAG members agree to start a fund to offer a prize to ECRs. This will be developed in 2018
- Working Groups propose items for 2018 Calendar (See Appendix 3 for the YAG 2018 Calendar)

YAG Monthly Meetings

YAG members meet once per month. The monthly meeting are three hours in length and have the following arrangement:

- *Hour 1: Working Group meetings.* Working groups come together to discuss topics and plan events. This time is also open for discussing upcoming events or other relevant YAG topics.
- *Hour 2: Member organized portion.* At the beginning of the academic year members are assigned to organize one of the meetings. They can invite speakers from within or outside the UG to come and talk about an interesting topic they want to share with all members.
- *Hour 3: Networking drinks and open discussion.*

Meeting Topics 2017:

- June 2017: Research Metrics and impact, with invited speakers Jules van Rooij. Purpose was to learn about the new ways that ones research impact can be evaluated using online bibliometric tools (Scival).
- September 2017 (YAG member Joost Keijzer)– Art meets Science: how medical doctors can learn from artists, with invited speaker Ann-Sophie Lehmann (Faculty of Arts)
- October 2017 (YAG member Cyril Moers) - Interdisciplinary PhD project proposal discussion. YAG members have the opportunity to discuss their Interdisciplinary PhD project ideas.
- November 2017 (YAG member Bettina Reitz-Joosse) - YAG Discussion on Yantai with invited speakers Dirk-Jan Scheffers (Personeelsfractie URAAD) and Gert Wehkamp (Faculty council Spatial Sciences). To discuss both pro and con viewpoints about UG Yantai Campus.
- Extra meeting: December 7, 2017: Discussion with Wim van Saarloos, VP KNAW on the involvement of Young Researchers on research policy at Universities.

WG Meetings

In addition, members within each working group meet approximately every month to discuss matters relevant to each working group. These meetings are led by the Working Group Chair. Outcomes of the working group meetings are discussed at the monthly YAG meetings and with the Board members during YAG Board meetings.

2. Projects, Events, and Visibility

2.1 Projects

Yearly Projects

Year Project 2016: The Yearly Project for 2016 founding YAG members was focused on Talent Development. The members created a series of ECR (Early Career Research) Lunches which are continuing into 2018. We invited young researchers throughout the University for a free lunch to talk about relevant topics for ECRs, and invited members of the University from various departments as speakers. *We have received much positive feedback about these lunches from our peer group, saying that people feel like they have more knowledge now on processes at the University, know more about who to talk to and what services are available, and also feel connected knowing that others in a similar career stage share similar experiences.*

ECR Lunch Topics for 2017: Kick-off Lunch; From postdoc to PI: How to run your own group; Work/Life Balance and Time Management, Mentoring; and Engaging in Outreach. In February 2018 the topic was Applying for Interdisciplinary Funding.

Year Project 2017: The yearly project from the 2017 cohort of YAG members currently focuses on Opening up Academia. In this project, members engage young researchers to explore ways in which communicating science can be improved and to foster collaboration among researchers, between academia and industry, and between academia and society. The objectives for the Year Project include:

- Focus on how researchers can be more transparent in their workings to improve reproducibility.
- Focus on the communication between academia and the industry: what are the tools needed to make such partnerships fruitful?
- Showcase the entire scientific process to the general public by means of exhibitions, visual arts, dance, and theater.

YAG Projects

The YAG members have the opportunity to develop their own projects and can apply for project funding to support project development. The scope of the projects must fit within the Missions and Identity of the YAG in order to be awarded funding. In 2017 the following projects were approved for funding by the YAG Board (*Please see Appendix 3 for a full description of these projects*):

- The epistemology of the multiverse – Simon Friederich (€2.000)
- Towards a history that never was: Classical Antiquity in Groningen – Joost Keizer & Bettina Reitz-Joosse (€4.000)
- Winterschool: Multilingualism – Merel Keijzer (€2.000)
- Subsidy towards ‘De Balts’ theatre performance: Martine Maan (€2.000)
- Sponsorship TEDx University of Groningen (€2.000)
- Sponsorship Gender and Diversity Summer School July 2017 (€2.000)

