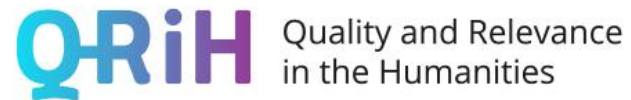# QRiH:
Towards a fitting system for Humanities research evaluation
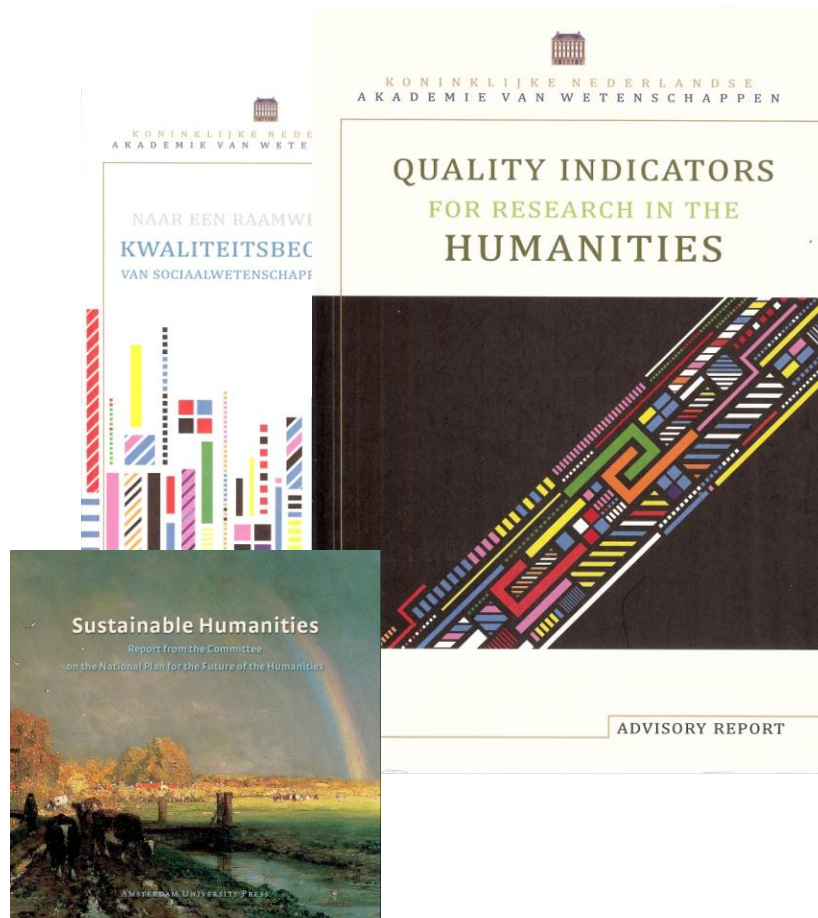
Ad Prins

Jack Spaapen

Thed van Leeuwen

Nelleke van den Broek-Honingh

Pathways to Impact of SSH research, Vienna, November 29, 2018

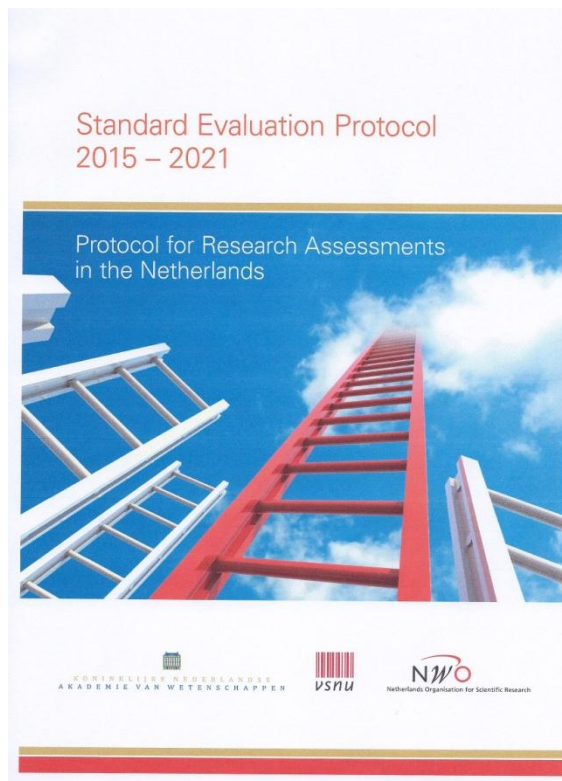# The quest for indicators for Humanities research

