Lotnumber	Title project / summary	Contact
51	**Empowering Academics as Climate Leaders: An Evidence-Based Workshop Series** As the climate crisis intensifies, many academics feel a responsibility to take a leading role in driving the transformative changes needed. The lead applicant has previously developed the "academic doughnut" model, which adapts Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics framework to envision an academia that provides a just social foundation while respecting human and planetary boundaries. Based on this model, the applicants have created a workshop to empower academics to identify and change unsustainable practices. The workshop has generated significant international interest, with invitations to present globally and coverage in major media outlets. However, its reach has been limited by time constraints and lack of evidence-based evaluation. With this KIEM grant we will professionalize and scale up the workshops, rigorously evaluate its long-term impacts, and integrate the ideas with ongoing sustainability initiatives at Leiden University. The core research question is: can we change the culture of academia to move towards human and planetary sustainability? The project will involve developing shareable workshop materials, hosting regular workshops, conducting longitudinal interviews to assess impacts on participants' scholarly outputs, and embedding the ideas into existing networks such as Open Science communities. With a diverse team of academics from multiple faculties, the project is well-positioned to drive bottom-up cultural change towards sustainability across academia. By empowering	Anne Urai a.e.urai@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	academics as climate leaders, this work aims to mobilize the full potential of universities to address the defining challenge of our time.	
29	Zintuiglijke prikkelverwerkingsgevoeligheid, centrale sensitisatie, pijngevoeligheid en kwaliteit van leven: differentiatie naar type pijn in een heterogene populatie met chronische pijn. Chronische pijn is een complex en heterogeen fenomeen dat gekenmerkt wordt door grote interindividuele verschillen in pijnbeleving en behandelingseffectiviteit. Dit interdisciplinair onderzoek richt zich op de rol van zintuiglijke prikkelverwerkingsgevoeligheid (ZPVG) in relatie tot centrale sensitisatie, pijngevoeligheid en kwaliteit van leven bij volwassenen met chronische pijn. ZPVG is een persoonsgebonden eigenschap die samenhangt met verhoogde gevoeligheid voor zowel interne als externe prikkels, een diepere verwerking van deze prikkels en een verhoogd risico op overstimulatie. Hoewel ZPVG in verband is gebracht met psychische en somatische klachten, is de relatie met pijngevoeligheid en centrale sensitisatie nog nauwelijks onderzocht. Theoretisch gezien zou ZPVG kunnen fungeren als een predisponerende factor voor centrale sensitisatie, een neurofysiologisch mechanisme geassocieerd met een verhoogde pijngevoeligheid en verlaagde pijndrempel dat een belangrijke rol speelt bij diverse chronische pijnsyndromen, waaronder fibromyalgie, chronisch vermoeidheidssyndroom en het prikkelbare darmsyndroom. Het project onderzoekt deze verbanden in een representatieve patiëntenpopulatie en maakt een differentiële analyse naar pijnsubtypen (nociceptief, neuropathisch, nociplastisch). Door gebruik te maken van gevalideerde meetinstrumenten en	Veronique De Gucht degucht@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	geavanceerde statistische analyses (mediatie en moderatie), beoogt dit onderzoek bij te dragen aan een beter begrip van de onderliggende mechanismen van chronische pijn. De **interdisciplinaire samenwerking tussen anesthesiologie en gezondheidspsychologie** maakt het mogelijk om zowel neurofysiologische als psychologische determinanten in samenhang te analyseren. De resultaten hebben niet alleen een belangrijke wetenschappelijke waarde, maar bieden ook klinisch relevante inzichten voor de ontwikkeling van gepersonaliseerde en mechanismegerichte behandelstrategieën binnen de chronische pijnzorg.	
