



**Nederlandse Onderzoeksschool Wijsbegeerte (OZSW)**

# Dutch Research School of Philosophy

## **Annual Report 2023**

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## 1. General information

The Dutch Research School of Philosophy (*Onderzoekschool Wijsbegeerte* – OZSW) is a joint enterprise of twelve Dutch philosophy departments and faculties. These are:

- *Delft University of Technology* (Faculty of Technology, Policy & Management, Department of Values, Technology and Innovation, [Section Ethics/Philosophy of Technology](#))
- *Eindhoven University of Technology* (Department of Industrial Engineering & Innovation Sciences, [Section Philosophy and Ethics](#))
- *Erasmus University Rotterdam* ([Erasmus School of Philosophy](#))
- *Leiden University* (Faculty of Humanities, [Institute for Philosophy](#))

- *Maastricht University* (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, [Department of Philosophy](#))
- *Radboud University* ([Faculty of Philosophy, Theology & Religion Studies](#))
- *Tilburg University* (Tilburg School of Humanities and Digital Sciences, [Department of Philosophy](#))
- *University of Amsterdam* (Faculty of Humanities, [Discipline Philosophy](#))
- *University of Groningen* ([Faculty of Philosophy](#))
- *University of Twente* (Faculty of Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences, [Department of Philosophy](#))
- *Utrecht University* (Faculty of Humanities, [Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies](#))
- *VU Amsterdam* (Faculty of Humanities, [Department of Philosophy](#))

The OZSW was established at the end of 2012 and started its operations in January 2013. The OZSW comprises the former Netherlands School for Research in Practical Philosophy (OZSE), which has become the OZSW section 'Ethics and Practical Philosophy'. The other two OZSW sections are 'History of Philosophy' and 'Theoretical Philosophy'.

The general purpose of the OZSW is to strengthen the discipline of philosophy. It does so by:

- (1) Maintaining the national network for research and research-related education within philosophy;
- (2) The provision of inter-university education for the benefit of the PhD programs and Research Master programs in coordination with the graduate schools and / or the research institutes of the participating institutions;
- (3) Promoting and supporting national and international cooperation in research, with the aim of creating focus and mass and profiling the discipline;
- (4) Promoting the quality and social relevance of research, and
- (5) Acting as national contact point and representative of academic philosophy in the Netherlands, including by acting as a platform for social partners.

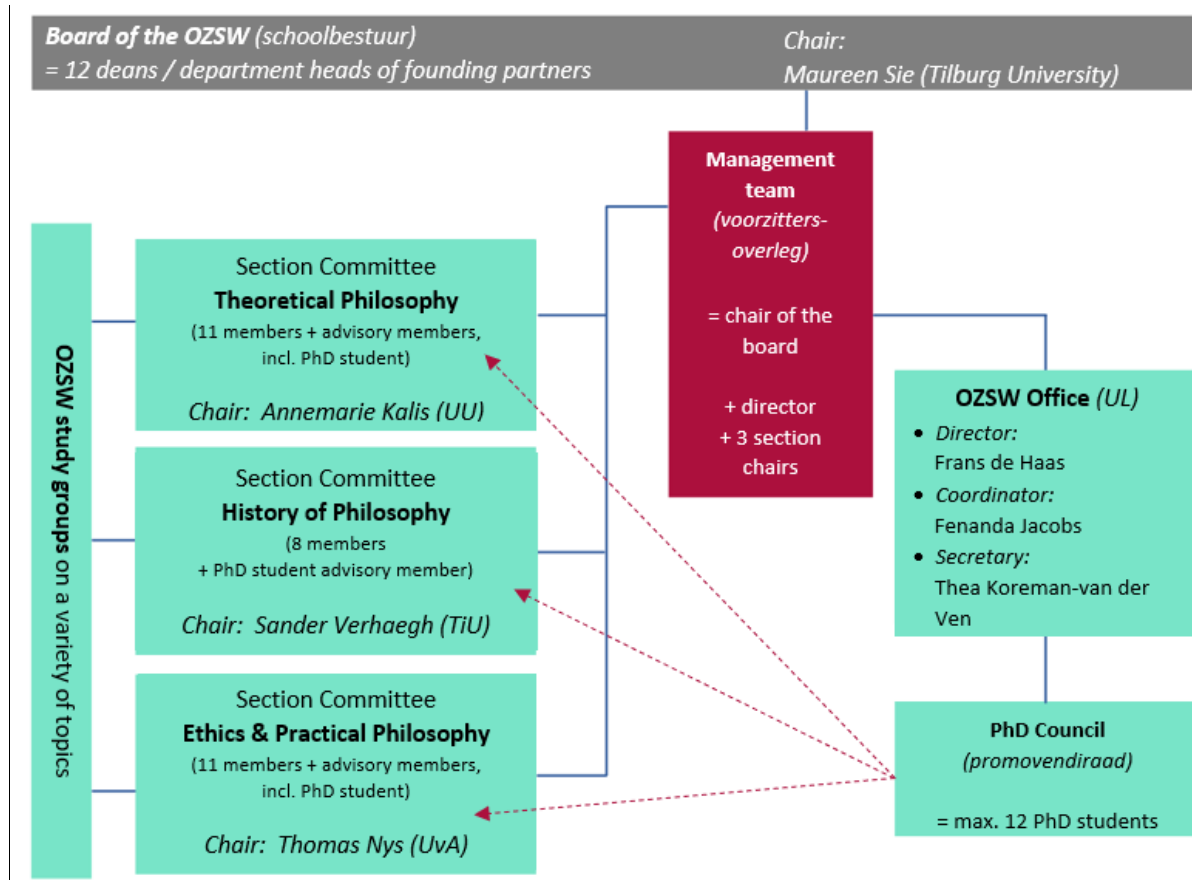
The year 2023 was the final year that Leiden University hosted the OZSW (2019-2023), with Prof.dr. Frans de Haas as director, Fenanda Jacobs as coordinator, Thea Koreman as secretary (email and finance), and Mariam Taj Zai as student assistant (member administration, website).

