

FSS RESEARCH AWARD 2021

The FSS Research Award aims to bring the most appealing, promising and original research achievements into the spotlight. This recognition encourages the nominees to continue on the same foot, provides an example for other researchers, and enables the departments and the faculty as a whole to contribute examples of research that contributes to accomplishing the mission of the faculty.

Each academic department of the FSS may nominate one candidate.

This year the FSS Research Award will be granted to a senior research talent (who obtained it's PhD more than 7 years ago). Next year the award will be granted to a junior research talent.

The granting of the FSS Research Award is not open to: a) persons who are part of the jury; b) persons who have already received the FSS Research Award in the previous five years.

Nominations FSS Research Award (senior) 2021

[Wouter van Atteveldt](#) (Communication Science)

The Communication Science department nominates Wouter van Atteveldt for putting the new field of Computational Communication Science on the map. As editor of the first special issue on the subject, he made many researchers aware of the possibilities and challenges of computational methods in communication science. Since then, he has founded an ICA division and started an open access journal on the subject, founded the pan-university research group CCS.Amsterdam, and led a successful research group at the VU. In addition, he published extensively on the subject, acquired several major grants (e.g., NWO and ERC), and made Open Science practices part of a normal research routine within this new field by means of his publications, tutorials and software.

[Alfons van Marrewijk](#) (Organization Sciences)

The aim of our research is to explore, reflect and learn from behavioural interventions in the collaborative practices in the design phase of circular construction projects to support the transition to a circular and low-carbon construction economy. The new practices of collaboration between contractors, clients, architects and suppliers in the design phase is perceived to be the biggest challenge in this transition. To withdraw from familiar and fixed social practices it is of cardinal importance that the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) sector develops and

adopts interventions influencing both people and organizational behaviour. Through reflective intervening, employees negotiate and give meaning to new work practices. The results of the study are the conditions for successful inter-organizational collaboration and successful work practices which are presented in a toolbox. The toolbox is systematically used, evaluated and improved in a larger number of projects by the end of the research period.

Irene Stengs (Social and Cultural Anthropology)

Professor by special appointment Irene Stengs is the Dutch specialist on ritual in public space. Her research focuses mainly on the social meaning of rituals, the dynamics of contemporary memorial culture, and the relationship between heritage making and identity politics. The importance of these themes can be seen in the ongoing unrest about the change or disappearance of 'authentically Dutch' traditions or the farewell rituals around national heroes, such as Peter R. De Vries in 2021. In the corona pandemic, traditional ritual routines lost their self-evidence, which was replaced by speculation about whether or not they could continue. New rituals, such as the applause for care, expressed the events with a heightened, emotional meaning. The corona crisis offers a prism on how rituals are constantly changing and intertwined with social and personal existence on many levels, a dimension that remains largely out of sight under normal circumstances.

Theo van Tilburg (Sociology)

Van Tilburg began research in the 1980s to comprehensively map the personal relationship network to understand differences in loneliness. In the 1990s the question shifted to changes in networks and loneliness in older adults. A – then – new finding was that there was also growth in networks – counter to the image of old age as a life stage of exclusive loss. In the years 2000-2010, using the sociological perspective on modernization, it was found that the probability of loneliness in an older person decreased over generations. Networks of older people became larger, including a stronger emphasis on friendships and more frequent stepchildren. Recent work has revisited the concept of loneliness. The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to examine the interrelatedness of society and individual experiences. A longitudinal study found resilience in the social realm, and a sharp increase in emotional loneliness.

Wolfgang Wagner (Political Science and Public Administration)

The notion that “politics stops at the water’s edge” is still popular in academia and politics. However, I have shown that this is not the case. Together with a large international network of colleagues and supported by a grant of the Gerda Henkel Foundation, I have collected data on more than 1.000 parliamentary votes on military interventions in 21 countries since the end of the Cold War. The data show that these decisions have been contested domestically along a left/right-axis: Opposition has been strongest at the far left and declines as one move along the left/right axis to green, social-democratic, liberal, christian democratic and conservative parties, before it increases again at the far right. This pattern can be found in Europa, North America and East Asia. I also show that political parties also systematically differ in the arguments they bring forward to support or oppose the use of armed force.