PhD Projects

In October 2017 the first YAG Interdisciplinary PhD students started their programs. The students are:

- Saskia Nijmeijer. Supervised by: Marie-José van Tol (UMCG) & Merel Keijzer (Arts).
Topic: **Learning to preserve: foreign language training as a cognitive vaccine to prevent old-age disorders**

- Masha Medvedeva. Supervised by: Martijn Wieling (Arts) & Michel Vols (Law). Topic: **Automatic detection of linguistic patterns in big legal data**
- Vincent Leeuwenburgh. Supervised by: Marthe Walvoort (FSE), Rudolf Fehrmann (UMCG) & Hilde Jalving (non-YAG member) Topic: **Novel tools to dissect and monitor tumor metabolism in melanoma patients**

In November 2017, the themes for the 2018 PhD projects were selected. The details of the PhD project themes are in *Appendix 4*.

- Inheritance of acquired characters: past and present controversy – and the way forward: Martine Maan (FSE) and Han Thomas Adriaenssen (Philosophy)
- The compassionate robot: Marieke van Vugt (FSE) and Ming Cao (FSE)
- Overcoming the robustness crisis in science—a cross-disciplinary approach: Susanne Täuber (FEB), Gert Stulp (FBSS) and Simon Friederich(UCG)

2.2 Events

Each year the YAG organises events that support our missions and relate to our core identity values A full list of the events organised in 2017 is listed in *Appendix 1*. Some highlighted events included:

- Six Early Career Research Lunches on relevant topics for ECRs
- InterScience event with De Jonge Akademie
- Opening Up Science with Rosanne Hertzberger
- University Colloquium with the Spinoza Laureates
- Symposium on Multilingualism and Cognitive Flexibility (PhD project 2017).
- Research Vlogs in Dagblad van het Noorden
- Release of Research Minute Videos

2.3 Visibility

Visibility and reaching out to the community of ECRs has been a major challenge for the YAG. In 2017 we arranged and implemented several communication channels in an attempt to reach out to the community of ECRs and to exhibit our activities to the University community:

- The Young Academy's website www.rug.nl/research/young-academy was updated to include more details on the current members, their activities, and is continually updated with important news and agenda items.
- A Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Youngacademygroningen and @YAGroningen Twitter account are used to communicate to an online audience by posting upcoming YAG Events, promote members in the media, and to send out important policy and career development articles and statements that the YAG feel are important to disseminate to a broader audience.
- The YAG has an Instagram account @youngacademygroningen to post pictures and videos of YAG activities and to promote YAG events and updates.
- A YAG mailing list was created to stay in contact with ECRs at the University of Groningen. Emails about upcoming events, news updates and interesting reads and links are sent to ECRSGRONINGEN@listserv.rug.nl. People can sign on to our mailing list by filling out a request form. Currently we have over 220 young researchers on our mailing list.

- Research Minute Videos for YAG members. The goal of these videos are to share our members passion for research with other researchers and society. We use this format to create films for the new members which are played at the new member inauguration. They are then shared via social media channels. The university posts these films in their Magazine and their own social media channels. Members use these videos to promote themselves and use it for their own outreach projects.

3. Impact

Inviting members of the University to our monthly meetings has helped to lift the profile of our members. We see that people outside the YAG come to our members to ask them for their opinions on specific topics, or to get involved in initiatives for the University. For example, our meeting with the Talent Development team led to a request for YAG members to participate in meetings with the U4 Organisation. YAG members were also asked to provide feedback in Talent Development initiatives within their own Faculties, and to give input on University Mentoring initiatives. The YAG Policy Working group was also asked to provide content and feedback on questions for the University Employability Survey that was released in January 2018. We hope that the YAG will become more profiled throughout the University and within the Faculties in this way: to be seen as a sounding board for advice on behalf of young researchers. We very much welcome these interactions.

