



# **NICA Annual Report 2023**

## Chapter 1 Information on the Research School

The Netherlands Institute for Cultural Analysis (NICA) is dedicated to the enactment and development of cultural analysis, which is the study of contemporary culture from a broad humanities perspective. The field is not defined by a particular type, medium, or genre of objects. Cultural analysis investigates contemporary socio-cultural objects, phenomena, and developments from a broadly hermeneutic, critical, theoretical, and interdisciplinary perspective.

The NICA research environment is characterized by diversity in theoretical approaches and research traditions, as well as its affinity with artistic research. The field cuts across different disciplines, such as Comparative Literature, Media Studies, Art History, Theatre and Performance Studies, Gender Studies, Environmental Humanities, Urban Studies, Philosophy, Sociology.

The goals of the school are as follows:

- to facilitate a national graduate environment, in which staff researchers, PhD candidates, and research master students meet and interact. As a national school, we strive to introduce our members to an expansive and international intellectual community, open up research perspectives beyond local priorities, and advance the sharing of resources and expertise. Following this aim, we generally do not observe rigid boundaries between activities for PhD fellows and research master students (although different emphases apply);
- to organise activities that map, analyse, and if warranted, criticise the present conjuncture – including the deployment of the past within the present (cultural memory, cultural heritage). We'd like our activities to reflect current research priorities, and to propose new tools and concepts that can gain critical purchase on contemporary circumstances;
- to foster international dialogue;
- to open out to social and political partners outside the academy. We want to enable intensified contact between academics and various parties working outside the university: professionals, intellectuals, curators, organisers, activists, artists, journalists, and writers;
- to cultivate a non-hierarchical and bottom-up organizational structure, hospitable and open to varied initiatives. We prefer informal dialogue over protocols and procedures. PhD candidates, in particular, should be seen as active partners in the practice of research rather than the didactic recipients of established expertise and skill. Both PhD fellows and research master students are encouraged to initiate activities on their own. In general, we try to make no unwarranted distinctions between members and non-members, funded and non-funded PhD fellows. We welcome initiatives as proposed by PhD fellows, rMA students and staff members alike. In principle, our activities are open to all.

NICA's research profile may be described as hermeneutic (in its broadest sense); interdisciplinary; theoretical; and contemporary.

1. hermeneutic in the broadest sense, that is, centered on the description, analysis, interpretation of, and reflection on, diverse cultural phenomena;
2. interdisciplinary, since current and ongoing cultural developments resist enclosure within established disciplines. Of course, the expertise and archives of more traditional humanities disciplines remain indispensable in these research endeavors;
3. theoretical, in that it opens up the study of culture to conceptual and philosophical questions;
4. and focused on contemporary culture—including the ways in which cultures shape a relation to the past, an approach that commonly goes under the heading of "cultural memory."

<i>Host</i>	Faculty of Humanities, Leiden University
<i>NICA-Team</i>	Dr. Pepita Hesselberth (LU) – director Kim Sommer (LU) – manager Mike Schrauwen (LU) – office manager
<i>Advisory Board</i>	Dr. Isabel Awad (EUR) Prof. Dr. Maaïke Bleeker (UU) Dr. Joost de Bloois (UvA) Dr. Erin La Cour (VU) Prof. Dr. Hanneke Grootenboer (RUN) Dr. Yasco Horsman (LU) Prof. Dr. Esther Peeren (UvA) Dr. Kathryn Roberts (RUG) Benjamin Schoonenberg MA (LU/ UvA) Dr. Eliza Steinbock (UM) Dr. Inge van de Ven (TIU)
<i>PhD/RMA-Council</i>	Yann Dardonville, rMA Student (LU) Ray Dolitsay, rMA Student (UvA) Yiorgos-Evgenios Douliakis, PhD candidate (LU) Lola De Oya, rMA Student (UvA) Benjamin Schoonenberg, rMA Student (UvA) Mitchell van Vuren, PhD Candidate (LU) Franziska Westhauser, PhD Candidate (UvA)
<i>Participating Institutions</i>	Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) Leiden University (LU) Maastricht University (UM) Radboud University Nijmegen (RUN) Tilburg University (TIU) University of Amsterdam (UvA) University of Groningen (RUG) Utrecht University (UU) Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU)
<i>Associated Research Master Programmes</i>	Art and Visual Culture (RUN) Cultural Analysis (UvA) Art and Performance Research Studies (UvA) Philosophy (UvA) Religious Studies (UvA) Media, Art and Performance Studies (UU) Gender Studies (UU) Religious Studies (UU) Arts, Literature and Media (LU) Critical Studies in Art and Culture (VU) Philosophy (VU) Arts, Media and Literary Studies (RUG) Cultures of Arts, Science and Technologies (UM) Linguistics and Communication Sciences (TIU)

<i>Members</i>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>194</b>
	<b>PhD-candidates (total)</b>	<b>138</b>
	- PhD candidates ≤ 2023	106
	- New PhD-candidates 2023	32
	- Dissertation Defenses	6
	<b>RMA-students</b>	<b>195</b>
	- 2022	104
	- 2023	91
<i>Allocated ECTS (2023)</i>	To PhD-students	104
	To RMA-students	1279

## Chapter 2 Overview of educational activities

*(Please note that our course and event program is created with the academic year in mind. The courses and activities below took place in the calendar year of 2023).*

### Core Courses

- Autotheory and Desubjectivation – Marija Cetinic (UvA)
- Field Philosophy – Jeff Diamanti (UvA)
- Graphic Medicine – Anna Poletti & Erin La Cour (UU/VU)
- Laughing Matters: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Humour – Alberto Godioli (RUG) & Yasco Horsman (LU), in collaboration with OSL
- Radical Interdisciplinarity – Maaïke Bleeker & Iris van der Tuin (UU)
- Sensing, Walking Storying – Ruby de Vos (RUG)
- Viral Imaginaries – Ilios Willemars (LU)
- Creative Work(s) Summer School – Sara Strandvad & Kathryn Roberts (RUG)
- Autotheory and its Negativity – Marija Cetinic (UvA)
- Archaeologies of AI: From Bots to Spectres – Evelyn Wan (UU)
- Attention: Economies, Media, Affect – Inge van de Ven (TiU)
- Politics of Withdrawal? – Joost de Bloois (UvA)
- Cultural Analysis Now! – Pepita Hesselberth (LU)