31	**Using Efficient Chemistry to Identify New Antibiotics to Treat Clinically Relevant *C. difficile* Infections** Antibiotics are of utmost importance to the healthcare system as they are needed to treat bacterial infections and to enable modern surgical procedures. Nevertheless, as antibiotics usually also wipe out the healthy human microbiome, secondary infections with *Clostridioides difficile* are common after antibiotic treatment resulting in various symptoms ranging from diarrhoea to life-threatening inflammation of the colon. While *C. difficile* infections can usually be treated with antibiotics, recurrence of the infections, limited treatment options and development of resistance are important clinical challenges. For these reasons, new antibiotics against *C. difficile* are urgently needed. In order to efficiently develop such new antibiotics, we will form an interdisciplinary team with synergistic expertise in chemistry and molecular microbiology. The chemistry group from the Leiden Institute of Chemistry at the Faculty of Science has ample experience in the efficient synthesis of covalent inhibitors as candidate antibiotics with increased chances for activity. The	M.Sc. Miriam van der Veer m.s.van.der.veer@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	molecular microbiology group from the Leiden University Medical Center has longstanding expertise with the culturing and testing of *C. difficile* and is part of the Dutch National Expertise Center for *C. difficile* infections, which monitors the current variants of *C. difficile* in Dutch hospitals. In this way, we have access to the most relevant clinical isolates for testing. The proposed collaborative research team, thus, forms an ideal cross-faculty unit to test the most promising candidate antibiotics in the most clinically relevant *C. difficile* strains and, thereby, to optimize the chances to efficiently identify new antibiotics.	
32	**Prosody in brain tumor patients** Language is essential for communication. Increasing insight into how we communicate has demonstrated that linguistic and emotional prosody – the features of speech such as intonation, rhythm, and stress – are at least as important as other aspects of language. Brain tumor patients often suffer from communication problems. These are caused by the tumor itself, which disrupts brain networks important for language and speech, as well as by treatments, especially brain tumor surgery. Little is known, however, about prosody in brain tumor patients. Some of the problems encountered by brain tumor patients during their recovery, such as difficulties with interpersonal relationships and behavioral changes, may be related to their ability to produce and perceive speech prosody. This, in turn, can affect their ability to express and interpret emotions, attitudes, and intentions in the speech signal. The skills to do so, however, play an essential role in human social interactions involving speech.	Prof. Mr. Dr. M.L.D. Broekman (Marike) m.l.d.broekman@lumc.nl

	The goal of this project is – through an interdisciplinary collaboration between linguistics and neurosurgery – to gain insight into prosody in brain tumor patients, with the ultimate aim of developing a test that can be used during awake surgery to prevent the loss of prosody. Moreover, this project can highlight the importance of the role of prosody in speech communication, among patients, their caregivers and health care professionals in the postoperative rehabilitation phase.	
33	**Voices in Color: Exploring Patient Experiences, Intercultural Communication, and Strategies to Enhance Diversity in Clinical Drug Research** *This interdisciplinary initiative brings together the Faculties of Medicine, Science, and Social and Behavioural Sciences, to address health disparities in dermatologic care and research for patients with skin of color. By combining the expertise of research groups in dermatology, clinical pharmacology and psychology, this project aims to close structural and educational gaps that contribute to misdiagnosis, undertreatment, and underrepresentation of patients with skin of color in clinical trials.* *The project will begin with qualitative research using semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and surveys to explore the experiences, expectations, and communication dynamics of patients, dermatologists, and clinical trial researchers in relation to skin of color and diversity in care and research. In the second phase of the project, a symposium will present the findings and foster dialogue among stakeholders in healthcare and academia. The symposium will also provide education on improving intercultural communication and strategies to enhance diversity in clinical trial participation.*	Dr. Deepak Balak d.m.w.balak@lumc.nl

	The project's overarching goal is to generate actionable recommendations that will inform both clinical practice and drug development in dermatology, with a focus on intercultural communication. By integrating expertise from different disciplines, the project also establishes a foundation for new collaborations in research and education across faculties.	
39	**AMPK activation as host-directed therapy to improve tuberculosis treatment: computational characterization and prediction of intracellular pharmacology** Tuberculosis (TB) remains a significant global health challenge due to the ability of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb) to persist within immune cells, particularly macrophages. Inside these cells, Mtb can enter a state called phenotypic tolerance, where both its growth and metabolism slow significantly. This reduction in bacterial activity makes the bacteria less responsive to antibiotics, contributing to the prolonged duration of TB therapy. Recent research suggests that activating certain host cell pathways, such as AMPK (a key metabolic regulator), could "wake up" the bacteria, reactivating their growth and metabolism, and making them more susceptible to antibiotics and immune responses. Compounds like metformin (repurposed) and GW296115X, which activate AMPK, have shown potential in enhancing the immune system's ability to control infection and improving treatment outcomes. This project will investigate the potential of AMPK activation as an adjunctive therapy to enhance TB treatment. Using a bioluminescent Mtb reporter strain, we will monitor the behavior of Mtb inside macrophages under various treatment conditions, including antibiotics and AMPK activators. The data generated will be used to develop a computational	Dr. Robin van den Biggelaar r.h.g.a.van_den_biggelaar@lumc.nl

	pharmacological model that predicts how AMPK activation influences the dynamics of Mtb infection and can facilitate translation into clinical application. By combining experimental models with computational modeling, this interdisciplinary research between LUMC and Faculty of Science aims to provide valuable insights into how host-directed therapies can improve the effectiveness of TB treatments. Ultimately, the goal is to identify strategies that could shorten treatment durations, improve patient outcomes, and reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance in TB.	