From 1 January 2024 onwards the OZSW is hosted by the Radboud University Faculty of Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies, until 31 December 2028. Dr. Arjen Kleinherenbrink was appointed as the new director, and Janneke Toonders as the new coordinator.

As a consequence, the report on policy and finance in 2023 was written by the Leiden director, under responsibility of the Dean of the Leiden Faculty of Humanities. The forward looking sections on policy and finance from 2024 onwards were written by the Nijmegen director, under responsibility of the Dean of the Nijmegen Faculty of Philosophy, Theology & Religious Studies.

## 1.1 Organisation

The following organogram depicts the organization at the end of 2023:



## 1.2 Members

All who are active in academic research in philosophy can become a member of the OZSW. Free membership applies to all senior faculty members of the 12 partners. Senior staff from other universities in the Netherlands and abroad can become an Associate Member. There are also two PhD Membership types. The PhDs for whom the partners are willing to pay the fee for their own (selected) PhDs are Regular PhD Members. PhDs whose fee is not paid for by their university or who are not affiliated with a partner can become Associate PhD members. The memberships are the same, the only difference is the payment method. The membership policy and the distinct types of membership can be found at: <https://www.ozsw.nl/membership-2020/>

By the end of 2023 the OZSW had 856 members: 256 Research Master students, 213 PhD candidates, and 386 Senior members.

Appendix Table 1 shows the number of members per membership type.

## 2. Educational Program

### 2.1 Overview of educational activities

The OZSW educational activities are initiated and organized by the respective OZSW sections (History of Philosophy, Theoretical Philosophy, and Ethics and Practical Philosophy), its members are representatives of the departments and faculties of Philosophy in the Netherlands and in charge of the local educational activities (or closely related to those who are). In addition, the PhD council organizes some activities that benefit their members (such as the writing retreat). The OZSW office coordinates the general OZSW activities, such as the OZSW Annual International Conference, and the Dutch Flemish Day of Philosophy. They make sure that one of the OZSW partners takes on the organisation of the activities in accordance with a rotation schedule set up several years in advance.

The amount of OZSW activities that took place in 2023 slightly increased from 13 to 16, despite our more ambitious intentions. We welcomed a small increase in the number of courses and activities primarily organised for Research Master students, with higher numbers of ReMA participants (168, compared to 124 participants in 2022, 69 in 2021), and more EC for ReMA students (285, compared to 231 in 2022, and 106,5 in 2021).

As usual the large Ethics & Political Philosophy section, in cooperation with the 4TU members, organised the largest number of events (10). History of Philosophy (2) postponed one event to 2024, Theoretical philosophy held their yearly Graduate conference. Discussions about how best to organize courses for the wide range of topics Theoretical Philosophy covers, with relatively small numbers of interested members for each, have led to new plans for 2024. Unfortunately the Dutch-Flemish Day of Philosophy in Rotterdam had to be cancelled for lack of participation, most likely due to temporary malfunctioning of Filos-NL and other means of communication about the event (see ch. 3). In 2024 it is the University of Leuven's turn to organize this Day of Philosophy.

