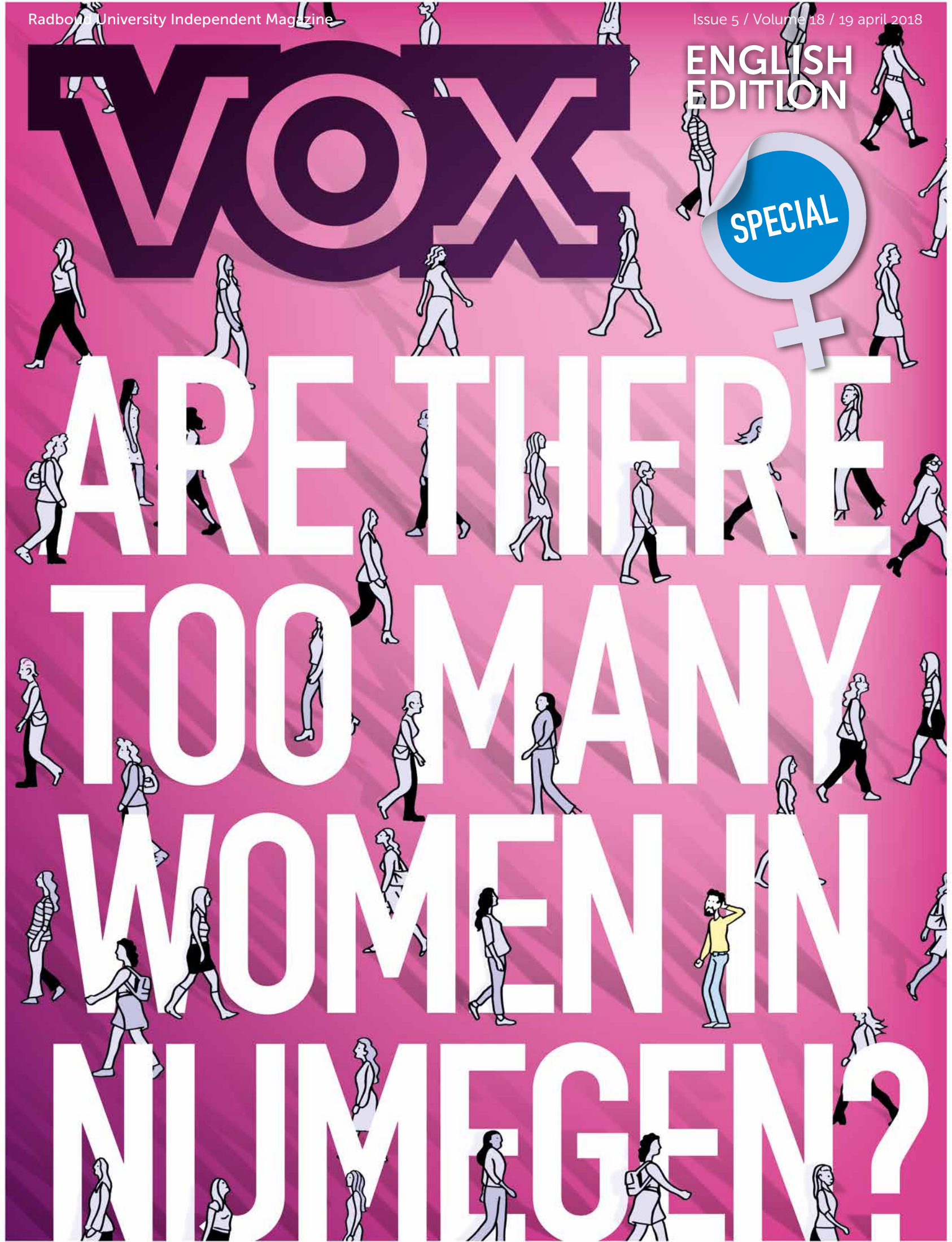


VOX

ENGLISH
EDITION

SPECIAL

ARE THERE TOO MANY WOMEN IN NUMEGEN?



Radboudumc

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Telefoon: 06 1539 9580

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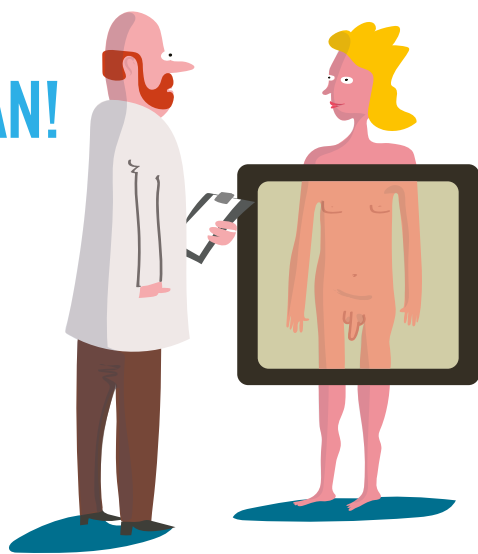
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COVER ILLUSTRATION: ROEL VENDERBOSCH

EDITORIAL

IMBALANCE

There are more women than men on campus and this has been the case for nearly thirty years. This imbalance can also be seen in the city of Nijmegen, where there are 106.7 women for every 100 men. What impact does this have on the university and on the city? Are the women pulling the strings? Not at all. Despite the many successful women in the lecture halls, the number of women decreases the higher up you go on the academic ladder. Until this year, the Nijmegen city council had a poor track record in this respect compared to other cities. In 2014 only 25% of the council members were women.

This is unusual for a city in which the feminist movement was once so active. Dries van Agt knows this all too well: the former minister of justice was once pelted with sanitary towels for his plan to close abortion clinics.

In this edition of Vox, the editors (male and female) attempt to discover why women ascend the ranks so slowly. And researchers, students and other Nijmegen citizens discuss the consequences of this imbalance of the sexes. You may ask yourself whether there are too many women in the city along the Waal.

Why do so few men choose to study psychology these days and how do all these women get a man?

Editor Mathijs Noij has observed this rising tide of feminisation and goes in search of the last real men of Nijmegen. During his search, he makes an important discovery: "You can learn a lot from women, except how to be a man."

Annemarie Haverkamp
Editor-in-Chief Vox

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RISING STAR

PETER RAAIJMAKERS



Peter Raaijmakers may have landed himself a cabinet seat at the young age of 21. The Public Administration student at Radboud University was nominated by the Politieke

Plaatselijke Alliantie (PPA) party as a councillor for the municipality of Sint-Michielsgestel. The opposition was furious about this choice. "As if this is some kind of work placement position for students," wrote the daily newspaper *Brabants Dagblad*. Raaijmaker remains calm despite the criticism. "When an opportunity like this arises, you have to bite the bullet and just go for it."

DULY NOTED

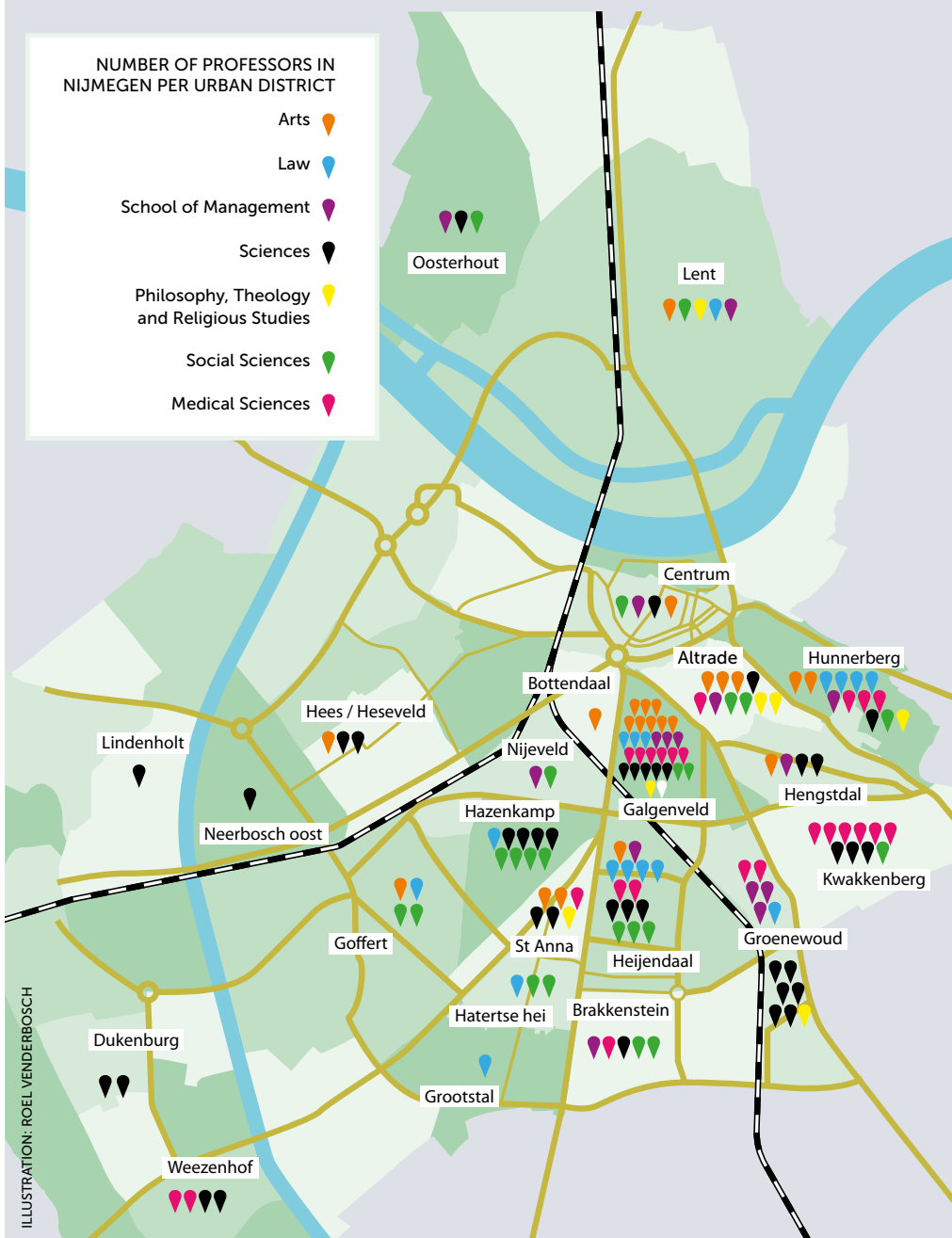
"A mother shouldn't text while breast-feeding her child."

Jan Derksen, Professor of Clinical Psychology, believes parents should make agreements on social media use before their child is born. In the 6 March edition of *De Gelderlander*, he explains his intention to draft an action plan to prevent social media addiction among children.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

IN THE NEWS





Go back to 1943 in this educational escape room

PHOTO: VOX

Accent

Do you sink so? Students are horrified by lecturers who have an accent. In fact, the stronger the accent, the less seriously lecturers are taken, according to a study among 274 students by the Nijmegen Centre for Language Studies. "Students simply can't take someone seriously when they hear a strong accent," says Berna Hendriks. "They find it laughable and embarrassing." Incidentally, the researchers don't believe that lecturers should follow an additional language course. Rather, they think students should become more aware of their prejudices. "It's not Oxford here."

Salary

Sorry, our bad. Radboud University underpaid a group of international employees for years. The employees, who came under the 30% scheme, did not receive the end-of-year bonus and holiday allowance they were due. So computer science PhD candidate Alexis Linard demanded the hard-earned money he was owed. The university acknowledged its mistake and is investigating ways to compensate this group of employees.

Housing

What do the Heijendaal, Brakkenstein, St. Anna and Groenewoud neighbourhoods have in common? They are all filled with Nijmegen professors, according to an analysis of postcode data from professors employed at Radboud University; professors who live outside the city, in towns like Malden. Interestingly, Kleve and Kranenburg are also popular among professors (see illustration page 4). Given the low housing prices in Germany and the relatively high professor salary, they should be able to afford a small castle there.

Elections

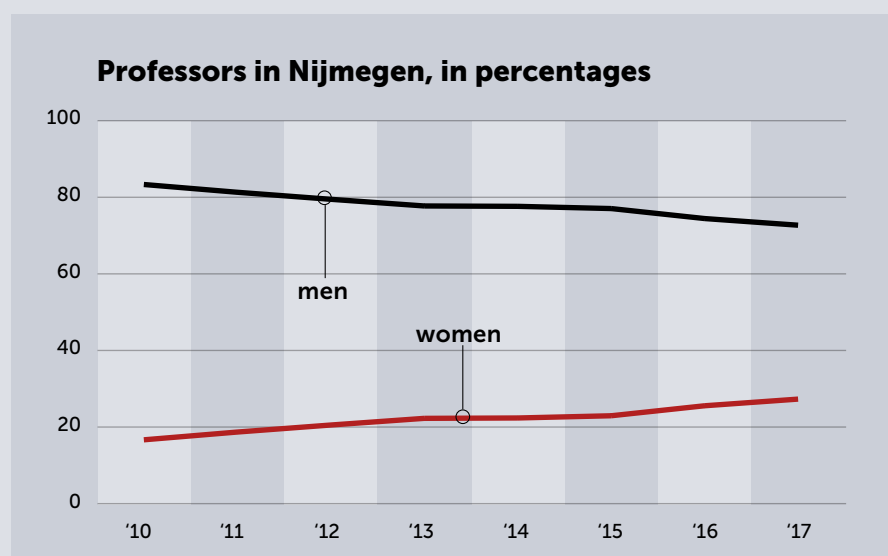
Nijmegen's city council is awash with red – Radboud red, to be exact. Of the 39 new city council members, 21 studied at Radboud University. However, that doesn't mean the council is a good reflection of the population. This is problematic, according to constitutional law expert Hansko Broeksteeg. "Political parties should take this into consideration during the recruitment process."

Escape room

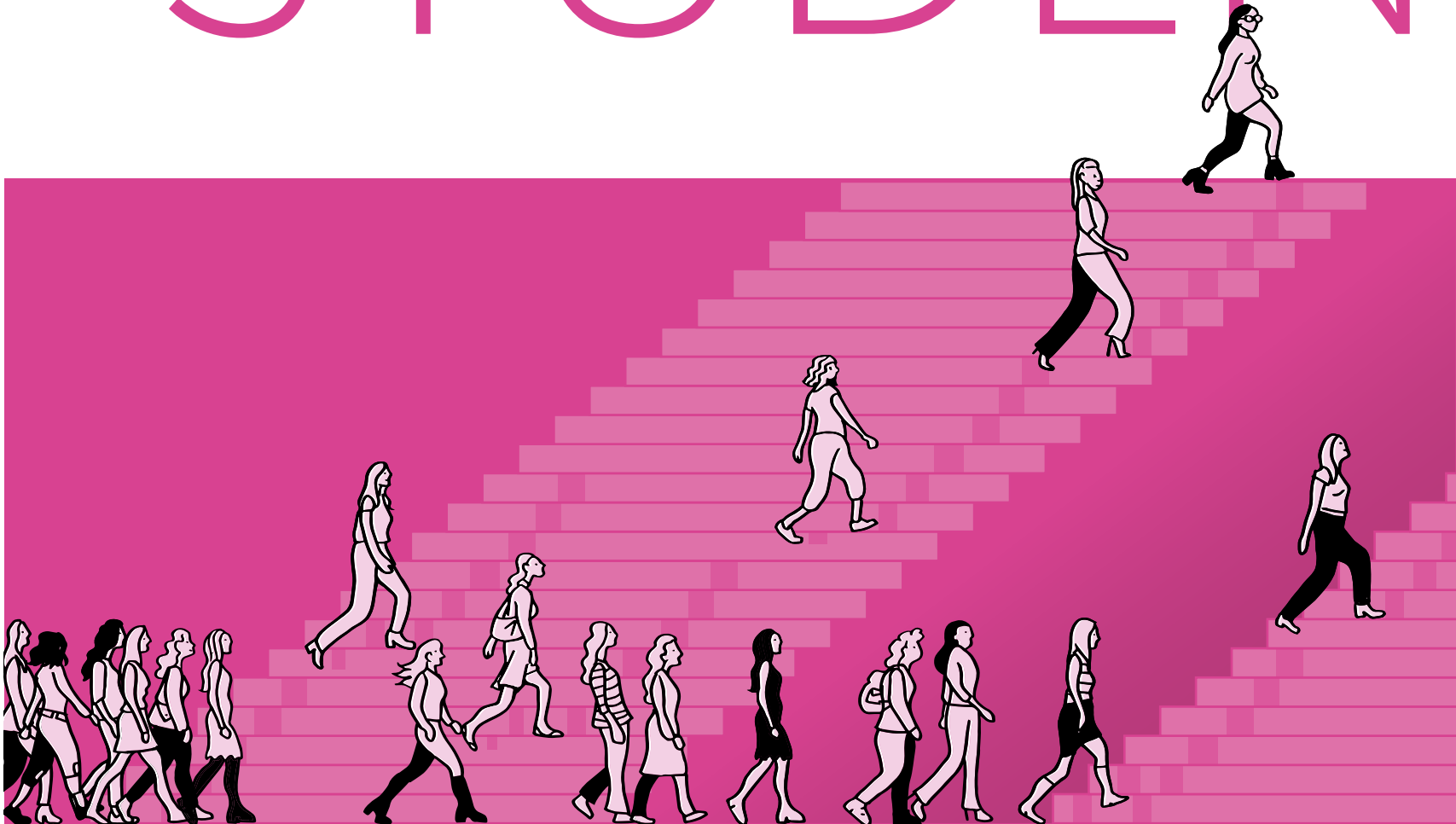
Construction of the basement is well under way, despite the financial problems facing the Valkhof Museum. The university plans to open an educational escape room there on 5 May, which will transport visitors back to 1943: the year Rector Magnificus Bernard Hermesdorf closed the university following a conflict of principles with the German occupiers. Students were then faced with a range of moral dilemmas; they were required to register for *Arbeitseinsatz*, or forced labour. The only other option was to go into hiding.