### Seminars

- Sex Negativity (UvA) - 2022-2023
- Transmission in Motion (UU) - 2022-2023
- Political Ecologies (UvA)
- Critical Humanities Seminar Series (UU)
- Artistic Research Knitting Club (UvA) - 2022-2023
- Artistic Research Research Group (UvA) - 2022-2023
- Film and Philosophy Seminar (UvA) - 2022-2023
- Cross Media Research Seminar (UvA) - 2022-2023
- Listening-In: Introduction to the Practice of Deep Listening and Right Speech with Mindfulness (LU)
- Planetary Memecry: New Approaches to Sociality, Affect, and Meaning in Online Subcultures (UvA)
- Sex Negativity (UvA) - 2023-2024
- Artistic Research Knitting Club (UvA) - 2023-2024
- Transmission in Motion (UU) - 2023-2024
- Artistic Research Research Group (UvA) - 2023-2024
- Cross Media Research Seminar (UvA) - 2023-2024
- Film and Philosophy Seminar (UvA) - 2023-2024
- Global Africa Research / Reading Group (UvA)
- Radical Digital Cultures: Exploring Feminist, Queer and Intersectional Technocultures (UvA)
- Medical and Health Humanities (VU/PULSE)
- Teach in Israel / Palestine: 'History is not context, it's reality' (UvA)

### Workshops and masterclasses

- Walking as Research Practice (WARP) – Masterclass with Elena Biserna (UvA)
- Toward the Abolition of Photography's Imperial Rights – Masterclass with Ariella Aisha Azoulay (UvA/LU)
- Spirits, Forests, and Screens – Workshop with Erik Bordeleau on the work of Apitchapong Wheerasethakul and Cosmological Cinema (UvA)
- Computational writing and publishing – Workshop with Geoff Cox and Winnie Soon (UU), in collaboration with RMeS
- Reframing Migration – Visual Literacy Workshop (UvA)
- Moral Philosophy, Moving Images – Masterclass with Brian Price (UvA)

- Inhuman Memory – Lecture and Masterclass (VU)
- Forms of (More Than) Human Relationality – ASCA Workshop (UvA)
- Architectures of Vibration – Masterclass with Clemens Finkelstein (UvA)
- Decolonising and Digitising Heritage Workshop (RUN), in collaboration with Huizinga
- Reimagining the Past, Envisioning the Future, From a New Center – Masterclass/ Lecture with Mark J. Butler workshop (UvA)
- ARRG x DAAR – Experiments in Radical Inheritance with Decolonizing Art and Architecture Research Workshop (UvA)
- Racial Capitalism Workshop (UU/OU)
- Digital Popular Culture and Democracy: Lecture and Masterclass with Lyndon Way (RUG)
- Covering Russia’s War on Ukraine: Local Media Professionals and Open-Source Investigators – Workshop (UvA)
- De-Colonizing Spice Melange: Psychedelic Aesthetics in Dune – Lecture/workshop with Joseph Crickmore (UvA), in collaboration with RMeS
- Surveillance Microcosms: Masterclass with Dr Mathias Klang (UvA)
- Caring Chinese Cinemas workshop (UvA)

### Conferences and symposia

- Fernand Deligny on Cinema and the Image – Mini-Symposium (LU)
- Bareback Now – Symposium (UvA)
- Activating the Archive: Audiovisual Collections and Civic Engagement, Global Collaboration and Societal Change – Eye International Conference on Global Audiovisual Archiving (UvA)
- Relational Subjects, Objects and Institutions: Artistic Convergences Between Latin America and Europe Post-1945 – Conference (UvA)
- Troubling Universalisms: Politics and Aesthetics in Critical Theory – Symposium (UvA)
- Collectivities and Technologies Entangled – Conference (UvA)
- Critical Misanthropy – Conference (UvA)
- Isolation, Arts, Engagement – International Amsterdam Comics Conference (VU)
- The Animal-Human Conference (UvA)
- Facets of Feeling: The Theory of Needs in the History of Emotions – CMEMS Conference (RUG)
- Changing Minds Online – Tilburg Symposium on Digital Humanities (TIU)

### Public Outreach

- The World as a Jewel in the Hand – Film Screening and Conversation with Ariella Aïsha Azoulay (LU)
- Humour & Transgression – Expert Talks and Discussions on the Politics and Aesthetics of Transgressive Humour (UU)
- How long can the moon be caged? – Voices of Indian Political Prisoners – Book Presentation and Seminar (UvA)
- Fuck Healing (?): The Insomniac Dreamers – Summer Program (UvA)
- A Seat for a Table, A Sun for the Sky – Artistic Research Show & Lecture Program (UvA)
- Space X Consortium Program (UvA)
- Stolpersteine for the UvA (UvA)
- FieldARTS Maritime Frictions (UvA)
- Walking as Research Practice (WARP): Special Issue WARP x Soapbox Journal Book Presentation and Exhibition (UvA)
- GETTING OVER THE RAINBOW: 50+ Years of LGBTQ+ Liberation – The Amsterdam Book Launch of The Richard Dyer Reader (UvA)

