

November 2019

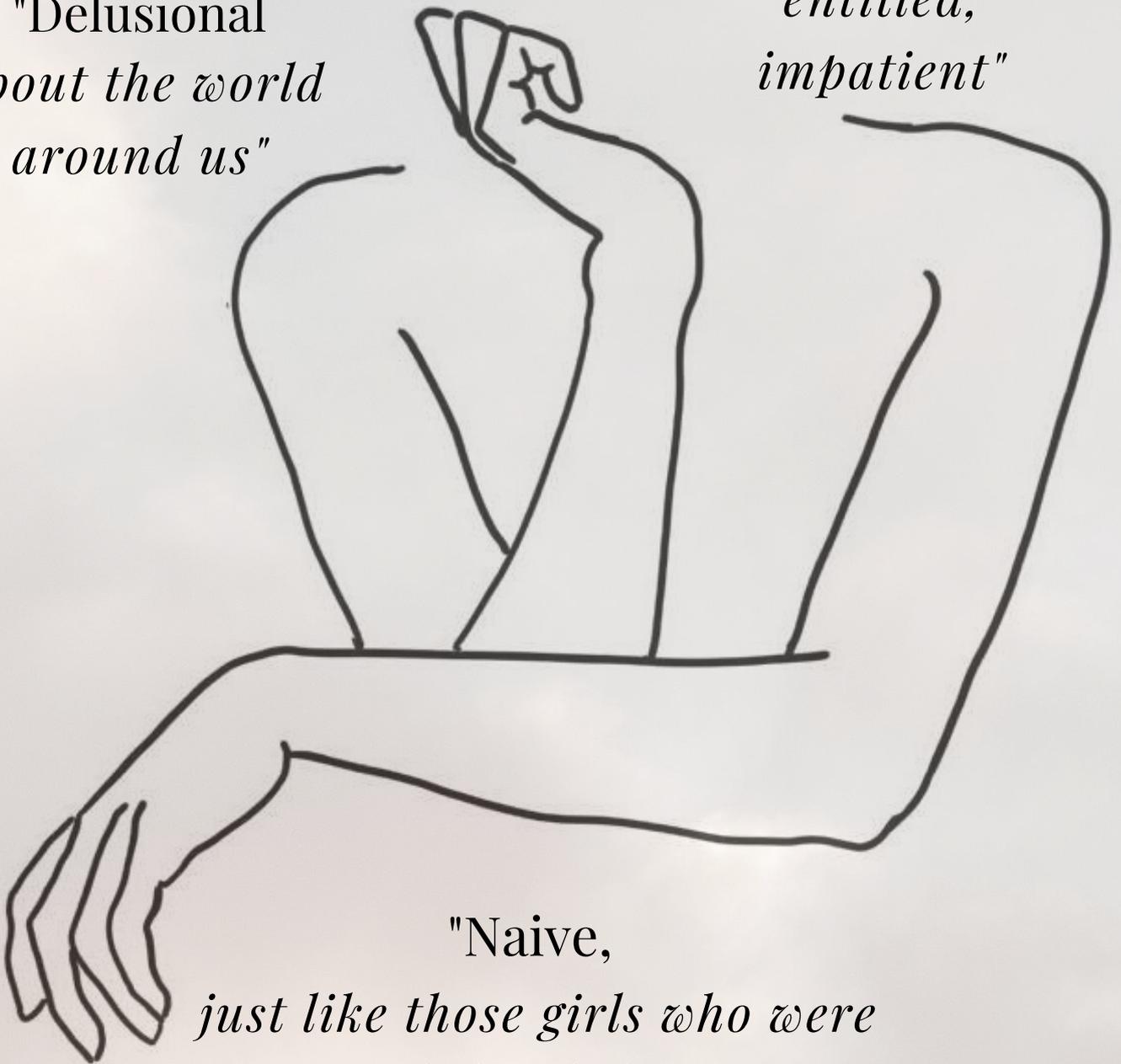
Issue No. 1

# COLLECTIVE.

Who Are We?

