

VU research day 2026



Jeroen Geurts



Nienke van Atteveldt



Linda van de Burgwal



Frank Kupper

Programme

12:00-12:45

Foyer

Registration & free lunch

12:45-13:00

Foyer

Opening: 3 Minute Thesis

Julia Beets PhD Candidate
& Winner VU 3MT 2026

13:00-14:00

Auditorium

Keynotes: Spaces of Transformation

Jeroen Geurts Rector Magnificus

Nienke van Atteveldt Director of LEARN!
Research Institute & Professor of
Neuroscience

Linda van de Burgwal University Research
Chair Professor of Impact & Academic
Entrepreneur

14:15-15:00

Workshop & breakout round 1

7 parallel sessions in different rooms

15:15-16:00

Workshop & breakout round 2

7 parallel sessions in different rooms

16:00-16:30

Foyer

Collective Closing: From Spaces to Transformation

With Rector Magnificus Jeroen Geurts and
moderator Frank Kupper

16:30-17:00

Foyer

Drinks & Networking

VU Research Day 2026

Workshop & breakout round 1

14:15-15:00

1. Crafting the VU infrastructure for interdisciplinary collaboration

Shiwei Chen & Jenny Stock

📍 Forum 2 (HG-01D06)

Explore the hidden university structures shaping interdisciplinary research. Identify structural frictions and discover practical tools to navigate barriers, strengthen collaboration and turn obstacles into opportunities.

2. From Hunch to Inquiry: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

Amrita Das & Jan Willem Grijpma

📍 Forum 3 (HG-01D08)

What if a question from your own teaching could become research? In this interactive workshop, we explore how everyday teaching curiosities can become focused 'SoTL' inquiries. Special guest: Laura Schaap.

3. Putting a marginalized occupational group in the picture. From text to images and dialogues

Kim van Erp & Marieke van Wieringen

📍 Forum 4 (HG-01D12)

Challenges and lessons learned in a transdisciplinary project with researchers, care professionals, a photographer and a designer.

4. The Art of Listening

Tessa Roedema & Geertje Tijsma

📍 Aurora (HG-0C29)

Explore the art of genuine listening through dialogue, creative practice and a STRAATWIJS case. Through collective drawing, participants experiment with stepping beyond their own perspectives.

5. AI in Research: Your Experiences and VU Policy

René Bekkers

📍 HG-1A43

Every day, new software surfaces relying on AI promising faster execution of research tasks. What are your experiences using AI software for research? Which software can you use responsibly, taking seriously principles of research integrity? What policies does VU Amsterdam have for the use of AI in research?

6. Meet Nebula: AI for VU Researchers

Network Institute

📍 HG-1A44

Discover Nebula, VU's platform for working with large language models. Explore its possibilities for research and learn how to use AI with privacy in mind.

7. Podcast listening session: University Under Pressure

Studio VU

📍 Auditorium

A special 'screening' of Studio VU's new podcast series exploring the challenges and tensions facing universities today. Note: in Dutch only.

VU Research Day 2026

Workshop & breakout round 2

15:15-16:00

1. AI Transcription and AI tool development at VU

Innovation Team AI Competence Network

📍 Forum 2 (HG-01D06)

Meet the AICN Vita-team and explore their development of a GDPR-compliant AI transcription tool, from technical challenges to practical applications and future possibilities.

2. It's a match? Successful collaboration with societal partners

Rieneke Stelma-Roorda

📍 Forum 3 (HG-01D08)

Explore how researchers can build sustainable and meaningful collaborations with societal partners, using experiences from the NWA-ORC project STRIDE to discuss dilemmas, success factors and practical strategies.

3. Bridging science, art and society

Nadine Fujimura-van der Vlies, Wende Wallert, Barbara Groot-Sluijsmans

📍 VU ART SCIENCE gallery (NU Building)

Integrating art into research allows for new perspectives and reaching different communities. But how do you make room for art and artists within your research, and how can you make your study an interesting proposition to an artist?

4. Why Doesn't a Woodpecker Get a Headache? Communicating Science Through Curiosity

Barbara Braams

📍 Aurora (HG-0C29)

Discover how a good question opens a window for communicating complex science. Using principles from the *Hoe? Zo! Show*, build an arc for communicating your own research.

5. Could Your Research Make a Difference Beyond Academia?

Berno Buckler / Demonstrator Lab VU

📍 HG-1A43

Discover how to valorise your research and create impact. Identify who might benefit, which commercial or societal problem your work could help solve, and where that could lead. From new applications and innovation to, potentially, a startup.

6. Welcome to the Workplace of Hope

John Klaasen (University of the Free State), Jan Jorrit Hasselaar

📍 HG-1A44

This workshop introduces the Workplace of Hope, exploring relational knowledge, hope and the South African Indaba as ways beyond polarization. The session opens with a video on Archbishop Thabo Makgoba's recent sabbatical at VU Amsterdam.

7. From matchmaking to collaboration

IXA-GO

📍 Auditorium

You'll take part in matchmaking rounds to exchange ideas, perspectives and research interest towards possible collaborations. Meet researchers from across VU and discover unexpected connections! This interactive session brings participants together around the VU themes health and well-being, climate and environment, and justice and resilience.

First floor

Main building