The OZSW Annual International Conference was held in Leiden in June, and drew a large number of participants (157). After Covid-19 forced us to have two online versions of the conference in the past two years (both organised by Tilburg), it was a pleasure to see each other live again. Due to remaining funds from 2022, the participation fee for PhD candidates and ReMA students could be kept at a low level.

In 2023 certificates for a total of 632,5 EC were handed out, 542,5 EC of which concerned activities organized in 2023. PhD candidates acquired 326,5 EC, ReMA students 285 EC, and other participants 21 EC.

We expect to generate more EC for ReMA students as soon as the increased demand from the ReMA programs in philosophy becomes visible in a higher number of courses designed for ReMA students. This year renewed discussions between the OZSW and a delegation of the DLG cleared the way to a solution for the relatively small number of EC generated by our 257 ReMA students. This is the result of the fact that, until recently, the 6 ReMA programs in the country had OZSW courses listed as merely one of many options from which the ReMA students could choose (if their programmes mentioned research schools and/or the OZSW at all). The relevant DLG members (and their relevant colleagues from Groningen and Nijmegen) have looked into their local programs, with the result that by the end of 2023 we were for the first time beginning to receive requests for additional ReMA courses in specific areas of philosophy from a number of the ReMA programs. The OZSW section committees will be happy to cater for this increased demand. Now that their home institutions are providing more

backing, we hope it will also be easier to find the means to make staff available to organize and teach these OZSW courses. We shall continue our practice of allowing ReMA students to participate in selected courses for PhD candidates, with a tailor-made program to gain EC for ReMA students. In this way, ReMA students may also profit from courses organized by the 6 member universities who do not have a ReMA program in philosophy.

**Appendix Table 2** contains a list of the 16 OZSW activities in 2023.

**Appendix Table 3** shows the total numbers of kinds of participants in 2023.

## 2.2 Quality assurance

The OZSW has an evaluation template and technical procedure in place to be able to track the quality of courses and activities. The OZSW evaluations are online forms on [www.aanmelder.nl](http://www.aanmelder.nl), which are sent to the participants after the activity. The course organizers and the organizing section receive all results of the evaluations.

The average response rate of the evaluation forms was 43% (fluctuating between 21% – 75%), the total evaluations received was 113. The average course evaluation score was 8.6 on a scale of 1 to 10, with fluctuations between 7.14 – 9.33 measured over 15 activities.

These evaluations are discussed in the relevant section in order to improve future activities. The OZSW is very satisfied with the fact that its evaluations continue to score very high. Since 2022 the OZSW has added 2 non-mandatory questions on social safety to its forms. In 2023, four people (distributed over three events) have indicated that they experienced a social safety issue, compared to three people (1 per event) in 2022; no participant wished to elaborate on the issue at hand.

Unfortunately, there is little that we can do with the information thus gathered except monitor it and make sure it reaches the responsible section and coordinators. Obviously if many complaints reach us, we can intervene by cancelling a course or looking for a new course coordinator.

# 3. Developments

## 3.1 OZSW Sections and study groups

The three OZSW sections, viz. Ethics and Practical Philosophy (EPP), History of Philosophy (HP) and Theoretical Philosophy (TP), continued their regular meetings to develop, organize and evaluate courses for PhD candidates, ReMA students and interested staff members. Annemarie Kalis (Utrecht) became the new chair of the Theoretical Philosophy section.

All details with respect to the composition of OZSW section committees may be found on our website: <https://www.ozsw.nl/ozsw-sections/>.

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the general purpose of the OZSW is to strengthen the discipline of philosophy by promoting and supporting national and international cooperation in the research. One of the ways to fulfil this purpose is facilitating OZSW study groups. A detailed description of each of the OZSW study groups, including an overview of its members and their activities can be found on the OZSW website (see <https://www.ozsw.nl/study-groups/>). Once a year each study group can apply for a grant of maximum of 500 euros to be able to organize an event with, e.g., a foreign speaker. In 2023 four study groups sent a proposal and were rewarded a grant: the Feminist Study Group, the Dutch

Seminar in Early Modern Philosophy, Engineering Ethics Education and Research, and Political Philosophy. Not all of the money was spent in 2023.