"Delusional  
*about the world  
around us*"

"Lazy,  
*entitled,  
impatient*"



"Naive,  
*just like those girls who were  
beheaded*"

THE HAGUE

## Note of Thanks

This first edition of *Collective* would not have been possible without the visionary and unprecedented help of those who encouraged us in our work, financed the first publication, and contributed to this issue in various ways. I would like to thank, above all, the team of *Collective*: Angelina Ignatjeva, Angelie Gopal, Ariane Usec, Elitsa Savova, Fenna Milbauer, Hadiatou Barry, Mariyana Savova & Reka Koleszar. Your support and vigour mean the world to me.

Special thanks are in order to **Martijn Verheus** of the Faculty of Management & Organisation for financing printing the first issue; to **Mark Waanders** of European Studies for financing our web-presence; to the **Watte Zijlstra** from the Centre of Expertise **Global and Inclusive Learning** for giving *Collective* a stage and supporting our launch event; to **Jackie van Marle** from OKC and **Rogier Busser** from the Faculty of Business, Management & Finance for supporting our launch event; and to **Lauren Walsh** for providing the fantastic lineart throughout the magazine. Check her out [@laurenwalsh\\_art!](https://www.instagram.com/laurenwalsh_art/)

# *A Letter From the Editor*

*Dear Reader,*

In your hands you are holding the first issue of *Collective*. I am proud of that, because it means we created something I missed throughout my time at The Hague University of Applied Sciences: a platform for student-driven thought.

In early July, I texted three friends of mine, asking them to work with me to publish a magazine within the university where we give space to students who want to talk about issues that are important to all of us. If you give it some thought, there are tons of things we must think about together, from climate change to sustainable nutrition. Those challenges do not care for the mundane compartmentalisation into faculties and programmes, but touch my life as much as yours. So here we are, starting a conversation.

Between July and November, a few things happened. Our team grew, from four people to ten. Wherever we pitched our idea to build a platform where we could talk about problems we all face, as a generation, people were enthusiastic and promised their support. All of them shared our goal to create a cross-faculty dialogue in the university, and to make connections between people who bring to the table different sets of skills. That is my very reasoning for founding *Collective*: only if we learn to complement our skills can we tackle the challenges we face as the load bearing generation of the 21st Century. And if we are honest, we do not have much choice. Maybe you agree: to me studying hardly feels like studying, but like learning how to save the world.

With this first issue of *Collective*, made by students for students, we want to kick-off the conversation and explore who we are – as a generation. The questions that guided our authors were simple but poignant: Martina tried to figure out why we sometimes feel so lost, and how emotions should rather be a way to connect us than encapsulate us in isolation. Fenna takes that further, and digs deep into the character of our generation. Challenging the ubiquitous portrait of the lazy and entitled post-Millennial, she comes to the conclusion that the Z in “generation Z” really means zealous. Finally, Shashi takes on a different angle and shows us how things might not always be as simple as we perceive them. He approaches an incredibly emotive topic, right-wing politics, and tells a story of migrants who vote for anti-immigrant parties.

Not all those articles will make you feel comfortable – some of them make me uncomfortable, in fact. As heartfelt leftist, my heart hurts when I read about the generalisations and cultural assaults scrutinised in the last article. But as long as we do not learn to be uncomfortable, to deal with disagreements in conversation, we will not overcome the greater challenges to human survival that threateningly linger on the horizon of time. So let us start right now.

I wish you an interesting and provocative read.

*Vincent*

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## Art Feature

### "Is it ALWAYS raining in The Netherlands?"

*"In my photography you meet scenes which you will never encounter in real life. Because a green room fully covered with grass does not exist. On the streets you will never meet a person that wears all current fashion trends at the same time. In my work, this is possible. In my photographic practice, I construct images. I change, add or deduct elements in the scenes I pick. Specific color combinations and compositions direct the attention of the viewer."*

Drawing on sources in from the outside, such as tourists who once visited The Netherlands, I am searching for the identity of the country where I was born and raised. Does that make me a tourist guide?