Female professors

Radboud University has appointed seven new professors thanks to the Westerdijk Talent Scheme (see chart below). Former minister Jet Bussemaker made these funds available to quickly increase the number of female professors. According to Liedeke Plate, Professor of Culture and Inclusivity and one of the 'Westerdijk professors', the figures illustrate the need for such a scheme. "In the world of academia, there's still a culture of cliques: despite having the same qualifications, men are still valued above women."



THE RISE WOMEN STUDEN

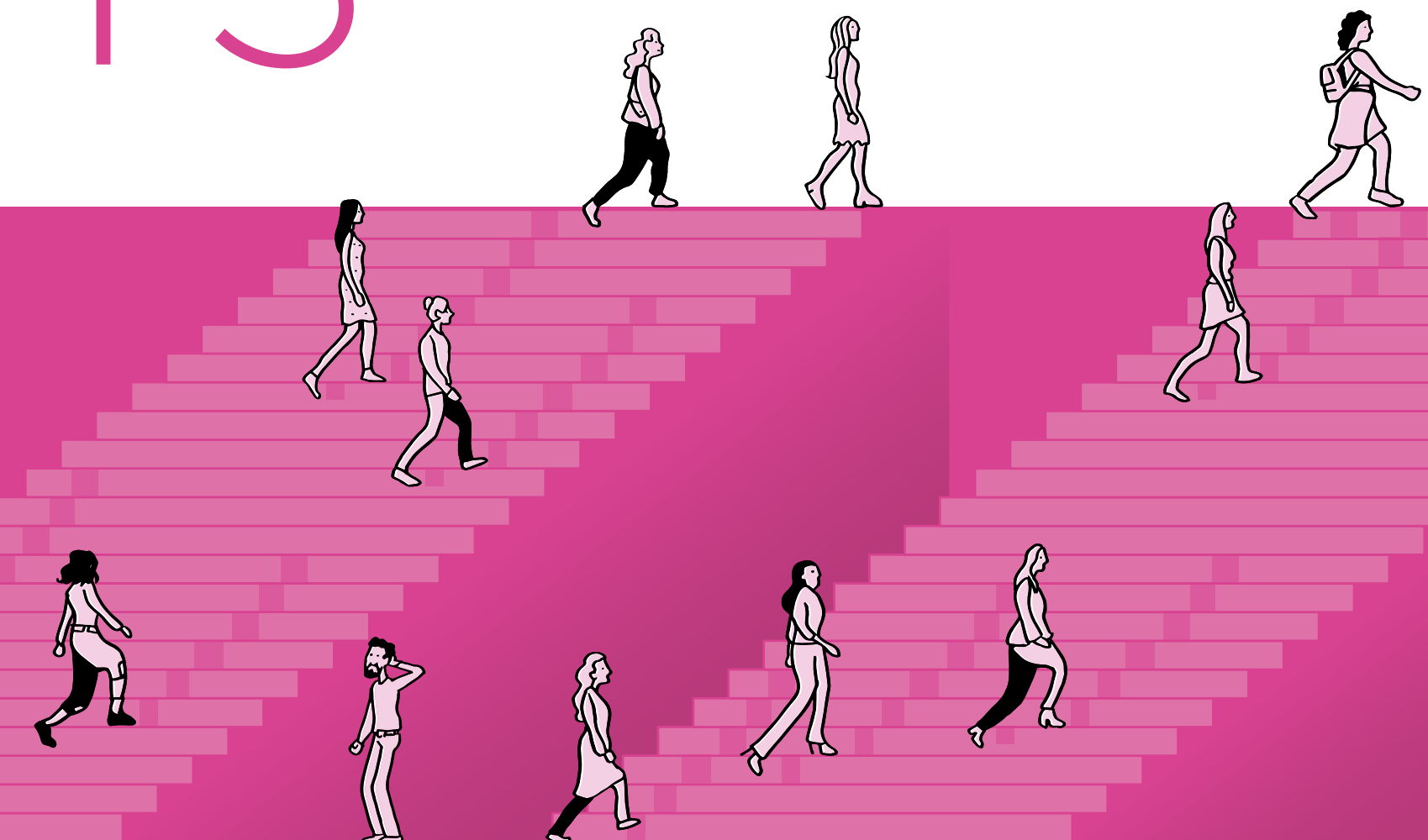


OF

The Nijmegen campus is home to more female than male students. And this has been the case for more than thirty years. It's obvious when you look at studies with a surplus of women, like Psychology or Pedagogical Science. But it's also apparent in the city: six out of ten twenty-year olds in Nijmegen are women. On how women caught up with men.

Text: Martine Zuidweg and Mickey Steijaert / **Illustrations:** Roel Venderbosch

TS



A penetrating glance, dark hair piled up under a small hat that perches sideways on her head. She's wearing a long skirt. Christine Mohrmann steps over the threshold of a brand-new building on the Wilhelminasingel. She's 23 years old and will one day be the first female professor in Nijmegen. In those days, Radboud University was still known as the Catholic University Nijmegen, and has only recently opened its doors. The year is 1923.

NUNS

Mohrmann is not the only female student in Nijmegen. In that first year, 38 women enrolled at the University, out of a total of 189 students. One in five was a woman, not a bad score. Compared to other Dutch universities, Nijmegen was doing really well. How come?

The answer had to do with the appeal of the Catholic University Nijmegen to Catholic students, says Mohrmann's biographer Marjet Derks. Many of them moved to Nijmegen as soon as the Catholic University opened its doors. As did Mohrmann, who'd begun her studies a year earlier in Utrecht, but now returned to her hometown. What also played a role was the fact that in the 1920s women started to make their way into higher education. Girls no longer dropped out after primary school, but instead went on to secondary school, which required well-educated schoolmistresses. Religious orders encour-

NIJMEGEN HAS 106.7 WOMEN FOR EVERY 100 MEN

aged nuns to get a teaching degree from a university. Many of Mohrmann's fellow students wore a habit.

WEALTHY BACKGROUND

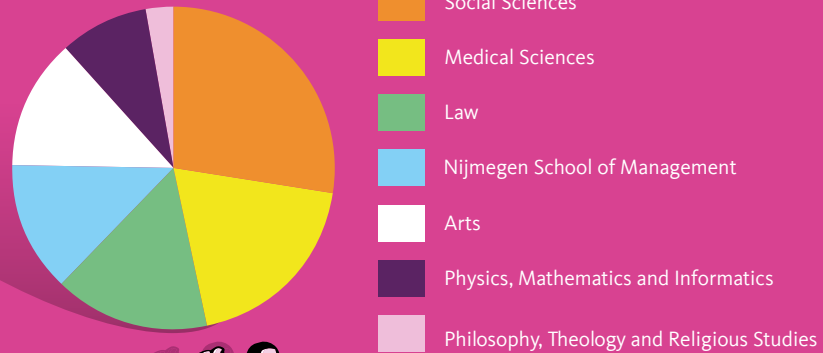
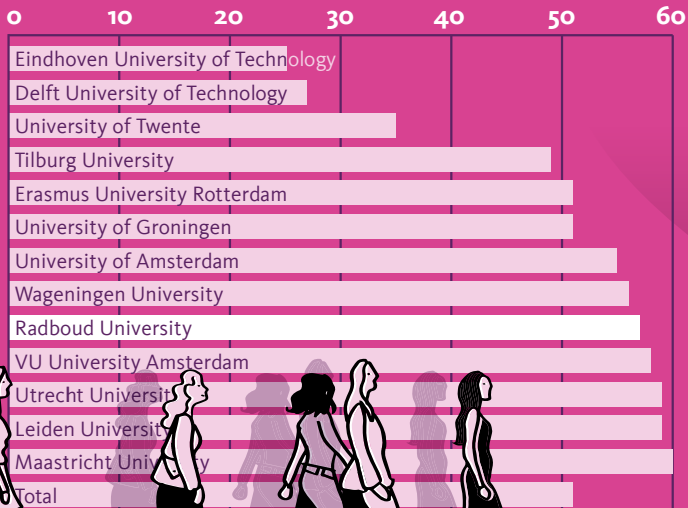
On that autumn day, Christine Mohrmann was the 59th student to report to the Rector, who still enrolled all students personally. She already knew him, this Rector, who was also a priest, from her year in Utrecht, where he was Professor in Linguistics. She would soon get to know this Joseph Schrijnen much better still at the Institute for Ancient Humanities. And as a neighbour, since he lived in the Sint Annastraat, close to her parental home. In those days, Nijmegen University was a small world. And this would remain the case for decades.

In 1940 the University was home to 527 students, of whom 120 were female, one in five still. "The campus was dominated by a young gentlemen's culture. The girls who got the opportunity to study were all gentlewomen from a wealthy background," explains University Historian Jan



Percentage of women per university in 2017

Distribution of women across the Nijmegen faculties in 2017



Bron: DUO



Brabers. Well-off families sent their first sons to university, and if there was any money left, they sent their daughters too. “So the girls who studied came from even richer families.”

It was only in the 1960s, with the introduction of study grants, that young people from less well-off families were given the chance to study. The Faculty of Social Sciences was created and attracted lots of students. They believed in the power of social studies as a tool for transforming society. The University grew fast. In 1960 there were 3000 students on campus, a figure that was to triple over the next ten years. At the same time, the grants led to an increase in the number of women students. By 1970, one quarter of Nijmegen students were women.

TURNING POINT

The turning point came in 1989, when for the first time women outnumbered men among first-year students. In total, the University was home to 11931 students, of whom 51% were women. After that, the percentage of women students just kept on growing. Today, women form the great majority of Nijmegen students: 57% of our students are women.

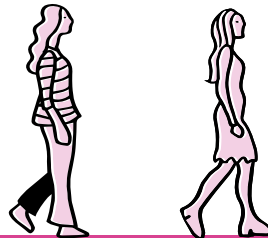
The reason? Girls do better at school. This is also why other Dutch universities, such as Utrecht and Leiden, attract more women than men. And the same applies to neighbouring countries, and further afield. In fact, across Europe, women are overrepresented at universities.

BETTER A DAUGHTER

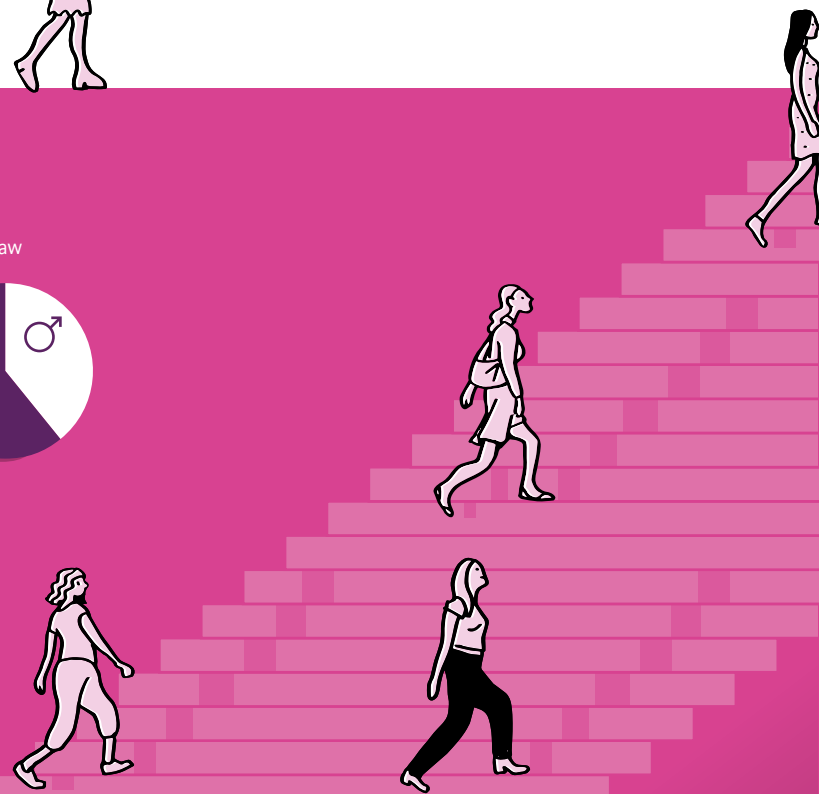
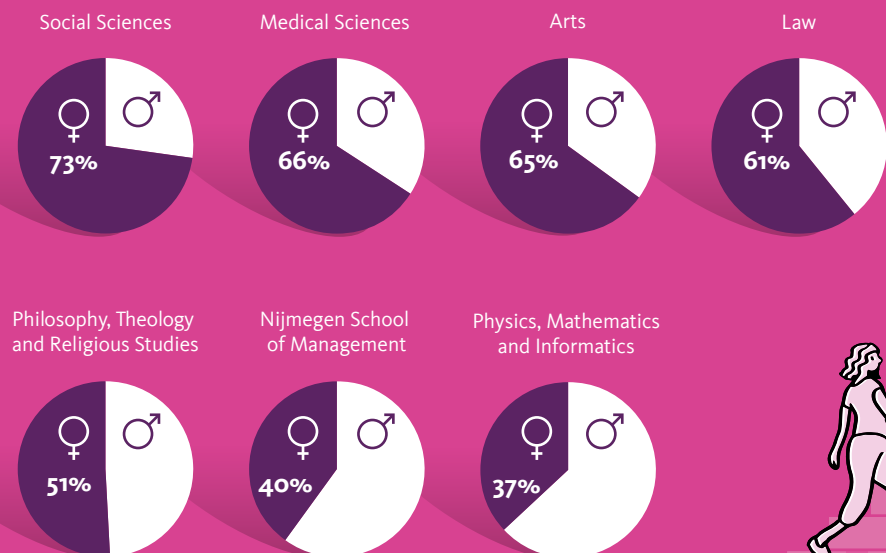
And so we’ve now reached the point when some parents would rather have a girl than a boy. And this while the opposite has been true for decades. *The National Bureau of Economic Research*, a leading American economic research agency recently presented a study on the topic. Whereas in the past parents would stop trying for more children after they’d had a son, and not after having a daughter (they still hoped for a son), the latest data show the opposite trend. Parents are now more likely to stop trying for more children after a girl.

