

## **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASoS) at Maastricht University**

### **Summary of the self-evaluation report on research, 2017-2022**

#### **Profile: interdisciplinary, international, and diverse**

The FASoS research institute is composed of four research programmes:

- Arts, Media and Culture (AMC)
- Globalisation, Transnationalism and Development (GTD)
- Maastricht University Science, Technology and Society Studies (MUSTS)
- Politics and Culture in Europe (PCE)

FASoS research analyses the development of societies and cultures in modern times, in an interdisciplinary way, engaging with societal actors. The faculty's participation in six cross-disciplinary research centres enhance the visibility and impact of our research.

- Centre for European Research in Maastricht (CERiM)
- Centre for Gender and Diversity (CGD)
- Centre for the Social History of Limburg (SHCL)
- Maastricht Centre for Citizenship, Migration and Development (MACIMIDE)
- Maastricht Centre for Arts, Culture, Conservation and Heritage (MACCH)
- Maastricht Centre for the Innovation of Classical Music (MCICM)

We have academic staff from all continents, and our international character ensures a global dimension to our objects of study. We have a strong publication record, and are committed to diversity of topics and to methodological pluralism.

#### **Mission: keep on moving forward together**

Our mission is to provide an intellectual and working environment that enables staff to conduct excellent, curiosity-driven research that is of interest and relevance to our academic peers and/or societal partners. The Strategic Plan 2021-2025 set out three priorities:

- Provide resources to staff to continue to produce high-quality output
- Strengthen research communication
- Further stimulate collegial research environment (especially after COVID-19)

The pandemic and its consequences dominated the second half of this period of assessment. The motto *keep on moving forward together* was especially relevant after lengthy periods of remote working, online meetings, and the inaccessibility of archives and source material.

#### **Strategy: creative minds in a changing world**

Various advisory bodies, as well as a Research Support Office, help the Faculty Board set research policy. Research programmes organise weekly colloquia. To strengthen cross-programme interactions we also host one or two faculty-wide research events each year. The research institute has a healthy budget to help stimulate new research.

The FASoS Graduate School (GS) is relatively autonomous and continues to play an important role within the research institute. It has various advisory bodies of its own. During the period of assessment, there has been a steady output of completed PhD dissertations.

We have strengthened our commitment to research communication. Previous assessments pointed out that we could share our experience more broadly for the benefit of others, given the strong emphasis on interdisciplinarity in many funding initiatives, nationally and internationally.

FASoS policy on research output has been updated. The annual benchmark of three peer-reviewed publications per full-time researcher remains, but the policy is now ready for the implementation of career progression reforms that are part of the national Recognition and Rewards programme.

### **Conclusion**

The shift in national debates about the consequences of internationalisation poses a threat to achieving some of our future research aims. In reflecting on our strengths and weaknesses, we have nevertheless identified opportunities. Strengthening the interdisciplinary nature of FASoS research and education lies at the forefront of ensuring our long-term viability and continued success.