## ECTS allocations 2023

<b>Core Courses</b>	<b>ECTS</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>RMA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
Queer Intersections (2019-2020)	6 ECTS	<b>6</b>	6	0
Digital Media and Machinic Cultures (2020-2021)	5 ECTS	<b>5</b>	5	0
Attention: Economies, Media, Affect (2022)	6 ECTS	<b>120</b>	120	0
Politics of Withdrawal	5 ECTS	<b>50</b>	50	5
Animal-Human Studies	5 ECTS	<b>55</b>	40	15
Radical Interdisciplinarity (2023)	5 ECTS	<b>50</b>	50	0
Viral Imaginaries	5 ECTS	<b>45</b>	40	5
Graphic Medicine	5 ECTS	<b>20</b>	20	0
Autotheory and Desubjectivation	6 ECTS	<b>60</b>	60	6
Field Philosophy	6 ECTS	<b>96</b>	102	0
Sensing, Walking, Storying	5 ECTS	<b>50</b>	40	10
Creative Work(s)	5 ECTS	<b>125</b>	110	15
Laughing Matters	5 ECTS	<b>24</b>	14	10
Just Futures (2021)	6 ECTS	<b>12</b>	12	0
Archaeologies of AI	5 ECTS	<b>65</b>	65	0
<b>Recurring Events</b>	<b>ECTS</b>		<b>RMA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
Sex negativity (2022)	2 ECTS	<b>2</b>	2	0
Political Ecologies (2022-2023)	1, 2 or 6 ECTS	<b>8</b>	8	0
Critical Humanities Seminar (2022-2023)	2 or 3 ECTS	<b>52</b>	49	3
Artistic Research Knitting Club (2022-2023)	2 or 3 ECTS	<b>10</b>	8	2
Transmission in Motion (2022-2023)	4 ECTS	<b>12</b>	12	0
Artistic Research Research Group (2022-2023)	1 or 2 ECTS	<b>32</b>	28	4
Cross Media Research seminar (2022-2023)	6 ECTS	<b>19</b>	19	0
Film & Philosophy (2022-2023)	1 ECTS	<b>8</b>	8	0
Listening In (2023)	2 ECTS	<b>22</b>	22	0
Sex Negativity (2023)	1, 2 or 6 ECTS	<b>43</b>	43	0
Global Africa (2023-2024)	1 ECTS	<b>9</b>	8	1
Radical Digital Cultures (2023)	1 ECTS	<b>5</b>	5	0
<b>Events</b>	<b>ECTS</b>		<b>RMA</b>	<b>PhD</b>
Fuck Healing (2022)	1 ECTS	<b>1</b>	1	0
WARP conference	1 ECTS	<b>7</b>	7	0
Environmental Humanities PhD council	1 ECTS	<b>3</b>	2	1
Masterclass with Ariella Aisha Azoulay	1 ECTS	<b>12</b>	11	1
Fernand Deligny Mini-Symposium	1 ECTS	<b>10</b>	9	1
Humour and Transgression	1 ECTS	<b>8</b>	7	1
Architectures of Vibration	1 ECTS	<b>17</b>	16	1
WARP Masterclass Elena Biserna	1 ECTS	<b>6</b>	6	0
Non-Modern Ontologies: Spirits of the Screen	1 ECTS	<b>9</b>	9	0
Software Studies Workshop	1 ECTS	<b>3</b>	3	0
Reframing Migration Visual Literacy workshop	1 ECTS	<b>10</b>	10	0
Masterclass Moral Philosophy and the Image	1 ECTS	<b>18</b>	18	0
Masterclass Inhuman memory Kathryn Yusoff	1 ECTS	<b>13</b>	11	2
Fuck Healing (2023)	3 or 6 ECTS	<b>57</b>	57	0
Bareback Now	1 ECTS	<b>11</b>	11	0
EYE Conference	2 ECTS	<b>10</b>	10	0

Masterclass Decolonizing heritage	1 ECS	<b>2</b>	0	2
Relational Subjects, Objects and Institutions: Artistic Convergences Between Latin America and Europe Post-1945	1 ECTS	<b>1</b>	1	0
Troubling Universalisms Conference	1 ECTS	<b>7</b>	7	0
A Seat for a Table, a Sun for the Sky	1 ECTS	<b>12</b>	12	0
Forms of (More Than) Human Relationality – ASCA Workshop 2023	6 ECTS	<b>66</b>	60	6
Workshop Racial Capitalism	1 or 2 ECTS	<b>8</b>	8	0
Space X consortium programme	1 ECTS	<b>1</b>	1	0
Popular Culture and Democracy	1 or 2 ECTS	<b>18</b>	13	5
De-Colonizing Spice Melange: Psychedelic Aesthetics in Dune	1 ECTS	<b>12</b>	12	0
Covering the Russia’s War on Ukraine: Local Media Professionals and Open-Source Investigators	1 ECTS	<b>3</b>	3	0
DAAR event	2 ECTS	<b>26</b>	18	8
Surveillance Microcosms Masterclass	1 ECTS	<b>4</b>	4	0
Stolpersteine for the UvA	2 ECTS	<b>6</b>	6	0

<b>Total</b>	<b>1279</b>	<b>104</b>
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## **Chapter 3 Other announcements**

(see reflection)

