Report of LOVA PhD Speed Date

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In collaboration with Djembé, Study Association of students in Cultural Anthropology at Utrecht University, LOVA organized a PhD Speed Date in the evening of March 7th, 2019 in Walden Café located in the city centre of Utrecht, The Netherlands. LOVA board member Roxane Kroon initiated this event, which facilitated an exchange between Master students and graduates on the one hand and PhD candidates and PhDs on the other to stimulate and support students and graduates who strive for an academic career in the domain of gender-sensitive anthropology and related disciplines. During speed date rounds of ten minutes participants exchanged information about how to find a research position in this field.

Five LOVA members having a job as PhD candidate or recently having passed the PhD defence shared their research preparations and experiences with students and graduates. These were Jasmijn Rana (Leiden University), Julienne Weegels (University of Amsterdam), Kathrine van den Bogert (Radboud University Nijmegen), Menal Ahmad (University of Humanistic Studies), and Merel van Manson (University of Amsterdam). The event was announced on the LOVA Facebook page and flyers had been distributed to all Master's programmes in Anthropology, Gender Studies and related programmes in The Netherlands. Students and graduates could register via an online form and thirteen of them participated. They came from varied backgrounds with interests covering a wide range of topics. Some had already applied for a PhD scholarship, others planned to do so in the near future, and some aimed to proceed with their research without a scholarship.

After the five dating rounds drinks were available and talks continued with reflecting on what was shared and learned. All participants were really positive about the event and found the discussions rich and interesting.