The New York Times has numerous explanations for this. Fathers traditionally preferred boys, but this may be changing as girls do more sports and other boyish activities. Mothers, who traditionally preferred girls, have more say in family planning as a result of emancipation.

But women’s educational success also clearly plays a role, writes the newspaper. “Women are more likely to become college graduates than men.” It may even be, as suggested by *The New York Times*, that parents stop trying for more children after a girl, because a daughter costs so much money. Precisely because of the higher odds that she will go on to university.



Percentage of women per faculty in 2017



'IF BOYS ARE HARD-WORKING, THEY CAN FORGET ABOUT BEING POPULAR'

In a relatively small city like Nijmegen, this is immediately reflected in the city's population. For every 100 male citizens, Nijmegen is home to 106.7 women. In the Netherlands, these figures are 101.55 women for 100 men. Nijmegen therefore has a relatively large female population. Especially among twenty-year olds, women are in the majority: 60% of them are women. Among university cities, only Maastricht can match such a high percentage.

Women perform better at school and are therefore more likely to go on to university. This has little to do with biological differences, says sociologist Margriet van Hek, whose PhD dealt with her research on gender inequality in educational performance. "All evidence points to the fact that boys and girls are born with only slight differences in learning aptitude. The gap between them widens as they grow up due to upbringing and socialisation."

Girls are more often encouraged to sit in a corner with toys that promote quiet play. They're also more often encouraged to read than boys, says Van Hek. Teachers tend to send boys outside to play, as observed by sociologists and pedagogical experts. "If you continue this treat-

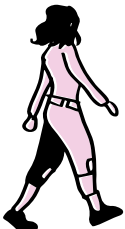
ment for eighteen years, it's hardly surprising that girls end up with better language skills."

STEREOTYPE

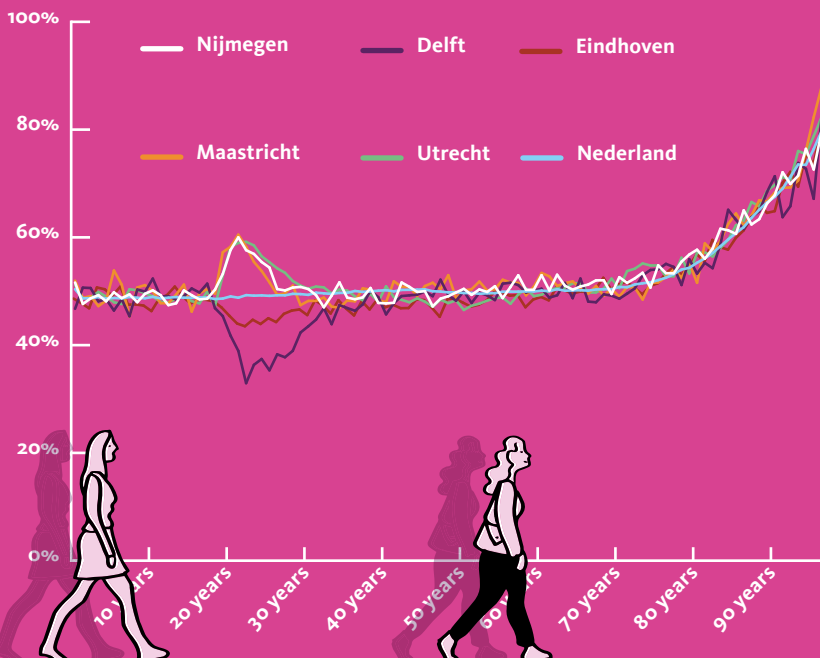
In secondary school both boys and girls are hypersensitive to what is expected of them. "If boys are hard-working, they can forget about being popular. With girls, hard work has fewer consequences on social status." Boys have to be 'effortless achievers', a phrase coined by US sociologists. They're allowed to do well at school, but only if this costs them no effort. It fits in with the stereotype that boys are by nature intelligent, says Van Hek. "If a girl does well, people tend to say she's worked hard for it."

If Christine Mohrmann was a student today, she would probably not wear a long skirt, but long trousers, or a short skirt, or shorts, or... "So much has changed for women over the past fifty years. They can be feminine, or act tough. They can study anything they want, even a technical subject. It's not weird when they work part time or full time or even stay at home. For boys, much less has changed. They're still expected to behave like boys. A boy who wants to study Pedagogical Sciences is likely to be considered a wimp. And it's quite rare for men to stay at home to look after the kids."

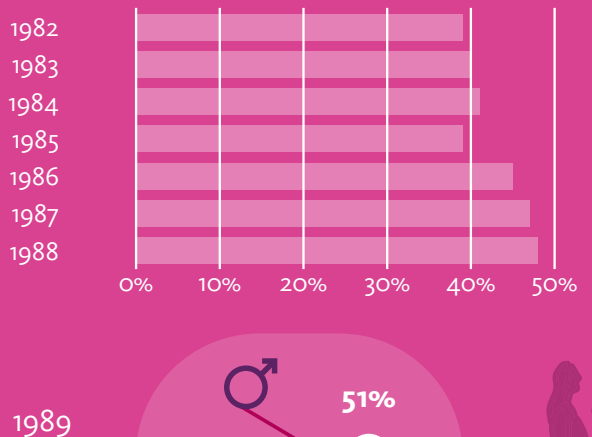
And it's not as if boys have been making a mess of things for decades, says Van Hek. "The boys' performance didn't diminish over the last fifty years. They're equally well-educated. It's just that girls caught up with them along the way and are now doing even better." *



Percentage of women in total population in student cities



Turning point in percentage of women in relation to total student number



In 1989 11,931 students attended the Radboud University





FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR
 CHRISTINE MOHRMANN

Smoking cigars with the men

Christine Mohrmann had to fight hard for her position. Once she was appointed Professor she became *one of the guys*. And enjoyed lecturing the priests.

Text: Martine Zuidweg
Photography: Fotopersbureau Gelderland, Nijmegen

Christine Mohrmann (1903-1988) was a brilliant student and researcher, but it took her a long time to be appointed Professor.

Her Nijmegen biographer Marjet Derks thinks this wasn't only because women were not taken very seriously in academic circles, but also because of Mohrmann's close relationship with her thesis supervisor, Jos Schrijnen. "She was an unmarried laywoman socialising with a priest and the brother of the Bishop of Roermond to boot. They lived across from each other in the Annastraat and often visited one other. They also attended conferences abroad together."

The close relationship between the two was food for much speculation. "In those days Nijmegen was quite a narrow-minded Catholic community. Her appointment as Professor was a boundary people didn't want to cross. When a Chair became free in her department, a less qualified male colleague was appointed."

Mohrmann was hurt and made no secret of it. "It was tragic, of course. Her entire life was devoted to science. She was always working. To have her career obstructed in this way must have been difficult to bear."

In 1953, aged fifty, she was finally promoted. Mohrmann was renowned internationally for her research on Early Christian and Mediaeval Latin and when the professor in her field retired, there was no avoiding her anymore.

On her appointment as first female professor in Nijmegen, she subtly reminded the 'Gentlemen Professors' that they would now have to add 'and Lady Professor' whenever they addressed the academic community. She said: "I'm conscious, with a certain degree of humility, that my entering Your circle will cause more change than usually brought about by the appointment of a new professor. For example, as of now, I'll be the only one among you still privileged to use the old

form of address: 'Gentlemen Professors!'"

The fact that she was a woman and had clear opinions certainly got tongues wagging, says Derks. "She was a strong presence. Everyone knew her." Mohrmann was a member of the famous 'walking club', a select group of Nijmegen professors, who met a few times a year to enjoy wine and cigars, and agree on new appointments. Mohrmann smoked along with them.

She was strict. She received her PhD students at her home on Saturday mornings. She wanted to see texts. And if someone failed to complete a chapter, Mohrmann showed no pity. Derks: "I've spoken to grown men who years later still shudder as they talk about this most dreaded time of the month when you had to hand in a chapter and discuss it with her."

In the lecture hall, she enjoyed lecturing the priests. "Priests sometimes found it difficult to accept authority from a woman, and she really enjoyed overruling them. She had her content at her fingertips. She always knew what she was talking about."

But Christine Mohrmann was certainly not a feminist or an innovator. She abhorred the kind of activist students who appeared on campus in the 1960s. She found these young people stupid and rude. ★

WANTED TEST SUBJECT (M)

ARE YOU A HEALTHY MALE?
PLEASE MAIL
H.ANDSOME@RU.NL

ARE YOU A HEALTHY MALE?
PLEASE MAIL
H.ANDSOME@RU.NL

It's inconvenient for researchers to have so many women on campus. They're having trouble finding male test subjects.

Text: Mickey Steijaert / **Photo:** Getty Images (edited)

The notice board above the printers in the Huygens building is filled with brightly coloured flyers. 'Participants wanted', they say. Or 'Test subjects wanted'. Or, more to the point, 'Men wanted!' The Huygens building is one of the rare locations on the Radboud University campus with more male than female students. This is why it's such a popular hunting ground for researchers in search of male test subjects. Why?

DOES NIJMEGEN HAVE TOO MANY WOMEN?

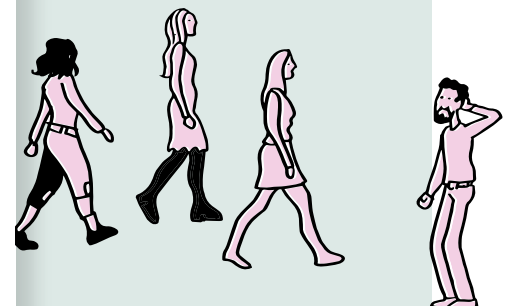
Jan Derksen, professor of Psychology, is in the minority as a male clinical psychologist.

"I don't necessarily think there are too many women, I think there are too few men. We need all the people we can get in the healthcare sector; the waiting lists are extremely long. There's also a shortage of male primary school teachers and educators. That's a shame, because it's good for children to be able to identify with both women and men.

When psychologists assess a child, they include gender in their assessment. Would the child be better suited to a male or a female psychologist? What would guarantee the best bond? This also has to do with the relationship children have with their parents. At the moment, most treatment is carried out by female psychologists because there's a shortage of male professionals.

I think it's important to get more men interested in the profession. We need good male role models. My solution? Universities should make sure there are men at the information days.

The profession has become feminised. When I was a first-year psychology student in 1973, half the students were male. These days, men tend to opt for higher-paying, more competitive professions, while psychology is driven by love and passion."



Here's how it works. A lot of research in psychology and neurology is based on experiments with student test subjects. After all, students are usually young and healthy, easy to find at universities, and prepared to take part in a research study for a small fee. There's only one problem with the Nijmegen student population: most of them are women.

Lieke Hofmans, PhD student at the Donders Institute, is one of the researchers who often puts up flyers in the Huygens Building. She's conducting a large-scale study on the impact of the hormone dopamine on the brain. "A fifty-fifty male/female population is a strict requirement for our study," she explains. "We have no problems finding female test subjects. But it's not always easy finding enough men." The search for men is costing Hofmans precious time, and in the worst-case scenario may slow down her research track.

'A FIFTY-FIFTY POPULATION IS A STRICT REQUIREMENT'

Hofmans is clearly not the only one facing this problem: every study in psychology or neurosciences where gender plays a role includes as part of its methodology the requirement of an equal number of male and female test subjects. "In neuroscience, research on single gender test subjects is less and less accepted," explains Erno Hermans, senior researcher at the Donders Institute. "I study stress hormones. This means I have to take into account the effect of sex hormones and I nearly always need an equal distribution of men and women." The only studies where gender plays a less crucial role are studies on basic biological processes that are essentially identical in men and women.

Hermans: "For example research on our visual system. It doesn't matter so much there."

TEST SUBJECT CREDITS

In psychological research too, gender plays an important role. Inge Rabeling is lecturer in Psychology and Bachelor's thesis coordinator. "As a rule we don't make it compulsory for our students to use an equal number of male and female subjects," says Rabeling. "Unless this is relevant for their research subject. If students want to compare men and women, then they should try to come up with more or less equal numbers for both groups." Rabeling's students also sometimes struggle to find male participants for their research. Rabeling: "In these cases we advise them to actively recruit participants, for instance by hanging up flyers or posters at faculties with a largely male student population. Or to look for participants outside the University. In our experience, students usually do manage to find enough participants."

The Donders Institute and the BSI Lab work with the Sona system. In Sona, students can register as test subjects and take part in ongoing experiments. However, of the more than 3200 students registered in Sona, more than 2400 are women. This incredible imbalance is partly due to the large number of psychology students among users. In their first year, psychology students have to earn 'test subject credits', which they obtain by taking part in research. And with 74% of students being women, Psychology is one of the most women-dominated study programmes on campus.

Nevertheless, Hermans still sees Sona as a blessing. The system also offers an immediate solution to the shortage of men, he says. "For example, you can temporarily 'switch off' your experiment for women or set a specific quota for each gender. All you have to do is keep recruiting until you reach your ideal male-female proportion." The system also makes it possible to send male users an e-mail to draw their attention to a specific study. And if all else fails, there's always the notice boards in the Huygens building. *

How talent continues to seep away

How fast are the hordes of female students marching their way to the top? Women may still be in the majority among PhD students, but after graduation most of them drop out of the race. In the higher spheres of academia the few women left still bump their heads against the glass ceiling.

Text: Linda van der Pol

Last February, Queen Máxima officially opened the virtual cancer institute Oncode, a joint venture of scientific organisations with €120 million to devote to cancer research in the coming years. And who stood on the podium next to the Queen? Five men, similar in skin colour and age, ready to divide this large amount of money among themselves. On Nieuwsuur, founder Hans Clevers, Professor in Utrecht and former Chairman of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), had to justify himself to publicist and microbiologist Rosanne Hertzberg, who suspected the project of being the brainchild of an old boys' network. Yes, Clevers admitted, "gender balance is a problem at our institute. But it's the women's fault. We hire many promising young women, but when push comes to shove, they back down. There's nothing we can do about it. Dutch women are unwilling to work really hard."

Ever since the gender debate first raged in academia, countless theories have been put forward to explain the low number of women in higher academic spheres: from rattling ovaries curbing women's academic ambition to the general incompatibility of motherhood with a competitive academic career. And this while the talent pool is full of women PhD graduates. For over ten years, Radboud University's has taken on slightly more female PhD candidates: 51% of our PhD candidates are women.

LADDER

All of this would lead one to expect that by now academia is or will shortly become a female-dominated world. But with every step up the academic ladder, the percentage of women drops. Of the 80% of PhD graduates who hope for a job in research, only 10% end up with one. Among them, women are in the minority. They represent one third of assistant professors, but only one quarter of associate professors. Among full professors the female-male ratio is less than one in five.

At Radboud University, the percentage of women in academia is slightly higher than the Dutch average: 38% of assistant professors, 33.4% of associate professors, and 27.5% of professors are women. In total, 42.7% of our academic staff is female.

Compared to most universities, Nijmegen is therefore doing relatively well, but this is hardly reason to rest on our laurels. The step from PhD candidate to assistant professor is particularly difficult in Nijmegen, as apparent from the glass ceiling index – a simple calculation to demonstrate women's impeded progress. You divide the percentage of women in a given position by the number of women one step higher. For example: the percentage of women PhD students divided by the percentage of women assistant professors. If the result is greater than 1, this

AT EUROPEAN LEVEL, THE NETHERLANDS SCORES PRETTY POORLY



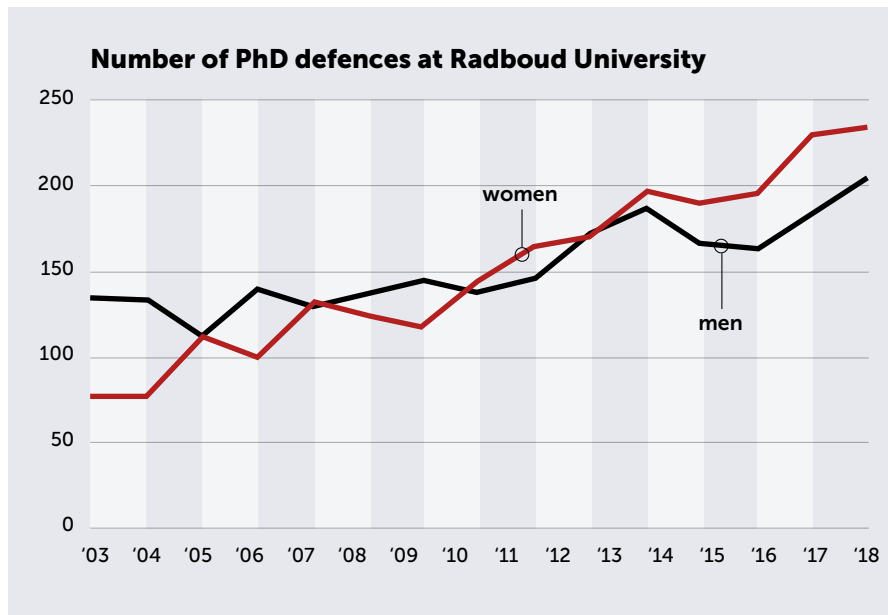
Female professors at the opening of the academic year, September 2017

indicates that women are held back from promotion to higher levels. Nationally speaking, the glass ceiling index between PhD candidates and assistant professors is 1.1. At Radboud University it is 1.34.