35	**Friends and foes from the past – fungi within historical Leiden University collections** Fungi are vital parts of ecosystems, but they can also harm infrastructures, cultural heritage, and even our health. Historical buildings at Leiden University harbor diverse fungal communities that remain largely unexplored. Collection managers and historians who study historical books and objects view fungi as destructive agents threatening cultural heritage, while fungal ecologists recognize them as unique, and specialized biodiversity. This project brings these two perspectives together and aims to: 1) characterize the fungal diversity within Leiden University's historic buildings, 2) develop effective, preservation-friendly methods to control fungi, and 3) foster collaboration across disciplines to deepen our understanding of relationships between microbial life and human culture. We will isolate and identify fungi from building materials, book collections, and surrounding environments, investigate their	Dr. S. Emilia Hannula s.e.hannula@cml.leidenuniv.nl

	growth preferences, and assess their origins. Special attention will be given to fungi that pose risks to property or human health. Since conventional cleaning methods like bleach would damage fragile historical materials, the project will explore alternative strategies to control or remove the fungi in the collections and buildings. Additionally, novel fungal species adapted to these environments may be discovered. Then, they will be named and preserved in culture collections for future research, education, and public outreach activities. This initiative emerged from a collaboration within the Leiden Biodiversity Network, which fosters interdisciplinary collaboration between Leiden researchers. The project will strengthen ties between facility management, research, and education, contribute to preserving Leiden's invaluable historical heritage, and provide a better understanding of non-human lifeforms that inhabit our historical buildings and collections.	
20	**Feeding on the fat – Exploring infection-associated dysregulation of lipid metabolism** Mycobacterial infections have killed more people in history that any other infectious disease. Treatment involves taking multiple drugs over many months, and usually results in toxic side effects. In addition, mycobacteria are becoming increasingly drug-resistant and we have no effective vaccines. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* uses lipids available in infected host cells to support bacterial growth and the production of virulence factors. At present, it is unclear whether other mycobacterial species also rely on host lipids, but if so, targeting these biochemical	Madeline Kavanagh m.e.kavanagh@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	mechanism could provide an opportunity to develop novel antibiotics.. Our research aims to establish how pathogenic mycobacteria impact lipid metabolism in human cells and infected patients, by using a powerful mass spectrometry and genetic techniques. This research will improve our understanding of mycobacterial infections and help identify proteins that could potentially be targeted by novel antibiotics. This research project will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team of immunologists, chemists, and clinicians at Leiden University and the LUMC.	
15	**Expression in music: Semantics and emotion** Music and spoken language share commonalities such as communicating through auditory signals and utilizing timing and pitch differences. However, while language primarily conveys semantic meaning, instrumental music is typically considered to be expressive on a more emotional level. However, musicians often aim to communicate specific meanings through their performances. A pilot study with six pianists playing melodies with different metaphors in mind that varied in arousal and valence, found that emotional content primarily drove performance similarities. Measures of keystroke timing and velocity were analyzed and demonstrated a direct effect of mental imagery on motor performance. However, effective communication is determined by the receiver's interpretation. This research, therefore, aims to evaluate how well human listeners can recognize intended performance metaphors in music, considering timing and dynamics. A large online participant group will help understand individual differences in imagery ability, culture, age, and musical background. Additionally, the resulting findings will be applied in to generative music creation, to assess whether human-produced expressive	Rebecca Schaefer r.s.schaefer@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	cues can be utilized to improve our knowledge on human-machine interaction in the musical domain. This interdisciplinary research enhances our understanding of brain processes, non-verbal communication and musical performance and interpretation. In addition, the outcomes may inform generative AI in music, addressing criticisms that AI-generated music lacks expressiveness. Teaching these systems how to translate expressive cues to musical features could make AI-generated music more human and emotionally impactful, with applications beyond commercial music in, for example, healthcare settings. Our team, led by experts in psychology, music cognition, AI, and linguistics, seeks to enhance collaboration in domain and pursue additional grant applications.	