YAG members also have had an impact outside of the University of Groningen. For instance in September 2017 we invited Stan Gielen, President of NWO, to discuss funding, and in December 2017 Wim van Saarloos, Vice President of the KNAW, came to discuss the future of research with YAG members. In November 2017, Rosanne Hertzberger, NRC Journalist, came to speak about her Open Kitchen Science approach on disseminating research results to an audience of young researchers. In June 2017, De Jonge Akademie collaborated with our local YAG to host an Interscience Event on Energy, held in our new Energy Academy Building. The fact that we can attract prominent national persons and organisations to our University shows that our organisation is being recognized as an important connection to research in Groningen.

Within the University we have been influential by contributing to policy matters at the University. We hosted a discussion on Yantai (at our YAG member meeting in November 2017), we discussed our views on the *ius promovendi* together with the Rector Magnificus, we contributed to the Employability survey on questions for UD, tenure-track, and UHD staff members, we helped to develop a Mentoring structure for young researchers together with HR, we spoke at the U4 meeting on career development, and we discussed PhD supervision being regarded as research or teaching together with the Deans (Jan 2018).

In terms of outreach, we have collaborated with Dagblad van het Noorden to release Research Vlogs to connect to our community in the North and show what we do behind the walls of the University. As a follow up we released our own YAG Research minute videos. In April 2018 the YAG will be helping to organise Kings Day activities together with the UG Outreach department, which began in October 2017. Through our outreach activities we aim to show our audience that Academic research is an enjoyable and fulfilling career choice for the younger generation and also increase transparency on what we do as researchers to society in the North of the Netherlands, and beyond.

4. Challenges

One challenge we still feel we face is it remains difficult to reach out to more people at University. We find it a major challenge to connect with our peer group of ECRs. For this, we have started several communication initiatives as mentioned above. In 2018 a major focus for the YAG will be to find novel ways of connecting with the ECR peer network at the University

and UMCG. We are beginning to collaborate with Studium Generale and the Communications and Outreach departments to try and come up with novel ways to reach out to our ECR peer group.

Another challenge is that we feel that the YAG is not consulted enough on University-related matters. We would like to see this increase in the coming year, where the YAG Board has more interactions with the Executive Board and Deans, and YAG members are consulted within their own Faculties.

5. Outlook for 2018

In 2018 the YAG will focus on furthering their goals as a voice for Early Career Researchers (See appendix 5 for our preliminary 2018 Year Calendar). Now that the University environment is more familiar to the YAG, we would like to use 2018 to develop strategies in order to connect more on policy issues at the UG, and promote YAG as an organisation that others will consult with for opinions on important policy matters.

YAG Board:

- Continue out meeting with the Deans, Rector Magnificus and Executive Board.
- Get involved in meetings with University groups, such as the Committee for Research Strategy (CRS).
- Build up our interactions with the National Young Academy (DJA), giving the local University perspective on National issues.
- Further support the Working Groups, YAG Projects, and Interdisciplinary PhD projects.

Policy WG

- focus areas will be (a) workload, and follow up on work satisfaction survey, (b) funding: how should RUG implement the preselection proposed by NWO, (c) PhD supervision teaching or research, (d) RUG and ECR involvement / lobby in NWA.
- Organise an event on the future of research funding, with Dr. Krist Vaesen (18.04.2018)

Outreach WG

- Jan 2018: Develop/finalize content for King's Day event's with YAG, ECRs and Arjen's team; Discuss ways to better advertise YAG-led outreach activities (via social media, etc.)
- February/March 2018: Develop/finalize content for King's Day event's with YAG, ECRs and Arjen's team; Recruit interested YAG members and ECRs for participation with discovery truck outreach activities in June; reserve/finalize activities with discovery truck with Arjen's team
- April 2018: ECR outreach lunch planned (but should perhaps reschedule (25 April); King's Day events (27 April)
- May 2018: Document/consolidate YAG outreach activities as part of King's day
- June 2018: Deliver discovery truck events to schools (during end of school year when academic schedules are more flexible)
- July 2018: Consolidate/inventory YAG members' outreach activities in 2017; Plan/outline for next academic year outreach events.
- Noorderzon Festival and travelling Science and Scholarship exhibit (a continuation of our King's Day Event).

