

Editorial

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As director of the Undergraduate School of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Utrecht University I feel proud to introduce this issue of our online open access journal *Social Cosmos*. The journal is one of the achievements of the Von Humboldt College, our undergraduate honours program. The journal is part of the central course of the program *Dare to Compare* as are other achievements such as several conferences, short films, and a fan for students filled with information and cases on academic integrity.

When the journal was first published, in 2010, it contained one issue a year, filled with papers written by our honours students around a central theme that they had chosen for that year. Themes of past years include “Images of the Child”, “Identity and Self image”, “Terrorism and fear” and “Academic Integrity”. These are all very interesting issues that contain a rich quality of work that can be expected of honours students. As you’ve probably noticed, however, this is the second issue of the journal to see the light of day this year. This second issue of 2013 is filled with high quality papers on undergraduate research. It is open to all students to submit their work for publishing. I cannot stress how important it is for us to realise that this is one of the aims of an honours program, that new forms of teaching and learning, and activities from the honours program might find their way into the regular curriculum. For the second year in a row, *Social Cosmos* contributes to this aim with an issue filled with independent research papers that is open to students from regular programs.

When I read the papers in this issue it makes me proud to be director of the Undergraduate School. The papers are of high quality and from a large range of majors. Students are nominated by their supervisors to submit their work to the journal, and I would like to congratulate the supervisors (mentioned with each paper) with their excellent choices. But mostly I would like to congratulate all students that took the time and effort to undergo a rigorous review process that resulted in the research papers in this issue. You’ve all made a first and very important step in an academic career. I hope we see more of your work in the near future.