[Appendix Table 4](#) list of the OZSW study groups

### 3.2 PhD Council

During 2023 the PhD Council organised their annual Autumn Writing Retreat, and a social event in December. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances, their chair was unable to participate in meetings with the OZSW management team and/or the OZSW Board, which had to make do without direct input from the PhD representatives. The Council spent part of the year searching for new active members. By the end of 2023, the composition of the PhD Council was as follows: Sophie van Balen (interim chair), Barbara Bziuk (treasurer), Ties van Gemert, Lisa Kampen, and Maarten Eigner.

### 3.3 Information channels

[The OZSW website](#) is the main channel of information for the members. In its [event calendar](#) all academic events in philosophy in the Netherlands are included. The website is continually updated with information on OZSW courses, ReMa courses at OZSW universities, upcoming doctoral thesis defences, job openings and other events in philosophy in the Netherlands.

During 2023 the OZSW continued to inform their members and others who are interested through a monthly newsletter with an overview of the OZSW activities, other activities and job openings in philosophy etc. Courses and events are also announced on the Filo-NL mailing list, operated from the OZSW office, which was first hosted in Leiden. However, after a number of technical difficulties Leiden University discontinued their server facilities for this purpose, and we decided to move Filo-NL to another platform (MailmanLists). Filo-NL continues to be managed by the OZSW. In 2023, Filo-NL had 1916 subscribers.

### 3.4 Outreach

In 2023 the OZSW has radically revised its outreach activities. At the beginning of 2023 the OZSW paid for a professional editor (Lianne Tijhaar) for 8 hours per week for leading the development of three websites: the Dutch blog *Bij Nader Inzien* (run by younger philosophers coached by the editor), the *Young Philosophers* website, and the online academic philosophy portal *Phine*.

The separate website [Young Philosophers](#), with video's of selected (former) PhD candidates presenting their work to a non-academic audience, was discontinued. The video's are now being integrated into the philosophical webzine [Bij Nader Inzien](#), under the heading "[Gepromoveerd](#)". For this purpose, the OZSW gave a special subvention to BNI for the period of two years (2023-2024). This includes the continuation of the project of selecting a small number of (former) OZSW PhD candidates each year, give them a short training to present their work to a non-academic audience, and having them perform at the yearly [Brainwash](#) festival.

In November 2019 the OZSW launched the academic philosophy portal *Phine* (**Philosophy in the Netherlands**), with the purpose of presenting academic research in philosophy to a philosophically interested but non-academic audience. This was a response to the observation that the Dutch community, including our funding agencies, had an incomplete picture of the societal relevance of philosophy as an academic discipline. After several years of trying to improve this online portal and

exploring various possibilities, we had to conclude that the initiative lacked support from our members. Despite all efforts, the website did not attract a sufficient number of visitors. There were too few academic philosophers with time and interest to provide the website with regular updates about outreach activities of the member institutions—hence the OZSW Board lost interest in the project. The website was taken down on 1 May 2023, and Lianne Tijhaar’s contract was reduced accordingly.

The Dutch philosophical webzine [Bij Nader Inzien](#) (BNI) provides societal issues with philosophical analysis and reflection. Philosophy courses in the Netherlands, including OZSW courses, use BNI articles, and require (ReMA) students to write short articles for the BNI audience. In 2023 the website attracted 81.000 hits and attracted visitors through Google and the various social media accounts. In 2023 the OZSW continued to finance Lianne Tijhaar’s work for BNI.

## 4. Finances

### 4.1 Results for 2023

The financial report has been approved by the OZSW board of directors.

The OZSW made a small loss in 2023. The *Disciplineoverleg Geesteswetenschappen* (DLG; the council of deans of Dutch humanities faculties) requires the research schools to not have a big financial reserve. In order to lower the OZSW’s financial reserve the research school has to have a loss every year.

In view of this financial situation, the Board and the Nijmegen office will rethink the program to spend more money on courses and course development, and other activities. Part of this effort will be supported by the increased demand for ReMA courses mentioned above.

See further [Appendix Table 5](#) Financial report.

### 4.2 The OZSW in 2024 and beyond (Nijmegen)

The Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies at Radboud University is honored to host the OZSW for the next five years. Our secretary Eva Hendriks, assistant director Janneke Toonders, and myself have spent the first months of this year familiarizing ourselves with the school’s activities and organizational structure. We are also happy to have (digitally) met most of the school’s stakeholders.

