Overview of LUGF Proposals 2024

	Leiden Applicants	Academic partner institutions	Abstract
1	Dr. Michiel Veldhuis; Dr. Shivant Jhagroe	**University of Nairobi**	**Climate resilience in Maasailand** Climate change has huge impact on local communities, in particular in the Majority World where people often strongly depend on their direct environment for their livelihood. In Kenya and Tanzania, Maasai communities face climate change related issues in terms of flooding—reducing mobility and increase crop failure—and drought—reducing water availability and forage for livestock. This project aims to increase the climate resilience of Maasai communities by bringing together expertise from the environmental science and social sciences. The overall aim is to co-create a research agenda with Maasai people and other local actors that can be used for the coming decade for MSc projects as well as larger funding applications. The overall goal of this research project is to contribute to increasing environmental and ecological resilience to climate change of communities that are hit the hardest.
2	Dr. Akrati Saxena; Dr. Rodrigo Costas Comesaña	**Stellenbosch University**	**"Predicting the Impact of Geopolitical Conflicts and Sanctions on the Global Academic Collaboration Network"** This project aims to examine the potential impact of economic sanctions on scientific collaboration and the flow of knowledge within the scientific community. Specifically, it focuses on recent case studies involving the economic and scientific sanctions imposed by various countries on Russia following the Russia-Ukraine conflict, 2022. It is observed that these sanctions led to a significant decrease in scientific collaboration between Russia and Western countries. Several recent articles have analyzed scientific collaboration data, revealing that Russia has increased its collaboration with other countries, including its fellow BRICS countries (China, India, Brazil, and South Africa). Our study will conduct statistical comparisons of the co-authorship networks of Western and BRICS countries before and after the imposition of these sanctions. We will investigate how these policies influenced the structure and dynamics of co-authorship networks over time. The proposed project consists of two main components. First, we will develop a theoretical model to capture the evolution of the cientific

			collaboration network due to the imposed sanctions. This model will aid in predicting changes in scientific collaborations if similar sanctions are imposed in future. Second, we aim to train a machine learning model to predict newly formed and dissolved links in scientific collaborations due to such sanctions. Our analyses will provide valuable insights into the effects of such policies and serve as a basis for predicting the impact of similar policies in the future. Additionally, this project will help evaluate the gains and losses in scientific productivity of different entities resulting from such events.
3	Qinyu Chen; Yiya Chen	**Fudan University**	**"Enhancing Eye-Tracking for Language Research via Neuromorphic Computing in AR/VR Headsets"** Eye-tracking is a vital method for understanding language processing, involving infrared illumination and camera-based reflection tracking to monitor eye movements. This technology allows researchers to study how readers process written language, identify confusing aspects, and observe reading behaviors across populations. By pairing eye-tracking with auditory or visual stimuli, such as in the Visual World Paradigm, we can examine how speakers of varying proficiency levels process spoken or signed language. Our project aims to develop fast and accurate eye-tracking algorithms suitable for AR/VR headsets by leveraging neuromorphic computing, in collaboration with Fudan University.
4	Dr. Santy Kouwagam; Prof. dr. J. Gussekloo; H. Atikasari, M.Ph.	**Universitas Islam Negeri** (Surakarta and Sunan Kalijaga)	**Redefining Elderly Care: Legal Obligations and Social Security Gaps in Indonesia** Aging is a societal challenge in any society. The costs of healthcare, coupled with the increase in life expectancy have ignited concerns about the sustainability of affordable healthcare and social security in many countries. This pilot project examines Indonesia's elderly care system, exploring how responsibility for it is shared between families and the state. Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world, of which about 20% is above the age of 50. The project will analyze the impact of specific cultural norms and legal frameworks on care practices. Fieldwork will be conducted in Yogyakarta and Solo, interviewing stakeholders at various institutions, including elderly care homes, community health centers, the Indonesian Ombudsman, and the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights. This research will assess the effects of existing laws and identify gaps in service provision to inform potential improvements

			in supporting Indonesia's aging population. The results of this pilot project will be used as a first step towards a more comprehensive research proposal for a comparative project on social security and ageing.
5	Dr. Mariana Françozo; Dr. Rik van Gijn	**University of Sao Paulo**; Federal University of Goiás; Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú	**Cultural and Linguistic Revitalization: fostering South American partnerships in research, education, and impact** In response to the alarming rate in which linguistic and cultural diversity is disappearing, local communities and institutions have started to develop initiatives to counter this development. Although the political environment is more open to these initiatives than it was before, there is still a considerable gap between theory and practice of language and cultural revitalization. Knowledge institutes in close collaboration with local and Indigenous organizations and communities can play a role in closing this gap. In this project we aim to set up the infrastructure for long term collaborations between Leiden University and several institutes and communities in Brazil and Peru. This infrastructure will create a network of stakeholders and a pool of knowledge and experience that allows for the co-creation of a joint societal, educational and research agenda, and exchange of people and ideas in which the interests of the several stakeholders come together.
6	Dr. Leila Demarest; Dr. David Ehrhardt; Dr. Ayokunu Adedokun	**University of Lagos**	**Media messages and intergroup relations in Nigeria** While Nigeria has been classified as only a partial democracy, the country has a vibrant media culture. It has many television, radio, and print media outlets that are often bold in their critique of powerholders. Yet, media freedom in Nigeria also comes with significant challenges. Historically, and even today, media have been used to disseminate divisive messages about certain ethnic and religious groups, heightening tensions in a country where intergroup relations are already characterized by mistrust. New media, particularly platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and other social media networks contribute to the rapid spread of biased messages. This project aims to advance research on the role of media in shaping intergroup relations in Nigeria. While many existing studies have focused on media contents and its biases, we take a more innovative approach by 1) analyzing how media messages effectively influence people's attitudes toward other cultural groups; and 2) specifically focusing on the potential positive impacts of media messages in reducing

			feelings of intergroup threat. The collaborators in this project have all focused on intergroup relations in Nigeria and the conflicts surrounding them, including the role played by media in strengthening or weakening those tensions. We aim to conduct a research project together as a pilot study to build a research agenda on how media can play a more positive role in Nigeria. Leiden seed funding will be used to collect an online panel of Nigerian citizens and implement a survey which includes an experiment revolving around a radio message.
7	María Gabriela Palacio; Timo Peeters	**Universidad Diego Portales**	**New Approaches in Security: Collaborative Pathways for Transatlantic Cooperation** This project aims to establish an interdisciplinary, interregional working group to generate actionable recommendations for collaborative, comprehensive, evidence-based transatlantic security approaches between the European Union (EU) and Latin America (LA). The project seeks to move beyond traditional approaches and foster partnerships grounded in mutual recognition of knowledge and experiences, particularly from the Global South. By fostering collaborative efforts grounded in evidence-based practices, the project aims to contribute to timely security initiatives that are responsive to the specific contexts of the regions involved. The initiative will include an international workshop involving academics from Leiden University and partner universities from strategic reactions and non-state actors of both areas to develop a shared academic and policy-oriented agenda. The project also aims to elevate the expertise and knowledge of women working in security challenges and ensure their voices are heard in developing security initiatives. The interdisciplinary approach integrates perspectives from international relations, law and criminology, security studies, political economy, journalism and development studies, enriching the project's methodological and theoretical framework and societal relevance through a series of strategies for knowledge dissemination and scalability.
8	Dr. Erik de Maaker; Prof. dr. Sybille Lammes; Anke Klerkx; Prof. dr. Marleen Dekker; Prof. Dr. Leon Buskens	**University of Johannesburg; NUS (Singapore)**	**Networking Global Heritage** Increasingly, 'heritage' is globally gaining new relevances in contexts such as the planetary environmental crises and the challenges which social inequality and cultural diversity create. 'Networking Global Heritage' will build a global network that identifies and addresses these new dimensions, and the fields of inquiry that these generate. More specifically, we intend to use this grant to expand and connect the

