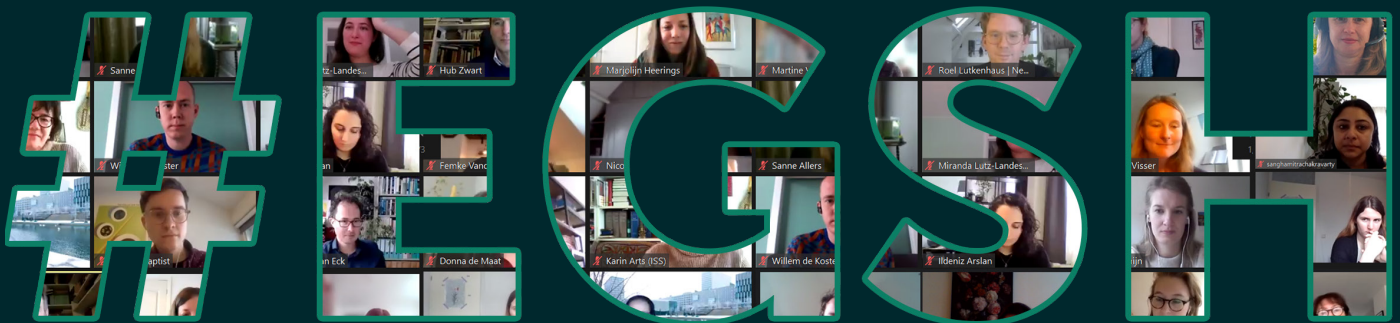


# Annual report 2020

Erasmus Graduate School  
of Social Sciences  
and the Humanities



# The Graduate School in 2020

As we are in the middle of July when this annual report appears, it is fair to say that we are rather late with it. We were not really eager to reflect on the year 2020. Our community of PhD-researchers, supervisors, teachers and support staff was hit hard by the COVID-crisis. International and national PhD-candidates, cut off from travel and home, suffered from isolation; much fieldwork had to be stopped; and some caught the virus and became seriously ill. We have had colleagues who lost loved ones, and others who are still suffering from long COVID. The new everyday reality of working from home through the screen made us all feel alienated and often more tired or stressed than normal.

On the other hand we discovered the differences between Zoom, Teams, Webex and other online platforms, and explored how to teach online, organise virtual interaction and feedback. Our teachers rapidly adapted and admirably managed to keep our classes not only informative, but social and convivial as well. The immense desire to see and speak to each other in these times was apparent in the higher number of participants in our classes and the immensely positive evaluations. Many in our community felt that our online classes made it more practical and efficient for them to participate, and that the online formats did not diminish the quality of their learning process.

We are grateful for all the constructive support we received from our deans in the supervisory board, from our vice-deans for research and institute directors in the programme board, and especially from our PhD-council who have worked persistently with us to identify new topics for courses, alert us to supervision issues and share the concerns in the PhD community. The council is indispensable for the overall performance of our school and has been wonderful in this difficult year.

Currently, we are in the middle of deciding whether we will go back to live teaching or maintain our online modus for a while longer. Given the uncertainty of the abolishment of the 1.5 meter requirement and the resulting logistical challenges for adequate teaching space, the rise of new varieties of the virus and the uneven international vaccination levels, it is most likely that we will remain online mostly with real-life additions when and where possible.

We all wish you a good summer, be careful and responsible and allow yourself some serious down time.

Sincerely,



**Prof. dr. Liesbet van Zoonen**  
Dean



**Drs. Jan Nagtzaam**  
Manager



**Dr. Fadi Hirzalla**  
Senior lecturer  
and methodology  
consultant



**Vanessa Abel, MA**  
Project manager  
Graduate SPIRIT



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Communications  
officer



**Naziha Essanhaji**  
Secretary



**Maurice Emaus**  
Student assistant



**Ingeborg Zeeuwen**  
Student assistant

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*Our school is built on **four pillars**:*

- 1. A multidisciplinary and excellent research culture*
- 2. Solid Services in training and supervision needs*
- 3. Collaboration*
- 4. Sound governance and administration*

*The 2020 results for these four areas are presented in the following pages.*

# Multidisciplinary research culture

In 2020 our aim to foster a multidisciplinary research culture was realized through our teaching offers in which we steadily have expanded the classes about research methods that integrate various approaches and are usable in a wide range of social science and humanities disciplines, such as Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Mixed Methods, Q-methodology or GIS. Our course about philosophy of the social sciences and humanities has been a stronghold in our curriculum since the beginning of the school.