Standard Evaluation Protocol

QUALITY INDICATORS
FOR RESEARCH IN THE
HUMANITIES

NAAR EEN RAAMW
KWALITEITSBE
VAN SOCIAALWETENSCHAPP

KONINKLIJKE NEDE
AKADEMIE VAN WETE

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE
AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

ADVISORY REPORT

Sustainable Humanities
Report from the Committee
on the National Plan for the Future of the Humanities

AMSTERDAM UNIVERSITY PRESS

Recommendations of several reports influenced the central Dutch evaluation protocol

Standard Evaluation Protocol
2015 – 2021

Protocol for Research Assessments
in the Netherlands

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE
AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN

vsnu

NWO
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

QRiH a fitting system for humanities research evaluation

The Dutch evaluation context: SEP

Standard Evaluation Protocol
2015 – 2021

Protocol for Research Assessments
in the Netherlands

		Quality domains	
		Research quality	**Relevance to society**
Assessment dimensions	**Demonstrable products**	1. Research products for peers	4. Research products for societal target groups
	Demonstrable use of products	2. Use of research products by peers	5. Use of research products by societal target groups
	Demonstrable marks of recognition	3. Marks of recognition from peers	6. Marks of recognition by societal target groups

Developing indicators for Humanities research

- Working group, under the auspices of the deans of Humanities faculties

- Panels involving all 17 Humanities research schools and over 200 researchers

- Analyzing research outcomes of two large Humanities faculties

- Experiences and approaches in other countries (VABB-SHW and CRISTiN)
  - Include books, large variety of journals
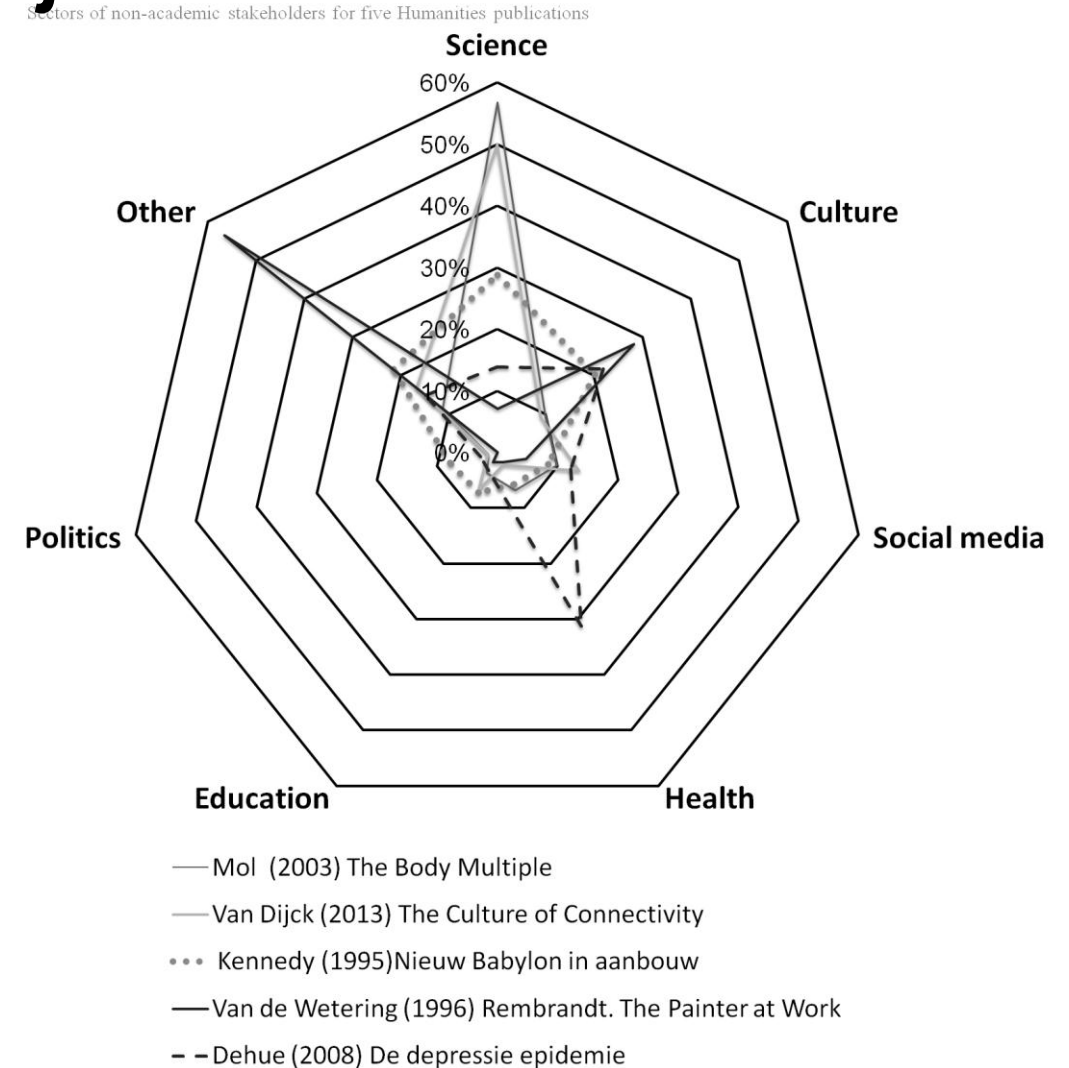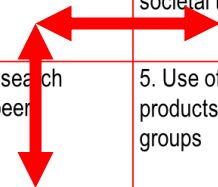 - Context differs: direct financial consequences