By taking distance, can I get new insights into the familiar? If the exaggerated descriptions of my sources become true, and their words are watched literally, what remains?

"Is it ALWAYS raining in Netherlands? :O"

"Prepare only for the worst - take raincoats and umbrellas with you and consciously forget your sunglasses at home."

#### ***Project by Jessica Nap***

**Jessica is a Dutch photographer in her final year of Photography at the Royal Academy of Arts, The Hague. Her work is influenced by experience in fashion design & textile design and set design.**





# MAYBE YOU CAN RELATE



*It is not unusual to get wrapped up in the rational and forget about the emotional. Emotional is a word that has acquired a negative connotation overtime, even. But why is that? Isn't that supposed to be what makes us human, and therefore a collective?*

It has been almost a week since I promised myself that I would start writing this piece. And earlier, overwhelmed by a wave of stress and anxiety, I was frantically trying to figure out how to put my thoughts onto paper. I stopped thinking for a second.

There it was, I had it. And now you also have it, right in front of your eyes: a raw, honest piece of stream of consciousness. No sugarcoating. Like a journal. My journal; which might as well just be your journal, too. Because as much as we do not like to admit it, most people in our generation go through all the same stuff.

To the question “who are we as an undeniable collective?”, my answer would be “a bunch of really cool people with common ideals, who yet feel lost and lonely way too often”. We are a motivated, proactive and optimistic generation overall, and from what I have experienced we mostly share the same core values.

A big majority of us strives to promote equality and inclusion, to preach the beauty of diversity and the importance of peaceful means of cooperation, and to fight against climate change. It is no secret that we care about those topics and that we come together as a group to make our voices heard. But are we also making our hearts heard?

We all face very similar matters emotionally speaking: uncertainty about our future, an impellent need to have our life completely figured out (breaking news: we never will, because nobody actually does), underlying perfectionism that makes us dissatisfied with our actually pretty great achievements, heartbreak, random occasional sadness that we have no idea where it comes from; I could go on forever.

The point is, that is something we are not so eager to speak about. And with reason: we have been taught that those feelings are called “weaknesses” and that we cannot for the life of us show the world that we have them. But this is exactly why that subtle, slightly bitter feeling of loneliness and being misunderstood comes about.

I have spent endless hours trying to figure out why that is. Once, I was told that I am not “a special little snowflake”. What do you mean I am not a special little snowflake? – I blurted out on the spot. In my defense, who would not like to be one? And somehow, we thrive on this idea. Until we do not. Because there is a very fine line separating what is feeling special and unique, and feeling misunderstood.

I concluded that what we crave is really something we can relate to. I mean, how many times have we either been asked or formulated a “Do you also ...”, or “Is it just me ...” question? And if that is something you have been asking yourself recently too (I know I do), the answer is no. It is not just you. Trust me.

Maybe you can relate: I am afraid of judgement (hence my reluctance to start throwing together this article).

And I have come to the conclusion that if our generation strives to get past this and is more honest about our struggles, rather than only our successes, we may actually start feeling like part of that “collective” to a much deeper extent.

I wanted this piece of writing to be a first step towards this feeling of belonging. Relatability is key to making our hearts heard, rather than just our voices.