3	**Medicine in Image and Practice: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Japanese Medical History** This proposal aims to initiate a new interdisciplinary collaboration between the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Medicine (LUMC) through a joint public lecture series in autumn 2026 on Japanese medical history, linking medical science, visual culture, and historical inquiry. The initiative will involve shared teaching preparation, co-design of public events, and the use of rare Japanese medical sources from Leiden University Libraries. Funding will support student assistance and organizational costs.	Nadia Kreeft-Mishkovskyi, MA n.m.kreeft@library.leidenuniv.nl
57	**Ancient Religions and the Materiality of Danger** Leiden University is the home to many specialists in the study of ancient religions. Up to now, our disciplinary boundaries have kept us from fully developing cooperation across Faculties – especially those of Humanities and Archaeology and their	Dr. Kim Beerden k.beerden@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	associated Institutes. Our aim is to bridge those divisions and allow the experts to fruitfully pool their resources. With the KIEM 2025 grant we will organize a conference on 'Ancient Religions and the Materiality of Danger' with intellectual, educational, as well as networking purposes. We have chosen to focus on the materiality of danger. Materiality combines the research specialisations of archaeologists and historians and is an important new element in the research field. We believe that if scholars combine their expertise around this theme we will be able to forge a new understanding of ancient religious life and its lived experience of danger. The longer term goal, which takes both the network and the result of the grant beyond 2025 is to invite selected speakers from the conference to submit a paper to a collaborative edited volume to be offered for publication to the series *Religions in the Graeco-Roman World* (Brill, Leiden). This book will provide proof of concept for our ideas and interdisciplinary approach.	
25	**Medische interacties: de interdisciplinariteit van Health Humanities** Medical Encounters beoogt Leidse onderzoekers uit de diverse faculteiten van de Universiteit Leiden bijeen te brengen op het uitgestrekte terrein van Health Humanities: de studie van de menselijke ervaring van gezondheid, (medische) zorg en well-being. Het doel is de beschikbare expertise binnen de gezondheidswetenschappen, sociale wetenschappen en geesteswetenschappen te kunnen inzetten voor de verdere ontwikkeling van Leids interdisciplinair onderzoek binnen Health Humanities. Hoewel de studie van de (medische) zorg in de	Dr. G. Warnar g.warnar@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	sociale, (inter)culturele en communicatieve context binnen verschillende faculteiten en instituten een plaats heeft, ontbreekt nu nog een gemeenschappelijke basis. Door onderzoekers uit te nodigen zich aan te sluiten bij het platform van Medical Encounters, wil dit project zorgen voor uitwisseling van expertise, inzichten, methoden en benaderingen die de Health Humanities in Leiden een eigen interfacultair en interdisciplinair profiel gaan geven. Centraal staat het idee van interactie in medische context en het doel is om op dit onderwerp samen interdisciplinaire onderzoeksprojecten (zoals beursaanvragen of pilot-projecten) en onderwijsprojecten (zoals een honours course en mogelijk een minor) op te zetten. Om het beoogde platform Medical Encounters gestalte te geven, zal een universitaire website met infrastructuur voor communicatie, blogposts, aankondigingen en uitwisseling worden opgezet. In 2025-2026 worden er maandelijks bijeenkomsten georganiseerd om de onderzoeks- en onderwijssamenwerking vorm te geven en in mei 2026 zal een tweedaagse interdisciplinaire workshop met Leidse onderzoekers en enkele invited speakers over Medical Encounters worden georganiseerd.	
