



The New Scholar: Let's Make an Impact!

Congratulations! You are glancing at the inaugural volume and double issue of “The New Scholar,” an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal at the Faculty of Humanities of Leiden University. It is composed of outstanding academic projects by our Faculty’s ambitious students. Sharing these works serves to enable pioneering intellectual collaboration within and among our disciplines, ranging from Religion to Linguistics to International Studies. This special double issue is a flagship for that rich diversity of Humanities research: each of its two parts presents six papers of widely divergent but equally significant fields, methods, and subject matters.

Our mission is to make cutting-edge scholarship accessible and engaging for everyone. “The New Scholar” is a fully open-access journal, run by students for students. The authors and editors are BA and MA students of all programs at our Faculty, while the peer reviewers are mostly PhD students from across Leiden University. We are also open globally, based on Leiden’s strong tradition of engagement with Asian, African, and American cultures. That is also why you are not charged for downloading this issue or any of the followings — enabling you to engage with papers whose authors' thinking probably differs from your own. Given the issue's exceptionally broad disciplinary scope, your level of understanding will of course vary per area. Thus, we have worked hard to ensure that none of the works published here is unnecessarily inaccessible to non-experts.

The Team

Dr. Paz González is the editor-in-chief of “The New Scholar.” She is a researcher and senior university lecturer at LUCL (Leiden University Centre for Linguistics). In 2022 she was awarded a Comenius Senior Fellowship with which from now on Humanities students have the possibility to publish the work they conduct during their studies at Leiden University. She oversees the implementation and evaluation of the journal project, while also designing related courses and learning resources.

Jai von Raesfeld Meyer has just finished the BA program Latin American Studies, focused on Spanish linguistics, and will continue her studies with the MA program Translation. She likes to stay busy with extracurricular activities, such as being a student member of the OLC

and OB; and has been a board member of the study association Interlatina, and a student mentor for first year students. Albert Ferkl recently finished the Leiden's Global Philosophy MA programme, with research on the challenge that Islamic philosophy presents to the narrative of Western philosophy. He developed the educational activities of the study association Symposium. He is also a member of the LUS student think-tank and the Humanities Committee on Teaching. Jonathan Stumpf has worked in many different crafts and industries. He holds a BA from the University of Heidelberg in History and Classical Archaeology as well as an MA in History from the University of Mannheim. He is currently enrolled in the one-year MA in Religious Studies at Leiden University.

Finally, Carmen Kleinherenbrink, our copy editor, has been connected to Leiden University for a long time now. She holds a BA in Latin American Studies, a MA in Linguistics and is currently conducting research as an external PhD student in Applied Linguistics, while teaching courses in the BA Dutch Studies.

The Selected Articles

In the first paper of this double issue, “Mauretanian Numismatics: A Case Study in Augustan Client Kingship,” Florence Cobben (ResMA Ancient History) discusses silver and gold coins issued under Juba II and Cleopatra Selene II and their son Ptolemy. On these coins, the dialectic between Roman, African, and Hellenistic influences in the realms of these rulers becomes physically visible. With equally instructive precision, Nolke Tasma's (ResMA Hebrew and Aramaic Studies) “Take Them, and Come? – The Interpretation of the Syntax of 1 Samuel” addresses the varying interpretations of a single verse concerning the farewell of David and Jonathan. We see Biblical linguistics in action as an optimal translation arises from the consideration of two syntactical problems.

Then, Jasmijn Oostwal (ResMA History) presents an elegant exercise in literary interpretation in “Shedding new light on the epiphany: A comparative analysis on the literary epiphany used in James Joyce’s *Stephen Hero* and *A Portrait*, and Marcel Proust’s *Recherche*.” Oostwal's argument dances through the contrasts of light and darkness between the epiphanies of two modern giants, Proust, and Joyce. Another interpretative epiphany entirely is offered by Zane Leach’s (BA Global and Comparative Philosophy) “Phenomenology and Historicism in the Study of Islamic Philosophy: The Significance of Henry Corbin's Approach”: to understand traditional and non-European intellectual sources, we need a method that takes their religious

dimensions seriously. Leach exemplifies this with Corbin's use of Heidegger's hermeneutic to enter Islamic metaphysics.

Another fascinating piece of work is "Art Imitates Nature?: The Role of the Environment in the Works of John Constable (1776-1837)" by C.A.M. Dalmijn (MA Art, Architecture, and Interior before 1800). Dalmijn expresses that the British painter John Constable was greatly influenced by a growing awareness of the environment and the climate, as well as the growth of the discipline of meteorology. The last paper of the first part of this double issue is written by Kamilla Haugen (BA International Studies). Her work "Understanding Women's Involvement in Drug Trade: The Stories of Gabi and Sonia" emphasizes that women involved in drug trafficking are usually involved in the riskiest jobs of the operation and are thus more likely to be caught. She states that the dramatic increase in female criminality is a growing concern that is in urgent need for more research.

The second part opens with the double issue's only Dutch-language paper: "De Priesterkeizer uit Emesa — Het religieuze beleid van Elagabalus" by Eden Dijkstra (BA Geschiedenis). Dijkstra examines how the Roman emperor Elagabalus' implementation of the cult of the Syrian god Elagabal may have contributed to their bad image and later *damnatio memoriae*. On another note, Dinya Jana's (pre-MA Linguistics) "Caucasian Influence on Indo-Iranian Ergativity? — A Diachronic Typological Evaluation" convinces us that ergativity (a grammatical pattern in which the object of a transitive predicate is treated as the subject of an intransitive predicate) emerged in Indo-Iranian languages through typologically unmarked processes independent of the influence of the languages of the Caucasus.

Nicolas Turner's (MA North American Studies) paper "The Uses and Misuses of Nostalgia in *Omeros* and *Herzog*" presents some intriguing insights. At the intersection of distinct literary sources (Derek Walcott and Saul Bellow) and theoretical frameworks (post-colonial theory and Boym's modernism), Turner revises the meaning of nostalgia as an analytic tool and more. In their paper, Fabius Schöndube's (MA Modern European Philosophy) uses hardcore ontology to illuminate transgender controversies in "Taking Oneself in Earnest: Plessner's Philosophical Anthropology and Trans Discourse." By showing that embodied human existence is fundamentally a negotiation, Schöndube invites us to participate in the difficult negotiation between Trans and cisgender identities without hateful radicalism.

"The Stela of Sihathor, House Official of the Vizier Ankhu (Leiden AP 48): An object from the depot of Leiden's National Museum of Antiquities" by Tara Sikkell (BA Ancient Near Eastern Studies) engrossed the reader by exploring the text and paleography of stela Leiden AP 48 in relation to its depictions in order to contribute to a better understanding of its context and

dating as recently proposed. To top this double issue off, Calvin Nixon (MA International Relations) wrote "A Kautilyan Friendship: Pakistan, China and the Kautilyan case for the CPEC." His work looks at the case of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, using a Kautilyan perspective, emphasizing the concept of mitra from the Arthashastra with an indigenous Southern Asian approach.

In conclusion, we are proud to present our very first and double issue, which was made possible through valuable collaboration among students and the resources provided by the Comenius innovation programme. We especially thank our reviewers who dedicated their time and expertise to ensure the quality of the twelve manuscripts included in this volume. "The New Scholar" aims to share knowledge, create more opportunities for collaboration, and support students' academic journeys while growing the online platform at Leiden University. As you explore the great variety of topics covered here, we hope it inspires you as a reader to consider collaborating and publishing with us in the future.

The editors.

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