In 2024 and beyond, we aim to retain and expand upon the school’s successful activities, such as the annual OZSW conference, the PhD writing retreat, and the continuous stream of activities that are initiated by the school’s three chambers. In addition, the school has launched several projects to improve its internal organization and range of activities. To provide a sense of what we will be doing in the next few years, I would like to briefly mention the most important of these.

- The school is working to increase the quantity and diversity of seminars offered to Research Master students. This is done in direct cooperation with the coordinators of the six research master programs among our partners. This project is in line with the DLG’s request to increase the number of ECs that are obtained annually by research master students.
- The school is increasing the overall budget and remuneration for its three chambers and their chairs. This gives them additional resources to increase the quality and quantity of the activities that they initiate. This financial adjustment is paired to discussions about the roles and



responsibilities of the chambers and the PhD council. Based on these discussions, we are creating documents to clarify and formalize the tasks and responsibilities of the school's internal and external stakeholders.

- In line with the OZSW mission statement, we have engaged a social partner with which to organize activities that have an academic as well as social component. The intended social partner for the next few years is the SWIP-NL, the Society for Women in Philosophy.
- The school will drastically renew its website in 2024. Many of its public as well as background components are a decade old, and currently function slowly as well as poorly. This renewal touches upon much more than just the school's presentation to the outside world. Our member administration as well as our external communication are both embedded in the 'backside' of the website, and both will greatly benefit from the renewal.
- The school has created a spending plan to bring its financial reserves down to the maximum allowed amount, as required by the DLG. This spending plan was created by the current office and hence is not part of this report. It will be submitted separately to both the OZSW board and the DLG.

Let me end by saying, on behalf of the new OZSW office, that we are very happy to have been welcomed with open arms by the school's internal and external stakeholders. In the span of just a few brief months, we have again and again seen that there is much enthusiasm about the school's potential to enrich the academic experience of students and researchers. We will do our very best to help turn that potential into a reality.

*Arjen Kleinherenbrink*  
*OZSW Director*

## Appendices

**Table 1 - OZSW Membership in 2014 - 2023**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total Members</b>	552	609	681	698	784	866	932	<b>869</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>855</b>
<b>Total Research Master Students</b>	126	136	161	147	184	225	318	<b>302</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>256</b> <b>(71 new)</b>
<b>Total PhD Members</b>	148	169	201	201	233	259	251	<b>188</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>213</b>
Regular PhD Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161	172	178
Associate PhD Members	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	32	35
<b>Total Senior Members</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>379</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>386</b>
Regular Senior Members	237	265	279	301	322	341	311	325	329	327
Associate Senior Members	33	39	40	49	45	41	52	54	56	59

**Table 2 - 2023 OZSW Educational Program for PhD candidates and Research Master students**

Title	Date(s)	Section	Type	EC	Location	PhD candidates	ReMa students	Other	Total	Organizer
<a href="#">Philosophy of Responsible Innovation</a>	Jan. 11 - 20	EPP	Course	5	Wageningen & Delft	19	5	2	26	WUR (4TU)
<a href="#">On Self-Identity in High Modern Age</a>	Feb. 6 – Jun. 5	HP	Seminar	6	Amsterdam	2	20	-	22	UvA
<a href="#">Philosophy and Decolonization</a>	Feb. – May	EPP	Course	3-10	Amsterdam	9	20	1	30	UvA
<a href="#">The Invention of Greece</a>	Feb. 17	HP	Course	1-2,5	Utrecht	6	23	-	29	UU

<a href="#">ReMa Winter School</a>	Feb. 24 – 25	ReMa	Winter School	2,5	Amsterdam	1	26	-	27	VU
<a href="#">Continental Philosophy of TechnoScience</a>	Mar. 20 – 31	EPP	Course	5	Wageningen	17	14	1	32	WUR
<a href="#">Virtue Epistemology</a>	Apr. 17 – 21	EPP	Course	5	Online	7	3	2	12	TU/e
<a href="#">Biomedical Ethics</a>	Apr. 13 – May 25	EPP	Course	6	Utrecht en Leiden	13	1	1	15	Erasmus MC, Radboudmc, LUMC
<a href="#">Amsterdam Graduate Conference Political Philosophy</a>	May 30 – 31	EPP	Conference	1-4	Amsterdam	14	6	-	20	VU
<a href="#">OZSW Annual Conference</a>	Jun. 2 – 3	-	Conference		Leiden	50	16	91	157	LU
<a href="#">When We Get Older</a>	Aug. 22 – 26	EPP	Summer School	5	Rotterdam	2	8	1	11	EUR
<a href="#">Design for Justice</a>	Sep. 4 – 13	EPP	Course	5	Delft	8	8	1	17	TUD (4TU)
<a href="#">PhD Writing Retreat</a>	October 24 – 27	PhD Council	Retreat	-	Leusden	20	-	-	20	PhD council
<a href="#">Philosophy of Risk</a>	Oct. 30 – Nov. 3	EPP	Seminar	5	Eindhoven	9	6	-	15	TU/e (4TU)
<a href="#">Metaethics: Moral objectivity</a>	Oct. 20 – Dec. 15	EPP	Course	1-3	Leiden	3	9	2	14	LU
<a href="#">Graduate Conference in Theoretical Philosophy</a>	December 11	TP	Conference	2,5	Rotterdam	6	3	1	10	EUR