18	**Rechtmatige verstrengeling: verkenning van de juridische implicaties van quantumtoepassingen voor de consumentenmarkt** Dit jaar, 2025, is het UNESCO International Year of Quantum, waarin extra aandacht is voor de wereldwijde ontwikkeling en de implicaties van quantumtechnologie. Deze nieuwe informatietechnologie kan grote impact hebben op de samenleving, in sectoren zoals gezondheidszorg, defensie en financiële dienstverlening. Deze toekomstige mogelijkheden komen met vragen op het gebied van veiligheid, ethiek en recht.	Julia Cramer cramer@Physics.Leidenuniv.nl

	De Universiteit Leiden is een belangrijke speler in de ontwikkeling van quantumtechnologie, maar ook in de maatschappelijke landing van deze technologie. Leiden is historisch vooraanstaand in onderzoek naar quantummechanica én een brede universiteit, met kennis, aandacht en historie rond maatschappelijke zaken. De kennis op het gebied van 'recht en technologie' is van grote waarde in het ontwikkelen van juridische kaders voor nieuwe quantumtechnologie. De onderzoeksgroepen van professor Vanessa Mak (LAW) en Julia Cramer (FWN) zijn versterken de samenwerking tussen de vakgebieden door hun expertises en netwerken bij elkaar te brengen. Er is nog weinig zicht op de impact van quantumtechnologie op de consumentenmarkten. Zulk onderzoek kan alleen worden uitgevoerd in interdisciplinaire samenwerking. In dit KIEM project beogen wij de mogelijkheden en uitdagingen in de interactie tussen quantumtechnologie en consumentenrecht te onderzoeken. Dit zullen we doen door een literatuurstudie in samenwerking met student-assistenten van de twee betrokken faculteiten, een hackathon strevend naar creatieve oplossingen met interdisciplinaire studententeams en een symposium als afsluiting van het project. De verkregen inzichten verwachten we te publiceren in een visie-artikel en zullen direct bijdragen aan interdisciplinair onderwijs aan beide faculteiten.	
30	**Transkribus in het onderwijs: werken aan digitale geletterdheid met historische bronnen** Het gebruik van AI en machine learning is de afgelopen jaren enorm toegenomen. Om kritisch en (zelf)bewust om te gaan met de mogelijkheden van digitale technologie, is kennis en begrip van	Alma Kuijpers a.j.kuijpers@iclon.leidenuniv.nl

	de achterliggende principes en werking echter essentieel. Tegelijk is de inzet van AI in wetenschappelijk onderzoek ook breder dan de LLM-programma's die bij het brede publiek bekend zijn. In dit project zullen onderzoekers en docenten van LUCAS, het ICLON en de UBL de krachten bundelen om expertise en ervaring op het gebied van machine learning en AI te didactiseren voor het middelbaar onderwijs en als open leermateriaal te publiceren. Via Transkribus, een gebruiksvriendelijk platform voor Handwritten Text Recognition dat draait op machine learning, krijgen leerlingen en studenten toegang tot authentieke bronnen en geschriften, geput uit de rijke collecties van de Universitaire Bibliotheken Leiden. Daarnaast biedt Transkribus een kans om geschiedenis en de taalvakken te combineren met informatica in de vorm van machine learning en AI. Om dit te bereiken zullen we een professionele leergemeenschap (PLG) starten waarin geïnteresseerde onderzoekers en docenten vanuit de Universiteit Leiden interdisciplinair samenwerken met docenten uit het middelbaar onderwijs om opdrachten te ontwikkelen voor toepassing van Transkribus in het middelbaar onderwijs. De resultaten van deze PLG zullen bewerkt en gepubliceerd worden als open leermateriaal voor middelbaar en universitair onderwijs op een platform van de Universiteit Leiden.	
50	**Building Bonds with Bricks** The objective of our project is to foster interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers from LIACS (FWN) and LUCAS (FGW) through the innovative method of Lego® Serious Play®. Our initial focus will be on conducting a pilot program aimed at stimulating cooperation through play between these two institutes, with a specific emphasis on the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Cultural Heritage. We aspire to use this pilot as a	Mischa Hautvast m.hautvast@liacs.leidenuniv.nl

	steppingstone to submit a joint grant application (with the specific call yet to be determined) involving both institutes. Once the pilot proves successful, our goal is to expand the application of Lego® Serious Play® within Leiden University, both within the SAILS network and the LRS programme. Furthermore, we intend to extend its use to collaborative projects beyond academia, engaging external partners such as the Leiden City Council, thereby expanding its societal impact.	
