

FSS RESEARCH AWARD 2023

The FSS Research Award aims to bring the most appealing, promising and original research achievements into the spotlight. Each academic department of the FSS may nominate one candidate. This year the FSS Research Award will be granted to a junior research talent.

Bianca Beersma (Organization Sciences)

Summary

Cooperation and competition are at the core of organizing. For interdependent individuals, groups, and organizations, finding a balance between their own perspectives and interests and those of others, is essential for obtaining effective collective outcomes. My team members and I use a variety of research methods (e.g. experiments, surveys, interviews, agent-based models) to study the motivational and contextual factors that drive organizational behavior in settings where both cooperation and competition play a role. We do “basic” research that aims to build theory on organizational behaviors, such as gossip (for which I received an ERC Consolidator Grant), negotiation, and conflict management. More recently, inspired by my family situation in which long-term care plays an important role, I also engage in more “applied” research on joint decision-making in healthcare. I find it important that scientific research contributes to solving societal problems and helped facilitate this as the Talma Institute’s scientific director (2020-2023).

Marjolein Broese (Sociology)

Summary

Marjolein Broese van Groenou is a full professor in the department of Sociology. She holds a chair on ‘Informal care in a changing society’ and aims to increase the scientific and societal impact of the domain of informal care. With a continuous stream of research grants in 2G and 3G in the past decades, she has built a strong research program on how individual, family and societal factors impact on the decision to use or provide informal care. Besides increasing our theoretical understanding of the domain, she strategically connects with a variety of societal stakeholders (via media, conferences, publications) to increase understanding of how informal care can remain a sustainable part of our long term care system in an ageing society. This all has been accomplished in addition to managing the department of Sociology since 2004 as research manager and recently head of department.

Naná de Graaff (Political Science and Public Administration)

Summary

Naná de Graaff's research combines the fields of International Political Economy and Elite Studies (political sociology) as well as geopolitics, with a special focus on Chinese political and economic elites; the globalization of Chinese firms; the growing role of China in Europe, US foreign policy in the post-Cold War period; American political and economic elites; corporate elite networks; Social Network Analysis (SNA); and the politics and political economy of energy. Her future research (VIDI grant) will focus on the geopolitical drivers of an emergent techno-nationalism in the EU, which must be seen as linked to a possible process of decoupling of the European and Chinese economies. These developments contribute to a new global dynamic of (potential) de-globalization and create new challenges and problems not only for states but also for global business (elites) with a vested interests in globalization. Her research is theoretically grounded in critical political economy while her empirical research employs an innovative mix of methods, especially SNA.

Elly Konijn (Communication Science)

Summary

Prof. dr. Konijn's dedication to communication and media psychology has yielded a profound understanding of media usage, processing, and its societal effects. Her pioneering research spans three critical domains in Media Psychology, reshaping our comprehension of media and human interaction. In the realm of media personalities, virtual entities, and social robots, Prof. dr. Konijn's comprehensive investigations reveal the intricate interplay between these entities and human perception, unveiling new dimensions in media psychology. Her exploration of emotions and reality perceptions shaped by media has redefined social reality understanding. Moreover, her studies underscore the significant impact of media on moral standards and societal perspectives, establishing a benchmark in comprehending media's psychological impact. Prof. dr. Konijn's groundbreaking research into adolescent media usage delves into critical areas such as cyberbullying, effects of violent video games, thin-body ideal perpetuation, and self-presentation complexities. These findings not only illuminate the darker facets of media influence on youth but also offer guidance for policymakers and educators in addressing pressing societal concerns.

Pal Nyiri (Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Summary

We are glad to nominate Professor Pal Nyiri for FSW Research award 2023. Pal's career and

research perfectly encapsulates the width of FSW and anthropology's reach into studying contemporary world challenges. In Pal's case he sets light to the international influence of Chinese politics in Europe and the World, focusing on the lives and the roles of the actors of this effect of ideas, information, labour and capital. With nine (co)authored books and ten edited volumes, Pal has been one of the most prolific scholars of our faculty, with excellent scholarship published by prestigious University Presses and some of the best journals of social sciences.