

## CTWS hits new paths

How can scientists assess whether their research results has influenced the work of their colleagues? Is it possible to measure the impact of science on society? What are the disadvantages of the increasingly sophisticated ranking and scoreboards? And what are the effects of the current evaluation culture on knowledge production? How can we evaluate science in a well-balanced way? And how should the career policy system of Dutch universities develop within the proliferation of evaluations?

These are some of the scientific and policy issues that are central in the new research programme of the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS): ‘Merit, Expertise and Measurement’. CWTS is a recognized leader in the field of scientometrics and is exploring new venues. In the past 30 years, CWTS played a central role in the development of scientometric and gave it a strong foundation. Now CWTS is hitting new paths. Examples are the widespread abuse or incorrect interpretation of bibliometric indicators and the development of new indicators to assess the technical sciences, humanities and social sciences.

The research as described in the working programme is conducted in five new working groups, each led by a senior researcher:

- Advanced bibliometric methodology (Ludo Waltman PhD)  
This working group focuses on the mathematical and statistical basis of bibliometric methods and indicators for research evaluation. The working group also provides the methodological foundations for new services that are performed by CWTS BV.
- The practice of evaluating research in context (Sarah de Rijcke PhD)  
This working group focuses on the analysis of the practice of research evaluations. Where should we make adjustments?
- Bibliometric indicators for humanities and social sciences (Thed van Leeuwen PhD)

In evaluating the social sciences and humanities, current methods are not applicable. This working group searches for basic solutions to assess these disciplines on their merits.

- Societal impact of research (Ingeborg Meijer PhD)  
In this working group the main focus is on the evaluation of socio-economic and culture impact of scientific research in the society.
- Career policy and career paths in science (Inge van der Weijden PhD)  
This working group analyses the dynamics in scientific careers and identifies possible bottlenecks in careers of academics.

These five working groups work closely together with the already existing research chairs in the CWTS. The chairs are: Scientometrics (prof. dr. Paul Wouters), Science

and Innovation Studies (prof. dr. Robert Tijssen) and Science Policy Studies (prof. dr. Cornelis van Bochove).

The new research programme is a response to the growing need among managers of universities and research institutes to use quantitative performance measurement tools. The broadened research agenda also aims to expand the theoretical foundation for developing indicators. Moreover, the strengthening of international collaboration in the community of information science and bibliometrics in order to achieve new international standards of quality for assessments and science and technology indicators is an important goal in the CWTS research programme.

More information about the Centre for Science and Technology Studies CWTS and its new research programme *Merit, Expertise and Measurement*: <http://www.cwts.nl>

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