Our second instrument for enhancing multidisciplinary comes from our annual award selection of best PhD-thesis, article, paper, poster and impact, while not forgetting that all of this excellence only flourishes because of great supervision, collegiality and education. This year, again, the submissions for these categories were many (75) and diverse, coming from all our participating communities.



Awards were granted to the following PhD candidates:

**Award for Best Poster 2020**

**Winner: Suzanne van de Groep**

PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences / Developmental Neuroscience in Society.

**Award for Best Conference Paper 2020**

**Winner: Femke Vandenberg**

PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication / Department of Arts & Culture Studies.

**Award for Best Article 2020**

**Winner: Marthe Stevens**

PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management

**Award for Best PhD Thesis 2020**

**Winner: Elizabeth Ngutuku**

PhD candidate at the International Institute of Social Studies.

**Award for PhD Colleague of the Year 2020**

**Winner: Miranda Lutz-Landesbergen**

PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences / Department of Psychology, Education & Child Studies/ Clinical Psychology.

**Award for PhD Supervisor of the Year 2020**

**Winner: Willem de Koster**

Associate Professor at Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

**Award for Graduate School Teacher of the Year 2020**

**Winner: Nees Jan van Eck**

Teacher at the Erasmus Graduate School of Social Sciences and the Humanities.

**Award for Best Societal Impact 2020**

**Winner: Suzanne van de Groep and Renske van der Crujjsen**

PhD candidates at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences / Developmental Neuroscience in Society.

**Award for Best Societal Impact 2020**

**Winner: Marjolijn Heerings**

PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management.

A total of 75 PhD candidates graduated, see table 1:

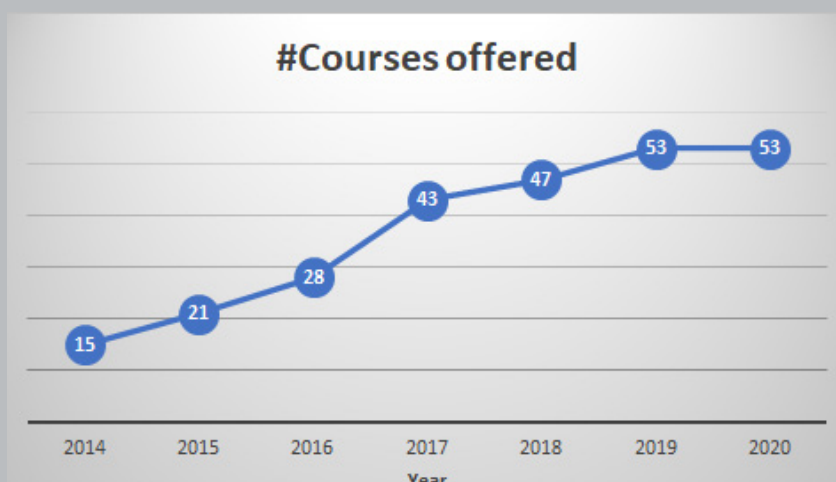
Table 1. **Graduation** per faculty

<b>Graduation per faculty</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSBS)	13	16	29
International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)	11	6	17
Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC)	6	7	13
Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management (ESHPM)			13
Erasmus School of Philosophy (ESPhil)	0	1	1
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)	1	1	2

# Solid services in training and supervision needs

1. In 2020, 53 courses and workshops were offered.
2. The development of the number of courses offered from 2014 to 2020 is as follows