6	**Monitoring the direct and long-term immunological effect of post-exposure prophylactic regimens for leprosy** Leprosy remains a significant public health problem, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. The disease primarily affects the skin and peripheral nerves, leading to irreversible damage if left untreated. Although effective treatment exists, current control strategies are inadequate to halt transmission. Preventive treatment of carriers of the bacteria causing leprosy, *Mycobacterium leprae* and *M. lepromatosis*, is key to prevent transmission and can prevent debilitating symptoms in those who would progress to disease. The World Health Organization has endorsed post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) using a single dose of rifampicin to reduce leprosy incidence in contacts of affected individuals. However, the efficacy of PEP remains debated, with concerns about antibiotic resistance and reports of varying effects on new case detection rates. Studies investigating the effect of PEP on *M. leprae* infection at an immunological level, have not yet been performed.	Dr. Anouk van Hooij A.van_Hooij@lumc.nl

	This project aims to assess the efficacy of different PEP regimens by evaluating the host immune response to infection, as well as nasal carriage of leprosy bacteria in contacts of leprosy patients in Bangladesh. The interdisciplinary approach will integrate experience of the immunodiagnostics group for mycobacterial infections (LUMC) on data collection in field trials, with the knowhow of extensive statistical analysis from the Methodology and Statistics department (Faculty of Social Sciences). The effect of PEP on infection will be studied both at the short-term (2-8 weeks after provision) and at the long-term (6 months follow-up). The generated dataset will provide crucial insights in the effect of PEP on transmission, guiding future implementation.	
10	**The Horror Paradox: why is it so much fun to be scared? A science communication project.** What is so enjoyable about being afraid? Being afraid is part of human nature; sharing scary stories is something that spans all times and cultures. Horror films are popular, even when 50% of viewers experience fear while watching them. We are even willing to pay money to put ourselves in a situation that is scary: Haunted Houses, Escape Rooms, or Halloween events. This Horror Paradox is a fascinating phenomenon! The research question underneath this is: How do we cope with or best overcome our fears? Does being afraid also provide us with something good like an unforgettable experience that we can look back on positively, because we survived the thrill? This intriguing paradox forms the basis of **The Horror Paradox**, an interdisciplinary science communication project that makes science accessible through a mobile Haunted House: "**The Paradox Box**". Visitors experience anxiety in a controlled and safe setting and simultaneously learn how their body and mind react to this thrilling experience. In a	Dr. L.D. (Linda) de Voogd l.d.devoogd@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	collaboration between Clinical Psychology (Faculty Social and Behavioural Sciences) and Centre for the Arts in Society (Faculty of Humanities), we bring science to festivals such as Lowlands Science and De Nacht van Ontdekkingen (Night of Discoveries), where visitors undergo an experience and actively participate in scientific research. Here, we will have an interdisciplinary approach to answer the historic question: **Why is it so much fun to be scared?** We will combine knowledge from arts and humanities with empirical psychological research and clinical practice, together with citizen engagement.	
19	**Gender and markets for sustainability: an interdisciplinary pilot study** Gender inequities are pervasive across the globe. In acknowledgment of this and in a bid to create a more equal and just world, the Sustainable Development Goals includes achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Goal 5). Multiple areas of work require action to address such a complex challenge. The economic sector, particularly markets, is one characterized by gender inequity in different areas of the world. Livelihoods such as small-scale farming and small-scale fisheries rely on sustainable production and market access. Particularly in rural parts of the Global South, women play a key role in both formal and informal markets. They function as sellers, vendors, and traders, ensuring the continuity of market relations and transactions which do not only benefit their households but the broader communities in which such markets are embedded. Due to context-specific unequal social gender norms, women face discrimination, and challenges with cascading impacts on their well-being, their households, and communities. Here, we propose a pilot study that aims to explore how gender and	Dr. Aisa O. Manlosa a.o.manlosa@luc.leidenuniv.nl

	development theories intertwine with normative questions around markets and socio-economic rights, as a basis for developing a conceptual framework on gender and markets. The objectives are: (1) map out overlapping knowledge areas between gender and development studies, and normative questions around markets; (2) identify convergences in research gaps and questions in the last five years; (3) select a gap to further examine, and (4) implement a literature review to inform the development of an interdisciplinary conceptual framework on gender and markets.	
