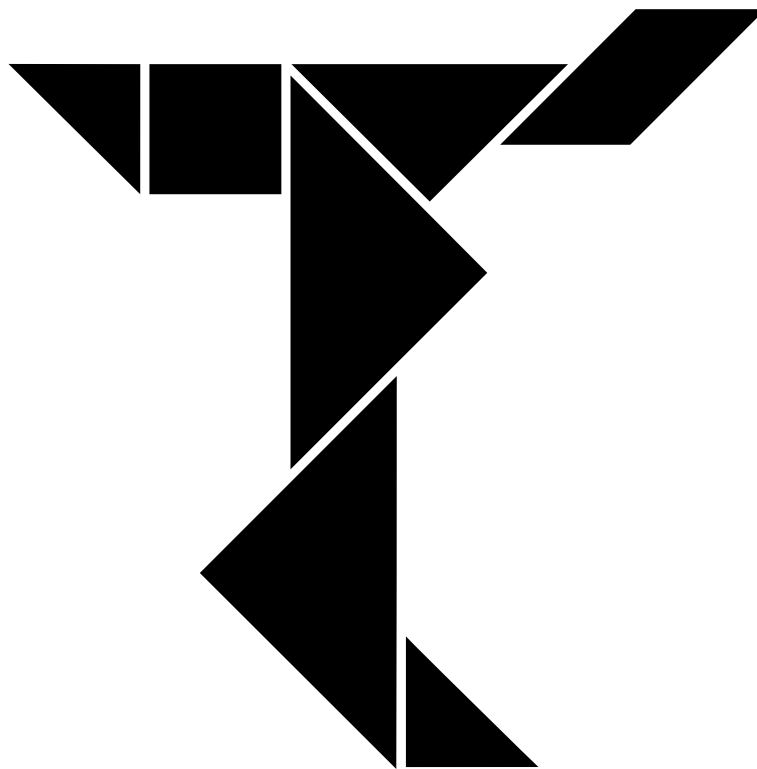


ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

STUDY ASSOCIATION THALIA



BOARD 2019-2020

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

PREFACE

Dear Thalian,

You are reading the 2019-2020 annual report, in which the 29th board evaluates Thalia in academic year 2019-2020.

5 We have tried to keep this report short, to make it a more pleasant read.

Enjoy!

The 29th board of Thalia,

Julian van der Horst

10 *Chair*

Koen Bremer

Vice-chair

15 Jelle Besseling

Secretary

Nick van Oers

Treasurer

20

Tim van Alten

Commissioner of Internal Affairs

Jen Dusseljee

25 *Commissioner of External Affairs*

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CHAPTER I

ASSOCIATION

I.1 CORONAVIRUS

To start off with the biggest theme of last year: the coronavirus. Just hours before what turned out to be our last normal borrel on the 12th of March, the Dutch government announced the first rule; that gatherings of more than 100 people were not allowed. Four days later, the ‘intelligent lock-down’ was announced, which meant the end of a normal association year for Thalia, as meet-ups of more than three people weren’t allowed anymore, and everyone had to keep a 1.5 meter distance to all others. Just like every individual person, we as the board, and the association, needed some time to adjust to the new situation.

We tried to keep in touch with our members as much as possible, using email, WhatsApp and Discord, and by organising (online) events. In the end, we organised one event per week on average until the end of the year. The majority of these events were online. Only in August we organised some small-scale physical events. Later in this report, at the relevant committees, we will go into some detail on the functioning of committees during the last couple of months.

In all honesty, for us as the board, it sometimes became hard to put full effort in our work, as it wasn’t really noticeable anymore where our energy went into. It made us realise how important contact with our members is, and what central role Mercator 1 has within our association. It has been quite a challenge to keep the feeling of solidarity alive within Thalia, in which we might have not been successful at all times. However, we have discussed everything that happened with our successors, and we have no doubt they will work hard on building up that feeling of solidarity.

I.2 GENERAL

I.2.1 INTERNATIONALISATION

We now have ten committees with international members, including one whose chair is an international student. The transition from Dutch to English has gone well for all of these committees. Apart from almost all communication being English now, the Thabloid is almost entirely English as well. Additionally, our successors even have an International board member. In general, we see that international students feel attracted to Thalia, and are visibly participating in Thalia.

Besides that, we had an international committee for the first time. After the ‘help-internationals-get-settled-day’, the members of the International Committee were well-known as the go-to people for international

85 students with all kinds of issues and questions. This was an effect we had hoped for, and are very happy with how it turned out.

The other events were visited mostly by (Dutch and international) first and second year students, but we don't see this as a problem, as these years are the only (bachelor) years with international students.

90 The committee organised one online event in the last quarter. The event itself was okay. However, in the light of the goal of the committee (integrating international and Dutch students), having to transfer to online events was very hard. This was also noticeable in the registrations for the 'introduction day for international students'. The number of registrations was so low that it was decided to postpone the event.