Diversity and Internationalisation WG

- Transition to English at the RUG: At several departments and in courses, it has (recently) been decided to switch to English. The impact of this transition may be different for the various disciplines and studies. We want to inform the university

community about these changes, and generate a discussion. Our approach is to team up with the University Krant (UK) and disseminate a short series of opinion papers/articles in the topic viewed from different angles. We are in the process of shaping this project, and aim to disseminate in February 2018.

- **Becoming a parent and the tenure track:** the RUG has no uniform approach how to deal with parents that are on the tenure track. In July 2017 there was a ‘Memorandum on UG Tenure Track policy’ published, but there are several measures in there that are not yet implicated, and vague. At this point, it seems to be up to the faculties and institutes how to handle these situations. We want to make a suggestion to the CvB for a university-wide policy for parents that take leave and the impact it has on the tenure track criteria and/or duration.

Interdisciplinarity WG

- **Interdisciplinary PhD projects:** Support the YAG PhD projects and highlight them via Events and news items, Interdisciplinary videos.
- **ECR lunch:** the interdisciplinarity group organized an ECR lunch on 21 February 2018. The subject was interdisciplinary grant proposals and how to write them. Ritsert Jansen participated on behalf of Talent Development. Representatives from NWO and ERC committees were present.
- **University colloquium:** The interdisciplinarity group nominate Carel van Schaik, an anthropologist and primatologist from Zurich University. Collaboration with Studium Generale.
- **Interscience events:** There are plans in the interdisciplinarity group to initiate a new series of interdisciplinary events in which researchers with different backgrounds come together to expose each other to short presentations on a common topic of interest. The details of this format and the question of how it can be made most captivating for the audience are still a matter of discussion in this group.

Appendix 1: Full List of Young Academy Groningen members:**2016**

Dr. Han Thomas Adriaenssen,	Philosophy
Dr. Pratika Dayal,	FSE - Astrophysics
Dr. Rudolf Fehrmann	Medical Sciences - Oncology
Dr. Merel Keijzer	Arts - Language and bilingualism
Dr. Martine Maan	FSE - Evolutionary biology
Dr. Cyril Moers	Medical Sciences - Transplantation
Prof. dr. Mladen Popovic	Theology - Dead sea scrolls
Dr. Bettina Reitz-Joosse	Arts - Greek and latin literature
Prof. dr. Diederik Roest	FSE - Theoretical physics
Prof. dr. Irene Tieleman	FSE - Behavioral biology
Dr. Marie-José van Tol	Medical Sciences – neurocognitive Neuropsychiatry
Prof. dr. Michel Vols	Law
Dr. Marthe Walvoort	FSE - Chemical Biology
Dr. Martijn Wieling	Arts - Computational Linguistics

2017

Prof. dr. Ming Cao	FSE - Engineering
Dr. Wilson, E.K. (Erin)	Theology - Religion politics and conflict
Dr. Marieke van Vugt	FSE - Artificial Intelligence
Dr. Susanne Tauber	Economics
Dr. Gert Stulp	Behavioral and social sciences
Dr. Sonja Pyott	Medical - Hearing therapeutics
Dr. Joost Keizer	Arts - Museum
Dr. Simon Friederich	University College - Philosophy

2018

Dr. Jocelien Olivier	Faculty of Science and Engineering
Dr. Nanna Hilton	Faculty of Arts
Dr. Saskia Peels	Faculty of Arts
Dr. Jan Willem Bolderdijk	Faculty of Economics and Business
Dr. Ward Rauws	Faculty of Spatial Sciences
Dr. Tina Kretschmer	Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences
Dr. Laura Bringmann	Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences

Alumni

Prof. dr. Jan Willem Veening (University Lausanne, Lausanne Switzerland)
Prof. dr. Dorina Buda (Leeds Beckett, Leeds UK)
Prof. dr. Lude Franke (UMCG)

Appendix 2: List of YAG Activities 2017

January		5th	YAG board meeting
10th	YAG board lunch	10th	YAG board meeting YAG board meeting with new YAG members VSH meeting
17th	YAG board meeting with Elmer Policy PhD discussion		
24th	VSH meeting - PhD project selection	12th	Negotiation strategies workshop
25th	Meeting Wageningen Young Academy	18th	YAG board meeting with Elmer VSH meeting
31st	YAG selection committee meeting	19th	ECR lunch: Transitioning from independent researcher to leading your own research group
February		May	
6th	YAG board meeting YAG board meeting with Dean FSE	1st	CvB lunch with YAG board
7th	ECR kick-off lunch	9th	YAG board with Dean Medical Sciences
9th	YAG policy committee meeting	16th	YAG board meeting with Elmer
10th	New member selection interviews	24th	TEDxUniversityofGroningen
20th	YAG board with CvB	30th	VSH meeting
21st	YAG board meeting with Elmer VSH meeting	June	
27th	YAG policy group with Dean Graduate Schools	7th	ECR Lunch: work / life balance
28th	Identity sessions with Communications	12th	Meeting new YAG members with Elmer University Colloquium YAG / Spinoza Prize winners
March		13th	Policy & Diversity/Internationalization groups with Career Development YAG General Assembly
2nd	YAG board with Dean Philosophy	14 - 16	Filming Research Minute videos
16th	Interdisc group with Qumran Institute	20th	YAG board meeting with Elmer
21st	YAG policy group meeting YAG board meeting YAG board meeting with Elmer	21st	InterScience with DJA
22nd	VSH meeting	22nd	YAG heidag
28th	Podcasts with Outreach group	28th	VSH meeting on Research Metrics
April		July	

3rd	YAG board meeting	8th	Meeting with Arjen Dijkstra (on Kingsday)
7th	YAG board meeting with Elmer	13th	YAG meeting with YoungRUG
17th	YAG Media and Communications Strategy	14th	VSH meeting
18th	YAG board meeting with Elmer	17th	Coffee Morning for potential new members
August		20th	YAG board meeting
15th	YAG board meeting with Elmer	22nd	ECR Lunch: mentoring
30th	YAG Heidag at Rietland	27th	YAG board meeting Rosanne Hertzberger: opening up science
September		28th	Meeting Arjen Dijkstra on Kingsday and ECR Lunch
9th	Meeting with Stan Gielen, NWO	December	
18th	Inauguration New Members	4th	YAG board meeting
20th	VSH meeting	6th	Member Selection Committee meeting
22nd	YAG board meeting with Elmer	7th	ECR lunch: outreach Meeting with Wim van Saarloos
October		11th	CvB and YAG Board YAG board with Dean Spatial Sciences
3rd	Interdisciplinary group meeting	13th	YAG General Assembly YAG Christmas Dinner in the University Museum
6th	DvhN Vlogs meeting Marthe	18th	YAG Board meeting
9th	Meeting with Arjen Dijkstra (on Kingsday) YAG board meeting	21st	YAG board meeting with Elmer YAG Interdisciplinary Symposium on Bilingualism and Cognitive Flexibility
16th	CvB and YAG Board VSH Meeting		
17th	YAG Communications Course		
20th	Meeting YAG / HR		
23rd	YAG board meeting		
November			
6th	YAG board meeting		

Appendix 3: YAG funded projects 2017

1. Article publication: The epistemology of the multiverse: Simon Friederich

YAG member Simon Friederich has started a project to stimulate the dialogue between disciplines by making his work in the Philosophy of Physics and Epistemology better known and accessible to practitioners in the Physics field. He will be writing an article on his work on the epistemology of the multiverse, which will be published in *Scientia's* bimonthly series of outreach research publications. As a philosopher, it can be difficult to reaching out the practitioners in different disciplines, in this case Physics. By sharing his work with the readers of the 'Physical Science' section of *Scientia*, he will be able to capture their attention and show that philosophical inquiries can contribute significantly to their discipline. *Scientia*, much like the YAG, aims to bridge the gap between science, policy, research and education.