36	**Establishing a Permanent Network to Foster Interdisciplinary Encounters between Assistant Professors** Assistant Professors are in a unique position, in which they can actively shape the direction of their entire independent scientific career. At this career stage, connecting to peers from different faculties and disciplines is of extreme importance to lay the foundation for fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations. **Our goal in this initiative is to facilitate encounters between Assistant Professors of the different faculties of Leiden University and to enable new connections that will form the seed for many long term, interdisciplinary projects in research and teaching**. To realize this ambition long-term, we are convinced that a permanent, local Assistant Professor Network that institutionalizes these encounters is needed. For this purpose, we formed a core team of Assistant Professors across three faculties with ample experience in similar networks. We will organize recurring events open to all Assistant Professors of Leiden University to establish new interdisciplinary connections. In these meetings, we will have professional match-making sessions, in which Assistant Professors will present their interdisciplinary research and teaching ideas and, in this way, are able to find	Dr. Stephan Hacker s.m.hacker@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	partners across our faculties to realize these projects with. In this way, our initiative will **bring Assistant Professors from all of our faculties together in an environment, in which they can most efficiently form new teams for interdisciplinary research and teaching**. Due to the permanent establishment of this network, the initiative will continuously lay foundations for a variety of interdisciplinary projects and collaborative funding applications even far beyond the initial funding period of the KIEM grant.	
7	**The multiple voices of Leiden: Multilingualism and linguistic diversity in the city** This project aims to collect filmed linguistic testimonies of inhabitants of Leiden with a migratory background. These testimonies focus on how these people experience the extent to which their language and cultural background is welcomed in Dutch society and how this affects their identity, sense of belonging, and general wellbeing. These testimonies will be shown in a mini-exhibition, where they are embedded in a context of information about Leiden as a multilingual city. The scientific goal of the project is to acquire more insight in the processes that affect language vitality and links between language, identity, and wellbeing. The societal goal is to create more tolerance for the situation and struggles of migrants, and more appreciation for the intrinsic value of cultural and linguistic diversity.	Rik van Gijn e.van.gijn@hum.leidenuniv.nl
58	**Post-translational collaboration to regulate the DNA damage response** The proposal aims to establish a collaborative pilot project between the Filippov group (LIC) and the van der Heden van Noort group (LUMC). The goal of the project is to initiate studies on the molecular mechanisms of the cross-talk between ADP-	Dr. D.V. Filippov filippov@lic.leidenuniv.nl

	ribosylation and ubiquitination of proteins in the DNA-damage response. These processes are post-translational modifications crucial for regulating protein function in living cells and have implications in various pathologies such as cancer, bacterial infections, and age-related diseases. However, the molecular mechanisms of the interplay between ADP-ribosylation and ubiquitination, especially in the context of DNA-damage response, are poorly understood. The participating research groups have expertise in the area of bioorganic chemistry of ADP-ribosylation (Filippov) and ubiquitination (van der Heden van Noort). They plan to combine forces to study the cooperation of these two biological processes by synthesizing advanced ubiquitinylated ADP-ribose derivatives and applying them in structural biology studies of the DELTEX- and RNF-E3 ligase enzyme classes, which function as a bridge between ADP-ribose and ubiquitin. This pilot project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of synthesizing the hybrid ADP-ribose-ubiquitin molecular constructs and to prove their usefulness as probes in the structural studies of DELTEX2 and RNF114.	
42	**Payment Politics: Mapping Alternatives to SWIFT in a Fragmenting Global Financial System** For decades, global finance has relied on the payment messaging infrastructure provided by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). It is therefore an essential component for making cross-border payments globally. But not everyone is happy with this arrangement. Numerous countries, including Russia, China, and Iran, view the Brussels-based SWIFT as a strategic liability which exposes their economics to Western sanctions. For example, Russia was excluded from SWIFT following its recent invasion of the Ukraine. To evade this risk, they	Miles Kellerman m.g.kellerman@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

	have sought to create various SWIFT alternatives. We know little, however, about the nature of these alternative systems or the political, legal, and economic conditions which impact their success. This new project, an interdisciplinary collaboration between Leiden Law School and the Institute of Security and Global Affairs, will fill this gap by investigating the politics of payment infrastructures. Its specific objectives are to (a) create a novel dataset of SWIFT alternatives; (b) conduct a comparative analysis of their features; and (c) investigate the political and economic dimensions of their implementation. By performing these tasks, this project will contribute to our understanding of international political economy and the politics of economic statecraft. Further, it will facilitate novel interdisciplinary insights on the interconnections between financial law and international relations.	
