2014 Annual Report by René Bekkers
To the advisory committee of the chair ‘Social aspects of prosocial behavior’ sponsored by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences - Van der Gaag Foundation
June 21, 2015

Since January 1, 2013, I am appointed as an ‘extraordinary professor’ (‘Bijzonder Hoogleraar’) at the Faculty of Social Sciences at VU University Amsterdam. On January 1, 2014, I also became the director of the Center for Philanthropic Studies (CPhS) at VU University Amsterdam. This memo describes my activities and experiences in my second year as an ‘extraordinary professor’.

Highlights
Four main developments characterize 2014: more management tasks, more interdisciplinary research, the organization of the 2014 Van der Gaag conference, and integrity policy.

1. Management. The additional responsibility of directing the CPhS increased the workload in management tasks, including the evaluation of employees, employment contract issues and financial matters. It is unfortunate that the introduction of electronic systems for Human Resource Management (e-HRM) and finances at VU University was accompanied with a lot of teething problems, which further reduced time available for original research.

2. Interdisciplinary and international research. In the research projects I worked on in 2014 I collaborated with researchers from a large variety of disciplines. On a trip to the US I visited the Harvard Business School (Behavioral Insights Group), the University of Chicago (Science of Philanthropy Initiative), the University of Minnesota, and the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. This trip has been very productive in forming new collaborations. It has broadened my knowledge of insights and traditions in other disciplines, and my international network of academics.

3. 2014 Van der Gaag Conference. On June 24, I co-organized a conference with the other Van der Gaag Foundation professors Judith Dubas, Gerben van Kleef and Liesbeth Sterck, and with assistance of the KNAW. This conference brought together researchers from various disciplines and from the Netherlands as well as from abroad. It has not yet resulted in a collaborative paper.

4. Integrity policy. At the Faculty of Social Sciences at VU University I have worked on the establishment of an ethical review board (ERB), based on the example of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy.

Research
My research program follows a scheme developed in my inaugural lecture (Bekkers, 2013a) that distinguishes three aspects of prosocial behavior: causes, manifestations, as well as consequences. at three levels: the micro-level of individuals, the meso-level of organizations and the macro-level of nations. I will use it here to describe my research in 2014. A description of the landscape of academic research on philanthropy in the Netherlands, an elaboration of my inaugural lecture, appeared in a Dutch volume (Bekkers, 2014a).
Table 1. Nine manifestations of the societal significance of philanthropy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determinants</th>
<th>Manifestations</th>
<th>Consequences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macro</td>
<td>12. Government grants: very little crowding out</td>
<td>1. Comparative research on foundations (EUFORI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11. Disaster giving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9. No crowding-out of individual giving by government subsidies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. The principle of care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Religion and education among twins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Factors in the development of trust</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Biological factors in volunteering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Manifestations**

1. For the EUFORI study (Gouwenberg et al., 2015) I worked on a comparative analysis of foundations funding research and innovation. The publication of the study, foreseen in 2014, was delayed.

2. For the handbook on nonprofit associations edited by David Horton Smith, Jurgen Grotz and Robert Stebbins I wrote a chapter with co-authors from many nations on perceptions of nonprofit organizations (Bekkers, Mersiyanova et al., 2015). Within the ITSSOIN project I also contributed to a paper on this topic (Bekkers and Brink Lund, 2014).

3. For a chapter in the Giving in the Netherlands 2015 volume (Bekkers & Mariani, 2015) I revised the estimates on donations through bequests – one of the blind spots in manifestations of philanthropy in the Netherlands. I had planned to study differences in bequest giving in the Netherlands in more detail but did not obtain funding to do so.

**Causes**

**Micro-level**

4. In 2013 I embarked on an exploration of biological correlates of prosocial behavior, which resulted in a chapter in a handbook on volunteering (Bekkers, Konrath & Smith, 2015), co-authored with psychologist Sara Konrath (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University) and one of the founders of the field of philanthropic studies, David Horton Smith (professor emeritus, Boston College). Further with David Horton Smith and Irina Krasnapolskaya (Higher School of Economics, Moscow) I worked on a multidisciplinary Volunteer Motivation Survey in Russia.

5. To write a literature review chapter on the development of generalized trust I invited Peter Thisted Dinesen, a political scientist at the University of Copenhagen. In the course of this project Dinesen took the lead (Dinesen & Bekkers, 2015).
6. The paper on the influence of religion and education using data from twins (Bekkers, 2014b), originally written with a sociology audience in mind, was revised for a more general audience with help from Paul van Lange and Daniëlle Posthuma. The paper still needs some work before it can be submitted.

7. The paper with Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm on the principle of care as a basic prosocial value motivating philanthropy has still not been published. The editor at the *European Journal of Personality* who had handled our initial manuscript did not look at the revised version but sent it to another co-editor, who treated it as a new submission. This has strongly delayed the publication. Further with Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm I received a $30k grant for a national experiment on Altruism, warm glow and generosity from the Science of Philanthropy Initiative. This experiment will be conducted in 2015.