INJECTION

It is precisely at the top of the ladder, at full professor level, that universities are implementing various instruments to increase women's participation. Because if the Netherlands continues to plod along its current growth curve, it will take another thirty years, until 2051, to reach an equal man-woman ratio in full professor positions. One such instrument is the Westerdijk Talent Scheme: a financial injection of €5 million to partially cover the appointment of one hundred additional women professors. Radboud University made use of this scheme to appoint 7 additional women, and this while the University is doing reasonably well in this respect, by following its own scheme to achieve 30% of female professors by 2020.

But, noted Liedeke Plate, 'Westerdijk Professor' of Culture and Inclusivity, on the occasion of her appointment: "Over the past year, Radboud University has



appointed 21 men and 18 women as full professors. If you subtract the 7 Westerdijk chairs, the ratio is all out again.” Universities are incidentally not the only work environment where gender emancipation leaves a lot to be desired. At European level, the Netherlands scores pretty poorly across the board: 75% of all women work part-time, and less than half the female labour force is financially independent. The wage gap is 16.1%, which is quite substantial. And while a quota has helped raise the number of women in top government positions to 30%, the corporate sector is lagging far behind.

Viewed in this light, we want to see our lecture halls simply teeming with women. Radboud University, together with the rest of society, is one big leaking pipeline: female talent is continuously seeping away. *

The national figures are drawn from the 2017 Female Professors Monitor (Monitor Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren 2017). The reference date for the Radboud University percentages is 31 December 2017

In 2018, even at ‘women-dominated’ Radboud University, almost three-quarters of full professors are men. And if you think it’s only a matter of time before the ratio evens out unfortunately you’re wrong, says Professor of Gender and Diversity Marieke van den Brink.

Text: Lara Maassen

Despite all Westerdijk Talent Schemes and mentoring programmes: only 26.5% of Radboud University full professors are women. This is higher than the national average of 18%, but the fact remains that the vast majority of professors are men. Marieke van den Brink is not used to being ‘recognised’ as a professor. “When I walk around the University, people don’t expect me to hold this kind of position. Their gaze tends to linger on grey-haired men,” she jokes. But her CV doesn’t lie: in 2009 Van den Brink was awarded cum laude for her PhD on the role of gender in professorial appointments, she herself was appointed professor in 2016, and she carried out an EU-funded study on the role of gender in academia.

Her research helps dispel a number of persistent myths. For example, that there’s not enough female potential. Van den Brink: “You often hear that ‘they’re simply not there’, those women worthy of a Chair. That the wave is still to come. This is simply not true. If we look at the figures, we see clearly that since 1980, there’s been a strong increase in the number of female PhD graduates. The question is: What happens afterwards? Because this clearly doesn’t translate to a proportional increase in the appointment of female professors. At every step of the career ladder, a smaller percentage of women make it through.”

Is this not the fault of the women themselves? They are more likely to work part-time, and often opt to stay home with their children. But this is not true on campus, says Van den Brink. Women are much less likely to work part-time in academia than in other sectors. There is a difference in working hours between men and women, but it’s too minor to explain



The pitfall of 'she won't be interested'

the gap in top positions. "And we see the same gap in women who work full-time."

VALUE

Selection committees often presuppose that women are unable or unwilling to take on a high position. "Because they've recently had children, for example. Or because they expect these women's male partners to already have important jobs elsewhere and be unwilling to relocate. So women aren't even given the opportunity to apply for a position. And this while they might be more than willing."

Things really have to change in this respect, says Van den Brink. No, women don't necessarily have to be more assertive. "First of all, it's nearly impossible for women to strike the right note in our male-dominated world: if you're too assertive, you're an ice queen; if you're too nice, you don't get what you want. I can't afford to do like my male colleagues, slam my fist on the table and shout: this is how we're going to do it, and that's it! The range of acceptable behaviour is much narrower for women."

What we should do is collectively value more what women do in academia. While men often spend their time in a 'traditional' way, between the office and the lab, women do more teaching and take on more administrative tasks. This is problematic, says Van den Brink. When it comes to vacancies and promotions, people look mainly at academic performance. "It's too easy to say: those women should have done more research. You've got to ask yourself: Do you want a university with hardly any attention to education, where everyone sits in their own corner doing research? I think teaching and administration tasks are as important as the rest. It's time we started to value them."

In general, the atmosphere at the University could do with a breath of fresh air, says the Professor. "Yes, it's good that we're actively working to appoint as many women professors as possible. But we should also, and in particular, focus on creating a better working climate for our female researchers."

TOP POSITIONS

"We have this image of being a very 'women-dominated' university. But when I hear women are told 'You only got your VENI (grant for postdocs, eds.) because you're a woman', I really wonder where people get their information. The informal Professors' Hiking Club only admitted two female members last year." She sighs. "More women in top positions also means fewer men. They're not likely to welcome this news."

And then there's the fundamental question: how can a University transform its culture? "Well," says Van den Brink, "we know you can't force it with training courses and protocols. Such measures may work to some extent, but certainly not enough. Plus, there's the risk that people who weren't enthusiastic in the first place will become even more resistant."

What helps is making people aware of the fact that gender really does play a role. We could do what Eindhoven University did: in each selection committee appoint one person specially trained to unearth unconscious prejudice in the selection process. Someone who says: "Why would you conclude she's not interested just because she lives at the other end of the country and would have to relocate here with her husband and children? Shouldn't we ask her first?" * ✱



PHOTO: ROY SOETERKOUW

I'M THE ODD (WO)MAN OUT!

What's it like to be a man in a female-dominated study programme, or a woman in a male-dominated programme? Apparently it has its advantages. 'It's fun to be by definition the handsomest guy around.'

Text: Lara Maassen / Photography: Bert Beelen



HUGO VAN BREE: 'I'VE ALWAYS HAD LOTS OF WOMEN FRIENDS'

Hugo van Bree (20) is a second-year student in Pedagogical Sciences

"I'm a member of a special Men's Committee within our study association. We go on beer tastings, play poker, and do all sorts of other things with no women around. We've got to: with 91% of women, Pedagogical Studies is the most women-dominated programme on campus. So we feel the need to get together from time to time.

In a group of men I'm a different person, I notice. I can voice blunt opinions and laugh at dirty jokes. I remember during Introduction Week, the Chair of the Committee stood up on a table, pounded his chest and shouted 'We are men!' We tend to exaggerate the stereotypes, for fun. For the rest, I don't think much about the fact that I'm a man among women. I've always had lots of women friends, even at secondary school. At the end of the day we're all individuals, you can't compartmentalise people. Nor is it true that as a man you can get all the girls you want here. As it happens, I did meet my girlfriend through our study programme, but most of my fellow students look for girlfriends elsewhere.

Pedagogical Sciences probably attracts so many women because we associate this field of study with jobs that were historically done by women: education and child care. It's a pity, I think. A male perspective on pedagogy and education is more than welcome. Lots of children are delighted to finally see a male teacher in front of the classroom."

Evi Sijben (21) is a fourth-year student in Computing Science

"I write a column for *Thabloid*, our study association magazine, entitled 'Dating First Aid'. Together with another student I answer questions by our male students. 'What's a fun idea for a date?', they ask, or 'Do you always wear make-up?'. But also: 'How do you know something's wrong if a girl always answers 'Nothing' when you ask?'"


Of course, I knew beforehand that Computing Studies was a really

male-dominated programme. I wasn't sure I'd be able to hold my ground. My friends asked me: Are you sure you want to study Computing Science? Isn't it a programme for boys? I've nearly finished my Bachelor's now, I'm the student representative for the Faculty, and I spent a year on the board of the study association.

About 90% of my fellow students are men. This creates a different kind of atmosphere. It's calmer, more relaxed, with so many men around. Boys don't

need to have an opinion on everything. They're not so easily hurt. In the beginning I did have to get used to their directness. I also noticed that they're less into forming cliques. They're more into individual friendships.

Men are more spontaneous when it comes to getting together: they just call you up. Then you might not see them for weeks on end. Women like to plan their time more. And yes, my fellow students like to play computer games a lot. But when they do, I just join in with them!"



EVI SIJBEN: 'IT'S MORE RELAXED, WITH SO MANY MEN AROUND'

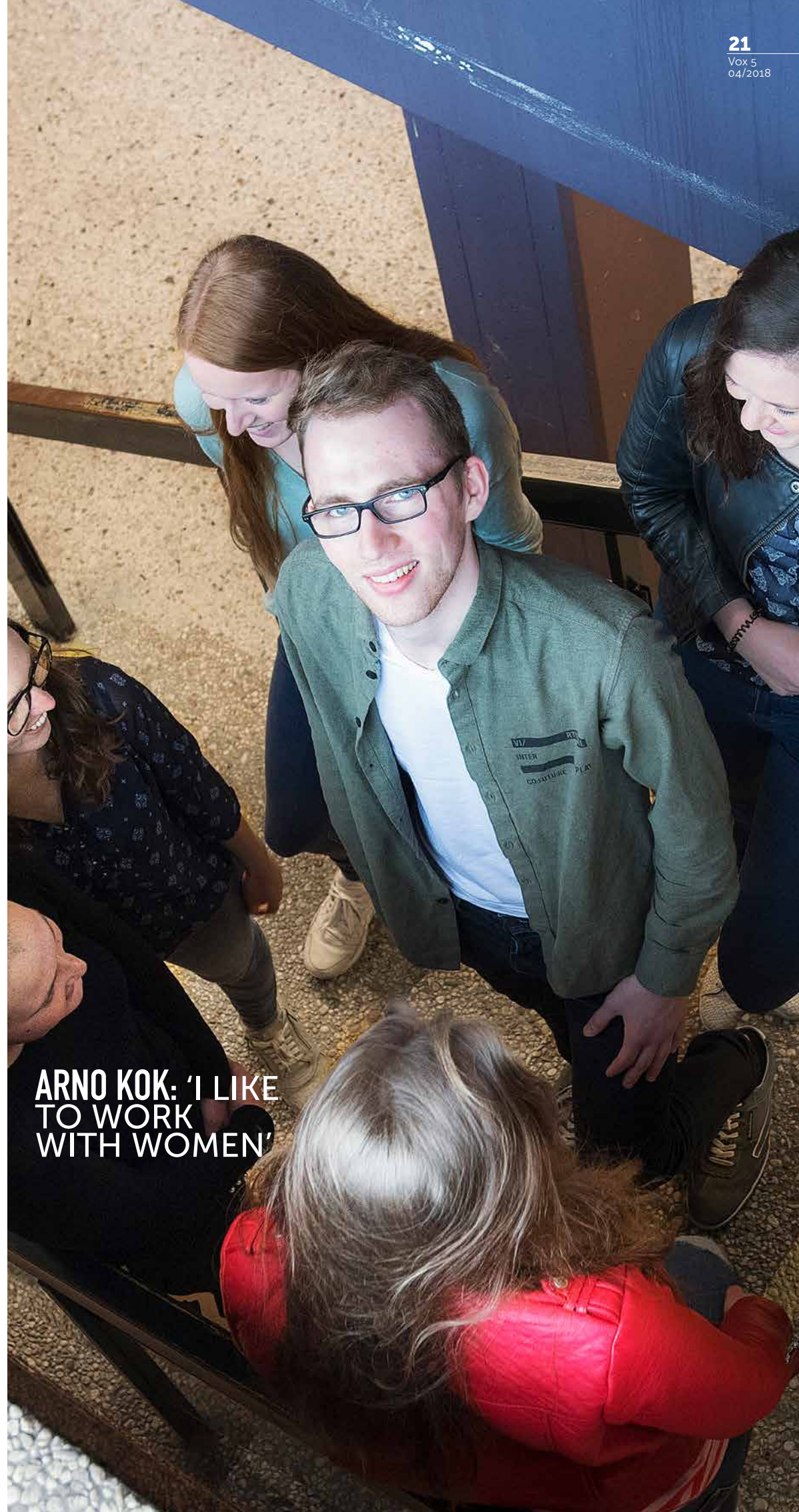
Arno Kok (21) is a second-year student in Psychology

"I often forget there're so many girls around. Until we all go out for a drink and suddenly I realise I'm the only guy. But it has its advantages. It's fun to be by definition the handsomest man around.

Some things do strike me in this women-dominated group. Women doubt themselves a lot, they're less likely to think: 'I can do it!'. And then they go on and score an 8 in their exam anyway! But they're great to work on projects with. You get so much done. I think women are generally more practical. They plan things and take their studies seriously. Men are more likely to think: 'Shit! I've got a presentation tomorrow!' Women will have their plan ready weeks ahead of time, and still stress about it.

I hadn't really given much thought to the fact that psychology was such a women-dominated study programme. I think as men, we're still misled by the historical image of Freud and his sofa. I know I was. When I think of psychologists, I think of bearded men in a room with a couch.

I have no idea who makes better psychologists, men or women. What I do see is that the qualities we need according to our teachers are typically female qualities, like caring and empathy. Some teachers say: but as women, you already have these qualities. And I'm thinking to myself: I have these qualities too!"



**ARNO KOK: 'I LIKE
TO WORK
WITH WOMEN'**

The success of the 'Vote for a Woman' campaign



There are sixteen women members on Nijmegen City Council, a record. Logical, you would think, with all the highly educated women in the city. But it took years for women to become involved in politics on a large scale.

Text: Thijs van Beusekom / Photography: Bert Beelen



Women are well represented on the Nijmegen City Council: sixteen women council members is a record.

Six of them also headed their party list, another Nijmegen record.

With the growing number of women students on campus and the increasing influence of Radboud University in the City Council (see box), it's hardly surprising that the Nijmegen Council would have become more 'feminine', is it? And yet, the link is not that clear: in any case it's not true that the number of female city council members has grown at the same pace as the number of women students on campus (their numbers began to grow in 1989). The high number of women members on the Nijmegen council is a new development.

Four years ago, only 25% of the council members were women. In other university cities, women were much better represented. Especially in cities with a majority of women students, like Utrecht, Leiden and Maastricht. Only Eindhoven (20% of women on the council) and Enschede (24%) scored worse than Nijmegen. And

these are cities with technical universities, which usually attract more men.

In 2014, the city on the Waal even dropped below the national average when it came to the percentage of female city council members. The national average that year was 28%: 2400 of the 8900 council members in the Netherlands were women. This is particularly striking since parties like SP and GroenLinks, which are traditionally strong in Nijmegen, tend to have a lot of women on their lists.