Graph 1. **Number of courses** 2014 – 2020



3. Some details for 2020 are:

- o 534 course participants
- o Average group size: 12.5 members

Graph 2. **Number of course participants** 2014 – 2020

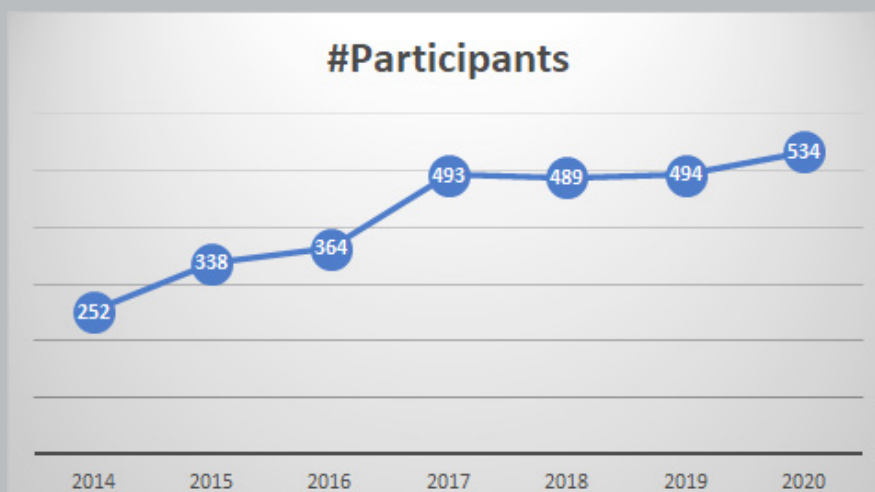
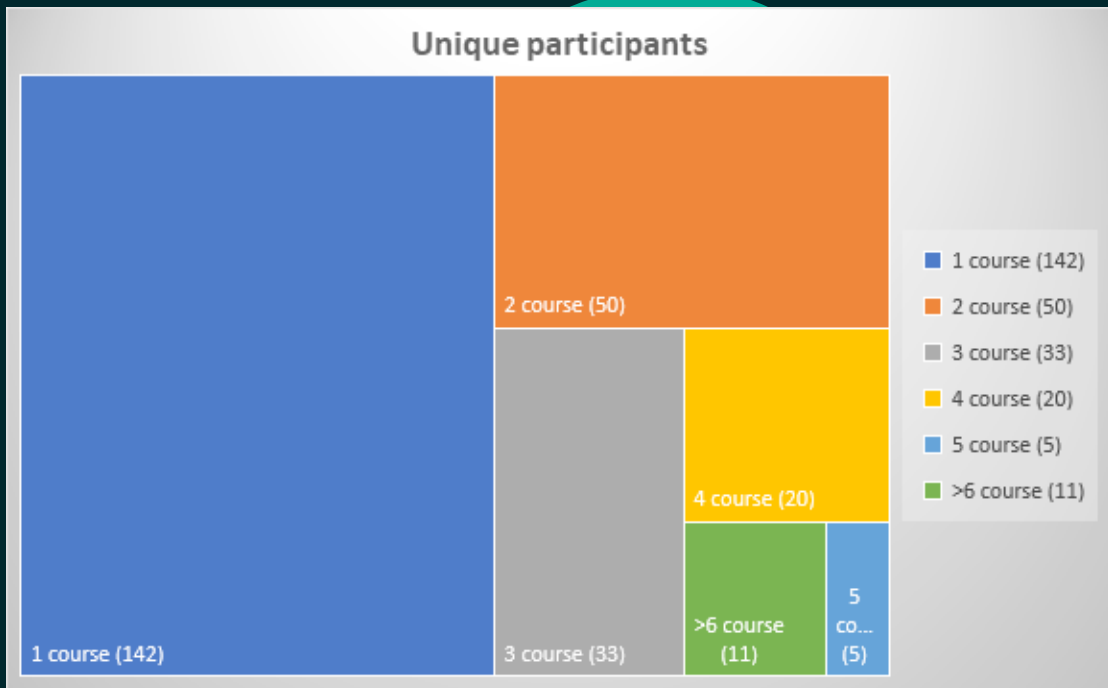