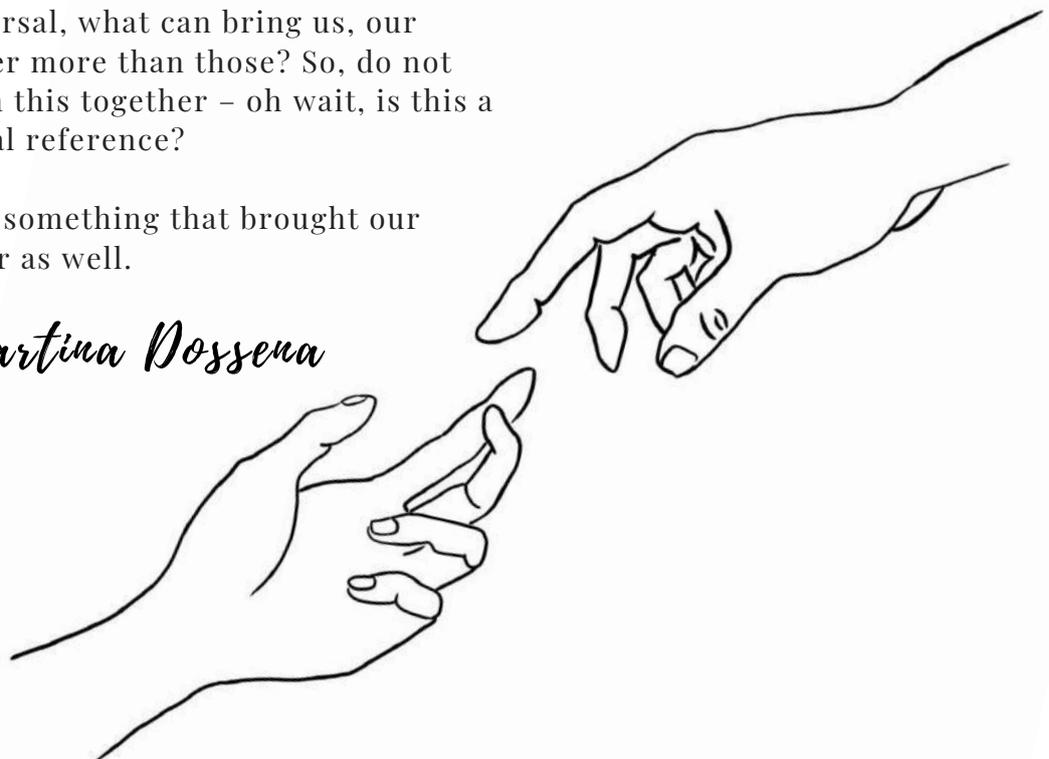
Emotions are universal, what can bring us, our generation, together more than those? So, do not worry, we are all in this together – oh wait, is this a High School Musical reference?

Well, that surely is something that brought our generation together as well.

*Martina Dossena*



**Martina is ... well, a little lost. But I guess that is normal when you are twenty-two and about to graduate, right? She is also passionate about traveling, photography and sometimes a tad too introspective. She cannot stay in a place for too long, that is why her most used website is Skyscanner.**



# GENERATION ZEALOUS

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*Generation Z, or Gen Z for short, is the demographic cohort after the Millennials. Demographers and researchers typically use the mid- to late-1990s as starting birth years. We are told we are lazy, impatient, and stuck in the clouds, dreaming and not doing, but are we really this way?*

A millennial once told me that generation Z gives him no hope for the future of the world. I know, being of generation Z, I was shocked and frankly angry when I heard this. I laughed a bit since he isn't that much older than I am, so I asked why he felt this way? His response was not shocking, "your generation is lazy, entitled, impatient, and delusional about the world around you". I have heard this many times before, from the dinner table at family reunions with judgy extended family to 'knowledgeable' experts on the news. But who are we as a generation really?

How we define generation Z has been predetermined by the generations of the past, who claim that they did things the 'correct' way. Although, every generation looks down upon the other, it seems as if the negative connotation surrounding my generation has been amplified. Are we really as lazy, impatient, and delusional as others assume or have we, perhaps, been misinterpreted?

This brings me to the title of this article, generation zealous. Why did I choose this title? Well, first of all, I needed a word that started with a Z and generation Zoo didn't make any sense. So zealous it was, but why?