LOCAL PARTIES LAG BEHIND

Actually, it took all Dutch city councils a long time to raise their percentage of women members, says Professor of Political Science Monique Leyenaar. "From 1992 to today the number of women members on city councils has hardly grown. All this time, women have consistently occupied 20 to 30% of seats." The success of local parties played a role in this. Local parties have no national board or women's organisation to prompt them to put female candidates forward for election. So they usually don't. "Add to this the fact that the CDA is highly

NOT MANY WOMEN STUDY POLITICAL SCIENCE

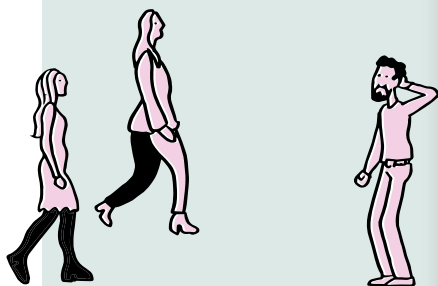
Many Radboud University study programmes attract more female than male students. This means it's all the more striking that Political Science, the bedrock of many politicians, should attract relatively few women. Across Dutch universities, only 30% of all Political Science students are women. This also applies to Nijmegen. Professor of Political Science Monique Leyenaar believes this may change in the years to come. "This is probably the delayed effect of years and years of male-dominated politics and public administration. There were no women role models, so fewer girls were triggered to want to study political science."

DOES NIJMEGEN HAVE TOO MANY WOMEN?

Margot van Mulken, one of the two female deans. Here, she represents the Faculty of Arts.

"Well, I wouldn't say so judging by the Aula. The Senate Hall is filled with portraits of male deans. This year, they added a group photo of the female professors. It's a little embarrassing really: the women are tightly grouped together in the shot and the photo itself is even smaller than the smallest photo of the male rector.

You could argue that there are no photos of women because Nijmegen has never had a female rector before. But it was a deliberate choice to hang the prominent portraits of the rectors so close together; I would have opted for a different presentation that better suits the times. Alternatively, they could have displayed photos of famous Nijmegen scientists, with the inclusion of women like Christine Mohrmann, Catharine Halkes and Angela Maas. This would have an encouraging effect. For men, the message would be that the professorship is not a job you can categorise. An even better example was naming the new Social Sciences building after Maria Montessori - this has a much more inspiring and encouraging effect than portraits ever could."



successful in local elections and is a party that traditionally attracts fewer women than left-wing parties."

Leyenaar also mentions the municipal reorganisations of the 1970s and 1980s as a reason for the slow growth in the percentage of female council members. "In those years many municipalities merged, as did party departments. If a male and a female candidate were available for the same position, councils usually chose the

man, in most cases a local leader."

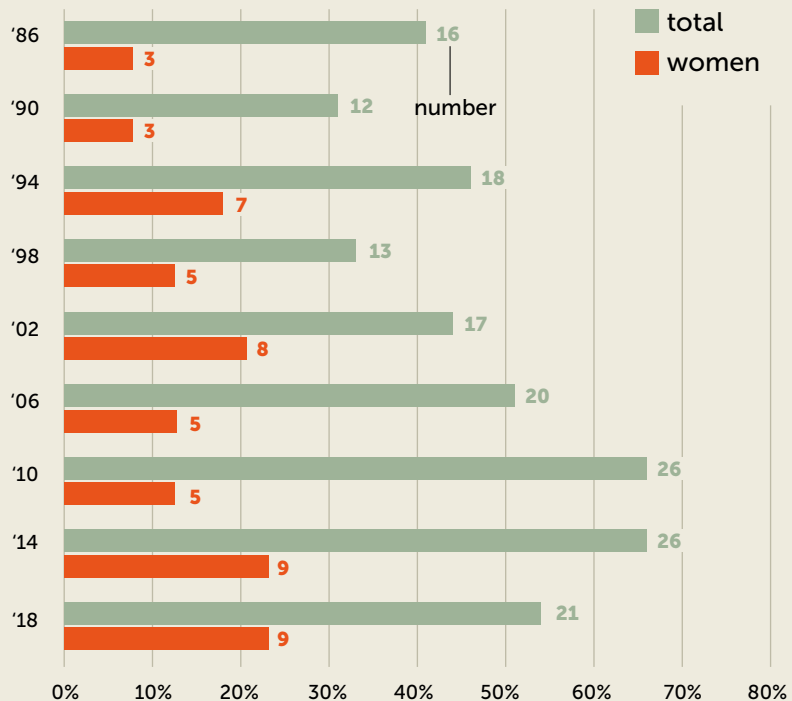
That was then. What about now? It looks as if an important change is taking place. Newspaper Trouw observes that the national average of female council city members has increased from 28 to 34%. Nijmegen is following and even exceeding this trend. While in previous elections, 27% of the Nijmegen City Council members were women, in 2018, this number increased to 38.5% (15 of the 39 seats).

RADBOD WOMEN ON THE COUNCIL

Of the 39 brand-new Nijmegen City Council members, 20 are Radboud University graduates, and one a Radboud University student. Radboud University was also strongly represented on the previous two councils. Of the 39 seats, 26 were held by Radboud alumni, staff or students.

And yet, 2010 marked a low point for Radboud women in the council: of the 26 Radboud seats only five were held by women – a mere 19%. The same percentage, in fact, as in 1986. 2002 on the other hand, was an excellent year, with 47% of the Radboud City Council members being women. 1994 was another top year. In 2018, the male-female ratio among Radboud City Council members has evened out compared to previous years.

Number of Radboud alumni on the council



* These data come from 'Van collegebank tot pluchen zetel' (From Classroom to Plush Seat) written on the occasion of an exhibition created by students Kasper Faber, Milou van der Berg, Harm van Grunsven, Bob Hermkens and Rafaëla van der Meer. The 2018 figures are based on Vox's own study.

MAYORS AND ALDERMEN

Of the 19 Mayors Nijmegen's has had since 1824 (prior to this date the city had not one, but three Mayors), two were women.

Len Dales was the first, in 1987. She was also Nijmegen's first PvdA Mayor. Dales quit after two years and became Minister of the Interior (in Lubbers' 3rd cabinet). It took until 2001 for the second female Mayor of Nijmegen, Guusje ter Horst, to make her appearance. She too was a PvdA member and left six years later for The Hague where she also became Minister of the Interior. Of the Aldermen positions of the last four municipal councils (since 2000) one quarter was filled by women. Since the turn of the century, Nijmegen has elected six Alderwomen. One caveat: both Lenie Scholten and Hannie Kunst were Alderwomen in two different municipal councils. The Aldermen of the new municipal council are still to be announced.

Leyenaar believes that the Vote for a Woman campaign played an important role. This campaign called on voters to give preference to a female candidate. And there were more women in electable seats. "It points to the fact that women are becoming more active in political parties and parties are becoming aware of the advantages of a diverse city council composition."

She's positive about the male-female ratio within the city council. "I expect this trend to continue. Women who want to go into politics will no longer be held back."

She does mention one caveat. Her own research shows that many women quit after one term on the city council. Leyenaar: "This is due to the fact that in the Netherlands, women still take on most of the care responsibilities. Such responsibilities are hard to combine with a position on the city council. Also, women are more easily disappointed in what they can achieve on the council. The political decision-making process is slow, and progress is not always clearly visible." *



Harriët Tiemens (right) at the festive conclusion of the restoration of the Graafseweg, September 2017

Alderwoman Tiemens enjoys being in control

GroenLinks Alderwoman Harriët Tiemens is persistent by nature. She's been active in politics for sixteen years. First as council member, later as Alderman. 'If you always politely wait your turn, your turn will never come.'

Text: Thijs van Beusekom and Martine Zuidweg

As a young girl, she already dreamed of going into politics, but initially her career seemed to take a different turn. After graduating in Environmental Science at the University of Applied Sciences and Public Administration at Leiden University, Harriët Tiemens (51) worked as an advisor for a major accounting firm. She quickly noticed that this was the wrong job if you wanted to change the world. "My frustration was that I worked really hard on a recommendation that then ended up in someone's desk drawer because there was no support for it." As an advisor, there was nothing she could do it about this, but when she unexpectedly ended up on Rheden City Council – where she used to live – she noticed how good it felt to have some influence. "It was a real eye-opener for me. I found it fascinating to contribute all kinds of ideas to the council meetings. I realised: I'm in control here."

She's now on the ticket for a second term as Alderwoman in Nijmegen. She insisted on being put forward by her party for the second time: "I want to finish what I started."

Do you see women in politics focusing on different topics?

"I'm not sure. I know I don't. But when I'm in a meeting for my financial portfolio, it's usually all men around the table, and when I meet with other regional municipalities to talk about employment, income or sustainability, suddenly I'm surrounded by women."

Political Science experts have observed differences in communication style. Is this something you've noticed too?

"I think it's true. In my experience, in meetings chaired by women, speakers have more room to speak. I think women are more aware of the fact that we're part of a



COLUMN

Lucy's law

Lucienne van der Geld is a lecturer of notarial law and director of Network Notarissen.

Freedom

Like other university cities, Nijmegen has a surplus of women on campus. A 'surplus' of women isn't the most positive way to describe it. When I think of other contexts in which the word 'surplus' is used, 'manure surplus', 'phosphate surplus' and 'budget surplus' immediately come to mind. The only positive one in that list is 'budget surplus'. While I certainly see more female faces than male faces peering above laptop screens in lecture halls, unlike phosphate, I don't see this as a problem that needs addressing.

In recent years, I've read quite a few studies and reports claiming that female graduates end up working part-time. Or worse still: they don't use their degrees at all. This costs the government a lot of money; money on which there is no (or insufficient) return after graduation.

I couldn't care less whether someone works full-time or part-time. It's far more important to become financially independent so you don't have to rely on someone else to support you, be it your partner or the government. So if you have the opportunity to earn a living after graduation: do it! Economic independence gives you freedom, but with that freedom comes the responsibility to make your own choices. If you want to find a good man or good woman to pay for your gym membership, your fancy meals and your holidays, go ahead. Just remember: divorce isn't cheap. Estelle Gullit may get alimony from her ex-husband, but she still has to go on holiday with Gordon to earn a bit of money on the side. I'm just saying...

On finding a job in your discipline after you graduate: the TV show *Ik vertrek* (AVROTROS) showed a biologist setting up safari tents in the sweltering Portuguese heat and a lawyer changing the bed linen. If you feel like trading in your heels for a pair of Crocs and shuffling across your very own holiday park in Croatia, there's no one stopping you. But you won't be making a taxable income in the Netherlands. And it's all organised by a public broadcaster no less.

whole, that we can't achieve much on our own, and that we very much need other people."

Do men in politics tend to play top dog?

"Maybe. I find it quite exhausting this tendency to want to score points left and right. But I can sit there and act all humble; I'm also a leading and dominant person. I always keep my eyes on my goal. If you always politely wait your turn, your turn will never come."

Where did you learn this?

"I was the youngest in my family, so I had to work hard to get my voice heard, ha ha! I think it's also a question of personality, this wanting to always be first. I see it in my children too: they like to lead, and take on tasks, just like me. Before you know it, you're in charge of all sorts of things."

Professor of Political Science Monique Leyenaar observed that women are sometimes disappointed in how little they can achieve on the city council, and quit prematurely as a result.

"Yes, I can see that. It really does take a lot

'WOMEN AREN'T FORCED TO STAY HOME WITH THE CHILDREN'



PHOTO: GOEDELE MONNENS

of staying power. Decision-making can be so slow. It's really annoying. There are so many stakeholders and laws to take into account. It takes a really long time to get things moving. I'm so happy with my iPad: it allows me to discreetly do other things during council meetings. But I guess there's no better system at present."

So it's a question of staying power...

"Yes, but also of wanting and daring to take responsibility. Some people find it easier than others. This has nothing to do with being a man or a woman. I have a girlfriend who's the head of a small agency in an institution and she hasn't slept a wink in a year. I'm in charge of €800 million, but I sleep fine at night."

What do you think about introducing a quota to get lots of women to the top quickly?

"I've never been much in favour of this idea, but I also think it's mainly needed in the corporate sector. There are so many companies that still employ few or no women. It might help to put temporary pressure on them. At the same time, I'm very critical of women with a university degree – paid for with taxpayers' money, as university degrees are heavily subsidised – who then say: 'I only want to work two days because I want to take care of my children.' That's capital destruction in my opinion."

How can you solve this?

"For a long time I believed everyone would do what my husband and I did: we both work four days a week. But this wasn't what happened at all: nearly all the women I studied with ended up working part-time. It was their own choice, and still they'd complain about their men wanting to work so much. You have to divide household work fairly, I think, but apparently this isn't obvious to everyone. It's a pity because as a result you're denying society a healthy male-female ratio in organisations at all levels. With two days a week, there's no way you can break through the glass ceiling."

So women themselves are to blame?

"They aren't forced to stay home with the children. They're all intelligent capable women. I say: kick your guy in the backside if he doesn't agree." *

Will the real man please stand up?



In women-dominated Nijmegen feminisation is spreading like wildfire. Reason enough for Editor Mathijs Noij to go in search of the last men in the city on the Waal.

Text: Mathijs Noij / **Photography:** Duncan de Fey

'MACHO BEHAVIOUR AND SHOUTING ARE PART OF THE DEAL. YOU'RE OUT THERE, IT'S AN INTENSIVE PHYSICAL SPORT'



Let's be honest: as men we're losing ground left and right. Feminisation is spreading like wildfire in women-dominated Nijmegen.

PhD students and professors? Usually women – especially in Nijmegen. The students with the highest grades? Again, not men. As a male editor, I'm clearly in the minority at *Vox*, under the auspices of a female editor-in-chief.

In Nijmegen city centre, men also have fewer and fewer choices. On a Saturday afternoon, we can be found stumbling around concept stores and salad bars – not exactly our favourite hang-out! Only to please his other half will a man ever sink his teeth into a quinoa salad with chick-peas and spring onions.

The days when football clubs were a safe haven, where men could immerse themselves in a micro-culture of dried sweat, frikandel with mayonnaise and dirty jokes, are long gone. There's a waiting list for the five (!) women's teams in the local student football association.

Maybe I shouldn't look to football – where Dutch women now outperform the men – but to another sport. One associated with blood, sweat and tears, and shouting men, preferably bearded and broad-chested.

MACHO BEHAVIOUR

I pay a visit to student rugby association Obelix, with its 150 members. Here it's still mainly men who sport the club's green-yellow colours. It's a place for die-hards. "Yes, we sometimes get into fights," says President and Political Science student Bob Fler. "But after the match we cheer three times for our opponents and the referees, and then we go and drink a beer together."

Rugby is a culture that unites, but it can also scare people off. "Macho behaviour and shouting are part of the deal. You're out there, it's an intensive physical sport," says Fler. Theirs is not necessarily a women-unfriendly culture, says Fler, although the other sex does have to bear the brunt. Fler: "Do you know the song *Walking Down Canal Street*? We sing it a lot. It's about a man looking for a hooker." The nice thing according to Fler is that rugby women don't take it personally. Instead they come up with a creative retort. "They sing about men too drunk to ejaculate."

This is typical of rugby culture, says Fler. "You've got to be tough. Rugby is all about absorbing shocks, on and off the field. If you make a remark in poor taste, you can expect to get one back." Also from a woman, emphasises the President. "I see rugby women as very emancipated. They certainly have a sharp tongue."

DUCATI MOTORBIKE

If you look carefully, Nijmegen city centre still has a few mini-havens for men, places to soothe the ache of the male escapist. My search then takes me to Lange Hazelstraat, where men can be found peering into the display



'IT NEVER BECOMES TRULY VULGAR. THE JOKES ARE JUST A BIT MORE RISQUÉ'

window on a shop on the corner of Joris Ivensplein. No, I don't mean the red windows on the Nieuwe Markt, but Nozem's 6511, where you can have your beard and moustache trimmed. What's there to look at? A Ducati motorbike, among other things. Chesterfield sofas, an electric guitar on the wall, and posters by rock-'n'-roll icons like Johnny Cash complete the nostalgic longing for an era when men had the final say.

Barber Mickel Moors was inspired by his Rotterdam colleagues at Schorem. This barber shop formed the basis of a small revolution in the barber's craft. "At Schorem, women aren't even allowed inside," says Moors. "I don't take it that far, but I only serve men."

Schorem's lesson, with which Moors concurs, is that real men can look well-groomed too. "Not so long ago, you'd be dismissed as metro, or gay. Luckily those days are over now." Moors himself wears (among other things) a flat cap, waistcoat and cowboy boots. "This is who I am. I always dress like this – also when I go to the pub."