			Leiden heritage network towards primarily Africa and Southeast Asia, to identify overlaps and synergies between research being conducted in Leiden and among its strategic partners in the minority world, to identify the potential synergies and opportunities this creates for all of us. We therefore intend to extend and further develop the interactive digital network-environment which we are currently designing (aided by a Kiem grant). Enhancing the visibility and accessibility of research being done at Leiden, and situating it in a globally diverse network is essential to identify opportunities for new global interdisciplinary collaborations, and establish Leiden as a leading center for global heritage studies. This globally oriented project is also an extension of what we, as the Leiden chapter of the UNA SSC Cultural Heritage, have started on a smaller scale: reaching out to strategic UNA European partners to identify new opportunities for building a robust heritage network for research and education. This grant will allow us to level up our activities to strengthen the position of Leiden University, and its strategic partners in Africa and Southeast Asia, to build a strong hub in the field of heritage.
9	Prof. Rene Kleijn; Dr. Gerard Breeman; Dr. Elena Bondarouk	**Chinese Academy of Sciences**	**China and Europe – towards a joint circular economy strategy** In the past 30 years, the economic relations between Europe and China have dramatically changed –in a mutually beneficial way until recently. Europe could export knowledge, services, and industrial equipment to China while China could use Europe as a key export market for its manufactured goods. These developments were mutually beneficial, but also led to problems. China's demand for raw materials soared as its manufacturing sector expanded. Products exported to Europe at best saw material recycling at their end of lives, instead that true circular economy options would be pursued. By now it is clear that to stay within planetary boundaries, a transition to a carbon-neutral, circular economy is essential. This will ease material demand, competition for resources, and related geopolitical tensions in future. For this, China and Europe have to work together – a circular economy requires that production, design, refurbishing/repair and end of life management is aligned across full value chain, spanning China/Asia and Europe. Our seed funding product wants to develop a research program that helps to understand how China and Europe/the Netherlands can work together on circularity. For this, we need to combine knowledge on:

			Global material and trade flows, production processes and locations and knowledge on changes production, design and end-of life management for circularity (the Industrial Ecology groups in Leiden-CML and Chinese Academy of Sciences – Institute of Urban Environment) Circularity policy, and global transformations (Leiden Institute for Policy Studies)
10	Prof. Arnold Tukker; Dr. Jue Wang; Dr. Shiming Yang; Dr. Mingming Hu	**Tsinghua University**	**China and Europe – towards a new balance in mutual dependencies related to production, development, and sustainability in a finite world** In the past 30 years, the economic relations between Europe and China have dramatically changed –in a mutually beneficial way until recently. Europe could export knowledge, services, and industrial equipment to China while China could use Europe as a key export market for its manufactured goods. These developments were mutually beneficial, but also led to problems. China's demand for raw materials soared as its manufacturing sector expanded. Despite the energy efficiency concerns, coal fired power plants became the most economic and convenient solution. This all happened in a period where the global economy started to surpass planetary boundaries regarding climate change, biodiversity, and other environmental pressures. Whereas these crises call for collaboration and multilateralism, we see de-coupling spreading across economic, educational, and research fields under geopolitical tensions. Our seed funding product wants to develop a research program that helps to understand how China and Europe can find a new mutual balance in trade, environment, and development in a multi-polar world, and jointly moving towards a low-carbon and circular economy. For this, we need to combine knowledge on: Global material and trade flows, production processes and locations, carbon and material footprints, and knowledge on changes to a low-carbon economy, circularity, and resilience with regard to material accessibility (the Industrial Ecology groups in Leiden-CML and Tsinghua School of Environment) Foresight and scenario modelling, economic development, environmental politics, and global transformations (Leiden Institute for Area Studies, Tsinghua School of Public policy and management, Department of International Relations)

11	Dr. Rutger Hoekstra; Dr. Tessa Minter; Irlan Rum	**Universitas Padjadjaran**	**Broad prosperity in Europe and Indonesia**
			The transition to sustainability requires a change away from Gross domestic product as a measure for societal success, to metrics for 'Broad prosperity'. The challenge of how to work towards 'Broad prosperity' or a 'Doughnut economy' is manifest, but in different forms in the Global North and the Global South. Currently, most attention has gone to research in the Global North while the challenges in the Global South differ. The research objective we want to put central in this proposal is hence: how can we design and finance an inter- and transdisciplinary research program that investigates how a transition to a 'Broad prosperity' society can be organized, contrasting the situation in the Global North (with a focus on Europe) and the Global South (with a focus on Indonesia/Java).
			The seed funding project will be executed by Leiden University (FWN, FSW) and Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD in Bandung), host of Indonesia's Sustainable Development Goals Centre. In a series of virtual and one physical workshops in coproduction a joint research program will be elaborated. In such workshops, we will give interested people from Leiden's Liveable Planet community from all faculties the opportunity to participate. This fits with Leiden regional priorities (Indonesia, Asian Development Bank), the ambition to foster inter- and transdisciplinary research, stimulation programs such as Liveable Planet, and the LDE Global regional priority of Indonesia. The seed funding program has ample of opportunities to scale up via e.g. ambitions of West Java province to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure on SDGs, LDPD PhD grants, and NWO's Merian Fund.
12	Dr. Ruifang Li-Gao; Prof. dr. Frits Rosendaal; Prof. dr. Patrick Rensen; Prof. Ko Willems van Dijk; Dr. Ahmed Ali	**Xi'an Jiaotong University; National University of Singapore**	**Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease: Unveiling Biological Pathways for a Global Solution to a Global Challenge**
			Approximately 25% of the global adult population is affected by metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), which is closely linked to cardiometabolic diseases. The only recent and conditional approval of the first FDA medication for MASLD highlights the urgent need for ongoing research into biological pathways underlying MASLD and the classification of MASLD subtypes. Such research is essential for developing targeted therapies and lifestyle interventions that can significantly improve patient outcomes.

