The institutes have enabled new collaborations between researchers and disciplines. This interdisciplinary approach to research is more essential than ever, especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences, where the studied phenomena require multiple and complementary insights. Today, psychologists interact with economists or linguists, and legal scholars work with historians, political scientists or anthropologists. Disciplines can no longer develop in isolation, but have to collaborate to understand individual and human societies in all their complexity. This understanding is concerned with the very foundations of phenomena, with no intention of practical application. It is free and creative research, unrestrained by reductive utilitarianism, able to generate knowledge and models likely to convey new insights to all social actors.

In 2009, UCL decided to create institutes with the aim of giving a greater visibility to research activities, previously included in teaching activities within the faculties. The Humanities and Social Sciences sector created ten research institutes, in which more than 340 permanent professors and researchers, 700 project researchers and 900 PhD students work today. In their eight years of existence, the Humanities and Social Sciences institutes have gained international acclaim for the value of their teams and the quality of their work.

More than ever, we rely on the fruits of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our societies in crisis, confused and disappointed by purely technological answers to all their problems, strive to better understand how they functioned in the past and continue to do so in the present in order to define a more respectful future for individual and collective needs. Our research teams work on these questions with passion, creativity and rigour. This promotional brochure for Humanities and Social Sciences at UCL provides a first glimpse of the diversity and richness of ongoing research projects. We hope that it kindles your curiosity to know more, read the publications and directly get in touch with our researchers.

Jacques Grégoire, Vice-Rector of the Humanities and Social Sciences Sector.

Jacques Grégoire, Vice-Rector of the Humanities and Social Sciences Sector and the heads of the institutes. June 2017.
Human beings as citizens and actors of change

Debt, the environment... which world will we leave behind for our children?

Researchers are addressing the issue of intergenerational justice.

How does an interreligious approach help to advance the contemporary diversity of life forms and address societal issues such as tolerance, violence, modesty, femininity, circumcision, urban life...?

Citizenship & Democracy

A growing share of citizens is distancing itself from politicians and public decision-making. Loss of confidence, lack of interest, rejection of the political project... The Qualidem project, funded by the European Research Council, aims to study the erosion of these democratic ties.

Benefitting society

UCL proposes Specialised Psychological Consultations, intended to offer a diagnosis, an evaluation and appropriate support based on demonstrably effective models for those suffering from various disorders. The proposed diagnoses and treatments are subject to permanent evaluation within the framework of research protocols. The consultations focus on emotional disorders, parenting, speech therapy and neuropsychology, life stories and intellectually gifted people, especially children.

Human beings at the heart of the organisation

The Belgian worker spends an average of 7.36 hours per day in his professional environment, thus more than 1300 hours per year. However, the technological and socio-economical (r)evolution of the work environment is in full swing. Researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences are involved in understanding and organising tomorrow’s working life.

How do businesses view the “digitally skilled worker”?

The emergence of new organisational models such as teleworking or co-working and the widespread use of new technologies are creating new demands on workers.

Wellbeing at work at all ages

How, and with which individual, social and organisational consequences, does the company accompany the aging of its workforce? How should it manage generational diversity?

Human beings at the heart of research in the Humanities and Social Sciences

In the Humanities and Social Sciences, researchers scrutinise various aspects of human reality.

Their goal?

Understanding human beings, analysing their actions, putting them in a context, an era. Human beings as authors of thought and art. Human beings at the heart of organisations, actors of society or societies, in the field of business, health, education, justice or institutions. Communicating human beings, making decisions, consuming responsibly. Human beings who act, build, and work in collaboration with researchers to place social progress and social innovation at the heart of their project. Human beings, as subjects and objects of change.

What is the link between fertility and long-term population trends?

What factors affect the decision to have children? Researchers are interested in the differences in fertility depending on the population’s characteristics, particularly in terms of education level and income.

Adjusting to alternating residences

The MobileKids project aims to study how children of separated or divorced parents appropriate ownership of two homes, and develop new skill sets, practices and ways of being. At the centre of the observations, the issue of “double” social relations arises, notably via the use of virtual and mobile communication modes.

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Fieldwork: networks and actors

At UCL, researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences interact with various players: the political world, institutional organisations, diplomats, the media, the cultural and the youth community, the business world and organisations in the broad sense, health care and educational sectors, justice.

For researchers, fieldwork means going to meet these actors to discover their reality, exchange and develop with them. Fieldwork also enables collecting and analysing different sources to obtain an answer, a new perspective.

Understanding and preventing parental burnout

In the 21st century, the pressure to be a perfect parent has never been so high while quality time with the child has never been so limited, engendering a great deal of stress and frustration. Even so, what is parental burnout? Besides a book written for the general public, UCL psychologists also offer lectures and consultations to help understand and cope with it.

Health care

Much like patients, health professionals are entitled to a motivating and demanding organisation on a daily basis.

The book L’éthique organisationnelle dans le secteur de la santé [T.N. Organisational Ethics in the Health Sector] is aimed at all actors in the health care system.

Education

How to prevent bullying at school?

What are the field conditions that favour the implementation of bullying prevention projects?

The world of non-profit organisations

What barriers prevent blood donation in Belgium?

The Red Cross study issued recommendations to all blood donation centres in Brussels and Wallonia to encourage and improve the participation of new donors.

Public sphere and politics

How and to what degree do the Belgian and European legal frameworks shape the life project of migrants, their career path and family life?

Living on Earth

Can creating norms to regulate common life require social integration and in particular policies against poverty, and in particular policies such as social integration income or family allowances?

International

How can these newcomers to try to overcome the encountered obstacles.