As a barber Moors spends his days with men. Of course, this determines the conversations he has. "We talk about car-racing, football, women... But it never becomes truly vulgar. The jokes are just a bit more risqué."

Plus, not all men are the same. "In my opinion, you're a real man if you make your own decisions. If you know who you are and what you like. Of course I take my girl-



**'BUT I ALSO KNOW
'MANLY MEN' WHO ARE
VEGETARIANS'**

friend into account, but if she doesn't like my favourite shirt, I'll still wear it." This is something Moors sometimes misses in men these days. "They sit in the chair and say their woman didn't like their haircut. I think to myself: 'OK, but what did you think of it?'"

TOMAHAWK

Duly noted: as men we shouldn't be ashamed of spending time in front of the mirror. We're allowed to dress up for dinner for example. But where do we go, in a women's bastion like Nijmegen? For the past two years, those who want to avoid quinoa, bulgur and buckwheat salad, can find respite in The Black Fox, a restaurant with its own butcher shop, which claims to serve the best steaks in town. The menu lists dishes with names like *dry aged tomahawk*, *rump steak* and *picanha*. For the lonely vegetarian in carnivorous company The Black Fox serves a pumpkin quiche, but for the rest, meat dominates the menu.

Why do men enjoy sinking their teeth into animal flesh so much, I ask The Black Fox owner Bas Hoebink. "Well, I think it's a primary instinct for people to want to eat meat to survive." But Hoebink doesn't believe this instinct is stronger in men. "Maybe it's just learned behaviour. As a child you see your father light the barbecue. It's usually men who're in charge of carving the meat. As a boy you grow up wanting to do this too."

Although vegetarians are growing in number, and our eating patterns have diversified, Hoebink doesn't believe humanity will stop eating meat entirely. "But we can certainly make more sustainable choices. The meat we serve at The Black Fox, for example, comes straight from the farm."

But eating meat is certainly not a precondition for being a real man, says Hoebink. "Some men feel manly when they eat meat. A beautiful steak is very impressive – especially when it's charcoal-grilled. But I also know 'manly men' who are vegetarians."

WOOD CHOPPING

A manly man – isn't that what we all want to be? But how do you do it? Ard Luijmes specialises in nascent masculinity and, as founder of Expertise Centre Konings-Hart, he offers training courses for fathers and sons. He sums up the importance of the father-son relationship in one sentence: "You can learn a lot from women, except what it feels like to be a man." In other words – we need male role models.

He saw how things went wrong with his own son, he explains. "In primary school, he wasn't happy. His teachers were all women and they didn't understand him. He wanted to contribute to something big, had lots of energy, but no way to channel it." According to Luijmes, this is a problem for many boys in education.

At the same time grown men often struggle in their relationship with their own father. "Men look for

approval. They want their father to say: 'I'm proud of you'. But most men find it difficult to say such things." A frequently heard complaint from women looking to divorce their husbands is that they don't want to talk about their feelings, notes Luijmes.

Creating a setting where feelings and sensitivities can be expressed is Luijmes' way of helping fathers and sons. This can take the form of a few days out in the woods. "With men you have to go out and do things. Hike, chop wood. Even sexuality becomes something you can talk about. Boys suddenly discover that their father struggles with the same problems and fears as they do. That their first time having sex was not that great either."

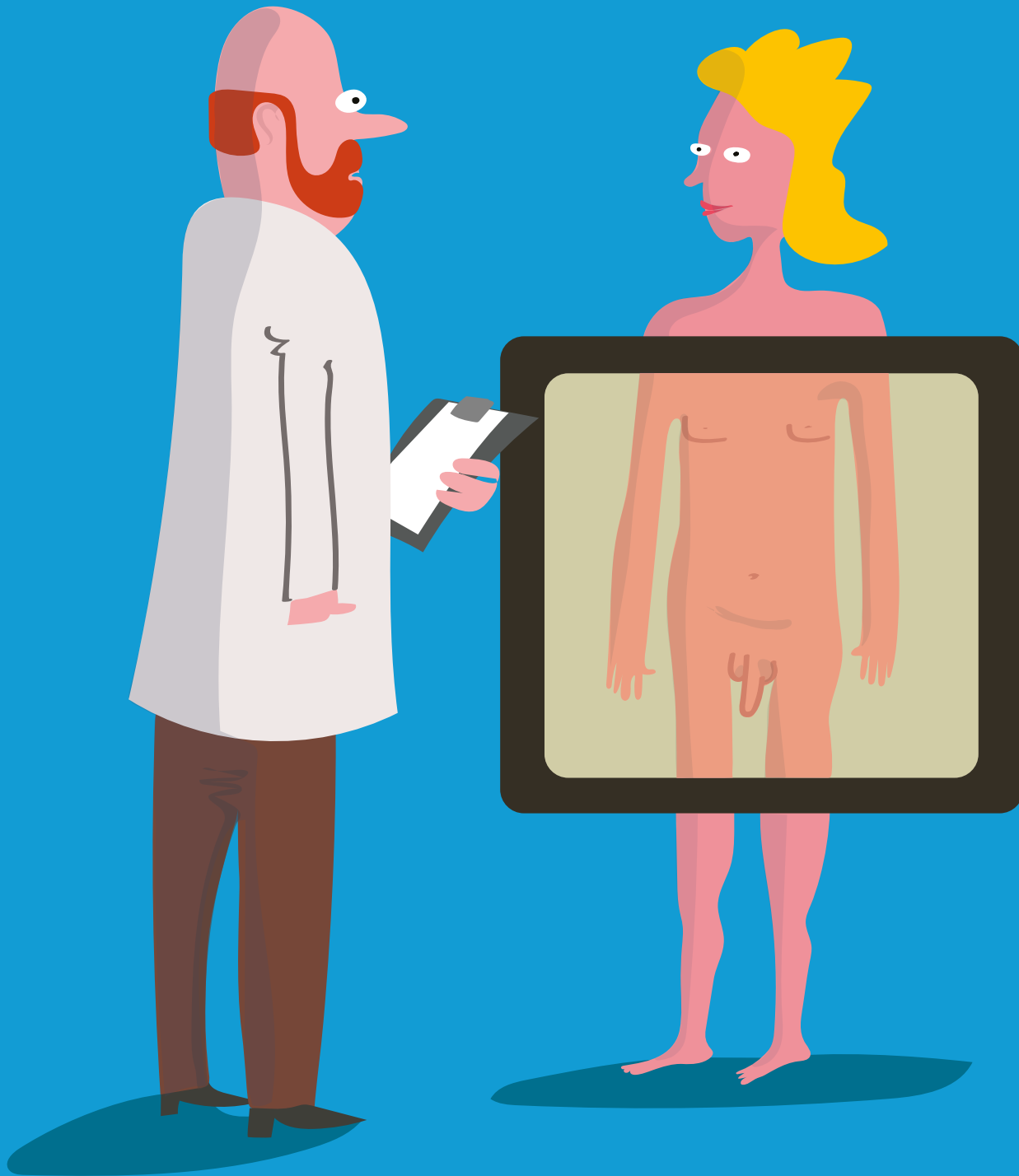
This lesson can open a boy's eyes: a man is allowed to be vulnerable too. In fact, he has to be, in order to be a good role model. Is this the path so many men search for in vain, the one that leads to true masculinity? Luijmes laughs: "It does make life a lot easier, that's for sure."

Back at *Vox*, I look around. What did I learn on my quest? How can I hold my head high as a man around here? I suspect singing women-unfriendly songs will not strengthen my position. Being more open about my feelings to become a role model? But for whom? With more questions than answers, I take a walk to the local café and order a beer. With "bitterballen" please! ★

'YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM WOMEN, EXCEPT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A MAN'



Help, the patient is a woman!



Diseases unfold differently in women than in men. Medicine, traditionally a male-dominated world, is only now catching up to this fact. It helps that the number of female doctors is growing fast.

Text: Stan van Pelt / Illustrations: emdé

She recently received an e-mail from a man about his wife's heart attack. His wife had been to see the GP three times, but was only referred to 'breathing therapy'. The diagnosis: stress. A few days later, she collapsed. Dead.

This is only one of many examples showing that gender differences are far from being generally accepted in medical circles, explains Angela Maas, Professor in Women's Cardiology at the Radboudumc. "Male patients are the norm in medical training, so doctors watch out for symptoms typically displayed by men. They see women's symptoms as atypical, and therefore tend to look for psychological causes."

And this while the literature shows that cardiovascular diseases develop very differently in women. "The blood vessels of men and women age in a different way. Men are more likely to suffer from vascular constrictions, while women tend to suffer from arteriosclerosis (calcification of the arteries). Or spasms: a kind of cramp in the arteries that supply the heart with oxygen."

Constriction and calcification can both lead to heart attacks, but the accompanying symptoms are very different. "Men display classical strain symptoms: if they do a cycling test, they experience shortness of breath and chest pain. Women may experience pain in their shoulders,

their back, sometimes even their jaw. If a doctor doesn't know this, a cycling test is completely useless."

MACHO CULTURE

The fact that her colleagues sometimes miss these kinds of symptoms is due to their lack of openness to new insights, thinks Maas. "'We still know so little,' they say. I have a bookshelf full of studies here; knowledge enough. Read it! It's right within your reach! They're really not taking their female patients seriously."

'ALL THE PATIENTS IN THESE VIDEOS ARE MEN!'

The macho culture among medical specialists is unlikely to change overnight, in her experience. There are many female doctors in training - 70% of medical students are women - but they're only slowly making their way into traditionally male specialisations such as cardiology and heart surgery. And yet, Maas does see things changing. "The number of female surgeons is gradually increasing."

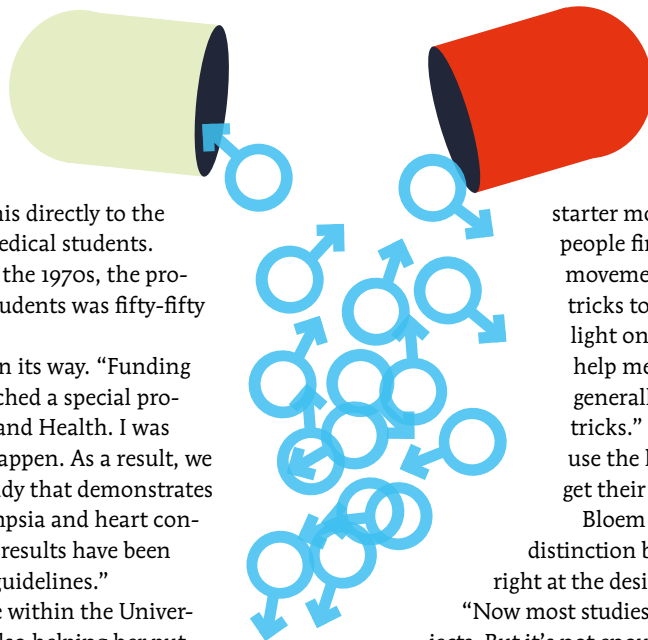
DO WOMEN HAVE A DIFFERENT BRAIN?

Women are better at multitasking than men, but worse at parallel parking, because their brains are different. Right?

Turns out it's a myth. Research shows men's and women's brains aren't all that different after all. Until recently brain researchers mainly looked at group averages when making claims about things like perception. All the participants in an experiment were grouped together. This method does give reliable conclusions, but only about the average person. In the last few years researchers have increas-

ingly focused on variation within groups, instead of averages. And what did they find? There's no such thing as a male or female brain. This is the conclusion reached by Israeli researchers in a 2015 study when they scanned the brains of 1400 participants (male and female). Clyde Francks, senior researcher at the Nijmegen Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, also observed no significant male-female differences in the brain areas related to language processing. He mainly looked at variation in

asymmetry: the difference in size between his subjects' left and right hemisphere. This asymmetry may be linked to dyslexia and is on average slightly more pronounced in men than in women. "But what we see mostly is incredible variation among people. There are lots of women with more brain asymmetry than the average man - and vice versa." Based on a brain scan you simply can't say whether you're looking at a man or a woman. Too bad for those of us struggling with parallel parking: our gender is no excuse.



She doesn't dare to link this directly to the high number of female medical students. "When I was a student in the 1970s, the proportion of male-female students was fifty-fifty even then."

In research, a shift is on its way. "Funding agency ZonMW has launched a special programme entitled Gender and Health. I was involved in making this happen. As a result, we were able to conduct a study that demonstrates the link between preeclampsia and heart conditions in later life. These results have been included in the national guidelines."

The progressive culture within the University and Radboudumc is also helping her put things on the agenda, concludes Maas. "Many of my colleagues here do look at gender differences within their patient groups. I don't think this is due particularly to the high number of women in Nijmegen; academic hospitals just tend to be more progressive as a rule."

PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Neurologist Bas Bloem, Professor in Neurobiological Movement Disorders, confirms Maas' impression. "My greatest teacher, the former Leiden professor Axel Wintzen, had as the tenth proposition accompanying his PhD thesis: 'Anyone who claims men and women are equal has not taken the time to compare them'. And this was in the 1980s!"

Recently, Bloem has been studying differences between men and women in Parkinson's disease. "In my lectures, I like to show videos of patients and the various ways they compensate for their motoric limitations. Last autumn I was at a conference on Gender & Health organised by the women's network Women Inc., when I suddenly realised: All the patients in these videos are men! How is this possible?"

He investigates the reason behind various compensation mechanisms. "In Parkinson's disease, the brain's

starter motor is broken. As a result, people find it difficult to initiate a movement. Patients have various tricks to compensate for this. A laser light on the point of the shoe can help men to get moving. But women generally don't need these kinds of tricks." Bloem suspects that women use the healthy areas of their brain to get their starter motor going.

Bloem advises researchers to make a distinction between men and women right at the design stage of their studies.

"Now most studies involve mainly male test subjects. But it's not enough to have a fifty-fifty group.

You also have to perform separate studies on men and women. Only if there's no difference in the results can you decide afterwards to view them as a single group."

GENDER-BLINDNESS

Yes, medical research is increasingly taking gender differences into account, confirms Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, Professor in Gender in Primary and Transmural Health Care. "There is increasing evidence that diseases display different symptoms in men and women. Take depression, for instance. Women lie listlessly on the couch, while men become addiction-prone or aggressive. People didn't use to pay attention to these differences." The 'gender-blindness' of doctors can work both ways.

The brand-new Professor – she gave her inaugural lecture in February – investigates how this kind of scientific knowledge can reach GPs and hospital doctors quickly and effectively. "I see that students are receptive to it. They're aware of the fact that knowledge of gender differences will make them better doctors. It's the experienced physicians who don't always want to accept new insights. An eye for gender differences is not in any way mainstream yet."

Women doctors are probably more open to it, suspects Oertelt-Prigione. *

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POINT TAKEN!

University Student Council

Hello Nijmegen students!

The University Student Council is proud to look back on a successful Radboud by Night. After weeks of hard work, the event was met with a positive and enthusiastic response. While some of us are still recovering from the festivities, we are already shifting our attention to new topics. With the end of the academic year in sight, we want to work hard in the months to come to further promote the interests of the students. The regulations governing financial aid for students ("FONDS") will be top of the agenda in the coming weeks.

On 9 April, the University Student Council, the Works Council and the Executive Board attended the University Joint Assembly. While there were very few student-specific points on the agenda, we did discuss other important issues. One of those issues was the EER model and the changes to the Dutch Working Conditions Act. Due to a shortage of Works Council members, the University Joint Assembly will vote on the Working Conditions Act on 16 April.

The FONDS Regulations, officially known as the Student Financial Aid Regulations, is a topic that has held our attention for some time now. These regulations explain the administrative grant and the eligibility requirements for financial support to compensate for study delays. They also contain useful information about temporarily stopping your studies due to personal circumstances. The University Student Council was asked to update the regulations to better reflect the current composition of the student population. The work group that was appointed to do so noted that the many individual lines of text made the regulations extremely unclear and difficult to read. The goal is to simplify the FONDS Regulations on the one hand and make them more sensitive to individual cases on the other.