			Given the variations in genetic backgrounds, lifestyle habits, and healthcare systems, findings from one population may not be universally applicable to others. Moreover, establishing the efficacy of specific pharmacological targets or lifestyle interventions for MASLD involves a complex, iterative process that spans from population-based evidence to functional validation and, ultimately, clinical application. This proposal aims to address the global challenge of MASLD in the context of the rising obesity epidemic and its associated cardiometabolic diseases by organizing a three-day symposium. This event will bring together researchers from the Netherlands, China, and Singapore to leverage diverse expertise and resources in exploring the mechanisms underlying MASLD. The symposium will focus on identifying novel therapeutic targets, biomarkers, and risk factors related to metabolic syndrome, utilizing advanced omics technologies and a multidisciplinary approach. It will facilitate collaboration among researchers, providing a platform to share past research findings on MASLD, foster relationships, and explore potential joint research initiatives and grant applications. Overall, this initiative represents a strategic effort to enhance our understanding and develop effective interventions for MASLD and related conditions on a global scale.
13	Professor Joris Rotmans; Professor Marieke Adriaanse	**Universitas Indonesia**	**Progression of diabetic kidney disease and trajectory of kidney function decline in Indonesian patients with Type 2 diabetes** The burden of chronic kidney disease in Indonesia is increasing, especially in diabetic population. We proposed an observational, cohort study to describe the progression of kidney dysfunction in diabetic population and to compare them with non-diabetic population. The second objective is to identify patterns of estimated GFR (eGFR) trajectory and to determine the clinical factors and their associations with kidney outcomes (CKD or ESKD) in patients with type 2 diabetes. The third objective relates to the future goal of setting up a screening program to detect CKD and diabetes in an earlier phase to prevent the burdensome complications of these diseases. In this project, we aim to assess patient support for implementing a CKD screening program and to explore barriers to its implementation. This retrospective study will be performed in five centers in Indonesia, for a period of five years.
14	Victoria Nyst; Peter van der Putten	**Université Cheikh Anta Diop; University of Ghana**; Université	**School for Digital Deaf Studies**

		Houphouët Boigny; University of Central Lancashire	Leiden University has a leading position in research and education in the linguistics of languages around the globe, including sign languages (see HANDS!Lab website). In recent years, digital approaches to studying spoken languages and their communities have rapidly expanded. Language technology and digital approaches relating to research and training on sign languages have remained extremely marginal. This is particularly true for sign languages in the Global South. To address this digital divide, new generations of students need to be trained in digital approaches to Deaf studies and the development of sign language technology. To ensure that the digital divide is addressed in a meaningful way that is relevant to Deaf signers, these students should include members of Deaf communities from around the world. The School for Digital Deaf Studies 2025 is a hybrid school consisting of one week online and a two-week school in person in Ghana aiming for the capacity building needed to expand academic research and education activities in digital Deaf studies, informed by insiders' perspectives. It follows up on the success of the first African School for Deaf Studies in 2019, the first pan-African school for deaf academics. Like the first edition, the school uses a Direct Communication approach, with signing as the medium of instruction. It prioritizes signing students from Leiden University and the partner organizations, but is open to other students as well. This project presents a collaboration with partner organizations in Africa, Indonesia, and the UK.
15	Chibuike Uche; Valderrama Mosquera	**University of Nairobi; University of Lagos**; Federal University, Ndufu-Aliki	**The operations of multinational Corporations (MNCs) in conflicted areas: towards the development of a conceptual framework** Our project will examine the operations of multinational corporations (MNCs) in conflict areas. For years, several attempts to get MNCs to act ethically and their agents to take responsibility for their actions in conflict and fragile states have been unsuccessful. The failure of these attempts has allowed MNCs to escape justice, with respect to the consequences of their operations and actions in conflict areas. This status quo has now been challenged by a recent French Supreme Court Judgement that upheld that Lafarge (a French MNC) and their top executives in France, should be held responsible for the actions of their subsidiary in Syria which has been accused of paying the Islamic State, which has been designated as a terrorist organization, in its bid to be allowed to continue its business operations in the war-torn area. This

			has brought to the fore, the need to design a conceptual framework that will guide the operations of multinational companies in conflict areas. In order to achieve the above objective, we have assembled a multidisciplinary research team with experts in the areas of business and tax law, political economy, business and economic history, economics, and finance. These experts will, among others, adopt a multidisciplinary approach in their analysis of past cases of MNC operations in conflict areas. The objective will be to study patterns that can help throw light on legal and historical contexts with the view of developing a conceptual framework for the operation of MNCs in conflict areas for global adoption.
17	Sascha Wanna; Yun Tian	**National University Singapore**	**Singapore -Leiden Partnership in eHealth (Singale-Health)** By setting up a new strategic collaboration with the National University of Singapore (NUS), LUMC and Faculty of Science aim to broaden the opportunities for (research) staff and students in Asia, aside from the main existing opportunities in China and Indonesia as well as fostering interdisciplinary collaborations between LUMC and Science in the field of e-health.
18	Antonella Maiello; Sónia Martins da Cunha; Arjan de Koning; Diego Salazar Morales	**Federal University of Rio de Janeiro**	**Counterfluxes. Beached materials, collection practices, and flows of resistance for the sanitation of Guanabara Bay (Rio de Janeiro)** The Guanabara Bay is a wide Atlantic inlet located on the northeast coast of the Rio de Janeiro metropolitan area. Despite being one of the most polluted Brazilian ecosystem, it constitutes a place of unique environmental, historical, and economic value which earned the Bay the title of World Heritage Site in 2012. However, the local governments have repetedly failed to meet the promises of the site's environmental recuperation recasting shadows on the attainability of its cleanup. While water quality and toxicity has been already widely investigated, there is a lack of scientific knowledge on the waste-related pollution of the Bay. There is a lack of interdisciplinary research and of any form of systematised data about the sources and quantities of this undisposed waste, as well as about the contribution of catadores and catadores's cooperatives in preventing this to happen. The tons of beached waste on Guanabara Bay's coast and the misrecognised waste work of catadores, whose involvement is still seen as a form of charity, are two aspects of the same problem, so far only confronted separately. This project aims at filling these gaps, contributing to collecting and

			interpreting data from a integrated perspective. The project inquires what is the geographic and material origin of the beached waste in Guanabara Bay and what are the barriers and drivers to collection activities? The answer will sought through a transdisciplinary rationale that combines quantitative data for a Material Flow Analysis with field-work with local academic and non-academic actors.
20	Prof. Dr. Carolien Rieffe; Dr. Max van Duijn;	**University of Ghana**; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	**Psychological decolonization and mental health in young African descendants of Western colonialism, in Ghana and the diaspora** Psychological decolonization is the process of gaining mental independence from past events. Colonial mentality represents the fragmented self of colonized countries occupied by citizens who are descendants of a traumatic experience that took place during the period of colonization. To be able to achieve a complete decolonized mentality, there is the need to explore how colonial mentality has impacted the mental health of descendants of transatlantic slavery in once colonized countries and factors that can further strengthen decolonial mentality among this generation. This project will make use of an exploratory sequential mixed-method design, including different disciplines such as clinical psychology, education, history, and computer science. As a starting point, a minimum of 100 young adult descendants from Ghana with a shared history of transatlantic slavery, and residing in either Ghana or Netherlands will be interviewed for the qualitative study. For the quantitative study, a minimum of 300 young adult descendants each will be recruited from Ghana and the Netherlands to respond to a set of standardized questionnaires, including the newly developed and validated Psychological Decolonization Questionnaire (PDQ). Findings from both the qualitative and quantitative phases will be merged for a fuller understanding and appreciation of participants' experiences regarding psychological decolonization and its links to mental health. Also, findings from descendants of transatlantic slavery residing in once colonized countries vis a vis descendant of transatlantic slavery living in The Netherlands will be contrasted to tease out the similarities and differences in the experience of psychological decolonization for these two groups.
21	Rizal Shidiq; Wilco van Dijk	**Universitas Gadjah Mada**	**The Financial Literacy of the Middle Class in Indonesia** Indonesia aims to achieve high-income status by 2045, and the Indonesian middle class plays a crucial role in this ambition. Their