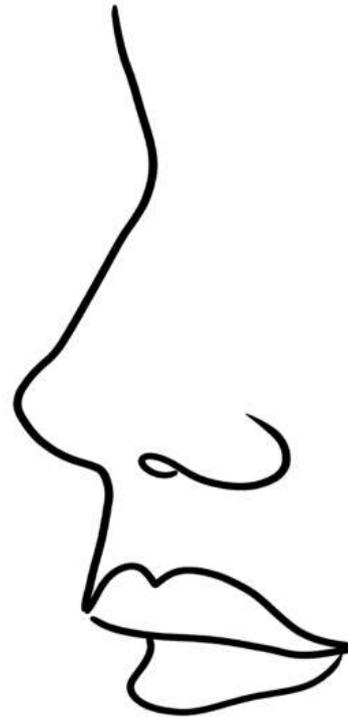


## **"ZEALOUS IS DEFINED AS HAVING EXTREME PASSION AND DRIVE TOWARDS SUPPORTING A BELIEF OR GOAL."**

How can a generation who are commonly characterized as being lazy possibly be passionate and driven? I believe this has to do with a misunderstanding of generation Z's work ethic. The traditional 9-5 job which stopped once you got home is an idea of the past, we are not working in the way our mothers and fathers did. Today the office has spread from our desk to our living room couch, work is always accessible from our laptops to our phones. Not being in the office from 9-5 does not mean that the work does not get done.

I read somewhere that my generation has the most teenaged millionaires ever (not surprising since you can become famous based off anything). Of course, I understand that we are not all 16-year-old influencers, yet the drive and work ethic exhibited by these teens is present among all of us. What makes our generation unique is that work ethic cannot be given one sole definition, since we are all working towards different definitions of success. The idea of hustle culture has been cultivated by our generation, we no longer live with the old fashioned job market. To make things more complicated, success is no longer universally defined as having a house, a car, and a family (all of which are visible achievements). Or rather these visible achievements are not what we prioritize anymore.

Today, while one person may dream of owning a Tesla and gaining another thousand Instagram followers, the other dreams of traveling the world and making an impactful change. Our work ethic is not evident in shared goals but in a similar drive. We are a generation zealously chasing our individual definition of success.



Yet if this is true, why are we continuously associated with the idea of laziness? One answer could be rapid digitization. Much change which our generation wants to make is generated online. This lack of visibility in the real world may result in this perception of laziness. Given that the traditional definition of success is through visible actions, it is understandable why others can't see the impact we are making.

Maybe this is why everyone thinks we are also impatient. I mean we are able to get almost everything with the click of a button. Or are we once again misinterpreted by those around us? This impatience may be a misunderstood eagerness for change. Of course, we understand that things are not going to change immediately, but this won't stop us from talking about it in a demanding way and eventually going out to make that change.

# "WE ARE STUCK IN THE CLOUDS, DREAMING AND NOT DOING"

The anger and discussions that we have online are often translated into offline action. We can see this online activism becoming a reality in the 'real world' through movements such as the fight against climate change. A debate created online has spread around the world empowering young people to take to not only their phones, but also the streets to demand action.

I am constantly told that my generation is lazy and impatient, that we are stuck in the clouds, dreaming but not doing. It can be hard for people who didn't grow up with the internet to grasp. Yet for us, everything happens online, from social activism to dating. Maybe we are impatient but that is not necessarily bad, we want to see change happen and will talk about it, protest about it, and complain until it does.

It's hard for a generation to define itself so early on, we are still developing. When posed with the question 'who are we as a generation?', one could answer that we are undefinable and have recharacterized what identity, success and work ethic means. Maybe we should consider a rebrand. Generation Zealous means our passion and drive can finally be recognized and we can have the power to determine who we are ourselves (not by those boomers)!

*Fenna Milbauer*



**Fenna Milbauer studies International Public Management. She is a member of the Collective team, is interested in global politics, journalism and occasionally (aka often) stress bakes. She has been writing for several years, working as an author and chief editor for her high school newspaper. Writing enables her to share her analysis of the world, creating conversation and develop an open mind.**



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# THE MIGRANTS WHO VOTE FOR AN ANTI-IMMIGRANT PARTY

*“Gay-rights have made Dutch society dumber.” These were the infamous words of ex-candidate municipally councilor Yernaz Ramautarsing that eventually made him resign his position on the candidate list of Forum for Democracy (FvD) Amsterdam. Yernaz made this statement in a private Whatsapp group and claimed that leftist politicians and media unjustly portrayed him as a racist, xenophobe and extreme-right fanatic. How is it possible that a student with a non-Western background can be framed as a xenophobe and extreme-right fanatic?*