We recently relocated to Thomas van Aquinostraat 1.034. If you have questions or ideas, feel free to drop by or send an e-mail to usr@ru.nl. If you'd like to stay up to date on our developments and activities, like our Facebook page!

Works Council

The student loan system and educational quality

Over the course of 2017, the basic study grant for students was abolished and replaced with a 'social loan system'. As a result, students no longer receive a fixed allowance from the government to cover study costs and living expenses. Instead, they can take out a loan with favourable conditions. This loan is expressly regarded as a kind of advance payment and must always be paid back.

It has been legally stipulated that the money made available following the introduction of the student loan system must be used to improve the quality of higher education. The participational bodies were also granted the right of consent in decisions regarding the main points of the university budget. In this way, students and lecturers can ensure that the extra investments made possible by the introduction of the student loan scheme are actually used to improve educational quality.

At national level, universities, universities of applied sciences and student organisations drafted a 'future-oriented educational agenda' that includes key topics relating to quality improvements. Radboud University can use this agenda to determine which topics it deems relevant. Next, concrete plans can be drafted that are in line with the university's educational vision and the specific needs and wishes of students and staff. These plans will then be submitted to the University Joint Assembly for approval.

Members of the Works Council brainstormed at an early stage on suitable measures to further improve the quality of education at Radboud University. The initial ideas are currently being developed in consultation with the University Student Council and the Executive Board. The final plans will be included in the university's multi-year budget. From 2019 onwards, the annual reports will focus explicit attention on the agreements made with the participational bodies on how student loan resources should be spent. This joint approach appears to be effective: the faculties were recently given extra funds for educational innovation at the advice of the university's participational bodies.



Radboud by Night

PHOTO: MARJOLEIN VAN DIEJEN

Shopping for a

How does a predominantly female population affect a city's economy? It's lucrative for shop owners to focus on women, says the shopologue. Because women shop differently. But the concept store opened a men's department anyway. 'There's already so much aimed at women.'

Text: Marlieke van Schalkwijk / Photography: Erik van 't Hullenaar



feeling



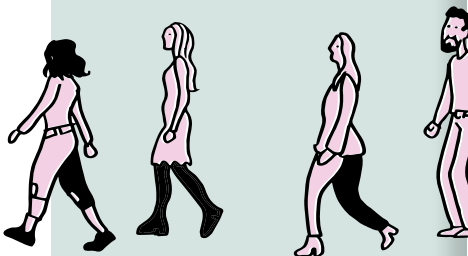
DOES NIJMEGEN HAVE TOO MANY WOMEN?

Niek Bulten is a male secretary at the Department of Strategy, Education and Research.

"I'm one of the few male secretaries at the university. The position is inherently female – so much so that there's not even a male name for it in Dutch. The university made an exception for me and gave me the official title 'secretarial employee'. I've been doing this job for two years and see no reason why men can't hold this position. That said, it definitely has a feminine stigma to it. I graduated as a management assistant and executive secretary from ROC. I think I was the first male graduate in ten years.

I also think more men would be a welcome addition to this profession. During my work placement at a secretariat, my six female colleagues referred to me as the 'calm in the storm'. Men react more calmly in certain situations, while women tend to be more diligent. I work with a female colleague at my current secretariat, which is the perfect balance. One advantage of being a man is that you're always invited to apply for jobs; people are curious about you.

Radboud university medical center sends me an invitation to Secretary Day every year. This time it was a video message with 'girl power' as its theme. I don't usually attend meetings like this, as they're specifically geared towards women. I'm more interested in activities organised by the secretarial network, as they tend to be more content-based. It's better to keep things gender-neutral."



Women shop very differently to men, says shopologue Chantal Riedeman. From her Haarlem office, the only Dutch shopologue studies 'customer experience'. Big names like the Efteling and Jumbo come to her for advice. Riedeman teaches them how to best reach their target group, and how to strengthen their connection to their clients. This also involves making a distinction between men and women. "Men tend to be very goal-oriented when shopping. They think beforehand about what they want, and pay little attention to their environment." In other words, they walk into a shop quickly, and walk out even more quickly.

'STIMULI IMPACT THE PURCHASING PROCESS'

Women, on the other hand, like to be seduced into entering a shop, says Riedeman. With a clean and striking entrance, good lighting and customer-friendly staff. In a women-oriented shop lights are softer and more attention is paid to external appearances: beautiful woodwork and attractive plants. "Women take their time and are sensitive to service and details."

Consumer surveys show that women are more likely to see shopping as an outing. And shopping for pleasure triggers very different background processes than goal-oriented shopping, explains consumer psychologist Patrick Wessels. "Cognitively, shopping for pleasure works very differently from the goal-oriented purchase of a product, even if you go to the same shops. When you go to a shopping street for fun, you're much more sensitive to stimuli like busyness, surrounding sounds, and music. These stimuli in turn impact the purchasing process."

PRIMAL URGE

No less than 80% of money spent in shops is by women, says Riedeman. "Even with

important purchases that involve both men and women, it's still the women who usually play a decisive role. In a city like Nijmegen, with such a large population of women, it would be a missed opportunity not to focus on women."

A typical women-oriented shop is the concept store, she says. Psychologist Wessels agrees: "Concept stores rely on customers taking the time to look around, which presupposes that customers will take this time." The stores are the answer to the growing need among consumers for a shopping 'experience'. They often look as if they were created especially for women. With dresses and coffee cups and candleholders in the display windows.

Take concept store Blend, on the Lange Hezelstraat. On a weekday morning, the only customers browsing around the shop are women. One lady is paying for two plates and a bowl. Another is choosing a bracelet. Soft music in the background, the smell of fresh coffee: the concept store exudes calm and cosiness.

But there are exceptions. Concept store Make My Day recently opened a men's department in a separate building in the Stikke Hezelstraat, opposite their women's store. "Our old premises weren't big enough for us anymore," says co-owner Jan Ottevanger, as he sorts through some records. Make My Day was already targeting both women and men. "Men's and women's items in a single store worked rather well, because women are more likely to come in and bring their men along. On the other hand, men find it easier to try on clothes and other things in their own store."

Whereas Riedeman considers it a missed opportunity for Nijmegen shop owners not to focus exclusively on women, Ottevanger begs to differ. "I think our concept store designed especially for men bridges a gap in the Nijmegen market. There's already so much aimed at women."

LOUNGING IN THE SUN

Cat Café Balthazar in the Van Welderenstraat doesn't focus particularly on women. And yet 70% of its clientele are women. Owner Sanne Versteeg: "On an average day, we have some 100 to 150 female customers." As Versteeg pours



coffee, one of the café's nine cats jumps on the table. The animals enjoy themselves, at busy times too. Two of them are lounging in the sun, a third one jumps onto a customer's lap and curls up there. The cats enjoy the attention, which the guests – mostly women – lavish on them.

The Cat Café also has male customers, says Versteeg, but they are clearly a minority. "Women spend more time here; they bring their laptop along. They see a café as an extension of their living room, whereas men drink their coffee and quickly move on to the day's business."

The differences in purchasing behaviour are obvious, but focusing on gender alone is also too limited a perspective says Riedeman. "In the world of retail, sales managers and marketers mainly look at customer types. These certainly differ per gender, but there're clearly other important distinctions to be made." *

GENDER LABELS

If you don't want to be reminded of your gender when shopping, you'll be relieved to hear about the latest trend of removing gender labels, at least from children's clothing. The American store chains Target (2015) and Abercrombie & Fitch (2018) and the British John Lewis (2017) have decided to dispose of 'boys' and 'girls' labels 'to avoid reinforcing stereotypes'. Last year, Dutch store chain HEMA followed suit. But many Dutch people are anything but delighted. 'It's a good way to grow little homosexual boys,' 'my daughter is a real girl!': these are just some of the reactions. 'Ridiculous', said 87% of the respondents in a survey in *Algemeen Dagblad* in response to HEMA's announcement.

Communication scientist Serena Daalmans is not in the least surprised. She investigated the degree of gender stereotyping in the media and the effects this might have. "The media are known for stereotyping men and women in advertisements and TV series. In advertisements it's nearly always the man who works, not the woman. And if she does work, she usually forgets to pick the children up from day-care." Mass media are hardly pioneers. They tend to lag behind social developments, concludes Daalmans. This is something consumers only notice when organisations diverge from the norm, in this case about women and men. Like HEMA did.



Protest in Nijmegen against plans to shut down abortion clinics.

De Feeks, free state in Nijmegen

In the mid-1970s, the heyday of the feminist movement, various women's initiatives sprouted all over Nijmegen. Bookstore De Feeks, in the Van Weldenstraat, is still there today.

Text: Jozien Wijkhuijs / **Photography:** Liesbeth Sluiter, Lesbisch Archief Nijmegen

In the middle of bookstore De Feeks, owner Henri Jacobs steps enthusiastically around a huge pile of boxes. Next to the boxes is a table with a chessboard, the place where regular customers meet for a chat. How would he describe De Feeks? "As one big chaos," jokes Jacobs as he heaves a box onto the counter with a thud. He adds in a more serious tone: "We are a bookstore specialised in gay, lesbian and feminist literature. And a place where you can get fresh coffee any time of the day."

At the table sits Renee Schoffelen. She ran the bookstore for twenty years, before selling it ten years ago, on behalf of the association, to Jacobs. "The idea for De Feeks came up in the

heyday of the feminist movement," she says. "Nijmegen had a women's centre and a women's refuge, women were uniting in support groups. There was also a group of women who wanted a place where we could sell our own books, since in those days books by women were rarely reviewed and hard to find. To get hold of a novel by Renate Dorrestein you almost had to go on the black market."

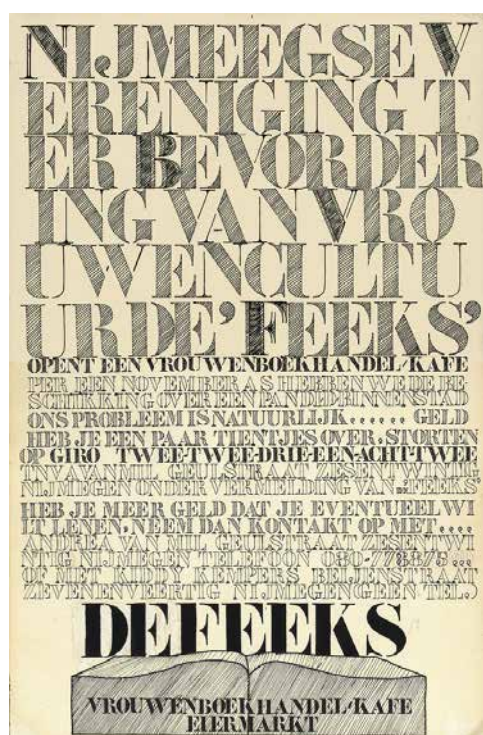
In 1977 women's bookstore De Feeks opened its doors on the Eiermarkt, at the current location of Bistro Romein. "A huge building," Schoffelen remembers. "And that was needed too, because shortly after opening, we were joined by a women's café and a documentation centre. We were a real free state within Nijmegen."

A free state that was home to all kinds of actions and protests. “For example, we organised the Witch Night, where we patrolled areas of the city where women were often harassed. We also organised actions to shut down pornographic cinema Le Paris. We threw paint at the screen, or glued the locks shut with mastic.” When Minister of Justice Dries van Agt – the subject of much controversy at the time because of his plan to shut down abortion clinics – visited Nijmegen, he was accosted by a large group of women who threw sanitary towels at his head. “They were clean sanitary towels,” laughs Schoffelen.

KISSING

The lesbian movement was also strong in the 1970s and 1980s. “Many lesbians were upset about the largely hetero-normative perspective on women’s issues. For example, in 1981, a Nijmegen Summer School was organised on women’s issues, at which women who fell for women didn’t feature even once.” According to

WOMEN THREW SANITARY TOWELS AT DRIES VAN AGT



SOURCE: LESBISCH ARCHIEF

Schoffelen, lesbians weren’t mentioned anywhere: feminist magazine *Opzij* didn’t talk about them and they were largely ignored in the University’s study programme on Women’s Studies. Even the women’s café did not provide a safe haven. “There was always hassle about whether lesbians should be allowed to kiss or not.”

In those years De Feeks employed a woman who’d worked as an intern in New York, where there was a lesbian herstory archive. The women of De Feeks decided to set up something similar in Nijmegen. This resulted in the Nijmegen Lesbian Archive. Schoffelen: “It was intended as a meeting place where women could come for information: books, images, interviews, anything. We also wanted to create a space where lesbians could store their belongings. Sometimes, when a woman died, her family would destroy everything that pointed to her lesbian identity.” Nowadays, this archive is located in Bottendaal.

HYSTERIA

In 1986 the women’s café closed its doors. “There was simply no interest anymore. Times had changed.” Women had less need for a meeting place of their own. But the bookstore survived and moved to its current location in the Van Welderenstraat. Here too, the new era made itself felt. “At first we only sold books by women. And we were highly critical about content: we didn’t sell books with racist content. No Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None* in our selection!” As women’s emancipation progressed, women also wanted to read other books. Following many discussions it was decided that the bookstore would also sell some books by men.

In the end, even the epithet ‘women’s bookstore’ fell by the wayside. But most of the books sold by De Feeks are still written by women, emphasises owner Jacobs. “70% of the books sold by other bookstores are by men. 70% of the books we sell are still by women. And the majority of our clientele are women, although that’s probably true of all bookstores.”

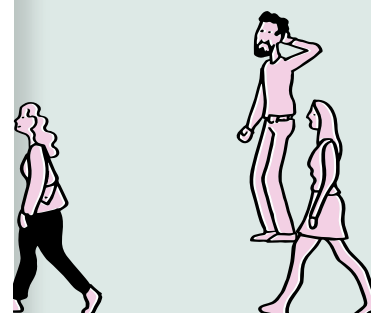
Books aimed specifically at a gay audience don’t sell as well as in the 1980s. “In those days, 20% of our selection consisted of gay books, which accounted for 80% of our turnover. This is no longer the case: 80% of our turnover comes from regular Dutch literature. But I’m not getting rid of niche books. Even if it takes three years for this kind of book to find a happy buyer, it’s still important that these books are available.” *

DOES NIJMEGEN HAVE TOO MANY WOMEN?

Sociologist Jochem Tolsma researched ‘downdating’.

“Highly educated women used to be rare, as women weren’t allowed to enrol in higher education. However, the number of highly educated men was high. As a result, many men married less-educated women. That doesn’t mean women weren’t as smart as men; in fact, there were a lot of ‘hidden talents’ in this group of women.

These days there are more highly educated women than men in the Netherlands. In 2017, 50.8% of women aged 30-35 were highly educated compared to 43.3% of men in the same age category. This is a relevant issue in Nijmegen too. Because of the gender imbalance, not all women can find an equally well-educated man. There’s a significant increase in the number of female graduates in modern couples: 27% to be exact. This is referred to as ‘downdating’. But it does beg the question as to what kind of couples this involves. Are the men really less educated than the women? We’re not sure, as the couples weren’t exactly eager to discuss it. It’s still something of a taboo if the woman is more successful than the man. The impression is that highly educated women enter into relationships with men who are considered to have ‘made it’ in other ways, such as entrepreneurs. They also look for a partner with the same interests; someone they’d run into at the opera, for example. You don’t see a lot of female professors marrying construction workers.”



Great pass, man! (Oh, sorry, woman!)

Women are increasingly engaging in typically male sports. Student football association FC Kunde even has a waiting list for its women's teams. Vox went to watch a match.

Text: Stijn Zunneberg / Photo's: Marjolein van Diejen, Getty Images

On a Sunday afternoon, two groups of women stand in a circle on the artificial grass pitch of the sports centre. These are the women's teams of student football association NSVV FC Kunde and football association SDOUC from Ulft. The teams are getting ready for the match that's about to begin. After kick-off FC Kunde takes the offensive with a long pass to the nimble left-winger Sofie Velers. Her immediate opponent is quick and gains control of the ball, following which SDOUC quickly passes the ball to one of their own speedy and skilful wingers.

The tone has been set. Until the final whistle blows, the game weaves back and forth in an exciting duel between two motivated teams that unhesitatingly look for opportunities to score.