			financially literate behaviours—such as spending and tracking money flows, making informed purchases, and engaging in long-term financial planning, including saving and investing—directly impact the availability of capital needed to sustain high economic growth. Our proposed research focuses on the financial literacy of Indonesia's middle class as a key factor shaping these essential financial behaviours. Financial literacy encompasses both financial capability (i.e., knowledge and skills) and the attitudes necessary for making informed financial decisions. We will examine the determinants and consequences of financial literacy within the Indonesian middle class, exploring how individuals' socio-economic, psychological, and contextual factors predict financial literacy, and to what extent financial capability and attitudes predict various financially literate behaviours. For this seed fund proposal, we aim to: middle class, using the existing datasets. 2. Design new survey instruments to further investigate the relationships between the determinants and consequences of financial literacy and financially literate behaviours within the Indonesian middle class, incorporating validated assessments of financial capability, attitudes, and behaviours. The findings from these studies will inform policy interventions to promote financially literate behaviours, contributing to Indonesia's economic growth.
22	Vineet Thakur; Radhika Gupta;	**University of Cape Town; University of Witwatersrand**	**Producing decolonial knowledge about 'Africa'** Universities in southern Africa, especially South Africa, have been at the helm of calls for decolonizing universities and the production of knowledge in and from Africa. These have inspired universities in Europe, including Leiden University, to engage with the question of decolonizing knowledge production in research practice and teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Yet in Europe, a gap persists between scholarship 'on' Africa and the work and activism of scholars based 'in' and working 'from' Africa. On an empirical level, this has prompted questions on how research data are produced and knowledge gets generated, validated, and disseminated. At stake is the issue of ethics and the validity and reliability of research results particularly with the burgeoning development of digital research methods. On an epistemological level, this raises the question of what comes to be recognized as knowledge in the first place and how is knowledge on and

			in Africa placed in relation to or in dialogue with hegemonic universalist ideas and paradigms. This project aims to contribute to larger conversations on theory and method in studying Africa from a decolonial perspective. The project will initiate scholarly networks between two universities in South Africa -- University of Witwatersrand (WITS) and the University of Cape Town (UCT) – with Leiden University. The Global Seed Fund will enable the establishment of an interdisciplinary partnership between the Faculty of Humanities (Institute of History) and Faculty of Social Sciences (Institute for Cultural Anthropology & Development Sociology) at Leiden University with the Centre for African Studies and the Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town and Political Studies at WITS. Together, we will reflect upon the larger political, economic and ideological factors which shape how knowledge about Africa gets produced and consumed. Drawing on these insights, we will contribute new ideas to the academy on best practices for ethical knowledge production in an African setting.
23	Verena Meyer; Bart Barendregt; Bernard Arps;	**National University of Singapore (NUS); Kyoto University; Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia**	**From maps to apps in Java: Grasping space through objects** Areal and spatial imaginaries are articulated through a variety of media ranging from maps to apps. Considering cultural artefacts and productions under the aspect of areal and spatial imagination—which is more commonly and readily done in some cases than in others—provides an opportunity to re-centre familiar understandings of area and areamaking, space, and spatialization that have crystallized in academic scholarship, all the more so if the modes of research and presentation reach beyond the traditional paper and print. This project takes up the challenge. Through a collaboration among scholars working in the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculties of Leiden University as well as universities in Indonesia, Singapore, and Japan, we undertake a series of case studies that we discuss at a workshop with a group of international participants to together build a new paradigm for understanding spatial imaginaries in Indonesia and beyond. Our collaboration will yield a small set of born-digital multimedia works of scholarship (publications). The digital, interactive, multimedia nature of these research publications will allow us to consider the combination of and interaction between visuality, temporality, sonicality, textuality, and narrativity. The project thus employs a digital synthesis of fundamental research methods in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

			This comprises formal analysis, textual analysis, historicization, and ethnographic fieldwork. Through these methods, we will cast light on what could be called the life of the objects and productions concerned.
24	Tomer Fishman; Maikel Kuijpers; Ranran Wang; Lingli Hu	**China Academy of Sciences**	**Mapping and assessing the construction materials required for Belt and Road Initiative** China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) seeks to bridge many essential infrastructure service gaps in underdeveloped regions. However, the expected escalation in construction material extraction and production can strain resources and exacerbate global warming. To establish the basic facts for assessing BRI's sustainability, this study aims to pioneer a database detailing construction material use in BRI projects with state-of-the-art methodology, offering estimates by year, type, sector, and region. This pivotal database, which will eventually become publicly accessible and continuously updated, will support subsequent research to elucidate the environmental impacts, socio-cultural effects, and stock-flow-service nexus of BRI projects, fostering sustainability in the BRI region and beyond.
26	Rita de Sousa e Silva; Rosanne van der Voet	**Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC)**	**Exploring Perceptions of Urban Forest Cultural Ecosystem Services in Brazil and the Netherlands** Urban forests stand as bastions of sustainability, transforming how we perceive and interact with the space we live in by integrating nature into our daily lives and offering ecological and cultural benefits that bolster urban resilience and well-being. In the first study of its kind, this project will examine how residents in six cities across Brazil and the Netherlands perceive and value the cultural ecosystem services provided by urban forests. We aim to answer: 1) How do residents assess the cultural benefits of urban forests? 2) How are these benefits spatially distributed across the studied cities? and 3) How do socio-demographic factors shape these perceptions? Our interdisciplinary approach combines surveys and participatory mapping to identify culturally valued urban green spaces and narrative analysis to understand the narratives and stories residents create about urban forests, exploring whether these perspectives inspire a sense of hope in urban nature's role in addressing climate change. Outcomes will include mapped cultural ecosystem service hotspots and interdisciplinary research findings that inform sustainable urban planning by integrating ecological, social, and cultural perspectives on green spaces. Our team's multidisciplinary expertise and established

			collaboration will support the training of students from both countries, foster international partnerships, and contribute knowledge to guide urban sustainability efforts in diverse urban contexts. This collaboration aligns with Leiden University's commitment to impactful, globally-oriented research, strengthening connections with Brazilian institutions and creating opportunities for interdisciplinary research and meaningful academic exchange that reflect the University's goals of advancing societal impact through academic knowledge and cross-border collaboration.
27	Prof dr. Matthias Barz; Prof. dr. Ramon Arens;	**Zhejiang University; University of Tokyo**	**Cancer Nanomedicines: Establishing a Research and Education Partnership between Zhejiang University, University of Tokyo and Leiden** The Cancer Nanomedicine project aims to establish a partnership between the departments of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Zhejiang University, Biomedical Enginering at the University of Tokyo and Leiden University, namely LACDR (Faculty of Science) and LUMC to established joined collaborative research programs and enable contributions to the individual education programs by implementing guest lectures in the field of anticancer nanomedicines. Therefore, this project will not only bring leading reserachers from China, Japan and the Netherlands together but further improve and internationalize the curriculum and quality of education at all three different universities.
29	Thanja Lamberts; Anke Haarmann	**Federal University of Rio de Janeiro**	**Molecular Cocktails on the Rocks: Interstellar Ice Compositions** This project fosters an interdisciplinary collaboration between computational astrochemistry, solid-state chemistry and the visual arts to investigate interstellar ice compositions. Molecules like water, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide have – most recently – been observed with the James Webb Space Telescope to be present in so-called interstellar ice layers, frozen out on top of small dust grains in the birthplaces of stars. Because these small frozen molecules compose the primordial material from which later planets and (pre-)biotic molecules are being formed, it is essential to understand if and how they are mixed at the molecular level, since this impacts the possible subsequent chemistry that can occur. Relying on observations hundreds of light years away relies not only measuring interstellar ice compositions, but also imagining and modelling them. Therefore we propose to integrate our endeavour in the natural sciences with a visual art component to stimulate the creative