23	**Are Humans Killing Their Home? An Analysis and Evaluation of the Crime of Ecocide** Anthropogenic climate change significantly and negatively impacts human and non-human natural systems. But are such impacts morally wrong and, if so, should they be criminalized? Some legal scholars and practitioners have argued for decades that the destruction of the environment constitutes a distinctive type of crime. This movement received a new impulse when the International Expert Panel, gathered by the Stop Ecocide Foundation, proposed a new definition of the crime of ecocide in June 2021 to be included in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court as the 5th international crime in times of peace (IEP, 2021). Although the proposal has gained significant traction in public discourse, the scholarly debate has so far been focused on specific legal issues such as those concerning the definition of	Jelena Belic j.belic@fsw.leidenuniv.nl

	mens rea requirement as well as the inclusion of the proportionality test. However, the concept of ecocide involves a much larger set of intricate conceptual and normative questions that are currently overlooked. This project aims to address at least some of those questions and offer provisional answers from a more interdisciplinary perspective. First, the project clarifies the normative foundations for any plausible definition of ecocide by addressing underlying moral, legal and political considerations. Second, it makes a practical contribution by engaging in the public debate concerning the adoption of the IEP's definition of ecocide to expand the discussion by considering the specific harm(s) and wrong(s) involved in the crime of ecocide.	
27	**"Hoop doet leven": Protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland** Het vrouwenkiesrecht, de achturige werkdag, het verbod op slavernij… Dit zijn verworven rechten die tegenwoordig vanzelfsprekend lijken, maar dat niet altijd zijn geweest. Sterker nog, aan de totstandkoming van deze rechten is vaak een hevige sociale strijd voorafgegaan. Ook vandaag de dag geven protest- en collectieve acties van sociale bewegingen aanleiding tot politieke ophef en publieke discussie. Tegelijkertijd staat Nederland niet bekend om haar rijke protestgeschiedenis of -cultuur, en wordt er geregeld argwanend gekeken naar de vermeende internationale invloed op de tegenwoordige ontwikkeling van sociale strijd in Nederland. Om kritisch en zorgvuldig te leren reflecteren op de impact en rol van protest en sociale bewegingen wordt er een zesdelige programmareeks georganiseerd aan de Universiteit Leiden. Tijdens het project *"Hoop doet leven" Protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland* gaan academici en betrokkenen bij	Mariska Jung m.d.jung@fgga.leidenuniv.nl

	sociale bewegingen in talkshowstijl met elkaar en het aanwezige publiek in gesprek. Kernvragen zoals “wat is de rol van protest in een democratie?”, “welke vormen van verzet vinden we geoorloofd en waarom?” en “hoe kunnen sociale bewegingen bronnen van hoop zijn?” fungeren als inhoudelijke leidraad, waarbij elke week één of twee sociale bewegingen centraal staan (zoals de woonstrijd, de queer- en vrouwenbeweging, of de gehandicaptenbeweging). De exacte uitwerking van de programma’s wordt vormgegeven in samenwerking met vertegenwoordigers van studentennetwerken aan Universiteit Leiden. De actieve betrokkenheid van deze studenten wordt gestimuleerd tijdens twee voorbereidende activeringsbijeenkomsten. De programmareeks heeft tot doel om bij te dragen aan de ontwikkeling van (publieks)onderwijs, het stimuleren van onderzoek, en het faciliteren van interfacultaire kruisbestuiving op het gebied van protest en sociale bewegingen in Nederland aan Universiteit Leiden.	
16	**MARKET POWER IN THE 21ST CENTURY** In March 2025 Elon Musk threatened to turn off Ukraine’s access to Starlink – a satellite communication system operated by his company Space X – which keeps the country’s hospitals, military operations, and power plants online amidst the war with Russia. The event illustrated the extraordinary degree of power wielded by individual corporations in our economy, and the fact that they can use this power not only to influence economic outcomes, but also politics and democracy and even life and death. This is not the first time in history that democratic societies have had to contend with the concentration of economic power, and over the course of the 20th century various instruments have been put in place to	Dr. Vera Scepanovic v.scepanovic@hum.leidenuniv.nl

	regulate competition. Despite a well-established body of competition law, however, concentrations of market power have increased rapidly in the past 30 years, partly driven by changes in technologies and data-driven business models. This project combines legal, political science, and historical approaches to explore the limits of existing competition policy tools and what political intervention can do to limit negative impact of corporate concentration on society. Through a series of workshops facilitating encounters between Leiden University academics and regulators, civil society and trade union representatives and politicians, we plan to map out different ideas for countering market power and create a basis for future collaboration on research and policy projects.	