Diversity in types and trajectories

- Diversity in types: catalogues, documentaries, designs, software, databases, etc.

- Orientation in languages: Dutch, other languages

- Trajectories:

		Quality domains	
		Research quality	**Relevance to society**
Assessment dimensions	**Demonstrable products**	1. Research products for peers	4. Research products for societal target groups
	Demonstrable use of products	2. Use of research products by peers	5. Use of research products by societal target groups
	Demonstrable marks of recognition	3. Marks of recognition from peers	6. Marks of recognition by societal target groups

Sectors of non-academic stakeholders for five Humanities publications

—— Mol (2003) The Body Multiple
—— Van Dijck (2013) The Culture of Connectivity
· · · Kennedy (1995)Nieuw Babylon in aanbouw
—— Van de Wetering (1996) Rembrandt. The Painter at Work
– – Dehue (2008) De depressie epidemie

The QRiH approach: Narratives

Narrative as the basic structure for the self-evaluation of the research unit.

- Address both the scientific and the societal mission of the research and supported this by concrete evidence.

- Elaborate the six SEP cells in the table with indicators:

  - Indicators authorized by panels & supervised by a national panel.

  - Indicators as described in general terms in the QRiH website, to be elaborated by the unit itself: "reasoned" indicators

- The unit is free in choosing to narrate the trajectory of quality and relevance... but evidence for each cell remains vital.

Website: www.qrih.nl/en

Content:
- Format for self-assessments
- Indicators
  - Authorized through panels
  - Broadly defined for further elaboration
- Lists of journals and publishers
- Examples
- Profiles of research domains

Quality and Relevance in the Humanities

QRiH is an instrument for describing, systematically, quality and relevance in humanities research in the Netherlands. It takes the form of a narrative that describes research efforts and results in relation to one another, in accordance ... assessment ... website is t ... ssment of res ... ing the site c ...

directly to the SEP indicators:

☰ Products for Peers ❯	☰ Societal products ❯
👤 Use by peers ❯	👤 Societal use ❯
💬 Recognition by peers ❯	💬 Societal recognition ❯

QRiH — Quality and Relevance in the Humanities

Home | SEP evaluation | Profiles | Tools | About QRiH

Search | NL | EN

Using QRiH in assessments: first experiences

Outcomes of questionaires for directors and policy makers involved in actual assessments:

- QRiH is known and appreciated as a tool, particularly its narrative form
- But the actual use is still hampered by:
  - Too many different groups of indicators
  - Profiles of research schools hardly used,
  - Lists of journals hardly used: Ambivalence regarding the status of lists of journals and publishers
  - Distinction with the (dominant and prevailing) SEP protocol

QRiH a learning process…..

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Nelleke van den Broek-Honingh, Rathenau