			thought process via engaging with an art historical and aesthetic-philosophical perspectives. Combining the expertise of the Leiden computational astrochemistry group, embedded in Leiden Observatory, with solid-state chemistry expertise of the team from Rio de Janeiro, and the involvement of professionals in the visual arts, we will set up a unique knowledge exchange. We will perform proof-of-principle calculations, organize a scientific workshop and engage with visual artists on the topic of "ice in space". This collaboration will contribute both scientifically and creatively to the understanding of "dirty" interstellar ices: those containing a mix of molecules like H_2O, CO, CO_2, and CH_3OH in various layers and mixtures.
30	Emily Strange; Dr. Cristiana Strava; Wilson Maanga	**University of Dodoma**	**Reframing Resettlement: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Social Impacts in Wildlife Protection Initiatives** Speke Gulf is a 30km stretch of Tanzanian land between the shores of Lake Victoria and the border of the Serengeti National Park. It is home to 8000 people but as of 2025 it will no longer be legal to live here as the national park will be expanded under plans to give the wildlife of the Serengeti access to Lake Victoria and restore lands now heavily degraded by anthropogenic activities. Government schemes have been set up to financially compensate residents who must relocate but how can we learn more about the social impacts of this National Park expansion and how best to feed this knowledge back into future conservation strategies? Globally, biodiversity is rapidly declining, and the establishment of protected areas is increasing. Initiatives such as '30x30' (a goal to have 30% of the world within protected areas by 2030) are popular and seen as the only solution by some to protect our ecosystems. These plans often displace local communities and as they become more commonplace, we need to develop new methodologies for understanding the complex interactions between people and nature in these vital yet vulnerable systems. This pilot project will bring interdisciplinary researchers together to devise new frameworks to explore the social repercussions of resettlement schemes in the service of wildlife protection and nature conservation. This will enable us to share best practices for developing new field methods across cultures, across disciplines and how we incorporate local scale narratives to global scale challenges.

| 31 | Sara de Wit; Dr. Sara Petrollino; Dr. Miriam Waltz | **University of Ghana**; University of Edinburgh | **Fostering Equitable Exchange Between Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Climate Science through Multi-Stakeholder Engagements**
In the last decade, governance bodies and policymakers show an increasing interest in the application of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) for addressing planetary challenges such as biodiversity loss and climate change. Global scientific reports produced by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) state that IKS are under threat from biodiversity loss and climate change, while acknowledging that these may hold valuable insights to 'solve' these problems. Yet, IKS are still marginalised within these reports. What is further omitted from assessment reports and the scholarly debate more widely, is that these very same hegemonic scientific knowledge frameworks are increasingly contributing to the marginalisation of indigenous ways of knowing and being in the world. Moreover, the ontological value of indigenous knowledge in science and policy is poorly understood, often leading to their instrumentalization for Western agendas in the name of ecosystem services, nature-based solutions or climate smart adaptation.
In this interdisciplinary project, we wish to explore the potential for more equitable discussions to foster the exchange and mutual understanding of IKS and climate science for climate justice. We will organise multi-stakeholder engagement meetings with indigenous people (e.g. Maasai, Hadzabe) in northern Tanzania, with climate scientists, NGOs, journalists and policy makers. These encounters form part of our methodology, in which we seek to contribute to epistemic diversity for more inclusive climate change narratives, adaptation and education in which not only knowledge but also worldviews are taken seriously. Insights from this research will be made actionable and result in a policy brief, a scientific paper and an art exhibition. |
| 32 | Abena S. Amoah; Lidewyde Berckmoes | **Universitas Gadjah Mada**; Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia | **Feasibility and acceptability of conducting immunological studies on vaccine responses in a rural site on Sumba Island, Indonesia**
Research studies have observed suboptimal immune responses to some vaccines ("vaccine hyporesponsiveness") in countries in the Global South compared to the Global North and in rural compared to |

			urban areas within the Global South. Collaborative studies generating large immunological datasets across different populations are pivotal in understanding the human immune system and the pathways that lead to vaccine hyporesponsiveness. Little is known about vaccine hyporesponsiveness in countries in Southeast Asia such as Indonesia. Therefore, we aim to conduct cellular immune studies focused on vaccine immune responses in urban and rural Indonesia. However, such studies involve the collection of large volumes of blood which may lead to barriers to study participation. Additionally, immunological investigations require skilled personnel and specialized research infrastructure for the processing and storage of samples. To address both the technical feasibility of conducting immunological studies in a rural setting as well as the societal perceptions of vaccine studies within such communities, an interdisciplinary collaborative approach is imperative. The aim of the proposed study is to explore the acceptability and feasibility of conducting immunological studies on vaccine responses to the newly introduced human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a rural district on Sumba Island, Indonesia. Our project, which brings together various institutes in Leiden, Jakarta and Yogyakarta, involves the assessment of community perceptions towards immunological studies, research and the HPV vaccine. The study includes personnel training to conduct research on community perspectives and on cellular immunological studies with the view of scaling up to larger studies on vaccine responses.
33	Natalia Donner; Maartje van der Woude	**UNAM**	**The lived experiences of forced migration: an interdisciplinary view of the Darién Gap crossing** Forced migration from the Global South to the Global North is a challenge that not only socially affects several communities (those on the move, living in the transit regions, left behind, and those who reside at the intended destination), but also takes countless lives each year. In spite of this, research in displaced populations tends to be compartmentalized, and the deadliest step of the route to the United States, a unique place where diverse migrant itineraries converge -the Darién tropical jungle- has not been systematically approached. This project will tackle these methodological and thematic gaps through the

			realization of an international and interdisciplinary workshop that will tackle forced migrant populations through the Darién Gap. Through a mixture of presentations, workgroups, open discussions, and screening of documentaries, the event will allow the blending of archaeology, political economy, socio-legal studies, ethnography, and art. The combination of diverse disciplinary lenses and both academic and non academic specialists will establish a collaborative research group connecting scholars and practitioners from different backgrounds (Global South and Global North), will create a blueprint for interdisciplinary research in the field of migration studies, and will set up the first steps towards a large grant application (ERC). The development of this project will therefore allow the application of research to solve concrete global societal challenges -such as forced migration- and will put Leiden University at the forefront of international, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research.
34	Rhea Mammen; Adriaan Bedner; Bernardo Almeida	**Universitas Gadjah Mada; Universitas Indonesia**	**Addressing Climate Challenges through Interdisciplinary Education** Climate change, as a global challenge, requires coordinated efforts across disciplines such as environmental science, economics, sociology, law, and political science. Addressing it demands that lawmakers and officials integrate varied scientific, economic, and social data into actionable policies. Indonesia, facing immediate climate threats like biodiversity loss, rising sea levels, and sinking cities, serves as a crucial case for targeted climate action. This project aims to develop an interdisciplinary course on climate change laws, fostering collaboration between stakeholders from Indonesia and the Netherlands. By bridging the Global North and South, the course will equip students from both regions with the tools to understand complex climate challenges and create innovative solutions. The project includes a summer school at Leiden University, offering intensive in-person learning for students from both countries . This will be followed by an online course as MOOC , supporting sustained knowledge exchange. The seed funding will support the initial stages by identifying experts, developing course content, connecting with stakeholders, and organizing the pilot phase. Drawing on existing sustainable education projects at Leiden University and interdisciplinary efforts at the University of Indonesia, this project will establish a sustainable academic platform for climate education. Through these efforts, the

