

**Position:**

PhD project, 4 years (1.0fte), start date: 1 April 2018. Initially a contract will be given for 12 months, with an extension for the following 36 months on the basis of a positive evaluation.

Title:

Communicative anchoring: common ground management in Roman Comedy
(Anchoring Work Package 1)

Salary:

€2,222 to €2,840 gross per month (based on 38 hours a week)

Supervisors:

Prof. Dr. C.H.M. Kroon (UvA), Dr. L.W. van Gils (VU)

Organisational unit:

University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Humanities

Job description:

In order to communicate new information, ideas or opinions successfully, a speaker or writer will have to anchor these ideas firmly to the common ground that is shared between him or her and the addressee. Cognitive linguists have recently used this insight to explain the use of particles, negations and pronouns (for references see <http://www.ru.nl/oikos/anchoring-innovation/proceedings-international-conference-anchoring/>, in articles by Kroon and by Allan & van Gils). In the field of Latin and Greek Linguistics, progress has been made by connecting cognitive linguistic concepts of common ground management to narrative theories (e.g. Labov 1972) and by exploring historiographical discourse along these lines. An investigation of other and more prototypically 'dialogic' genres like speech, letters and drama is expected to generate new insights with regard to the cognitive-linguistic mechanisms of common ground management in Latin. The case of Plautine comedies is especially relevant because of the various communicative levels at which common ground management may play a role.

The main questions of the PhD project are: (1) what textual strategies and linguistic devices play a role in common ground management in the dialogues of Plautus, as the closest counterparts to spontaneous Latin dialogue; (2) how does common ground management function in metatheatrical communication. This last question is expected

to be relevant not only for determining the significance and complexity of communicative anchoring, but also for the more general discussion of explaining the success of Plautus's innovative drama. The results, laid down in a number of publishable articles or a monograph, will show how linguistic anchoring mechanisms function in Latin dialogical texts and as such support the Anchoring Innovation research agenda of OIKOS.

More information about the Anchoring Innovation research agenda of OIKOS can be found on the OIKOS website (<http://www.ru.nl/oikos/anchoring-innovation/>), including an article by Ineke Sluiter, entitled "Anchoring Innovation: a Classical Research Agenda" (<http://www.ru.nl/oikos/anchoring-innovation/publications/>).

Tasks of the PhD candidate will include:

- Completion and defence of a PhD thesis within four years
- Participation in meetings of the project research group(s)
- Presentations of intermediate research results at workshops and conferences
- Participation in the training programme of the Graduate School and Research School

Requirements:

- A (R)MA or MPhil degree in Classics (held by time of appointment)
- Familiarity with both pragmatic linguistic and literary approaches to Latin Literature
- Excellent research skills
- Interest in interdisciplinary approaches
- A strong cooperative attitude and willingness to engage in collaborative research
- Excellent command of English

Job application:

In order to be considered, applications must include the following information (in the order stated), in one PDF file (not zipped):

- Cover letter
- CV, including contact details of two referees
- Academic transcript
- Research proposal of 1500 words (excluding bibliography and – if appropriate – appendix containing list of sources: together max. two pages A4)
- Copy of relevant degree certificate(s)

Please submit your application to Dr. Roald Dijkstra, the coordinator of the Anchoring programme via anchoring@let.ru.nl before 1 November 2017.

Interviews will take place in the week beginning 4 December 2017. For candidates living abroad interviews may be held via Skype.

More information about this position may be obtained from Prof. Dr. C.H.M. Kroon (c.h.m.kroon@uva.nl).