## Chapter 4 Finance

Baten	Begroting 2023	Realisatie 2023	Begroting 2024
Bijdrage DLG	39.200	39.200	39.200
Bijdrage Regieorgaan	14.603	14.603	14.603
<b>Totaal bijdragen bureaunkosten</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>
Bijdrage ReMA-studenten	35.000	48.150	35.000
Bijdrage Promovendi	5.000	14.500	15.000
<b>Totaal bijdragen activiteiten</b>	<b>40.000</b>	<b>62.650</b>	<b>50.000</b>
<b>Overige bijdragen</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Totale baten</b>	<b>93.803</b>	<b>116.453</b>	<b>103.803</b>
Lasten	Begroting 2023	Realisatie 2023	Begroting 2024
<b>Personele inzet (bureaunkosten)</b>			
Directeur	21.187	19.042	22.003
Manager	10.928	17.015	19.465
Office manager	9.751	9.627	11.939
#Overschot/ tekort personeelskosten	11.937	8.119	396
<b>Totale personele lasten</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>
<b>Materiele lasten</b>			
NICA Core Courses	10.000	8.075	10.000
Summer Schools	8.000	7.787	10.000
Other Events	21.000	22.743	21.000
PhD/rMA-Council	3.000	339	4.000
Communication & Public Outreach	13.000	25.068	14.000
Public Relations & Meetings	5.000	12.519	6.000
#Overheveling personele kosten	-11.937	-8.119	-396
<b>Totale materiele lasten</b>	<b>48.063</b>	<b>68.413</b>	<b>64.604</b>
<b>Totale lasten</b>	<b>101.866</b>	<b>122.216</b>	<b>118.407</b>
<b>Resultaat (baten-lasten)</b>	<b>-8.063</b>	<b>-5.763</b>	<b>-14.604</b>
<b>Reserve ontwikkeling</b>			
Reserve per 1-1-2023		114.705	
Resultaat 2023		-5.763	
<b>Reserve per 31-12-2023 (waarvan reserveringen ESSCS 5000)</b>		<b>108.942</b>	
Reserve per 1-1-2024			108.942
Begroot resultaat 2024			-14.604
<b>Begrote reserve per 31-12-2024 (waarvan reserveringen ESSCS 10000)</b>			<b>94.338</b>
* Ten behoeve van de overzichtelijkheid heeft er een bundeling van posten plaats gevonden.			
# Bij het uitblijven van indexering van de FOPOG-gelden, berekenen wij het overschot personeelskosten door onder materiele kosten			

## Multiyear budget 2024-2028

### NICA begroting

	Begroting 2023	Realisatie 2023	Begroting 2024	Begroting 2025	Begroting 2026	Begroting 2027	Begroting 2028
<b>Inkomsten</b>							
Bijdrage DLG	39.200	39.200	39.200	39.200	39.200	39.200	39.200
Bijdrage Regieorgaan	14.603	14.603	14.603	14.603	14.603	14.603	14.603
Bijdrage PhD Researchers	5.000	14.500	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000	15.000
Bijdrage RMA studenten	35.000	48.150	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000	35.000
Overige bijdragen							
<b>Totale baten</b>	<b>93.803</b>	<b>116.453</b>	<b>103.803</b>	<b>103.803</b>	<b>103.803</b>	<b>103.803</b>	<b>103.803</b>
<b>Kosten</b>							
Personeelskosten	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>	<b>53.803</b>
Hesselberth, dr. P.	21.187	19.042	22.003	23.104	24.259	25.472	26.745
K.R. Sommer	10.928	17.015	19.465	21.536	23.614	25.858	28.198
M. Schrauwen	9.751	9.627	11.939	11.121	11.995	12.939	13.946
#Overschot/ tekort personeelskosten	11.937	8.119	396	-1.958	-6.065	-10.466	-15.086
Onderwijsgerelateerde uitgaven	<b>48.063</b>	<b>68.413</b>	<b>64.604</b>	<b>66.958</b>	<b>71.065</b>	<b>87.466</b>	<b>65.086</b>
NICA Core Courses	10.000	8.075	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Summer Schools	8.000	7.787	10.000	10.000	10.000	25.000	5.000
Other Events	21.000	22.743	21.000	21.000	21.000	21.000	20.000
PhD/rMA-Council	3.000	339	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000	4.000
Communication & Public Outreach	13.000	25.068	14.000	14.000	14.000	12.000	8.000
Public Relations & Meetings	5.000	12.519	6.000	6.000	6.000	5.000	3.000
#Overheveling personele kosten	-11.937	-8.119	-396	1.958	6.065	10.466	15.086
<b>Totale uitgaven</b>	<b>101.866</b>	<b>122.216</b>	<b>118.407</b>	<b>120.761</b>	<b>124.868</b>	<b>141.269</b>	<b>118.889</b>
Mutatie reserves	<b>8.063</b>	<b>5.763</b>	<b>14.604</b>	<b>16.958</b>	<b>21.065</b>	<b>37.466</b>	<b>15.086</b>
<b>Totale reserves</b>	<b>106.642</b>	<b>108.942</b>	<b>94.338</b>	<b>77.380</b>	<b>56.315</b>	<b>18.850</b>	<b>3.764</b>
Waarvan reserveringen ESSCS		5.000	10.000	15.000	20.000		

\* Ten behoeve van de overzichtelijkheid heeft er een bundeling van posten plaats gevonden.

# Bij het uitblijven van indexering van de FOPOG-gelden, berekenen wij het overschot personeelskosten door onder materiele kosten

## Chapter 5 Reflection

2023 was again a rewarding year for NICA. Some of the highlights: in Spring, we held the first NICA Career Event; over the Summer, the PhD and ResMA-councils decided to pool their resources and join forces as one joint council; in Fall, we (re)launched NICA's signature course *Cultural Analysis Now!*; and in Winter, we started recording the first episodes of the new *NICA-Ast* podcast series (to be launched in 2024). In addition, we were once again able to put together a rich and inspiring course program throughout the year, thanks to wonderful efforts of affiliated scholars from across the country. What follows is a more detailed reflection, both on the past year, as well as on our strategy, our financial situation, and our future plans.

### The NICA Course Program

For the academic years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024, we were able to consolidate nine to eleven 5/6 ECTS core courses per academic year. This makes our core curriculum fully proportional to the number of registered research MA-students, and allows for an adequate number of PhD candidates to join in. While securing teaching hours remains a laborious, complicated, and at times somewhat opaque process, our attempts to secure these hours were again successful at almost all partner universities. Indeed, we can clearly see a change for the better compared to prior years, which inspires great confidence for the future.

One of the more noteworthy changes this year has been our strategy towards organizing recurring events. With the significant increase of the number of core courses over the years, we have also increased the allocated budget for the core course program. We have further enlarged the funds for the structural events proposed by the PhD/ResMA-council (see below), the Summer School(s) and returning signature course *Cultural Analysis Now!* (CAN!). New to the program in 2023, the latter course is designed to invite trending NICA-scholars (in various stages of their careers) to present their work-in-progress, offering research MA-students, PhD-candidates and affiliated scholars alike a unique opportunity to meet and greet in an environment of intellectual exchange and open discussion. The return of CAN! coincides with the open-source publication—made possible with NICA funds—of *The Future of Cultural Analysis* (fc.2024) edited by Aylin Kuryel, Noa Roei and NICA's former director Murat Aydemir. For CAN! we further ran a pilot collaborating with *Soapbox: Journal for Cultural Analysis* which we hope to consolidate over the next few years.