			project builds a foundation for ongoing collaborative research and education in climate studies.
36	Miranda Boone; Martín Hernán di Marco;	Trinity College Dublin; University of Glasgow; University of Toronto; University of Chicago; University of Curaçao; **University of Cape Town; University of Sao Paolo; University of Indonesia**; University of Nottingham	**Global Community Justice – reconceptualizing community based responsed to criminalized harms and wrongs.** Much of the existing literature on community sanctions and measures (CSM) (such as probation, community service and parole) has focused on probation systems and practice in the Global North, with a predominant emphasis on policy and practice in Anglophone countries. While probation scholarship has widened its scope in recent years, addressing for instance the emergence of probation and parole systems in other parts of Europe in the 2000s, and advancing our understanding of people's experiences of supervision, there is still a lack of understanding regarding the context in which community sanctions and measures (or more broadly community- based responses to criminalised harms and wrongs) operate globally. Apart from the obvious gaps in our knowledge and understanding, there are broader practical and theoretical questions regarding the context of the emergence of CSM; for example, about the role of supra-national institutions (such as the Council of Europe and the UNODC) in shaping this field, and the influence of policy mobility and transfer. Moreover, there is a need for CSM research to engage with punishment in the so-called 'global peripheries' (Sozzo, 2023), and with wider critical scholarship on decolonizing criminology (Aliverti et al, 2022) and/or 'Southern' criminologies (de Sousa Santos & Menses, 2020). In this project we want to start an interdisciplinary and global dialogue and exchange on these issues between scholars of different parts of the world.
37	Prof Hermelijn Smits; Dr. Emilia Hannula; Dr. Jutte de Vries; Dr. Willianne Hoepel	Delft University of Technology; **Universitas Airlangga Indonesia**	**The role of respiratory viruses, living environment and immune responses in asthma among urbanized children in Indonesia and the Netherlands.** Through this proposal, we would like to create a consortium of researchers from Indonesia and the Netherlands that work on their common area of interest focusing on the role of respiratory viruses in pediatric asthma through the impact of urbanization, living environment and microbial exposures on the immune system. The funding of 15000 Euros will be spent on a consortium meeting together to identify cohorts, biobanks and technologies needed for the consortium to take

			off, as well as activities to engage stakeholders, and write research proposals and investigate methodologies. As a basis to set-up a larger cohort study together, we plan to conduct a small pilot study within the framework of the minor education exchange program of the University of Leiden with the Airlangga University in Surabaya, Indonesia.
38	Sebastian Diessner; Alexandre Afonso; Crystal Ennis; Fabio Bulfone; Vera Scepanovic; Emily Wolff; Natascha van der Zwan	**Universidad Diego Portales**	**Interconnected and Intercontinental: Capturing the Impact of Climate Governance on Migration, Financial and Industrial Policy in the Global North and Global South** Climate change is a critical global issue with profound implications for both the Global North and the Global South. However, impacts and vulnerabilities differ significantly between regions. Green policies such as the transition to electric vehicles or hydrogen-based energy, for example, may reduce emissions in the Global North but often require the expansion of polluting industries and resource extraction in the Global South. Migration flows provide skilled labor for the green transition in the Global North, plus remittances for domestic demand and investment in the Global South, but also fuel welfare chauvinism (Global North) and skills shortages (Global South). In other words, climate policies foster asymmetric power relations and economic interdependencies. The interconnectedness of global markets highlights the need for a cross-regional perspective on the political and economic implications of climate change. This project aims to foster a new research partnership between scholars from Leiden University and Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago de Chile to identify and analyze the – often asymmetric – political and economic interdependencies between climate policy interventions in the Global North and the Global South. The organization of a joint two-day conference will kickstart a longer-term collaboration matching scholars from both regions for joint research on a climate policy domain (e.g. migration, green industries, green finance) and publishing on an open research platform developed by the project. Creating an interdisciplinary research team, the project will be able to mobilize the expertise of scholars specializing in global political economy with the deep knowledge of local conditions from area specialists.
39	Dr Olga Bogolyubova; Prof dr Marieke Liem; Prof dr Marco Spruit	**Universitas Gadjah Mada**	**Understanding Homicide in Indonesia: Harnessing Traditional and New Media Data for Insight** Homicide is the most serious form of violence, resulting in substantial social, financial, and economic harm. Countries affected by homicide

			are mostly concentrated in the Global South. However, whilst recent years have produced an impressive amount of European work on homicide, in the Global South reliable crime rate data is for a large part unavailable or inaccessible. This also applies to Indonesia, where homicide data appears to be fragmented and limited. Absence of reliable official data on the prevalence and characteristics of homicide in the country limits the capacity of law enforcement agencies and policy makers for prediction, prevention, and intervention. Interdisciplinary research is needed to fill this gap in knowledge. The proposed project aims to harness data from traditional and new media sources in combination with criminological, legal, and behavioral theoretical frameworks to examine and better understand the nature and scope of homicide in Indonesia. The project will draw on team members' expertise in criminology, law, psychology, and data science to describe media representations of homicide in the country and to analyze this data for actionable insights. Results of this project will be used for a) the advancement of research on homicide, both locally and internationally; b) for the development and improvement of study courses on violence and crime both in the Netherlands and Indonesia; and c) for informing relevant stakeholders in government and law enforcement. The project aligns with Leiden University's strategic plan and has strong potential for large impact.
40	Marlieke de Fouw; Prof. Dr. T.W. Brocades Zaalberg; Dr. J.J. Beltman; Dr. J.N.I. Vet	**University of Indonesia**	**Towards cervical cancer elimination in Indonesia: what can we learn from the established screening program to improve coverage through an interdisciplinary lens?** Few diseases reflect global inequities as much as cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is a preventable and curable disease when identified and treated in a precancerous or early stage, but due to the lack of organized population-based national screening programs in low- and middle-income countries, women are diagnosed in a late stage and half of them die of the disease. Introduction and scaling up of sustainable cervical screening programs are considered key to achieve global elimination. In 2004 the Female Cancer Foundation founded by the Leiden University Medical Center set up a cervical cancer screening pilot project in three regions in Indonesia in close collaboration with the University of Indonesia and the Department of Gynaecological oncology, Rumah