## **From Think Tank to Political Party**

FvD was founded in 2015 by Thierry Baudet and Henk Otten as a conservative Think Tank. In 2016 the two reformed the Think Tank into a political party. In 2017, FvD won two seats in Dutch parliament and two seats in the municipality council of Amsterdam in 2018. Since its founding, FvD was being labelled as an extreme-right party with fascist tendencies by political opponents. This was due to statements made by Baudet regarding immigration, women and the corrupt establishment. According to Baudet, the allegation that FvD is an extreme-right party with fascist tendencies is false, and another attempt of the establishment to tarnish the image of a successful new political party. However, what we cannot ignore is that, together with the Freedom Party (PVV) of Geert Wilders, FvD can be seen as another party on the right-wing side of the political spectrum that is highly critical of immigration.

## **The Surinamese anti-immigrant vote**

Yernaz Ramautarsing is a Dutch Surinamese student with a strong conservative opinion and excellent debating skills. He was placed on second position of the candidates-list during the municipally elections of 2018 and was seen as the rising star of FvD, together with Annabel Nanninga. However, his strong conservative opinion turned against him and eventually led to his resignation as candidate for the municipality council. Since this incident, he kept a low profile, but recently re-joined FvD as an active member of the party.



Yernaz, an alumnus of The Hague University of Applied Sciences, is currently studying Political Sciences at the Cevro Institute in Prague. He was born in Paramaribo, Suriname and is of Afro-Indian decent. He is very critical towards migration, Islam, and a multicultural society. Yernaz also popularized the idea of leftist indoctrination in higher education in the Netherlands. One might think that he is an exception, but that is not quite true. There are several reports that indicate that anti-immigration and anti-Islam sentiments are very popular among Surinamese in the Netherlands.

The Dutch National Election Survey in 2012 showed that in relation to all other right-wing parties, like the Christian Democrats (CDA) and People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), the designated anti-immigration and anti-Islam Party for Freedom (PVV) had the highest percentage of votes from non-Western migrants. According to a poll conducted by the Opiniehuis in 2017, PVV was also the second most popular party among Surinamese voters. So why are anti-immigrant policies popular among Surinamese migrants?

### **The good and the bad immigrant**

It might seem odd that migrants vote for an anti-immigrant party, but to think or even suggest this means to overlook the internal diversity of the different ethnic groups in the Netherlands. The notion that it is in the interest of all migrants to vote for leftist parties, promoting inclusion and multiculturalism, sprung out of an idea of ethnic solidarity; the idea that all migrants need to stick together and fight racism, discrimination and oppression in society. However, according to the results of research, in the eyes of the Surinamese PVV-voters this is different. They do not feel oppressed by Dutch society, they do not attribute their failures to racism and discrimination in society, but instead pride themselves as hard workers, being well integrated and established in Dutch society. Moreover, Surinamese PVV-voters claim that the nuisance and problems that they are facing are due to other migrants: the Moroccans, the Turkish, and the Polish. And for some, the Muslims.

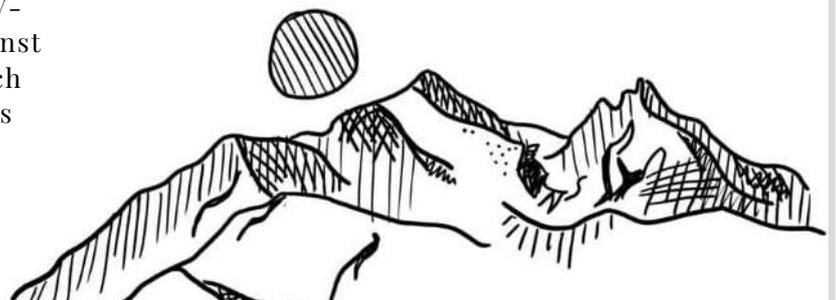
Social scientist Eviane Leidig conducted research among Indian supporters of Brexit and Trump and argues that – just like the Surinamese PVV-voters – these migrants make a distinction between ‘the good immigrant’ and ‘the bad immigrant’. They view themselves as ‘the good migrants’, as well-integrated, hardworking, and contributing to society, whereas other migrants are ‘the bad immigrants’, because in the eyes of right-wing migrant voters they are not well-integrated and do not contribute to society in any positive way. In the case of Surinamese PVV-voters such feelings are often directed against migrants from other parts of the world, such as Moroccans and Turkish people, as well as Muslims.

