Subjects

- Diversity and identity, preferably in educational settings
- Cultural Change

Research Fields

- (higher) education

Regions

- The Netherlands and any other country the student feels like studying or is acquainted with

Research project Master Thesis 2011-2012

For years already the field of education – both secondary and higher education – is undergoing changes in order to prepare young people to face up to the demands of today’s world. In this globalized world economy where boundaries have disappeared it is the individual that matters and is considered to make the difference. Paradoxically, at the same time the individual is under siege in a time when everyone is called ‘to make the difference’. In schools and universities cooperation and teamwork are gaining ground as important competences that students have to master. The concept of community has become popular. How do schools and universities cope with this paradoxical demand to attend to community as well as a (ethnically) diverse group of individual students?

In the Thesis Group I would like to address this concept of community as it is ‘used’ in an educational context, and I would like to address it both conceptually as well as empirically. This means that the aim of the Thesis trajectory is:

1. To come up with a critical literature review on the concept of community in general and in the context of education specifically;
2. To come up with a critical literature review on the theme of diversity in (higher) education;
3. To carry out empirical (biographical?) case studies of ‘traditional student communities’ like sororities and fraternities, of new student associations based on ethnic and/or religious affiliation and of ‘instant student learning communities’ in the curricula;
4. To carry out other empirical research pertaining to the field of education.

Who can apply?
COM students interested in carrying out research in this field should have followed either ‘Cultural Change and Intervention’ or ‘Identity and Diversity in Organisations’.