			Sakit Cipto Mangunkusumo Jakarta. A simple and affordable method was introduced to screen women for cervical cancer: Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA). If the screening test was positive women were treated in the same visit with cryotherapy when eligible. The pilot project was found to be feasible and effective and therefore expanded from three to eight regions in collaboration with the Indonesian Cancer Institute and the Indonesian public health service. Thereafter, the successful initiative was taken over by the government and screening was implemented in all regions of Indonesia in a timeframe of 15 years. Over time, several innovations were introduced to overcome challenges in training and supervision of health providers, including consultations via a digital platform. The program has evolved successfully to a sustainable national screening program. Next to medical expertise, further local and interdisciplinary insight are now needed on how to increase the coverage of the national screening program from 10 to 75%.
42	Dr. Anouk van Hooij; r. Lu Cao	**FIOCRUZ**	**Global omics for mycobacterial disease: GLOMYC** The proposed GLOMYC project aims to strengthen and broaden the existing strategic partnership between Leiden University and FIOCRUZ in the field of mycobacterial disease research, by building on decades-long collaborations between researchers from LUMC (Faculty of Medicine), the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (Faculty of Science) and the Center for Technological Development in Health at Fiocruz. This initiative underscores the value of interdisciplinary approaches, promoting teamwork between seasoned scientists and the younger generation, thereby facilitating a smooth exchange of knowledge and innovation between Leiden and Fiocruz. Notably, it aims to foster bottom-up engagement of early career researchers in the field of immunology for mycobacterial diseases involving various omics-techniques in addition to the mathematical analysis of resulting omics data which will enable development of novel diagnostic tests for leprosy and tuberculosis. This approach will safeguard continuity of expertise regarding multiple aspects of mycobacterial disease research. Along with enforcement of research of mycobacterial diseases, this initiative also aims to provide a basis leading to a more structural character for shared educational activities. This includes sandwich

			PhD-tracks, international summer schools and student exchange programs for students from Leiden and Rio, all focused on knowledge on immunology and molecular biology of mycobacterial diseases leading to new strategies to combat leprosy and tuberculosis.
43	Mark Westmoreland; Yasmin Ismail; Erik Viskil; Francesco Ragazzi	**Universidad Diego Portales**	**More Than Words: A Multimodal Handbook and Teaching Pilot for Inclusive Scholarship** This interdisciplinary project extends a successful pilot program to further develop and test multimodal approaches for research and teaching across academic and artistic research settings. Bringing together ReCNTR staff from diverse faculties at Leiden with counterparts from Diego Portales University in Chile, along with artists and creative practitioners, the initiative aims to produce an innovative handbook for scholars across disciplines. This handbook will serve as a practical guide for integrating visual, auditory, and embodied methods into scholarly work, enabling researchers and students to approach complex subjects from innovative perspectives. By bringing together in a series of action-labs scholars and advanced MA and PhD students, the project is designed to identify and test transferable skills that are essential in today's increasingly dynamic academic and professional environments. Workshops, collaborative project development, and feedback sessions will build towards the handbook's content, ensuring that it addresses real-world challenges and opportunities encountered by researchers and educators at Leiden and the Global South. By fostering interdisciplinary exchange and creative experimentation, this project not only enhances teaching and learning practices but also provides scholars and students with a set of future-proof tools to conduct and communicate their research in compelling ways to academic and lay audiences.
46	**Letícia Rettore Micheli; Amalia Campos Delgado**	**Pontifica Universidad Católica de Chile**	**Does the source of inequality influence redistribution demands? Experimental evidence from Latin America** This project explores the relationship between inequality of opportunity, inequality of outcomes, and redistribution in Latin America by integrating insights from psychology, sociolegal studies, and economics. We will study Brazil, Mexico and Chile, using the UK as a reference, to examine how perceptions of inequality vary across countries facing different levels of inequality of opportunity. Based on previous studies we will focus on how the source of a distribution shapes behaviours regarding its redistribution.

			We will conduct a cross-cultural online experiment to investigate how people evaluate income distributions and whether their origins – effort or circumstances – affect [references for redistribution. We will also examine potential time-inconsistencies in participants' redistribution preferences by asking them to make redistribution decisions before and after they have information on how these factors translate into (un)equal outcomes. This study is significant as most existing research has focused on high-income countries in the Global North, limiting the generalizability of these findings to highly unequal regions like Latin America. This project serves as a foundation for further research, potentially expanding to other Latin American countries and unpacking the potential mechanisms that could drive our findings. The project's scalability is supported by a partnership with Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and will include an interdisciplinary team of researchers. It will offer valuable insights into inequality perceptions and redistribution preferences in contexts often overlooked in global studies.
47	Prof.dr. Jan-Bart Gewald; Prof.dr. Bas Rietjens; Dr. John Kegel	**Stellenbosch University**	**Security Force Assistance in Southern Africa: Lessons from the British Military Advisory Training Teams, 1980-2000** Contemporary developments in the Sahel illustrate the contentious nature of security force assistance in Africa. In recent years, African governments have requested the removal of French and American advisors and invited Russian operatives to assist in the training of their armed forces. As a result, Western militaries grapple with the question how to maintain a strategy presence in the African continent while avoiding accusations of neo-colonialism. This tension is exacerbated by a growing rivalry between Western governments and Chinese and Russian governments in global affairs. The research project 'Security Force Assistance in Southern Africa' (code name: SFASA) addresses this theme by analysing the role of British military advisors between 1980-2000. During the transition from colonialism to independence, Great Britain offered newly independent African nations the services of British Military Advisory Training Teams (BMATT). Advisors from BMATT were stationed in states such as Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe to aid in the establishment of new, postcolonial African armed forces. As the farmer colonial hegemon in the region, the position of BMATT was delicate. London desired a strategie presence in a volatile and

			geopolitically important continent, but was well aware of its complicated legacy. Furthermore, Britain's activities took place in the context of Cold War rivalry and thus competed with a flurry of Chinese, Russian, and North Korean training missions. Por three decades, the BMATT archives in London were closed to the public. The SFASA project will be the first to make extensive use of this repository in order to develop a multi-year research program.
48	Mirjam van Reisen; Thomas van den Akker; Thed van Leeuwen	**Universitas Airlangga; Universitas Indonesia; University of Nairobi; University of Addis Ababa; Witwatersrand University; Johannesburg University**; University of Namibia; University of Equator; **Chinese Academy of Sciences**	**Development of a standard for FAIR-based Computer-Supported clinical decision-making in Ante-Natal Care in Global South** The project establishes a Global South partnership to develop a Computer-Assisted Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS) for interoperable data spaces aimed at improving maternal and neonatal care. Preventable maternal and neonatal deaths remain high in the Global South, where this CDSS tool will support health workers in making informed decisions on infectious disease risks. This will enhance outcomes in obstetric and newborn care. Using FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data—a methodology pioneered by Leiden University—the system applies data curation and responsible AI to support clinical decisions. This approach, developed by the LUMC VODAN research program is rooted in Open Science principles and includes expertise from , LIACS and the African Studies Centre. A pilot in Ethiopia demonstrated the relevance of this system in managing infectious diseases during antenatal care. For the next phase, seed funding will address three areas: (i) auditing impact with obstetric experts, (ii) assessing training needs in FAIR data curation across academic networks such as UNA and the Africa University Network on FAIR Open Science, and (iii) developing a global standard with WHO involvement. Three expert teams will tackle these objectives. The experts reside in five countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia and China - where there is expertise on the programme. The project will strengthen the interdisciplinary collaboration in each country. (iv) Findings will be presented at the 2025 SoSy FAIR Linked Data Spaces conference at Leiden University and

