

Repertoires of Resilience

Faculty Zoom Conference

Wednesday 20 May 2020

13:30-15:00

To what extent does meaning making contribute to resilience? Which dimensions of meaning making can we distinguish in social, cultural, political, economic and psychological resilience? Which forms of resilience contribute to an inclusive and healthy society? In the *Resilience in Crisis* project, scholars of religion and theologians from the *Faculty of Religion and Theology* (VU University Amsterdam), together with colleagues from other faculties and social partners, address these questions, which have become particularly urgent during the Corona crisis.

On **Wednesday 20 May**, 13:30-15:00, a **Faculty Conference** is held around the theme **Repertoires of Resilience**. You are cordially invited to join, as well as to send in proposals for contributions by both staff and MA students.

We invite proposals for contributions around the theme in the following forms:

1. Academic papers (10 min.)
2. Academic columns (5 min.)
3. Interactive work forms, Zoom-friendly (20 mins.)
4. Free artistic expression (5 min.)

Since it is an internal faculty conference, aimed at a first exploration of the theme, as well as maintaining a sense of faculty social cohesion in times of isolation, you are invited to keep your contribution relatively informal and light-hearted if you prefer that, as long as it does invite to further academic reflection in the future.

Proposals will be selected on four criteria:

1. Does it address the theme of resilience in relation to Corona?
2. Does it contribute to cooperation between B&P and T&T?
3. Does it invite to look further than only the current crisis?
4. Can it have an interdisciplinary follow-up?

Please send your proposals of no more than 250 words to resilience.frt@vu.nl before 25 April! Decisions on acceptance will be communicated 30 April.

Call for Contributions --- Call for Contributions --- Call for Contributions

Some background on the project

1. Vision

The research at the Faculty of Religion and Theology is both of academic high quality, socially relevant and supportive of people's world views. Part of the task of the academy is to look beyond the issues of the day, and to think a bit deeper and longer on those issues than elsewhere. The Corona crisis raises many fundamental questions about meaning making and resilience, which require deep thought and attention, in order to develop knowledge that can be relevant for the current crisis and for future crises. Working from various disciplines, religious and non-religious world view traditions, and expertise in the broad field of sources, traditions, beliefs and religious practices, the Faculty of Religion and Theology wants to contribute to answering these questions.

2. Approach

The Corona crisis, which started in 2019 and continues into 2020, is a theme par excellence that touches on the resilience of people and communities, society and culture, and economic, political and ecological systems. The crisis is both a personal and a collective 'contingency experience', in which meaning making can come under pressure on the one hand, and on the other hand be an important source of coping and social change, social involvement and innovation. Virtually every religious and secular denominational institution in the Netherlands is looking for ways to re-source and to come up with practices and stories that contribute to a resilient approach to the uncertainty, fear, vulnerability and dependence that the crisis entails. In order to find good, healthy and just forms of resilience, it is important to critically examine the resilience potential of meaning-giving traditions.

3. Goals

The Resilience in Crisis project aims to investigate the role of religious and meaning making initiatives to promote resilience in times of crisis and to map the role of sources and traditions of meaning in (personal and collective) resilience. The project promotes interdisciplinary, intersectional and interfaith research collaboration within the faculty, in dialogue with other academic and social partners.

4. Concrete activities / projects

A number of short-term activities are currently being developed within the Resilience in Crisis project, including the first online faculty symposium *Reflections on Resilience*. In addition, more long-term projects are being set up, such as an interdisciplinary research project.

5. Organization

The current core team consists of Peter-Ben Smit, Pieter Coppens, Miranda van Holland and Johan Roeland.