Simon Friederich will be exploring a relatively new and rather successful approach for connecting academia and society by making his research available for a broader audience.

Note: publication of this article is planned in March 2018

2. Towards a History that Never Was: Classical Antiquity in Groningen: Bettina Reitz-Joosse & Joost Keizer

The Romans never advanced far enough North to reach Groningen. Roman soldiers and citizens might have passed through the region now known as Groningen; they never settled there. There are no classical remains left in Groningen soil, no monuments – nothing. Nor was the lack of historical material later dressed with fictitious accounts of Roman presence, as would be the case in so many other European cities that had lacked a real Roman presence and wanted to trace its ancestry back to Roman politics, ethics, and culture. Groningen remained 'Gronings': a local community proud of its own, indigenous past that had no need of a Roman ancestry. Yet many early modern paintings and sculptures depict classical scenes – from the Roman and Greek past as well as early modern imitations of that past – or cast contemporary people and events in a Roman style. In 1669, Anna van Ewsum commissioned a sumptuous grave memorial for her deceased husband for the local church in Midwolde the style and themes of which resembles grave memorials in Rome, complete with classical putti and garlands. Around 1700, Hermannus Collenius, born in Kollum in 1650, painted a *Vanitas* picture that includes a bust of Aristotle and ancient Roman remains for an unidentified person from Groningen. Around 1729, Hendrik Trip commissioned from the painter Jan Abel Wassenbergh, born in Groningen in 1689, a picture of Danae for the elaborate mantelpiece he installed inside his home at the Martinikerhof 10, now known as the Feith-Huis. And when Collenius was asked to paint an allegory on good government he opted to paint it in antique terms, with the goddess Minerva present.

The aims:

- To collect systematically instances where Classical antiquity is depicted or referred to in early modern artworks made in Groningen and for Groningen patricians.
- To begin to explain the reasons why the Groningen nobility began to legitimize their power and prestige by referring to Classical antiquity.
- To introduce the Groningen community to the presence of Classical antiquity in their region, and to the ways in which the Greeks and Romans changed Groningen – without ever setting foot there.

Practical Execution: Two student research assistants, one with a background in Classics, the other in Art History, will collaborate on this project and together start collecting and researching instances of Classical presences in Groningen. This is a pilot project: the collection and findings which result from their work will form the basis for further research and eventually a conference and/or exhibition in Groningen. In collaboration with the project leaders, the students will also design and prepare a suitable presentation of their research

during the Week van de Klassieken (5-15 april) for the general public (e.g. a mini-lecture on location or a guided tour).

This project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Classics and Art History, which will bring Groningen citizens into contact with new research into Groningen's Classical Past. It invests in research talent and introduces students at an early stage to interdisciplinary collaboration and academic outreach.

3. Winterschool: Multilingualism: Merel Keijzer

Following the Conference of Multilingualism from 6 - 8 November 2017, a Winterschool on Multilingualism is being organised at the University of Groningen, targeting PhD students and Early Career Researchers. In nine 3-hour sessions, led by international well-known and leading researchers on bi- and multilingualism, participants are familiarized with essential methods and techniques used in collecting and analyzing multilingualism data, which will help steer their early research careers and hand them professional development tools. Each workshop therefore includes hands-on experiencing using the method or technique demonstrated. The goal of this project is to allow Early Career Researchers at the University of Groningen to attend this workshop for free, to promote investment in the professional development of Early Career Researchers at the UG.