UCL and the non-profit organisation Les Petits Riens join forces in a unique partnership. They aim to identify solutions to promote social and economic sustainability of social corporations and offer concrete proposals in terms of public policies to actors in the field.
Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences studies aspects of the past to better understand the present and meet the challenges of tomorrow. In the present, research helps fuel public debate. The Humanities and Social Sciences depend on social evolutions, since they actively participate in the change and stabilisation of societal transformations. Researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences have a stake in this change as they project new concepts for improvement. They are also strategists, since they foresee the different aspects so that the society can brace itself for this change.

How can religious traditions experiment with new forms of participatory democracy? <RSCS>

The aim of the European Values Chair is to explain to young people, for whom peace is a given, that these values are inspired by the cultural, religious and humanist European heritage. It also aims to provide students, policymakers and the general public with new strategies and insights. <INCAL>

Entrepreneurial failure: learning and rebounding abilities? <LouRIM>

Prediciting the future of cancer patients? <JUR-I>

Research in the analysis of survival data makes it possible to develop models that are ever more precise. Thanks to the evolution of medical treatments, rapidly identifying people who can be considered as cured of their cancer has become a major societal challenge. <IMMAQ>

What are the relations, coordination and interactions between the United Nations and the European Union? <ISPOLE>

Your thumbs for science aims to study the skills of the population in contact with new communication media such as social networks or e-mail.

The initial hypothesis claims that the use of new media, especially by the youngest generation, does not lead to linguistic incompetence (lower spelling skills, lack of knowledge of grammatical rules, etc.), but rather to a "plural competence" which would enable the user to adapt to each change of situation, protagonist and medium of communication. <IL&C>

As part of the Bernheim project, management students take a corporate social responsibility course. The goal? To train decision-makers of tomorrow in ethics. This report, produced by a doctoral student, involves students in a reflection on the use of coltan. At the heart of conflicts and corruption in Africa, the mineral is used to manufacture electronic tools, particularly smartphones and computers. <ISP>

Fight against blood minerals

www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2pLiZP1htU

How do we finance pensions? The search for optimal funding techniques, which reconcile financial sustainability and social adequacy, constitutes a major societal challenge for the coming decades. <IMMAQ>

Remains of our regions Since 1998, at the Walhain castle construction site in the province of Walloon Brabant, Belgian and American students have been discovering archaeology. Together with Eastern Illinois University, this research project also studies the ruins of the castle and its dungeon, to better understand our regional history. <INCAL>

What are the economic effects of international migration both at the level of the countries of origin and the countries of destination, and what are the projections for the future? <IMMAQ>

Art in danger In the earthquake prone regions of Umbria and Marche in Italy, the priority consists in preserving more than 5,000 valuable sites, especially churches, where 80% of the artworks threatened by the 2016 events were kept. UCL joins this rescue with other universities in Italy and elsewhere. <INCAL>

Diverse perspectives on migration Every migrant’s story is unique. Organised by a multidisciplinary team of researchers in the Humanities and Social Sciences, this cycle of public lectures looked at the personal, professional and family journeys of migrants and deconstructed many stereotypes at the same time. <IACCHOS - JUR-I - IMMAQ - IPSY>
“Humans are free” as most philosophers believe. However, neuroscience does not necessarily share this opinion. Neuroscientists and philosophers join forces for a 5-year project to understand the links between causality and free will, including the role that language and consciousness play in the production of our actions.

How does theology contribute to an interdisciplinary approach to ethical challenges, particularly in terms of health and personal autonomy?

Obesity is a global public health challenge. The Food4Gut project led by the Louvain4Nutrition consortium proposes a plural approach to this problem centred on its nutritional, biological, behavioural and societal aspects.

Applying automatic language processing to medical records is a key issue for improving patient safety, quality of care and hospital administrative management.

The WISDOM project supports social enterprises that put in place solutions enabling older people to continue living at home or have adapted housing. The focus consists in identifying essential elements to create an innovative response to the needs and aspirations that arise in old age.

Notoriety of the Humanities and Social Sciences at UCL

In the Humanities and Social Sciences, we cherish the plurality of research valorisation methods.

Internationally, our researchers are involved in numerous scientific networks. This involvement beyond borders and the quality of their work is reflected, among other things, by a very good positioning in international rankings.

An example: in the QS World University Rankings 2017, most of our disciplines rank among the global top 100. At local and national levels, our researchers are also involved in society. For many of them, this involvement is the condition for research rooted in contemporary concerns: co-production of knowledge with social actors, interventions with political decision-makers and participation in societal debates are all elements that establish a more qualitative, but just as essential reputation.

An example: research on educational systems and teaching practices makes UCL an essential reference for educational professionals in Belgium.

Where do they come from?

43% Europe
27% Asia
13% Africa
11% South America
4% North America
2% Eurasia

10 research institutes
8 spin-offs
5 technological support platforms
19 research chairs
131,970 books checked out in 2015
100 doctoral students graduating each year

UCL, a research university

147 million from the European Commission to fund research

### Humanities and Social Sciences: a few figures

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<th>Category</th>
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### Where do they come from?

- Europe: 43%
- Asia: 27%
- Africa: 13%
- South America: 11%
- North America: 4%
- Eurasia: 2%

### Louvain Bionics

Louvain Bionics brings together the talents of researchers in psychology, philosophy, medicine and engineering interested in the movement and robotic assistance of gestures. One example is the creation of RobiGame, a robotic tool that integrates smart games for the diagnosis and rehabilitation of cerebral palsy patients.

### The Humans and Social Sciences are also

- Public-oriented books
- Journals connected to society
- Documentaries
- Software
- Public lectures
- Outreach initiatives
- Media interventions
Most of the figures in this document are from 2016.