In addition to these structural assets, we remain committed to cultivating a non-hierarchical and bottom-up organizational structure, hospitable and open to initiatives and proposals from across NICA's membership base. While a structural investment in a limited number of larger events enhances the management of future budget planning, we deliberately choose to keep a substantial share of our funds available to support a rich variety of other (often smaller) events proposed by members of the NICA-community, including seminars, masterclasses, lectures, conferences, reading groups, and artistic events (often for 1 or 2 ECTS, sometimes for 3 or 4, or no ECTS at all). These events stand out as relatively low-cost but high-impact, generating a lot of energy and visibility for organizers and participants alike. They moreover play a significant part in fulfilling NICA's goals as a national research school, as formulated in the mission statement (see page 1). In addition, this strategy helps to keep our program flexible and responsive to the more pressing challenges of our times, as they allow for the organization of impromptu events, including (un/credited) teach-ins, that require last-minute funding as they cannot be planned in advance. We feel humbled by the vibrancy and scope of the many wonderful proposals we receive, and are unwavering in our

willingness to support such events and initiatives where possible. It is thanks to these events and everyone involved in NICA's overall program that the NICA's research community continues to flourish and serve as a hub for experimental research and radical thought from within and outside of the academy.

### **Communication and Public Outreach**

In consultation with the advisory board, we decided to invest part of our reserves in bolstering NICA's public outreach strategy. To this end, NICA's director (Pepita Hesselberth, LU) teamed up with Joost de Bloois (UvA), and research MA-student, artist and aspiring PhD-candidate Benjamin Schoonenberg (LU/UvA), to run a pilot podcast series provisionally titled the *NICAst*. The aim of the podcast series is to generate (inter)national visibility for NICA-research within and outside of the academy, as well as to strengthen NICA's own research community through the exchange of ideas. At the time of writing this report, we have recorded five episodes and are finalizing the pilot phase. We expect to launch the series in the Spring of 2024 with the aim of recording eight episodes per calendar year (four per semester).

Over the last years, we have moreover significantly professionalized NICA's communication channels and outreach strategies. Besides redesigning the NICA-website and standardizing the protocols for funding and credit applications (for the sake of transparency), we are now in the process of updating our membership directory. Making the directory GDPR/AVG-proof will further allow us to publish it online, which will generate better visibility for NICA-members based on their research interests and expertise. The PhD/ResMA-council has repeatedly indicated that PhD-candidates and research MA-students would benefit greatly from the availability of such an online directory.

One of the major challenges in terms of communication remains the lack of an educational platform (such as Brightspace or Canvas) to support our teaching, which is partly attributable to GDPR/AVG-regulations and administrative dead-ends. This is a challenge for all national research schools, and remains worthy of our joint attention.

### **Finances and Reserves**

Though we have spent the entire budget of 2023, we have not cut as much into our reserves as initially planned. There are two sound reasons for this: first, the benefits of 2023 turned out higher than anticipated; second, the personnel costs are markedly lower than anticipated. While the latter is deceptive, with regards to the first, we can now conclude that our strategy of the last two years towards expanding the core curriculum is paying off and we are dealing with a structural trend (albeit of variable income). Our research MA-funds are no longer cut since we are generating enough ECTS, and there has been an increase in PhD-candidates that bring in financial backpacks (the fact that there has been an increase in the number of un-waged-PhDs that bring in a *supported* backpack helps a lot). We have revised the 2024- and multi-year budget accordingly, as a result of which we now have more *structural* means available for the initiatives described above.

With regard to the personnel costs, the past years have created a somewhat distorted picture which also impacts on the relative upsurge of our reserves over the last two to three years. While not our preference, NICA's manager and office manager have been appointed on a student-assistant contract for the larger part of 2023 (as well as 2021 and 2022). In addition, the replacement costs of the director were budgeted too high (this has been adjusted since in accordance with DLG-regulations). 2023 will however be a turning point on this front, as the student-assistant contracts are now converted into full-fledged appointments. The

adjusted multi-year budget shows that as a result of these changes, the surplus evaporates quickly and will turn into a deficit as early as 2025, due to the suspended indexing of the FOPOG personnel budget from the side of the DLG. The chair of LOGOS has expressed our concern to the DLG in this matter, as this is a matter of concern to all national research schools. We have tried to resolve the resulting uncertainty by earmarking some of our reserves for incidental initiatives and for kickstarting new initiatives that can run on structural funds later (such as the podcast series). We can afford this relative luxury due to the (aforementioned) structural increase of (the variable part of) our benefits, but it should be stipulated that this is far from ideal.

### **PhD/ResMA-council**

Over the summer of 2023, the PhD and research MA-councils decided to pool their resources and join forces; they have continued as one council. Ever since their founding in 2021, the Research MA-council in particular, had difficulties to surpass the initial formative phase due to the lack of continuity attributable to the relative shortness of the research MA-programs. The idea of the merger was proposed by members of both councils and was relatively easy to formalize. The merger has resulted in an upsurge of new initiatives where PhD-candidates and research MA-students take the lead in organizing events by and for fellow PhD-, research MA-students and staff alike.

In June, the council(s) organized the first NICA Career Event, in collaboration with the PhD-council of partnering research school RMeS. There were panel discussions on best practices in academia, on research valorization and career perspectives and, finally, on grants and applications. The event was a great success, after which the decision was made to turn it into an annually recurring event. The day offered a great networking opportunity for research MA-students, (aspiring) PhD-candidates and staff.

For 2024, besides organizing another iteration of the Career Event, the council is planning on organizing a PhD-day (in collaboration with NICA staff), a research-MA “peer-to-peer research pitch” event, and a series of events devoted to practice-based research.

