

Two-year Research Master in Human Geography, Planning and Demography

***Regional Studies:*
spaces & places, analysis & intervention**

For more info see:

<http://www.rug.nl/frw/onderwijs/masteropleidingen/researchMaster/index>

Program director:

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**Prof.dr. Jouke van Dijk, University of Groningen
RSA-Najaarsbijeenkomst
22 november 2005,
Academiegebouw Utrecht**

The Faculty of Spatial Sciences

- Staff 80; 50 Fulltime Equivalents
- 16 professors
- Four Departments
 - Cultural Geography
 - Economic Geography
 - Demography
 - Planning (planologie)
- 45 PhD's (and growing)
- About 800 students (and growing)

Education

- **2 three-year Bachelors:**
 - **Social Geography**
 - **Environmental and Infrastructure Planning (Technische Planologie)**
- **6 one-year Masters:**
 - **Cultural Geography**
 - **Economic Geography**
 - **Real Estate Studies**
 - **Demography (100% English)**
 - **Planning**
 - **Environmental and Infrastructure Planning (100% English)**
- **2 two-year Masters:**
 - **Research master “Regional Studies – Spaces and Places, Analysis and Intervention” (100 English, strong focus on research, PhD)**
 - **Geography and Education (strong orientation on teaching)**

Regional Studies

“The functioning of regions and the development pattern of regions over time is the result of a complex dynamic interaction process between cultural, economic and demographic forces in spaces and places and planning actors like the government”

“The development of regions is an evolutionary process in which path dependency and the functioning of a region in a network of regions is of crucial importance”

Aim & Target group

- **Essential idea: “Critical analysis of space and place as the basis for action or intervention in regions”**
- **Students interested in and adequately qualified and motivated for graduate level education to become scientific researchers**

Interested in scientific research and an academic career?

Wanted:

- Excellent students
- Willing to work hard
- High degree of self-organization

Offered:

- Working on the frontiers of science
- Individual supervision or working in small groups
- Preparation for writing a dissertation and a scientific career

Structure of the program (1)

two year: $2 * 60 \text{ EC} = 120 \text{ EC}$

- **Philosophical and methodological backgrounds of advanced research in regional studies (15 EC)**
- **Theoretical specializations (3 out of 4):**
 - **Cultural aspects of regions (10 EC)**
 - **Economic aspects of regions (10 EC)**
 - **Demographic aspects of regions (10 EC)**
 - **Planning and policy aspects (10 EC)**

Also possible: 2 out of 4 + deeper specialization in Geography, Planning and Demography

Structure of the program (2)

- Individual research training (10 EC)
- Advanced and specialized research methods and techniques (e.g. GIS) (15 EC)
- Scientific writing and presentation in english of a research proposal/article (5 EC)
- Research management, scientific and personal competences (7.5 EC)
- Study abroad period (7.5 EC)

Master thesis project (30 EC)

Research Master Human Geography, Planning and Demography: Regional Studies: Year 1

1a	1b	2a	2b
REG1 + REG2 Introduction + research frontiers			REG6 M&T
REG3a Thematic specializations	REG3a	REG3a	REG6 M&T
REG3a	REG5 Intro M&T	REG4 Individual research training	

Research Master Human Geography, Planning and Demography: Regional Studies: Year 2

1a	1b	2a	2b
REG7 skills	REG8 scientific writing / REG9 study abroad period		
REG3b thematic	REG10 Master thesis		
specializ. REG3b			

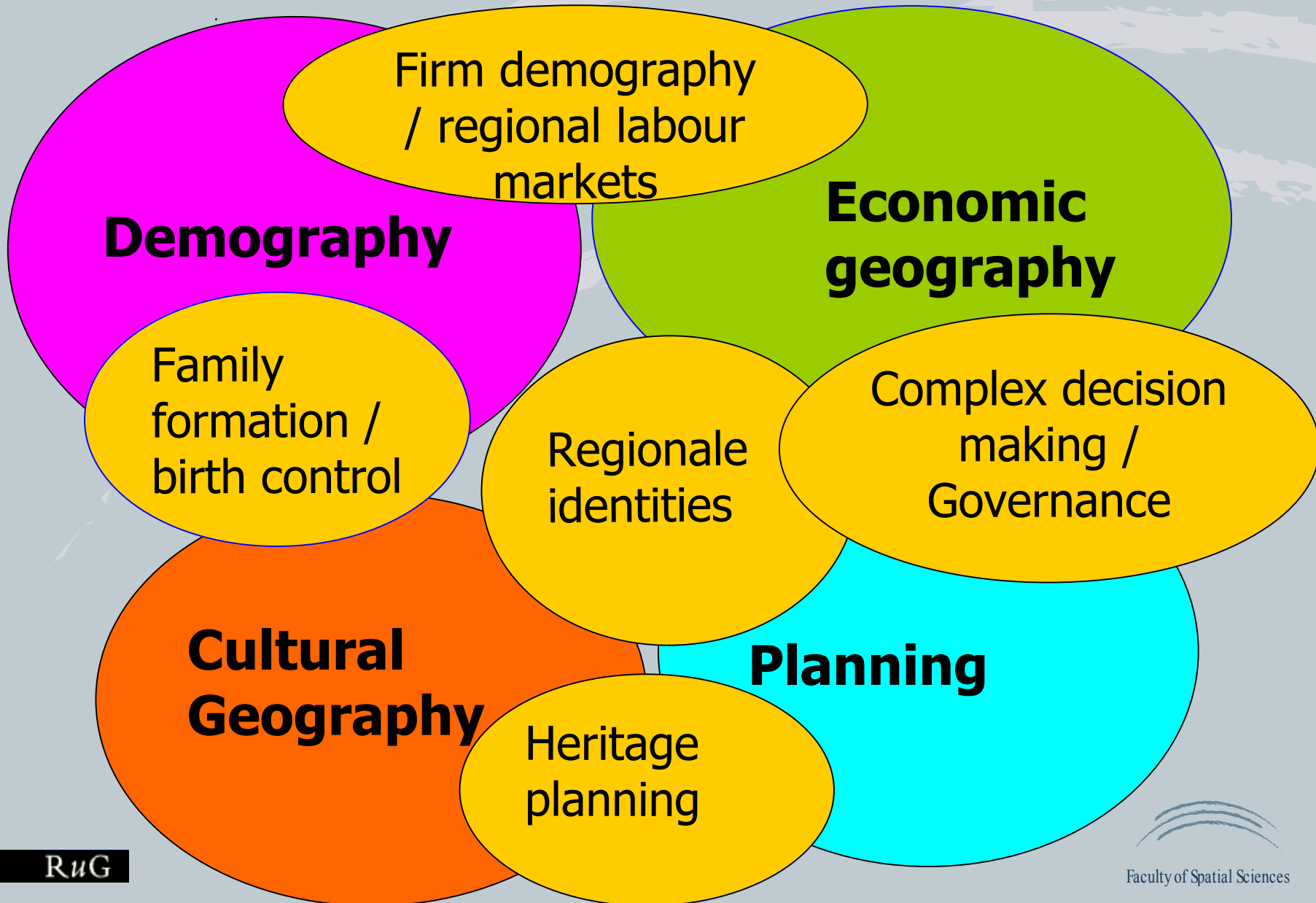
The Research Master prepares for:

- 1. Employment in public or private organizations, such as research oriented government departments and consultancy firms in work geared to pure or applied independent scientific research**
- 2. Further study and training aimed at a PhD thesis and an ensuing academic career**

Lecturers / Supervisors

- **Research Master and PhD education (now 45 PhD's) is organized in the local Graduate School**
- **Qualified researchers (**fellows**) of the faculty research institute URSI:**
 - Urban and Regional Studies Institute**
- **URSI is part of the national research school NETHUR**

URSI Research themes



Admission

- **Bachelor's degree (see website for details)**
- **Average grade ≥ 7 , and not less than a 7 for research work**
- **Good knowledge of English language**
- **Basic knowledge of statistical methods**

Selection procedure

- **A motivated request for admissions, including ideas for a major research project**
- **Submission of research output produced so far by the applicant**
- **An interview with the applicant in which attitude, motivation, orientation and competences for an academic career in scientific research of the applicant will be evaluated**
- **Bachelor degree and proficiency in English**

Eindtermen (1)

Intended qualifications

The overall goal of the program is to deliver graduates with the following qualifications:

Theoretical attitudes and insights, research skills:

- Sound knowledge and thorough understanding of important **contemporary issues** in the spatial sciences, more specifically *Regional Studies*, and a detailed knowledge of important issues in their area of specialization including relevant theories and subjects in related fields like economics, sociology, anthropology and social psychology, dependent on the disciplinary emphasis chosen.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of **theoretical models** of spatial behaviour of individuals and organisations (especially firms), and expertise and experience in linking research questions with theories of spatial and human behaviour.
- Able to **choose and apply appropriate research methodology, methods and statistical techniques, and to critically evaluate the resulting research outcomes.**

Eindtermen (2)

Theoretical attitudes and insights, research skills: (cont.)

- Have expertise and experience in the **elaboration of a research project**, i.e. a clearly formulated research problem that is innovative while building on the state of the art in a field of Regional Studies and related scientific disciplines and that is firmly supported by the relevant literature in the field.
- A **helicopter view** of suitable and feasible research designs and methods of data collection in different types of research, such as field, survey and/or experimental research, as well as expertise and experience in the adequacy, applicability and factual application of such research designs and methods of data collection.
- Have expertise and experience with the integration of theory and qualitative and quantitative empirical research (“**theory-guided empirical research**”) and experience in the full process of research, including reporting on the research results. These qualifications are reflected in a Master Thesis which is on the level of a publishable research paper.
- Able to **apply theories and results** of Regional Studies and related disciplines in an original way **to policy** and scientific research issues in the context of both a disciplinary and societal framework.

Eindtermen (3)

General scientific skills:

- Able to **formulate policy implications** of scientific research, taking into account the limitations of the information and scientific insight on which practical recommendations are based.
- Able to **reflect on the social and ethical responsibilities** linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.
- Able to **present for specialist and non-specialist audiences** and to communicate the underpinnings as well as limitations of their conclusions.
- Trained in **scientific writing**.
- Trained in **information search and retrieval**, in data documentation and in archiving according general scientific standards.
- Have the skills to write a **Master Thesis** in a largely self-directed or autonomous manner.

Eindtermen (4)

General work orientation:

- A **critical and reflexive attitude** and the analytical and research skills needed to qualify for a PhD program after graduation or to function on a professional level in research and policy departments of governmental/non-governmental organisation and enterprises.
- Have acquired a general work orientation and are capable to be a productive and **respected member of a research team** by contributing to collective efforts, time management, and by participating in a network in the research domain of Regional Studies.

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