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**Statement Executive Board
regarding the research review of Sociology**

DATE	OUR REFERENCE	YOUR LETTER DATED	YOUR REFERENCE
May 2021	RdW/rk/2021/0404		
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Subject: Statement Executive Board regarding the research review of sociology

The Executive Board of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has received and considered the final report of the research evaluation of Sociology covering the period 2013-2018. This assessment was conducted in the context of the Standard Evaluation Protocol (SEP) 2015-2021. Self-evaluation reports written by the participating research programmes, together with interviews by an international peer review committee carried out in February 2020, formed the basis of the assessment.

The Executive Board is pleased that the quality and viability of the research unit 'PARTicipating In Society (PARIS)' of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam are assessed as 'very good' and the societal relevance as 'excellent'. The committee concludes that the scientific publication activity is very strong in volume and quality. At the same time PARIS is committed to engaging with societal stakeholders and policy makers and to ensuring that the research themes are integrated in teaching at bachelor, master and PhD levels.

The committee also made the following recommendations:

- Work on an a more explicit and recurring reflection on how new topics can be identified and taken up in the research programme.
- Some groups within the unit are of relatively small size and more systematic exchange between the different groups within the research programme could be achieved.
- Bring more balance between methods and theory in the PhD training programme.
- Develop procedures that improve timely completion and continuously monitor the progress of PhD candidates.
- Develop a strategy for the top-heavy age structure among the tenured staff.
- With regard to (mental) well-being, the committee recommends a more preventive policy and to extend this beyond PhD candidates and take the whole staff into account.
- The committee welcomes the policy to invest in new assistant professors to assure them a better teaching/research time balance but recommends to extend this to all assistant professors.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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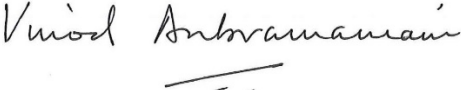
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The Executive Board appreciates the thorough and careful assessment of the external review committee. The Board has discussed the report and recommendations with the faculty and supports the faculty in using the recommendations to further enhance the quality and relevance of the research programme 'PARIS'.

Finally, the Board of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam wishes to express its gratitude to the international committee for the considerable time and effort invested in the assessment and to the research unit for the diligent preparation for the evaluation.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the Executive Board



prof. dr. V. Subramaniam,
rector magnificus