**Table 3 – Total number of participants in OZSW activities in 2023**

	OZSW members (incl. 4TU members)*	Not OZSW members**	Other***	Total
PhD candidates	124	67		<b>191</b>
Research Master students*	123	29	16	<b>168</b>
Other (e.g. senior researchers)	61	24		<b>85</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>444</b>

\* OZSW members – Research Master students include 4 to 6 Msc students from the PSTS Master of the University of Twente. Their EC are not taken into calculation of ReMa ECs.

\*\* Not OZSW-members are members from other research schools in Humanities, academics from abroad, and other professionals

\*\*\* Participants for whom it is not clear in the records whether they are members or not (such as the ReMa students who participated in the conference)

**Table 4 – List of active study groups in philosophy**

Study Group	Coordinator(s)
<a href="#">African Intercultural Philosophy</a>	Angela Roothaan & Louise Müller
<a href="#">A new philosophy of man &amp; humanism</a>	Hans Dassen
<a href="#">Business Ethics</a>	Wim Dubbink
<a href="#">Christian Philosophy</a>	Govert Buijs
<a href="#">COMET – Metaphysics in Contemporary Continental Philosophy</a>	Arjen Kleinherenbrink
<a href="#">Comparative &amp; Global Philosophy</a>	Stephen Harris, Andrea Sangiacomo
<a href="#">Early Modern Philosophy</a>	Andrea Sangiacomo & Doina-Cristina Rusu
<a href="#">Engineering Ethics (Education and Research)</a>	Diana Martin & Andrea Gammon
<a href="#">Environmental bioethics: health and climate change</a>	Cristina Richie
<a href="#">Environmental Philosophy</a>	Marc Davidson
<a href="#">Ethics of Biomedical Technology</a>	Caspar Safarlou & Lieke Baas & Jozanneke Drogst & Karin Jongsma
<a href="#">Feminist Philosophy</a>	Catherine Koekoek & Marieke Borren

<a href="#">Classical German Idealism and its Relevance / Klassieke Duitse filosofie en haar Actualiteit</a>	Christian Krijnen
<a href="#">Metaethics</a>	Daan Evers & Herman Veluwenkamp
<a href="#">MetaMetaphysical Club, The</a>	F.A. Muller & Tim de Mey
<a href="#">Moral Psychology</a>	Katrien Schaubroeck & Alfred Archer
<a href="#">Peer Review Circle in Practical Philosophy</a>	Emi Visser
<a href="#">Phenomenology</a>	Corijn van Mazijk & Catherine Robb
<a href="#">Philosophy and Psychiatry</a>	Derek Strijbos, Gerrit Glas & Roy Dings
<a href="#">Philosophy of Economics</a>	Annalisa Costella & Måns Abrahamson
<a href="#">Philosophy of Physics</a>	F.A. Muller
<a href="#">Philosophy of Responsibility</a>	Philip Robichaud & Jan Willem Wieland
<a href="#">Philosophy of Science</a>	Guido Bacciagaluppi & Jan-Willem Romeijn
<a href="#">Philosophy of Sport</a>	Alfred Archer & Aldo Houterman
<a href="#">Political Philosophy</a>	Josette Daemen & Ugur Aytac
<a href="#">Social Choice and Group Dynamics</a>	Erica Yu & Frederik Van De Putte
<a href="#">Structuralism</a>	F.A. Muller
<a href="#">Theological Ethics</a>	Angela Roothaan & Steven van den Heuvel

***Table 5 – Financial report in DLG format\****

The full version of the annual report, including the financial reports, are archived by the OZSW office.

***Table 6 – Budget 2024***

The full version of the annual report, including the financial reports, are archived by the OZSW office.