The workshop brings together methods and techniques used in the fields of sociology, psychology, and cognitive neuroscience, as applied to bilingualism and multilingualism settings. It is a great opportunity for Early Career Researchers to work on their professional networks and look for collaborations, nationally and internationally.

The outcome of the workshop is an international event bringing together early career researchers on bi and multilingualism, handing them the tools to develop professionally and form collaborations with others outside their immediate disciplines but still working on bi and multilingualism topics. The research tools and skills taught to Early Career Researchers are expected to benefit them throughout their careers.

4. Subsidy: 'De Balts' theatre performance: Martine Maan

In the summer of 2017, the bi-annual conference of the European Society of Evolutionary Biology was organized in Groningen. On this occasion, public outreach programmes on evolution are organised and will be hosted by the Noorderzon performing arts festival. The program is co-organised by the European Society for Evolutionary Biology, the Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences (GELIFES) and the UG science centre, ScienceLinX. One of the events during this program is a theatre show:

'De Balts' is a Dutch-spoken theatre performance by Mirthe Dokter en Tim Hammer, directed by Karin Netten and developed in collaboration with UG biologists. The show focuses on a crucial aspect of evolution that is sometimes forgotten: reproduction. In addition to survival of the fittest, evolutionary change involves competition over reproductive opportunities. In a 20-minute performance, the actors explore the various ways in which animals attract, impress or deceive potential mates - and also asks how we humans solve this problem. The show will be staged on four consecutive days at Noorderzon, three times per day. After Noorderzon the show will go on tour.

This project helps organize activities that connect academia and society.

Appendix 4: Themes for 2018 Interdisciplinary PhD projects.

1. Inheritance of acquired characters: past and present controversy – and the way forward

Supervisors: Dr. Martine Maan (Evolutionary Biology - Faculty of Science and Engineering) and Dr. Han Thomas Adriaenssen (History of Philosophy - Faculty of Philosophy)

How do living organisms transmit their characteristics to the next generation? The textbook answer is: by passing on their DNA, which encodes all heritable traits. In recent years, however, biologists have discovered that this is not the whole story. Evidence is accumulating that environmental influences during the lifetime of an individual, such as nutrition or stress, can influence the phenotype of their progeny across several generations. This phenomenon reminds us of the concept of ‘inheritance of acquired characters’, already formulated in 1809 by the French naturalist Jean Baptiste de Lamarck in his *Philosophie Zoologique*. Lamarck’s ideas have often met with skepticism, but recent developments in molecular genetics, such as epi-genetics, have inspired a re-evaluation of his legacy. Indeed, we seem to witness a renaissance of Lamarckian thought (West-Eberhard 2007, Wang et al. 2017).

In this project, we aim explore the Lamarckian nature of recent discoveries in the transmission of inherited traits, and in this way to explore what modern biology can, or cannot, learn from the original ideas of Lamarck, whether or not the works of Lamarck offer lessons that change the way we think about evolution (Weiss 2015). This project will contribute to that debate by bringing together the disciplines of evolutionary biology, and the history of science and philosophy.

2. The compassionate robot

Supervisors: Dr. Marieke van Vugt (Computational Cognitive Neuroscience - Faculty of Science and Engineering) and Prof. Ming Cao (Robotics - Faculty of Science and Engineering)

As our world becomes more interconnected, we need to work together, which depends on balancing altruism and self-interest (such that individual agents do not burn out). How does altruism and its precursor, compassion, shape team interactions? Compassion is the mental state that can motivate people to transcend selfishness and act altruistically (Saslow et al., 2013). As robots assume more and more important roles in society, we need to ensure that those robots are compassionate. To do so, we first need to know how to measure compassion and altruism in people and how compassion training changes behavior.

This project aims to further our understanding of how altruism works and then translate these results to models of robot-robot interactions to help to build compassionate AI robots, crucial for modern society.