8. Also I started co-supervising a PhD dissertation project on crowdfunding in the cultural heritage sector with Marcel Veenswijk and Irma Borst at the Department of Organization Science at VU University. This project has resulted in a paper in a Dutch journal for the cultural nonprofit sector (Bekkers, Van Teunenbroek, Borst, Koren, and Keuper, 2015).

The longitudinal study on volunteer motivation in nonprofit organizations in collaboration with Peter Groenewegen and Dick de Gilder of the Department of Organization Science was postponed in the wake of plans for an interdisciplinary research institute at the Faculty of Social Sciences.

*Meso-level*

9. At the level of organizations I supervised a paper in the dissertation of Arjen de Wit on changes in donations in response to changes in government subsidies and by investigating the effects of the charitable deduction reform on fundraising activities of cultural nonprofit organizations. We do not find a robust pattern of such changes.

10. With Saskia Franssen I conducted a survey study commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) on fundraising practices by cultural nonprofit organizations in the Netherlands. The charitable deduction reform in 2012 lowered the price of giving to cultural nonprofit organizations in the Netherlands should have encouraged these organizations to raise more funds. Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm and Kim Scharf (Warwick University) provided useful advice for this study, which is closely linked to the 2015 edition of Giving in the Netherlands. Results are forthcoming in 2015.

*Macro-level*

At the macro-level, I have studied natural disasters, and government funding as correlates of philanthropy at the individual level, and nation-level correlates of foundation activity.

11. Following the collaboration with Wiepking (Erasmus University Rotterdam) and Osili (Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, Indiana University), which resulted in a paper in the European Sociological Review (Wiepking, Bekkers and Osili, 2015), we started a new collaboration involving Cagla Okten (Bilkent University) on a paper examining the impact
of the tsunami in 2004 on giving to international relief and development. We find an increase in international giving in the US, but no such change in the Netherlands.

12. PhD candidate Arjen de Wit (co-supervised with Marjolein Broese van Groenou) revised his meta-analysis of studies on the crowding-out hypothesis (De Wit & Bekkers, 2014), finding little crowding-out. A survey experiment showing that crowding-out is very weak in the Dutch population but varies considerably between individuals has not been published.

Consequences
13. In 2014 I have been able to devote more time to new research on consequences of philanthropy through my involvement in the EC funded project on the Impact of the Third Sector on Social Innovation (ITSSOIN) in Europe coordinated by the University of Heidelberg. Within this project, I contributed to five publications: a paper outlining the hypotheses of the entire study (Anheier et al., 2014), a paper summarizing research on determinants of volunteering (Bekkers & De Wit, 2014), perceptions of nonprofit organizations (Bekkers and Verkaik, 2014), and to a paper describing how to estimate potential consequences of volunteering for volunteers and society at large (Bekkers & Verkaik, 2015).

Teaching
As in previous years, I taught two courses in the Philanthropic Studies elective minor program: ‘Explanations for Prosocial Behavior’ and a Statistics Tutorial using data from the Giving in the Netherlands Panel Survey.

For the master program in Communication Science I supervised students using experiments on philanthropy and crowding-out. One of the students I supervised, Dave Verkaik, I hired as a research assistant after he had completed his master thesis. For the Graduate School of Social Sciences at VU University I taught Research Design and Proposal Design and Writing and developed a course module on integrity in research in the course Engaged and Responsible Scholarship.

Service
My interest in integrity in research led to the development of a course on this topic for the Graduate School. Also I contributed to policy in the Faculty with the development of an Ethical Review Board, using materials from the Faculty of Psychology at VU University.

I continued my membership of the Research Committee at the Faculty of Social Sciences, VU University Amsterdam. Also I was a Member of the Scientific Steering Committee of Foreign financing of Islamic institutions in the Netherlands (RAND Europe, WODC - Ministry of Security and Justice, Research and Documentation Centre).
I was a member of the evaluation committee of the dissertation of Danielle Teeeuwen, Utrecht University (supervised by Marco van Leeuwen and Lex Heerma van Voss).

I was a reviewer for an award committee (the Gabriel Rudney Memorial Dissertation Award, Arno), for grant proposals (the United States – Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) and the John Templeton Foundation) as well as for academic journals, including Child Development, Voluntas, Science, the International Journal of Webbased Communities, Psychological Science, Administrative Sciences, Nonprofit & Voluntary Sector Quarterly, PLOS ONE, Field Methods). The strong increase in the number of requests for reviews led me to adopt a conditional acceptance reviewer policy. The blog post describing this policy attracted a lot of attention.

**Publications**


Innovation" (ITSSOIN, 613177), European Commission – 7th Framework Programme, Brussels: European Commission, DG Research.


Blogposts


Invited lectures
‘Do Two Eyes See More Generosity Than One? Watching Eyes, Gender, and Giving.’ VU University Amsterdam, Department of Marketing research seminar, May 27, 2014.

Conference presentations