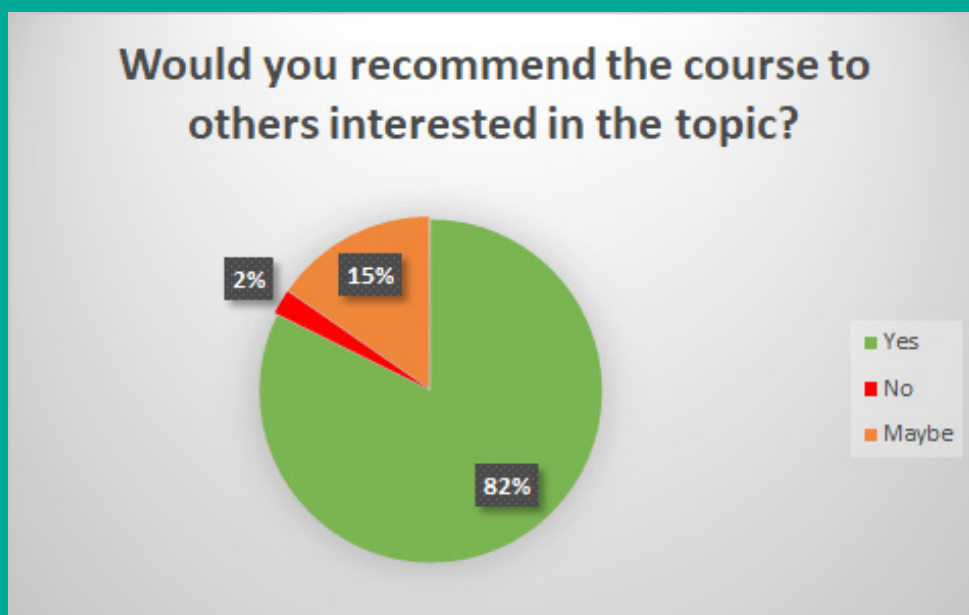
Table 3. **Course participation** per faculty/institute and department 2020

<b>Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences (ESSBS)</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>24,9%</b>
<i>Pedagogical Sciences/Psychology (DPECS)</i>	82	15,4%
<i>Public administration/Sociology (DPAS)</i>	51	9,6%
<b>Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management (ESHPM)</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>18,9%</b>
<b>Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication (ESHCC)</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>17%</b>
<i>Arts and Culture Studies</i>	39	7,3%
<i>Media and Communication</i>	35	6,6%
<i>History</i>	17	3,2%
<b>Other</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>13,7%</b>
<i>DRIFT</i>	11	2,1%
<b>International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>12,2%</b>
<b>Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS)</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8,4%</b>
<b>Erasmus School of Philosophy (ESPhil)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4,9%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>100%</b>

Graph 3. **Course participation** by unique participants 2020



Graph 4. **Quality and recommendation by participants: courses and workshops were evaluated at a 4.25 on a 5-point scale).**



The evaluation specifics of courses and workshops are shown on the next page.

Graph 5. **Evaluations 2020**



**5. Methodology consultant**

The methodology consultant had 9 sessions with individual candidates, helping them with fundamental reflection and concrete directions for method and research issues.

**6. Confidential PhD counsellor**

The confidential PhD counsellor (Professor Sabine Severiens) was consulted one time by a PhD candidate.

# Collaboration

## 1. Hogeschool Rotterdam

Our dean continued the school's collaboration with the Hogeschool Rotterdam by leading the PhD-voucher committee which assessed internal PhD and Postdoc applications.

## 2. Graduate SPIRIT project

The Graduate Spirit project, a collaboration of 9 European graduate schools for the social sciences and humanities to improve doctoral training led by the EGSF, was completed in 2020. The project was well evaluated by the funding Erasmus+ agency, and all its results have been published online, in easily usable formats with recommendations and innovations regarding Ph-candidates, supervisors and teaching staff, curriculum and governance: <https://www.gradspirit.eu/>. Graduate Spirit too, suffered from the COVID crisis. We cancelled all the planned international 'multiplier' events and decided not to replace them by online meetings given the already emerging overload for everyone. Instead we intensified our social media presence: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/graduate-spirit>.



SPIRIT #Metoo play and panel discussion at Eurodoc conference in Brussels, Belgium  
April 2019

# Sound governance and administration

1. The Supervisory Board and the management team met several times to discuss pressing budget and organisational issues. While no official reorganisation was requested, there has been a necessary and satisfactory reshuffling of tasks and responsibilities.
2. The program board was re-installed and now follows the organisational structure of the participating faculties, with the vice-deans of research as the 'qualitate qua' members. The program board has convened twice to talk about the planning and evaluation of the courses.
3. Although the EGSB PhD Council has its own organisation and responsibilities, our management team regularly convenes with them for our reciprocal benefits. All council members were handed a small gift as a token of the Graduate School's appreciation to thank them for all their hard work in 2020. The Council consisted of 3 members in 2020; Novika Purnam Sari (Chair), Brenda Rodriguez Cortes (Vice Chair) and Phuong Hoan Le (Secretary).

## Colophon

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