3. Overcoming the robustness crisis in science—a cross-disciplinary approach

Supervisors: Dr. Susanne Täuber (Faculty of Economics and Business), Dr. Gert Stulp (Faculty Behavioral and Social Sciences) and Dr. Simon Friederich (Philosophy - University College Groningen)

There is widespread consensus that the social sciences are in a crisis of lacking robustness. For example, many of the most prominent claimed findings in social psychology of the past few decades fail to replicate when subjected to renewed empirical scrutiny (Open Science Collaboration 2015). These worrying patterns extend to other fields of science such as economics (Ioannidis et al. 2017) and medicine (Ioannidis 2016). It is unclear if and to what extent the responsible causes of the robustness crises in different disciplines are the same or rather different. Robustness failure can be attributed to two causes, ambiguities in

measurements of theoretical constructs and bias shaping research questions and the interpretation of results .

The proposed research will investigate cross-disciplinary causes of the current robustness crisis and find ways to overcome the robustness crisis in a sustainable manner at the levels of individual scientists, departments, and faculties (discipline-specific) as well as at the levels of universities and science policy (discipline-exceeding).

Appendix 5: Upcoming YAG Calendar for 2018/2019 (as of March 2018)

Event	Date	Style	Time and Location	Responsible person	Notes
JANUARY 2018					
VSH Meeting	15/01		15:00, VSH		
YAG board + Rector	23/01		14:30	YAG board	
YAG Board + Jan de Jeu	24/01		11:00	YAG board	
YAG selection committee meeting	24/01		14:00, bibliotheek	Selection committee	
YAG board	29/01		15:00, Academy Building	YAG board	
FEBRUARY 2018					
YAG board	12/02		16:00, Academy Building	YAG board	
VSH meeting	13/02		15:00, VSH		
New Member selection interviews	16/02		09:00, Faculty Room Economics	Selection Committee	
YAG board + WG chairs	20/02		17:00, Academy Building	YAG board	
ECR Lunch: interdisciplinary grants	21/02		12:00, Bruins Zaal	Rudolf Fehrmann	
MARCH 2018					
Policy WG	12/03		11:00, Faculty Room Economics	Martine Maan	
YAG board	12/03		16:00, Academy Building	YAG board	
VSH Meeting	14/03		15:00, VSH		
University Colloquium: Carel van Schaik	15/03		20:00, Aula		
YAG board	26/03		16:00, academy building	YAG board	
YAG board + rector	27/03		14:30		
Reproducibility and Open Science event	27/03 – 28/03			Gert Stulp, Marieke van Vugt	
APRIL 2018					
YAG Board	09/04		16:00	YAG board	
Meeting with new YAG members	16/04		14:00		
VSH meeting	16/04		15:00, VSH		

The Future of Funding	18/04		20:00, VSH	Gert Stulp, Martine Maan	
YAG board on midterm review	23/04		16:00, VSH		
MAY 2018					
YAG board	07/05		16:00	YAG Board	
VSH meeting	15/05		15:00, VSH		
YAG board	21/05		16:00	YAG board	
YAG board + rector	22/05		14:30		
ECR Lunch: TBA	23/05		12:00, Bruins Zaal		
JUNE 2018					
YAG board	04/06		16:00	YAG board	
Communications course for new members	05/06		09:00		
General Assembly	13/06		15:00		
YAG board	18/06		16:00	YAG board	
Communications course follow-up	28/06		12:00		
JULY 2018					
YAG board	02/07		16:00	YAG board	
YAG board	16/07		16:00	YAG board	
YAG board + rector	17/07		14:30		
YAG board	30/07		16:00	YAG board	
August 2018					
Annual HEIDAG	30/08	Rietland		YAG Board	
Noorderzon	21/08 – 30/08			Outreach	

2018/2019 Academic Year

Event	Date	Style	Time and Location	Responsible person	Notes
SEPTEMBER 2018					
YAG board	Biweekly			YAG board	
OCTOBER 2018					
New member inauguration	01/10		18:00, Academy Building		
DECEMBER 2018					
General Assembly	10/12		15:00-18:00 Faculteitkamer	YAG Board	