			documented with the Academies of Sciences in Africa and China, fostering Global South collaboration.
49	Jelena Vićić; Rogier Creemers	**National University Singapore**; Virginia Commonwealth University; University of Amsterdam	**"Emerging Digital Frontiers: Indo-Pacific Perspectives on Security and Technology"** Digital technologies offer state actors new avenues for competition in pursuit of national interests. With its diverse political and organizational landscapes, the Indo-Pacific demonstrates varied uses of cyber capabilities and artificial intelligence (AI) to advance socio-political, economic, and military goals. However, current scholarly interpretations of these technologies often rely on Western-centric frameworks, which inadequately capture the region's strategic and societal dynamics. This workshop addresses these limitations by bringing together scholars and experts to explore how digital technologies have shaped security in the Indo-Pacific and may do so in the future. Building on the success of a prior workshop held by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) in Singapore, this event organized at Leiden University, will focus on geopolitical competition in the digital domain, regional strategies, and state-sponsored cyber threats, including disinformation campaigns. Participants will include academics, government officials, and private sector representatives, fostering cross-sector collaboration. The workshop's key deliverable will be a peer-reviewed journal special issue featuring research on Indo-Pacific cybersecurity, contributing to global cybersecurity studies. This output aims to introduce the unique characteristics of the region to broader academic discourse while addressing gaps in existing theories and data. Additionally, the workshop will strengthen inter-institutional cooperation between Leiden University and LKYSPP, supporting future joint research and academic exchanges. By the conclusion of the event, participants will have advanced critical discussions on regional digital security and cooperation, promoting the Indo-Pacific perspective on addressing contemporary security challenges.
51	Rob van Wijk; Judith van Paassen	**National University of Colombia**; Federal University of Bahia, Brazil	**Resource-efficient translational drug screening and capacity-training of translational modeling to address the Candida auris health care challenge in Latin America** Candida auris, a multidrug-resistant fungal pathogen, is increasingly recognized as a global health concern, especially in hospital settings.

			Since its identification in 2009, C. auris has spread across many countries, posing significant therapeutic challenges due to its resistance to common antifungal drugs. Novel, effective, yet accessible therapies are needed, particularly in low- and middle-income countries such as in the Latin American region. This project aims to test repurposed drugs against C. auris in a high-throughput in vivo drug efficacy system and utilize translational computational modeling to predict clinical efficacy of these drugs to prioritize further development. We are establishing an interdisciplinary collaboration between the National University of Colombia and Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, and Leiden University, integrating expertise on microbiology and the proposed Zophobas morio (darkling beetle) larva drug efficacy model, with translational pharmacological modeling and clinical critical care experience with Candida infections, respectively. Experimentally, we are developing a high-throughput method of C. auris infection in the Zophobas larva to quantify drug efficacy in a resource-efficient workflow, enabling studying an urgent health care challenge within Latin America. Computationally, translational pharmacological models will be developed to predict clinical efficacy of the tested drugs. To that aim, we will train the next generation of pharmacologists in Latin America in these advanced statistical techniques using accessible open-source tools. With this seed funding, a long-lasting collaboration can be founded for faster, cost-effective testing of antifungal therapies and translation to the clinic, which in turn will support further fundraising to test more compounds and/or develop other disease systems.
52	Paco Barona Gómez; Soledad Valdivia Rivera; Thomas Franssen; Johannes Müller;	**UNAM**, Centro de Biotecnología; **Universidade de São Paulo**; UTFS; Universidad de la Sabana, Universidad de Costa Rica	**Conservation genomics of natural products in Latin America: from microbes to societies** This project aims to explore the diversity of biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs), which direct the synthesis of microbial and plant natural products beneficial for humankind across Latin America. For this, we will be building a collaborative network of laboratories within the region, which has a long-standing tradition of ethno-bonaty/microbiology but has remained unconnected to the benefits of genomics. Participating labs will collect environmental samples and will collectively establish technical guidelines of environmental justice. Participants will also receive computational training to analyze these samples and identify and characterize the BGC repertoire. This effort integrates microbiology, genomics, anthropology, ecology, and bioinformatics to analyze the

			microbial biosynthetic potential of the region, often targeted by researchers from the Global North without benefiting the region. Local microbiologists will contribute expertise in sampling methods and, ecosystem knowledge, and traditional uses, contributing to the understanding of local biodiversity. Bioinformaticians will guide data analysis and interpretation while empowering local scientists through collaborative work. As Latin America is currently underrepresented in sequencing efforts exploring its rich biodiversity, addressing this gap is critical for understanding the region's unique ecosystems and potential for discovering new bioactive compounds and using them sustainably while respecting local communities and their rights. Thus, this project is a collaborative and educational initiative to empower Latin American researchers with the skills and resources to sequence and analyze their microbial biodiversity, freeing them to choose on where to focus in regard to the many beneficial attributes of natural products.
53	Hungwah Lam; Carine de Wilde; Gaye Eksen; SAZ; representation from all faculties	**Stellenbosch University; Pontifical Catholic University; Peking University; Universitas Gadjah Mada; Una** Europa	**Leiden University's International Staff Week (ISW) 2025**, themed *"Connecting New Opportunities"* will gather academics and professionals from our global network. The event aims to address how current developments in higher education are impacting international collaboration and educational practices. Through an interdisciplinary approach, ISW will explore four pressing themes in higher education: 1. **A.I. and IT Developments** 2. **Alliances, Consortia, and Strategic Partnerships** 3. **Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Sustainability ("IDEAS")** 4. **Mobility 2.0 & International Partnerships** Each day will consist of plenary expert-led sessions, breakout discussions within three key streams—Policy and Strategy, Operations & Support Services, and Educational Projects—and plenary wrap-ups. This setup allows participants to share innovative ideas, best practices, and explore interdisciplinary solutions. This ISW will facilitate meaningful exchange, aiming to strengthen global partnerships and develop adaptable strategies for future challenges in higher education. This unique initiative will enhance Leiden University's

			commitment to impactful, socially responsible international collaboration and foster resilient global networks in academia.
54	Azeb Amha; Felix K, Ameka; Nancy Kular	**University of Ghana**	**The Language of Food: documentation and representation of food preparation and culinary culture in Africa and its diasporas.** This comparative project aims to document and study the 'language of food' in Africa, based on a new approach to food practices and their actual and mediatic representations. Food as multidimensional phenomenon in human society has been much studied, but in Africa, there has so far been an excessive focus on the problems of food production and food insecurity rather than on food traditions as living culture heritage. There is a lack of in-depth cultural understandings of the interactive complex of the materiality and the cultural embeddedness of food in language and culinary practice: the *constitutive* relationship between language and food items, production and exchange have been less the focus of attention. This project intends to methodologically and empirically prepare a larger research project in the context of case studies from three core African regions and highlight the expression, interaction and 'mediatization' of language on food (discourse, production, exchange, and consumption) in both the actual African settings and in digital and mediatized domains, e.g., in the diaspora. Collaborators and consultants in Africa will be trained in documentation and research on 'the language of food' in both the literal and metaphorical sense.

---

[i] Includes only proposal that are eligible for the draw