### **A matter of perception?**

The typical leftist response is to question the sanity of these voters and argue that they have a flawed perception because they are voting against their own interest. ‘Yesterday it was the Jews, today the Muslims, and tomorrow it might be you’ is a typical response of leftist activists to non-Western migrants who vote for anti-immigrant parties. Another dominant response of the left is that the non-Western migrants who vote for anti-immigrant parties are being egoistic and self-centered. They themselves or their parents are / were migrants, and it is unjust to deny other migrants the same privilege they themselves or their parents enjoyed. As for the case of the Surinamese PVV-voters: many of them see themselves as free-thinkers, free of the paternalistic influence of leftist politics and policies, as they perceive it. Migrant PVV-voters see leftist policies as harmful, not only for themselves and their own ethnic group, but also for society. As a prominent non-Western FvD-member says: “The leftist have the need for self-chastisement and they are destroying everything that their ancestors have built [...]. They are naïve, just like those Norwegian girls that were on vacation in Morocco and were beheaded eventually.” For those non-Western migrants who vote for anti-immigrant parties, this is exemplary for the state of our society. In their eyes, leftist policies and ideology is making Dutch society dumber. It is here where the challenge lies for proponents of an inclusive society and education. What do we do with students with different and sometimes contrasting (political) opinions? The answer to that question may shed light on what kind of Global Citizens we aspire to be.

*Shashi Roopram*

**Shashi is lecturer in Research Methods at the department of Entrepreneurship and Retail management (E&RM), PhD candidate at University of Humanistic Studies (UvH) and THUAS Research Center Global Citizenship (research: the non-Western migrants who vote for anti-immigration parties in the Netherlands).**



# A Conversation

*On a rainy Monday morning, we met with **Leonard Geluk**, President of our university to have a conversation about the things that move us. We are not the ones starting with the questions, Leonard does that. Jumping into conversation with him feels natural, it is very obvious that he is used to leading the dialogue. But that is not what we are here for. This time, we brought the questions. Before we get to them, Leonard probes deeper to get to know us, as students and as people, asking about our programmes and our future perspective. Throughout the interview, Leonard keeps coming back to us, trying to understand our perspective on the things he talks about, about our university, about the pressure we feel from society and home, and the support we want as students, as developing human beings, as he describes us. We carefully redirect the course of the conversation; after all, we brought the questions.*

*What is the most important part of your job?*

For me it is important to have connections with students, so I try to have a few meetings a week with students just to discuss how they feel at our university and what we can change. In my experience, students are honest, open, and fair. They are also clear on what they expect and what they ask from a certain type of education. We have to deliver that, so it is quite important for me to have this sort of conversation.

*How do others influence your work?*

My work is permanent interaction, a daily mirror, and I learn a lot from my colleagues. Together we know more, have more experience, and that is important for my responsibility to decide. I cannot do that without the opinion of others.

*What are the most important things to get done?*

We have the ambition to be the most international university of applied sciences in the Netherlands, but also to educate in a different way so that our students become global citizens. It is really inspiring when I see or hear of students who are willing to participate, willing to make the world a bit better.

*What does global citizenship mean?*

In the future, you are not a lawyer, or a nurse, or an accountant. You are a human being, and we need human beings in our world to realise real change. That means different things, for example being open to others. I think The Hague University is a playground to bring together all these different cultures, connecting people with different backgrounds. Curiosity is also important.



Why are things how they are, what is normal? As students you have to learn to be curious. And lastly, responsibility. It is possible to change. You can contribute to real change, and it is in your domain to make change possible.