NICA continues to admit self-funded PhD-candidates to its activities without reserve. In the cases where the membership fee for self-funded PhD-candidates is not covered by the local partner university or graduate school, we have postponed payment pending equal treatment of funded and self-funded PhDs. The peer support our community can foster is a precious resource.

## Appendix: Overview PhD-students, RMA-students and Staff members

### PhD-students registered in 2023 (overview)

Naam	Universiteit
Aleena Karim	LU
Luca Soudant	OU
Tjalling Janssen	UvA
Veerle van Wijngaarden	UvA
Brennan Kettelle	UvA
Airin Farahmand	RUN
Timoteus Anggawan Kusno	UvA
Lingyu Li	UvA
Patrick Klinik	RUG
Dastan Abdali	LU
David Paloma	RUN
Vicky Fisher	VU
Ana Laura Camacho Puebla	RUN
Katerina Kalivroussi	UvA
Katharina Habiger	UvA
Reïnda Hullij	UU
Lingli Ren	UvA
Hui Zhang	VU
Xichen Liu	UvA
Sonali Kulkarni	UvT
Thomas Overdijk	UU
Ksenia Bepalova	RUG
Pieter du Plessis	UM
Liza Voetman	UvT
Bethany Crawford	UvA
Erinne Paisley	UvA
Natalia Stanusch	UvA
Timna Rauch	UU
Charles Rouleau	UvA
Marieke Naomi van der Steen	UvA
Leanne Lai	LU
Eleri Connick	UvA

<i>University of Amsterdam:</i>	15
<i>Leiden University:</i>	3
<i>Open University:</i>	1
<i>University of Groningen:</i>	2
<i>Utrecht University:</i>	3
<i>Radboud University:</i>	3
<i>Universiteit van Tilburg:</i>	3
<i>Erasmus University:</i>	0
<i>Vrije Universiteit</i>	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

## **Dissertation Defenses in 2023**

**Moosje Goosen**

**Learning to Live With Ghosts. The Practice of Research**

Supervisor: prof. dr. Esther Peeren, prof. dr. Patricia Pisters | University of Amsterdam 2023

**Wouter Oomen**

**What Brings Us Together? Platforms, Common Humanity and the Challenges of Post-Humanitarian Communication**

Supervisor: prof. dr. Sandra Ponzanesi, dr. Markus Stauff | Utrecht University 2023

**Stacey Vorster**

**Curating Justice After Apartheid: South Africa's Constitutional Court Art Collection**

Supervisor: prof. dr. Christa Maria Lerm-Hayes, dr. Carrol Clarkson | University of Amsterdam 2023

**Sandra Becker**

**Fathers of the nation: U.S. gender history, racial capitalism and white fatherhood in contemporary American TV series (2001-2016)**

Supervisor: dr. Sara Strandvad, dr. Dan Hassler-Forest, dr. Timothy Jelfs | Utrecht University 2023

**Oluchi Igili**

**Let's Make the Law Because We Live the Law: New Perspectives on the Role of Political Theatre in Nigeria**

Supervisor: prof. dr. Kati Röttger, dr. Sruti Bala | University of Amsterdam

**Tjalling Valdés Olmos**

**Genres of Rurality. Contesting Normative Imaginations of the Globalized US Rural**

Supervisors: prof. dr. Esther Peeren, dr. Jaap Kooijman | University of Amsterdam 2023



## PhD-students registered before 2023

### *University of Amsterdam*

1. Meital Raz (2022-2026)
2. Grace Ndjako (2022-2026)
3. Jetske Brouwer (2022-2026)
4. Katy McAlary (2022-2026)
5. Dieuwertje Luitse (2022-2026)
6. Agustin Ferrari Braun (2022-2026)
7. Safae el Khannousi el Boudrini (2022-2026)
8. Wang-Yun Yen (2022-2026)
9. Brian Trinansa Kusama (2022-2026)
10. Jade Mandrake (2022-2026)
11. Mateo Sanchez Petrement (2022-2026)
12. Janine Armin (2022-2026)
13. Jueling Hu (2022-2026)
14. Pinar Türer (2021-2025)
15. Jie Shen (2021-2025)
16. Po-Hsun Hung (2021-2025)
17. Franziska Westhäuser (2021-2025)
18. Karen Sztajnberg (2021-2025)
19. Giulia Bellinetti (2021-2025)
20. Matthew Rana (2021-2025)
21. Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp (2021-2025)
22. Pengnan Hu (2020-2024)
23. Chen Zhou (2020-2024)
24. Martina Flores Mendeville (2020-2024)
25. Alvaro Lopez (2020-2024)
26. Yonathan Listik (2020-2024)
27. Florence Evans (2020-2024)
28. Frieda Russel (2020-2024)
29. Shekoufeh Behbehani (2020-2024)
30. Nadica Denic (2020-2024)
31. Yazan Khalili (2020-2024)
32. Eszter Szakacs (2020-2024)
33. Anke Bosma (2019-2023)
34. Lelia Tavakoli Farsooni (2019-2023)
35. Eva Mos (2019-2023)
36. Jelke Bosma (2019-2023)
37. Jori Snels (2019-2023)
38. Elizabeth Palacios Ramos (2019-2023)
39. Erica Moukarzel (2019-2023)
40. Fan Yang (2019-2023)
41. Yvette Wong (2019-2023)
42. Shaun de Waal (2019-2023)
43. Tânia A. Cardoso (2018-2022)
44. Anthi Argyriou (2018-2022)
45. Laura van den Bergh (2018-2022)
46. Bernardo Muñoz Saldaña (2017-2022)
47. Nadine Roestenburg (2017-2022)
48. Erdem Çolak (2017-2022)
49. Joe van der Eerden (2017-2022)
50. Fabienne Rachmadiev (2016-2020)
51. Halbe Kuipers (2016-2020)
52. Linda Xheza (2016-2020)
53. Ozgur Yalcin (2016-2020)
54. Monique Peperkamp (2016-2020)
55. Jan de Groot (2015-2019)
56. Noortje de Leij (2015-2019)
57. Bart Barnard (2015-2019)

