ISPM	**Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine**
BIHAM	**Berner Institut für Hausarztmedizin**
CTU	**Clinical Trials Unit**

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Seminar on Thursday, May 17, 2018, 16:00 (Hauptgebäude, Hochschulstrasse 4, room 331, 3rd floor)

Optimizing the responsible researcher: towards fair and constructive academic advancement

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Researcher at CWTS, Leiden University

Researchers are pulled in various, sometimes contradictory directions by the multiplication of performance metrics and new incentives to align with societal needs. Management structures, funding systems, and publication practices are increasingly influenced by pressures to promote only the highest quality science, and by models and incentives for academic advancement that would produce this highest quality. However, it is highly questionable whether a scientific practice controlled through these mechanisms in fact selects (and to some extent breeds) scientists who comply with ideals of responsible conduct in research.

Recent years have seen high-profile initiatives to improve current criteria for assessing academic achievements (e.g. the Leiden Manifesto, the Metric Tide, Science in Transition, DORA, METRICS, Reward Alliance). Some institutions are implementing improved and innovative incentive and reward systems. It is yet unknown whether these systems will counter unintended effects of evaluation systems and unwarranted uses of performance metrics, and help to foster responsible conduct of research by selecting the scientists with a multidimensional profile (i.e. more than a good publication and citation record) and a skill-set that enables them to undertake and supervise both innovative and societally relevant research. In this talk I will discuss preliminary findings from a project funded by the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development, in which we describe the optimal profile of researchers in terms of their propensity to foster responsible conduct in research, and compare this profile with existing academic incentive and reward systems. The project will result in an evidence-based framework and a set of concrete policy recommendations for designing (or adapting) academic reward systems aimed at fostering excellent, socially responsible research.

Govert Valkenburg

Govert Valkenburg is a researcher at the CWTS Centre for Science and Techology Studies of Leiden University (the Netherlands). Currently, he works on the project 'Optimizing the responsible researcher: towards fair and constructive academic advancement'. The project aims to investigate how responsible research is stimulated or hampered by institutional arrangements, notably in processes recruitment and advancement. Biomedical research is taken as a strategic research site. The project is funded by ZonMw. Govert's earlier research has covered a broad range of topics, including sustainable energy transitions, privacy and security, and human genomics. He has always connected these topics to concepts from political and social philosophy, notably ideas of citizenship and public reason. His recent research concerned the issue of rice straw burning in India and the potential of alternatively using the straw for the production of biogas. Stakeholder engagement, knowledge transfer, and epistemological boundaries were important foci of this research project. He took his PhD at the University of Twente (Enschede, the Netherlands), and holds multiple degrees, in electrical engineering, philosophy, and classical music.