Nobody finds it strange: women are increasingly penetrating what used to be considered typically male sports. With five women's teams, women's football is well represented at NSVV FC Kunde. There's even a waiting list. "Lots of women want to join one of our teams," explains Michelle Groenewoud (22), board member and winger for the women's 3rd team. Her fellow board member Elise Hendriks (22), right back for the women's 1st team, adds: "Our women play in a higher league than our male teams, which makes us attractive to high-level players."

Today, FC Kunde's first team is playing a key home match in the hope of being promoted to 1st division. The

players are good. Last year, they won the Dutch Student Championship (Groot Nederlands Studenten Kampioenschap, GNSK), which means this summer they'll represent the Netherlands at the European University Games (EUG) in Portugal.

There's much appreciation for women's football at FC Kunde, say the two board members. "The men don't have an issue with it. They've accepted us," says Joyce van Dijk (25), left winger for the women's 1st team. This also becomes clear during the match against SDOUC, when a dozen young men from the men's teams stay behind after their match to cheer the women on.

WAGER

This kind of appreciation is not self-evident. When midfielder and captain of the women's 1st team Larissa Ruczynski (25) first began playing football, she always had to play with the boys. "Even though I was in the KNVB selection, I never got to play in the selection teams at my own club. I was only selected once I'd made it to C Juniors and then only because of a wager between my trainer and the B1 coach."

Later on, when Ruczynski started playing in a women's team, her team had to organise their own award ceremony when they won a championship, "while men's teams got a round of honour if they didn't drop down a level." At first, Van Dijk's club was not interested in



women's football at all, and it took Groenwoud's mother years to give in to her daughter's dream of playing football.

Last year's European Championship, where the Netherlands surprised everyone by winning the European title, marked the beginning of a cultural shift in this respect. Girls increasingly reach for football instead of sports like handball and hockey. At the same time, more steps are needed to get the most conservative men on board. "If only they would air an item about it," laughs Van Dijk, referring to the talk show *De Tafel Met Kees* with Kees Jansma.

THEATRE

We're half-way through the second half and the score is 1-1. FC Kunde defender Sara Busser makes a great slide to save a shot on goal by a SDOUC right winger.

As the FC Kunde women fight against the stubborn SDOUC team, it's noticeable how much fun both teams seem to be having. The women boost each other's morale, and there's lots of laughter, without any visible decrease in effort and fanaticism. The few protests from the referees

'OUR WOMEN PLAY IN A HIGHER LEAGUE THAN OUR MALE TEAMS'

come mainly from SDOUC's male coaches. In that respect, men still have a lot to learn from women, according to Hendriks and Groenewoud. "Our matches are more congenial, with fewer dirty tricks and underhand tactics."

On the other hand, women sometimes take quarrels too personally, says Ruczynski. "With men, disagreements tend to die down very quickly." And Groenewoud thinks that women could do more sliding tackles.

At FC Kunde women are already proving the point themselves. As Hendriks gets a clear run on the right wing following some fine passes, a passer-by mumbles appreciatively: "Great pass, man! Oh, sorry, woman!"

Final score: 1-3. *



New hotspot with rough edges

The Honig Complex will soon be demolished, but industrial site NYMA is already being prepped to take over its status as cultural hotspot. Brand-new quartermaster Maarten de Wolff tells Vox about the plans.

Text: Thijs van Beusekom / **Photography:** Marjolein van Diejen

Glass splinters stick out of the window frames. Huge letters on the building walls refer to its former function as a rayon mill. A short distance away, at the Vasim factory, four graffiti artists, hidden inside their hoodies, cover a wall with fresh paint. “Some people find these kinds of places scary, but I love them,” says Maarten de Wolff. As quartermaster, it’s his job to refurbish NYMA, an old rundown industrial site on the river Waal. This is to become Nijmegen’s new cultural hotspot.

The Honig Complex, now still the favourite hang-out of hip and cultural Nijmegen, will soon make place for housing. Many of the cultural institu-

tions currently located in the Honig will move to NYMA as early as next year, so there’s time pressure on the project.

DYNAMIC

The quartermaster has a solution to the time problem: “Organic area development: we work without a predefined final plan and at each phase we look at what’s possible.” This approach quickly creates room for both temporary and permanent activities. “This makes the project dynamic and accessible to more Nijmegen people.”

This is not to say that things aren’t already happening in and around NYMA. With cultural spinning mill Vasim, the area is already home to a

beloved cultural breeding ground. This is all new to De Wolff, who lives in Almere and works mainly in Amsterdam on the reallocation of industrial and cultural heritage. He also teaches entrepreneurship for society at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. It was a Nijmegen student who first alerted him to NYMA’s existence. “When a vacancy for quartermaster came up, I applied.” Since then De Wolff spends a lot of his time commuting.

CRACKS

An important cornerstone of the project is sustainability, but making NYMA more sustainable is a serious job. The wind whistles not only through the broken windows, but also through huge cracks in the thin walls and holes in the collapsed roofs. Luckily, there’s no need to isolate the entire complex. “I’m talking with architects about box-in-box buildings. You basically put a building inside a building,” says De Wolff. He’s also happy that energy company Engie wants



to create a green delta next to NYMA. "It fits in perfectly with our plans."

For the quartermaster, the NYMA project is an ideal assignment. "Everyone wants things to happen here and is enthusiastic about the possibilities." But he does have to make difficult decisions, as not all Honig entrepreneurs will be able to relocate to NYMA. "All parties have to be able to fruitfully collaborate with one another. They're now part of a project that, unlike Honig, is permanent." Another difference is that NYMA has more separate buildings. "We'll be working with zones where similar activities can converge." Still, there are more similarities than differences between Honig and NYMA. "And we're determined to bring everything that is good about Honig here."

BERLIN-LIKE

In order to prepare the NYMA site for its first activities, De Wolff wants to tackle the outside space. More green and more art. "I think light art on the old water

tower would look great." He's also planning to create a 'NYMA residency', where interested parties can share their thoughts on the site's future. He believes students and researchers can also contribute in this context. "Students are innovative and independent. They don't think in terms of existing structures and they're also one of NYMA's main target groups. Researchers, on the other hand, bring very specific knowledge."

In the long run, NYMA will fulfil five different needs: sports and leisure, art and culture, catering, manufacturing, and events. De Wolff: "We hope to appeal to various target groups, from young to old. There has to be room for both techno parties and classical concerts." For inspiration, he's looking at places like Strijp-S in Eindhoven, the Westergasfabriek in Amsterdam, and, slightly more exotic, the Bosphorus in Istanbul, with its water taxis and city beaches. "I think the Westergas is actually too polished. I want NYMA to keep its Berlin-like rough edges." *

TIPS

Of course you can scour all the broadsheets and websites for information or subscribe to some spam-like newsletter to find out what's happening in Nijmegen in the field of arts & culture the next few weeks. But it may be easier to just trust Vox.

GO OUT

THIJS VAN BEUSEKOM (24) IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *NIJMEGEN CULTUURSTAD* AND WRITES FOR *VOX*

SUBCULTUUR KINGSNIGHT

26 April, Doornroosje

On the eve of our good King's birthday, get yourself crowned King (or Queen) of the dance floor, to the house and techno beats of Eats Everything and Cinnamon. 11 p.m. - 6 a.m. €19.50

SOUL CITY



19 May, LUX

Do your musical heroes include James Brown, Michael Jackson, Prince, Jamiroquai and Bruno Mars? Then make sure you don't miss Soul City! Dancing and swinging all night to soul classics, played on real vinyl.

10 p.m. €10

DRIFT FESTIVAL 2018

9 June, VASIM

Drift requires no introduction. On 9 June it's time for the usual blast in VASIM, with a bevy of great artists. Hopefully the sun will make an appearance!

2 p.m. - 12 midnight €32



READ

JORDI LAMMERS (21) IS A STUDENT OF DUTCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE AND FORMER RADOUD UNIVERSITY CAMPUS POET

AVOND VAN DE GROTE BELOFTES (NIGHT OF GREAT PROMISES)

21 April, Thiemeloods

Musicians have LPs, authors have chap-books. On the Avond van de Grote Beloftes (Night of Great Promises) Jelko Arts, Marjolein Takman and Marjolein Visser present their latest work: a comic novel, a travel journey, and more.

8 p.m. Free entrance

LOVE

25 April, Lecture Hall Complex

What is love and how important is it for us humans? Radboud Reflects asks philosophers Annemarie Stee and Jan Drost to enlighten us in a dialogue covering aspects such as identity, idealisation and romance. 7.30 p.m. Free entrance

STADSDICHTER SPREEKUUR (CITY POET CONSULTATION HOURS)

9 June, De Mariënborg Library

Would you like to get to know the City Poet better? Just send an e-mail to stadsdichter@obgz.nl and you can ask Amal Karam to have a look at your poems, give you writing tips, or answer your questions about the world of poetry.

11 a.m. Free entrance

LISTEN

TED VAN AANHOLT (22) IS A BACHELOR'S STUDENT IN PHILOSOPHY, CRITIC FOR 3VOOR12 GELDERLAND AND CONCERT PHOTOGRAPHER

VANWYCK

20 April, LUX

Her gorgeous, contemplative, dark folk has earned VanWyck the nickname of the 'female Leonard Cohen'. On her debut album *An Average Woman*, the Dutch-New-Zealander singer-songwriter manages to touch the listener's heart-strings with every song.

8.30 p.m. €15

SOHN

25 April, Doornroosje

SOHN? If the name doesn't ring a bell, the tracks 'Conrad' and 'The Wheel' certainly will. The multi-instrumentalist is slowly but surely making his way to the top of electronic music.

7.45 p.m. €19.50

KUMASI WASHINGTON

28 May, Doornroosje

Before his breakthrough Washington already worked with big names like Kendrick Lamar and Thunder cat. He now makes solo appearances at all the major festivals. Let yourself be blown away by this virtuoso jazz giant and his tenor sax.

8 p.m. €35

WATCH

LEONIE SMIT (22) CHAIRS THE CULTURE ON CAMPUS FILM COMMITTEE AND STUDIES CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

PIEPSCHUIM: ZO DOEN WE DAT HIER

3 May, De Lindenberg

With *Zo doen we dat hier* (This is How We Do It Around Here) Piepschuim has created an energetic and well-received show on the interface between music, cabaret and theatre. The central theme: How do you capture the Dutch spirit? What kind of a country have we become? 8.30 p.m. Tickets from €16

ISLE OF DOGS

Première 10 May, LUX

In Wes Anderson's new film *Isle of Dogs* we follow Atari's search for his dog Spots on the large waste island that all dogs have been banned to. All of this in a dystopic Japan.

Students €6.50

PROUD MARY

Première 17 May, Vue

Proud Mary is about a hired killer who works for a crime organisation in Boston. Her life is turned upside down when in the course of a murder assignment she meets a little boy. Students €8.80

AGENDA

MESSAGES FOR VOX CAMPUS
CAN BE SENT TO:
VOXCAMPUS@VOX.RU.NL

GENERAL

www.ru.nl/studentenkerk

17 APRIL, 6 p.m.: Stress Management. As a student, how do you deal with stress? Joint meal and workshop. Location: Student Chaplaincy.

20 MAY, 11 a.m.: Space Where the Light Gets In. The Koorproject Pinksteren (Whitsun Choir Project) performs the religious chants of Doe Maar member Henny Vrieten. Location: Student Chaplaincy.

STAFF

www.ru.nl/pv

13 MAY, 3 p.m.: Mind Your Movement. In this sports lesson you learn with very little muscular effort to find a balance between control and letting go.

Location: Radboud Sports Centre.

17 JUNE, 3 p.m.: Self-Defence Course Including Aggression Reduction. Learn in a sporty way to become stronger and more resilient. Location: Radboud Sports Centre.

CULTURE ON CAMPUS

www.ru.nl/cultuuroppedecampus

24 APRIL, 8 p.m.: Bottles of Love. Hyper pop band with highly danceable 1980s' feel-good music. Location: Cultuurcafé.

RADOUD REFLECTS

www.ru.nl/radboudreflects

19 APRIL, 7.30 p.m.: The Soft Side of Hard Facts. Lecture by philosopher of science Trudy Dehue, who argues we shouldn't lose sight of the values underpinning scientific research. Location: Lecture Halls Complex.

24 APRIL, 7.30 p.m.: Burn-out. More than a mental problem? Lectures and dialogue with brain researcher Erno Hermans, psychologist Sabine Geurts and author Bregje Hofstede. Location: Lecture Halls Complex.

25 APRIL, 7.30 p.m.: Love. Lecture and dialogue with philosophers Annemarie van Stee and Jan Drost. What does loving someone teach you about them, and more importantly about yourself? Location: Lecture Halls Complex.

9 MAY, 7.30 p.m.: Express Your Opinion. But how? Philosophical workshop with philosopher Carli Coenen. Together, go in search of the value of our opinion. Location: Thiemeloods.

15 MAY, 8 p.m.: Street Vloggers and Rioters: New Political Voices. Lecture by philosopher Femke Kaulingfreks. She argues that young people with their 'street politics' are as involved in society as we are. Location: LUX.

16 MAY, 7.30 p.m.: Keeping things. Film and dialogue. Where does our urge to keep things come from? How is it affected by the digital world? Film director Digna Sinke investigates the subject together with her 92-year-old mother. Location: LUX.

23 MAY, 12.45 p.m.: The Lonely Student. Academic Affairs with psychologist Maaike Verhagen, about



14 t/m 17 mei: Green Week

23 APRIL, 6.30 p.m.: Science Festival. With music, lectures and an interactive market on the theme of the impact of technology. Location: Huygens Building.

8 MAY, 9 p.m.: Kaf en Koren (Wheat and Chaff) Finals. Support your favourite and discover which act will win the title of best student band of the year. Location: Merleyn.

9 MAY, 7.30 p.m.: Comedy Night - English edition. Location: Cultuurzaal C.

14 TO 17 MAY: Green Week. How Can You Lead A More Sustainable Life? Workshops, lectures, films, performances and more. Location: Garden of the Student Chaplaincy.

22 MAY, 3.30 p.m.: Kunstfest. Discover the fine line between art and commerce and enjoy the stands, live music and festival atmosphere. Location: Pieter Bondamlein.

23 MAY, 7.30 p.m.: Brazil. In this retro science fiction film a bureaucrat falls in love with the woman of his dreams. Location: Cultuurzaal C.

students and loneliness. Location: to be announced.

29 MAY, 7.30 p.m.: Afrotopia. Lecture by Senegalese philosopher and economist Felwine Sarr. He argues that Africa should be made aware of its own, enormous potential. Location: to be announced.

11 JUNE, 7.30 p.m.: How Do You Keep a Secret? Philosophical workshop with philosopher Frank van Caspel, on the burden and value of secrets. Location: Thiemeloods.

12 JUNE, 8 p.m.: Nietzsche and Post-Truth. Lecture by philosopher Gert-Jan van der Heiden. What can Nietzsche teach us about truth, and when do we deviate from it? Location: LUX.

18 JUNE, 7.30 p.m.: Too Many People? Ethics and Population. Lecture by Australian ethics expert Peter Singer. He argues that we can only address hunger and climate change by breaking the taboo around overpopulation. Location: to be announced.

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POEM

Mariken500

Mariken trekt geen broek meer aan
 geen ridders
 laat het beenhaar staan
 haar parfum van potvisdarm
 Mariken gaat de heimwee aan

mascara Moenens
 het is menens
 sieraden breken als een hand
 in gezelschap van cyclopien
 dat beetje snor dat beetje nee

mag Mariken dan geen spijt?
 geen kunsten heksen seksen bier
 dat beetje chaos en verderf
 mag de spijt en mag het kwijt

wil ze Moenen mogen
 zoenen moeten mogen laten
 spijt van valse kale plekken
 van niet meer dan een verhaal

**SANDER
 BISSELINK**
 IS THE OFFICIAL
 CAMPUS POET THIS
 ACADEMIC YEAR. EACH
 MONTH HE WRITES A
 POEM (IN DUTCH)
 FOR VOX.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

COLOPHON

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