58. Karin Christof (2015-2019)
59. Patricia Llorens (2015-2019)
60. Pieter Bots (2015-2019)
61. Alix Rubsaam (2015-2019)
62. Noriko Ishida (2015-2019)
63. Artyom Anikin (UvA 2012-2016)
64. Lonneke van Heugten (2011-2015)

### *Leiden University*

65. Özümcan Çekiç (2021-2025)
66. Francianne Dos Santos Velho (2021-2025)
67. Kerstin Wenking (2020-2024)
68. Elodie Hiryczuk (2020-2024)
69. Nienke Leverink (2019-2023)
70. Aafje de Roest (2019-2023)
71. Wenxuan Peng (2018-2022)
72. Anders Ottoson (2018-2022)
73. Ana Paul Saab (2018-2022)
74. Achia Anzi (2017-2021)
75. Andries Hiskes (2017-2021)
76. Moulay Abessadek (2016-2020)
77. Emma de Vries (2015-2019)
78. Tayfun Tezel (2015-2019)
79. Zeynep Anli (2015-2019)
80. Michael Mazuro (2015-2019)

### *University of Groningen*

81. Linde Ex (2022-2026)
82. Katherine Watson (2022-2026)
83. Joanna Zienkiewicz (2022-2026)
84. Jenifer Yanez Villahermosa (2022-2026)
85. Hanne Nijtmans (2021-2025)
86. Sanaz Afshin (2020-2024)
87. Hermen Maat (2020-2024)
88. Hossein Tavazoni Zadeh (2020-2024)
89. Carlos E. Flores Terán (2018-2022)
90. Camelia Errouane (2010-2014)

### *Radboud University*

91. Helen Verploegen (2022-2026)
92. Oscar Ekkelboom (2021-2025)
93. Tess Post (2021-2025)

### *Utrecht University*

94. Ohad Ben Shimon (2021-2025)
95. Inte Gloerich (2020-2024)
96. Irene Alcubilla Troughton (2020-2024)
97. Ruowen Xu (2018-2021)

### *Open University*

98. Aldo Kempen (2021-2025)

### *Tilburg University*

99. Ties van Gemert (2021-2025)

### *Erasmus University*

100. Helen Verploegen (2022-2026)
101. Karen Klijnhout (2017-2021)

*Maastricht University*

102. Liang-Kai Yu (2020-2024)

*Vrije Universiteit*

103. Deniz Aktas (2022-2026)

104. Natalia Guzevataia (2022-2026)

105. Quinsy Gario (2022-2026)

106. Max Casey (2022-2026)

**Total : 106 PhD-candidates**

## Research Master Students (overview)

<b>RMA students 2022:</b>	<b>104</b>	(September: 90, February: 14)
<b>RMA students 2023:</b>	<b>91</b>	(September: 82, February: 9)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>195</b>	

## Senior Staff (194)

Achternaam	Voornaam	Universiteit
Adu-Ampong	Emmanuel Akwasi	Wageningen University
Alphen (em.)	Ernst	University of Amsterdam
Andeweg	Agnes	UCU
Anguix-Vilches	Laia	Radboud University
Awad	Isabel	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Aydemir	Murat	University of Amsterdam
Baar, van	Huub	University of Giessen
Bal (em.)	Mieke	University of Amsterdam
Behlil	Melis	University of Amsterdam
Berrebi	Sophie	University of Amsterdam
Bijstelveld	Karin	Maastricht University
Birdsall	Carolyn	University of Amsterdam
Bleeker	Maaïke	Utrecht University
Bloois, de	Joost	University of Amsterdam
Boletsi	Maria	Leiden University
Boomkens	René	University of Groningen
Brillenburger Wurth	Kiene	Utrecht University
Brunotte	Ulrike	Maastricht University
Bruns	Charlotte	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Buikema (em.)	Rosemarie	Utrecht University
Burlyuk	Olga	University of Amsterdam
Büsse	Michaela	Technische Universität Dresden
Bussels	Stijn	University of Groningen
Cetinic	Marija	University of Amsterdam
Chauvin	Sebastien	University of Amsterdam
Cherry	Deborah	University of Amsterdam
Clemens	Ruth Alison	Utrecht University
Copier	Laura	Utrecht University
Cornips	Leonie	Maastricht University
Dasgupta	Sudeep	University of Amsterdam
Davidts	Wouter	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Cauwer, de	Stijn	Leiden University
Dekker	Annet	University of Amsterdam
Diamanti	Jeff	University of Amsterdam
Dijk, van	Yra	University of Amsterdam
Dijk, Van	Daný	Leiden University
Eck	Caroline	Leiden University
Engelberg	Jacob	University of Amsterdam
Engelberts	Matthijs	University of Amsterdam
Engelenhoven, van	Gerlov	Leiden University
Eslambolchi	Arman	University of Groningen
Esner	Rachel	University of Amsterdam

