



## The New Scholar: Volume 3

Dear reader,

It is with great enthusiasm that we, the present editorial team, put together the third issue of *The New Scholar* that you are now reading.

It has been *The New Scholar's* mission to connect voices from all over the Humanities faculty at Leiden University. There are many students that have something to say and we aim to give them a platform. In a world where getting published can seem daunting, we want to show that it does not have to be. It is a learning process for everyone, but it is also a process that can give back so much. Together we are incredibly proud of everyone involved and more importantly, incredibly proud of this issue.

To encourage *The New Scholar's* mission of interdisciplinarity and diversity, this issue is characterized by a broadness in scope and by an abundance of thematic variation. Nevertheless, the various articles presented in this double issue all have recurrent themes that can be encapsulated in one overarching theme: *Culture in Many Forms: Language, Literature, and Politics*. With this current theme, we aim to highlight the diversity of culture and of Leiden University's Faculty of Humanities, but we also aim to give reference to shared cultural experiences and collaboration among different disciplines.

### The Team

Dominique van der Ven is currently a student of the Research Master Linguistics and is interested in theoretical linguistics, historical sociolinguistics, and second language acquisition. In the future, she hopes to be able to do a PhD in linguistics.

Giulia Bravo Vacca is currently a third-year BA student of Latin American Studies. She is also a first-year student at Utrecht University of Literary Studies. For this issue she focused on the Literature-themed articles. In the future she hopes to do a Masters in Argentina for Comparative Literature.

Jan Verkoren is a third-year student of the BA History. Next year he will finish his thesis and do an internship in International Politics. For this issue he focused on the articles related to politics. He aims to do a Masters in England or France in International Relations.

## The Selected Articles

We wanted to start off our issue with our politically themed articles, as these concern themes that are universal but nevertheless intriguing to the reader. The first article of this issue is “Impinging on Democracy: The Limits to Free Choice,” written by Sjors N. Schaap (MA History). Schaap explores the tension between freedom of choice and democracy. He does so by exploring multiple thinkers, but mainly by using David Schmitz’s neoliberal philosophy and Robert Dahl’s justification of democracy.

The second article is written by Sam Volkers (MA International Relations). The article “At the Crossroads of Different Worlds: How Morocco Uses its Central Position to Become an Influential Middle Power Country” crosses over from political studies into the area studies. The question that Volkers dives into is as follows: “How does Morocco use its central position between Europe, Africa, and the Middle East to become an influential middle power country?”. It argues that this central position is crucial to the importance of Morocco’s political power.

In the third article of this double issue, “‘De’ Nederlander Bestaat Niet: De Toespraak van Maxima over de Nederlandse Identiteit en Maxima’s Identiteit als Nederlandse,” which is also our only Dutch article, Annemarije Makkinga (BA English Language and Culture & LLM European Law) provides a rhetorical analysis of an, according to the author, well-constructed speech by Maxima on Dutch identity, diversity, and immigration. In the article, Makkinga cleverly analyses Maxima’s use of rhetorical figures such as anecdotes and antithesis, and suggests these rhetorical figures contribute to the solidity of the speech.

Makkinga’s analysis of Maxima’s speech is then succeeded by Andrea Neelissen’s (BA Arts, Media and Society) paper “Spoons on Fire: The Visualization and Communication of Pain by the Community of the Persistently Fatigued”, where the author explains how a metaphor dealing with spoons, another figure of speech, can be a helpful tool in explaining disability, and particularly persistent fatigue, to people who are not disabled. The author illustrates this metaphor with the use of Tumblr images from users who use spoon theory, illustrating that the metaphor is now used in more specific circumstances and has slightly drifted away from its original purpose.

Our fifth and sixth articles are literature related. Literature again reflects many universal, real-world topics that are also reflected in the interdisciplinarity of the Humanities. The fifth article “The Problem with (Un)happiness in Arkady and Boris Strugatsky’s *Roadside Picnic* (1972)” is written by Athena Stefanakou. Stefanakou is a student of the Master Literary Studies at Leiden University. As the title suggests, her article touches upon the idea of happiness and unhappiness in the novel *Roadside Picnic*. For her analysis she uses Sara Ahmed’s theory of “happy objects” and “happy futures.” Her analysis proves to be an interdisciplinary one. She combines multiple fields in her analysis, such as the literary field by doing a close reading of the characters in the science-fiction novel. Her methodology uses a lens from the book *The Promise of Happiness*, a book written as a cultural criticism within the field of feminist and postcolonial theory.

The sixth article “*Moby-Dick*, or; the Day the Towers Fell - Reading the Great American Novel Through a Post-9/11 Lens” is a shorter article written by Jo ten Bolscher (BA English Language and Culture). Nonetheless, it is an analysis of the novel *Moby Dick* with a lot to say. The close reading combines two essential parts of the American nation and its identity; the novel *Moby Dick* and the events that happened on 9/11. The article suggests that both are reflections of the everlasting struggles that define the United States.

The last two articles both concern language and linguistics. Language is again a universal notion, as well as an integral part of culture and the Humanities. The first of these two articles is “Globalisation and Interlinguistic Slang: A Phonetic Investigation of 'fuck' in Dutch” by Dilara Akarcesme, Anouk de Wit, Lara Kmech, and Dibyajoti Jana (Pre-Master Linguistics). In this linguistic article, the authors provide an intergenerational phonetic analysis of the vowel in the English loanword *fuck* in Dutch. Findings suggest that the Dutch pronunciation of the English loanword has become distinct from the English pronunciation.

Josiah Medin’s (ResMA Linguistics) “Initial Back Fricatives in Middle Persian, Preserved Laryngeals?” Is also a linguistic paper but deals with the Indo-European branch of linguistics. In the paper, the author explores the idea that the Proto-Indo-European laryngeals, unambiguously preserved as consonants only in Hittite (Anatolian), may be preserved in Middle Persian as well as initial fricative consonants. Furthermore, the author illustrates possible conditioning factors for the preservation of these laryngeals and ways that these can be explored in further research.

In conclusion, the present team of editors is proud to present this third and double issue of The New Scholar, which celebrates academic creativity and collaboration among students and autonomy of student-created scholarship. We would like to acknowledge and thank: Dr Paz González and Dr Jill V. Jeffery for their support and guidance; the copyeditor Carmen Kleinherenbrink; and lastly, our authors and reviewers for their contribution and expertise.

The editors,

Dominique van der Ven  
Giulia Bravo Vacca  
Jan Verkoren

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