*Which role does the university play?*

The culture of our university must show to our students that change is really possible; that when they are open and curious they also feel responsible, because their contribution to a better world is quite important and possible. My ideal university is an open playground and a community. You are not only part of your classroom or the people from your programme, but the aim is to bring students together and realise cooperation. Just like in the normal world: wherever we work, it is important to have contact with people from totally different backgrounds. That is my vision and ambition for this university.

One step is to allow students to follow minors in different programmes, or offer an honours programme like the global citizenship honours programme, for all kinds of different students. That way we can organise our official curriculum, but we can also stimulate the sports and cultures programme. Many students are supporting that; it makes our university special I think.

*Which moments make you proud?*

Many. It is quite emotional when you see that so many students really want to be global citizens.

I see that more and more in the university. It is a proud moment when we realise our visions, when we see that it is working, that students are inspired to become global citizens. That is my finest moment, I think.

*How has studying changed a lot in your eyes?*

I think there is more pressure now, much higher than in the 80s, when I studied. Society expects a lot more from our students, as well as parents.

I am a parent as well, and parents expect quite a lot from their children. They have to work hard, in a short period of time, and then have a great job and a great future. I think my generation was more focused on being successful, on getting jobs with lots of money. Your generation is not only focused on career and money but also on its responsibility in society.

*How does our generation stand out?*

I think it is difficult to be a member of your generation, there is so much pressure. It is difficult to make decisions, also about your study, thinking about what you want to realise. The world is changing so quickly that we must invest in human development and personal development so you can switch from one career to a different one. Our future will be more flexible, so we need more flexible people, and I think we need to prepare our students for that society. Human development is more important than your knowledge; I think that is a challenge for your generation. I hope we can support our students to fit those needs of society.

*What can your generation learn from ours?*

Being open. All these different stories from students are stories I can learn from, they award me with new and different perspectives. Twenty-six thousand different stories at our university, and they are all relevant.

*How can our generations tackle the challenges we face today?*

Feeling responsible, as your generation does, is about being willing to connect to others and facing the challenges of our society. I think it starts there. Universities must educate a new generation in a new way of thinking. Connecting our generations will make it possible to realise the changes that are necessary, and I am positive about that because I see that we can focus on the things we can change.



**Vincent M. Rump is the founder and editor of *Collective*. He is passionate about social change leadership and community building. Vincent studies European Studies and International Aid & Development. He has a recurring addiction to soda.**



**Gabriella Lund studies International Business Management. She is drawn to a broad range of topics from politics and business. She also lives together with Vincent and helps him survive on a daily basis. He would be hopelessly lost without her.**

# Join the Conversation

**6 December**

*Idea Creation Festival*

@The Hague City Centre

**9 December**

*Where do Human Rights begin?*

@ Humanity House ft. The Hague Talks

*Migration in The Netherlands*

@THUAS

**12 December**

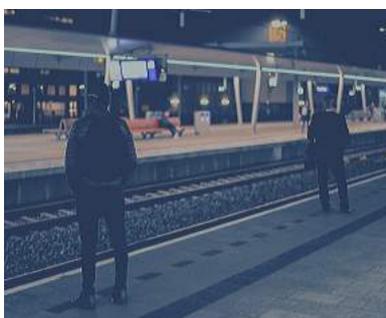
*Business and Human Rights Arbitration*

@Center for International Legal Cooperation

**13 December**

*Visit to the OPCW*

@L.S.A. Custodia (register by 6. December)



**16 December**

*Lunch: Inclusive Education Strategies*

@THUAS

**27 January**

*Lunch: The Next Economy*

@THUAS

*Symposium: Circular Energy*

@THUAS

**16 April**

*Call For Volunteers*

*Value\*Fest: A Circular Economy*

Contact: [b.vandenberg@hhs.nl](mailto:b.vandenberg@hhs.nl)

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## Impressum

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Responsible for the publication and its content is Vincent M. Rump. Questions, remarks, and complaints can be directed at [collective.thehague@gmail.com](mailto:collective.thehague@gmail.com) or +31 6 39701376.