Farrant	Marc	University of Amsterdam
Fedorova	Ksenia	Leiden University
Fiorino-Habib	Jamil	University of Amsterdam
Fit	Liesbeth	Design Academy Eindhoven
Forcade, de la	Sonia	Radboud University
Franssen	Gaston	University of Amsterdam
Gauthier	David	Utrecht University
Geil	Abe	University of Amsterdam
Givoni	Michal	BGU
Glitz	Rudolph	University of Amsterdam
Goede	Marieke	University of Amsterdam
Gosvig Olesen	Christian	University of Amsterdam
Gouda	Frances	University of Amsterdam
Groof, de	Matthias	University of Amsterdam
Hassler Forest	Dan	Utrecht University
Heesch, van	Margriet	University of Amsterdam
Heirman	Jo	University of Amsterdam
Hemel	Ernst	Utrecht University
Hengel, van den	Louis	Maastricht University
Henten	Jan Willem	University of Amsterdam
Hesselberth	Pepita	Leiden University
Hettinga	Lieks	Leiden University
Heuvel, van den	Dirk	TU Delft
Hoogstad	Jan Hein	University of Amsterdam
Horsman	Yasco	Leiden University
Houwen	Janna	Leiden University
Hoving	Isabel	Leiden University
Hui	Tingting	Leiden University
leven	Bram	Leiden University
Jansen	Monica	Utrecht University
Jansen	Yolande	University of Amsterdam
Kakkoufa	Nikolas	University of Amsterdam
Kanobana	Sibo	Open University
Kappert	Annette	Breda University of Applied Sciences
Kasten	Madeleine	Leiden University
Kersenboom	Saskia	University of Amsterdam
Kessel, van	Looi	Leiden University
Kessler	Frank	Utrecht University
Klaver	Kelly	University of Amsterdam
Kloet, de	Jeroen	University of Amsterdam
Kooijman	Jaap	University of Amsterdam
Korporaal	A.N.	Leiden University
Korsten	Frans Willem	Leiden University
Kuipers	Halbe	University of Amsterdam
Kuipers	Giselinde	University of Amsterdam
La Cour	Erin	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Lacey, de	Alex	University of Groningen
Laine	Tarja	University of Amsterdam
Landau-Donnelly	Friederike	Radboud University
Lawtoo	Nidesh	Leiden University
Lech	Kasia	University of Amsterdam
Legene	Susan	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Lerm-Hayes	Christa-Maria	University of Amsterdam
Leur	Walter	University of Amsterdam
Lindner	Christoph	University College London
Loick	Daniel	University of Amsterdam
M'Charek	Amade	University of Amsterdam
Ma	Haitan	University of Amsterdam
Maas	Sander	University of Amsterdam
Malafei	Ilya	Maastricht University
Matthijssen	Marita	University of Amsterdam
Mazadiego	Elize	University of Amsterdam
Meelberg	Vincent	Radboud University
Meerkerk	Edwin	Radboud University
Meijer (em.)	Maaïke	Maastricht University
Mika-Bresolin	Kasia	Queen Mary University of London / ASCA Cities project
Miller	Michael	University of Amsterdam
Minnaard	Liesbeth	Leiden University
Moore	Ben	University of Amsterdam
Muller	Alex	University of Amsterdam
Muntéan	Laszlo	Radboud University
Niessen	Niels	Tilburg University
Noordegraaf	Julia	University of Amsterdam
Olivieri	Domi	Utrecht University
Oosterling	Henk	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Paalman	Floris	University of Amsterdam
Paijmans	Marrigje	University of Amsterdam
Pape	Toni	University of Amsterdam
Pascoe	David	Utrecht University
Peeren	Esther	University of Amsterdam
Peter	Beate	University of Groningen
Pisters	Patricia	University of Amsterdam
Plate	Liedeke	Radboud University
Poel, van der	Rosalien	Leiden University
Poell	Thomas	University of Amsterdam
Poletti	Anna	Utrecht University
Ponzanesi	Sandra	Utrecht University
Postema	Barbara	University of Groningen
Quinn	Emelia	University of Amsterdam
Raessens	Joost	Utrecht University
Reesink	Maarten	University of Amsterdam
Reichgelt	Marleen	Radboud University

Rieder	Bernhard	University of Amsterdam
Robbe	Ksenia	University of Groningen
Roberts	Kathryn	University of Groningen
Roei	Noa	University of Amsterdam
Roelofs	Monique	University of Amsterdam
Ross	Julian	Leiden University
Salor	Erinc	University of Amsterdam
Saloul	Ihab	University of Amsterdam
Schiller	Melanie	University of Groningen
Schmidt	Theron	Utrecht University
Schnepf	J.D.	University of Groningen
Schröder	Luuk	Artist
Schuiling	Floris	Utrecht University
Semerene	Diego	University of Amsterdam
Shobeiri	Ali	Leiden University
Sintobin	Tom	Radboud University
Smelik (em.)	Anneke	Radboud University
Sorensen	Trine Friis	Utrecht University
Souch	Irina	University of Amsterdam
Stauff	Markus	University of Amsterdam
Steinbock	Eliza	Maastricht University
Stenfert-Kroese	Noor	Artist
Sterling	Colin	University of Amsterdam
Stevens	Martijn	Radboud University
Strandvad	Sara	University of Groningen
Strauven	Wanda	University of Amsterdam
Sturm	Jules	Zurich University of the Arts
Swinnen	Aagje	Maastricht University
Toussaint	Lianne	Utrecht University
Tse	Tommy	University of Amsterdam
Tuin, van der	Iris	Utrecht University
Valck, de	Marijke	Utrecht University
Valdivia Martin	Pablo	University of Amsterdam
Vall (em.)	Renée	Maastricht University
Amelsvoort, van	Jesse	University of Amsterdam
Poecke, van	Niels	University of Amsterdam
Vandenberg	Femke	University of Groningen
Vanhaesebrouck	Karel	Maastricht University
Veen	Mario	Utrecht School of Applied Sciences
Velden, van der	Lonneke	University of Amsterdam
Verhoeff	Nanna	Utrecht University
Verstraete	Ginette	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Verstraten	Peter	Leiden University
Vos, de	Ruby	University of Groningen
Waard	Marco	University of Amsterdam / Amsterdam University College

Wan	Evelyn	Utrecht University
Wenz	Karin	Maastricht University
Weyenberg	Astrid	University of Amsterdam
Wiese	Doro	Radboud University
Willemars	Ilios	Leiden University
Witty	Thijs	Leiden University
Wyatt	Sally	Maastricht University
Yang	Pao-Yi	Leiden University
You	Mia	Utrecht University
Zeeuw, de	Daniël	University of Amsterdam
Zijlmans (em.)	Kitty	Leiden University
Zijp	Dick	Utrecht University
Zwijnenberg (em.)	Rob	Leiden University