1.2.2 CRASH COURSES

At the beginning of the academic year, we started a pilot for Crash Courses. Although the pilot went reasonably well, the GM was not convinced the Crash Courses should be organised by Thalia. So in the GM in December¹,
95 it was decided the pilot could not be continued. The Programme Committee of Computing & Information Sciences took over the idea, and are looking into the possibilities of continuing the Crash Courses in their name.

1.2.3 SOCIETIES

We currently have four official societies and one society in their trial period. The number of members part of a society has grown exponentially, and a substantial part of the society members were not active within Thalia
100 before. We see and hear that their existence is very much appreciated. Therefore, we think the societies have been a good addition to the association.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, the societies have tried to find alternative ways of contact and get-togethers. Every society did this in their own way.

1.2.4 MASTER'S STUDENTS

105 The past year we have continued to organise events specifically for Master's students. Some events like the master BBQ or the thesis market were well visited. The master borrels were not visited so well, but experienced positively nonetheless. The most important role for Thalia with Master's students is creating possibilities for them to get in touch with each other, as we have done last year. In that sense, we don't think we need to try to get them more active at regular Thalia activities, as that's simply not what most Master's students wish from us.

1.3 OTHER

1.3.1 MERCATOR AND MERCATOR COMMITTEE

110 At the beginning of the year, we discussed the situation in Mercator I with both OII and iCIS. This resulted in the first floor becoming a 'silent area', and in re-organising the ground floor. OII, iCIS and we are very happy with both changes.

¹See minutes GM 2019-12-16, section 6 (Evaluation Crash Courses)

Before the outbreak of the coronavirus, the situation in Mercator 1 was not necessarily great, with the kitchen not always being too clean, but in general it was good enough.

- 115 Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, members of the Mercator Committee have, naturally, lost their regular tasks, as no one was allowed in the building.

1.3.2 ALMANAC COMMITTEE

In December, the Almanac Committee started working on the Almanac for the upcoming lustrum. The committee has had a good year, and, if all goes well, has ordered the books by the time you are reading this.

1.3.3 LUSTRUM COMMITTEE

- 120 The Lustrum Committee was established in November, and started working on making our upcoming lustrum very awesome. Unfortunately, the coronavirus has spoiled this party as well. The lustrum committee, together with our successors, has decided to postpone the lustrum week until later in next academic year. They are currently looking into the possibilities of organising some alternative smaller-scale/digital event on the Dies itself.

1.3.4 PAPARAZCIE

- 125 The Paparazcie had some issues with the design part of the committee at the beginning of the year, partly because the necessary information of events was published late, and partly because the initiative from the committee members wasn't optimal. After an internal evaluation, a new way to divide the designing tasks was attempted, which turned out to work very well.

- 130 Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, this committee hasn't had much work, as there were no physical events to take photos at, and there were next to no promotion requests. The committee is looking forward to picking up at least some of their work again in the near future.

1.3.5 TECHNICIE

- 135 With a lot of new members, quite a bit of time went into teaching these new members everything they need to know in the first few months. Nonetheless, the committee had a fruitful start of the year. The committee migrated from Nextcloud to G Suite, and Nextcloud has been switched off. Additionally, the Technicie has looked into options for, and started working in ThaliaPay, with which you can pay for events etc. via monthly automatic collections. Besides that, the committee has migrated from hardware servers to AWS.

Understandably, the lack of the weekly Technicie evenings was very hard on the committee. Their work hasn't been taken up for a while. The committee is hoping they can resume their Technicie evenings again in the future, may it be in alternative or smaller-scale form.

SNiC

- 140 At the Central Meeting of the SNiC Foundation in June 2019, it was decided that Thalia and CognAC would organise SNiC 2020. Our shared committee has worked very hard and were well on track with the organisation when the coronavirus started. Sadly enough, the decision was made to postpone SNiC 2020 due to the virus. It is now planned to take place in November 2021. All members of the committee will continue.

The collaboration with CognAC has been very good last year. It has actually proven to be very nice to have two different boards guiding the committee. We have no reason to doubt a good collaboration next year.

145 CHAPTER 2

ACTIVITIES

2.1 YEAR SCHEDULE

As announced in our Policy Plan¹, we tried to make the process of scheduling the events more structured. This way of planning events has been very pleasant for both the committees and the Commissioner of Internal Affairs. Additionally, it has—as hoped—been possible to spread the events more evenly over the quarters, weeks and days. We have advised our successors to continue this way of scheduling.

The scheduling of events after the start of the Corona virus was not as structured. We could have done this in a more structured way, but it didn't lead to any problems, as the number of organised events wasn't too high.

2.2 ALUMNI ACTIVITIES AND ALUMNI COMMITTEE

In the beginning of the year, the Alumni Committee decided that the Alumni day would work best if it happened each year at the same time of the year. After evaluation and talking to Alumni, September turned out to be the best moment. Subsequently, it was decided to not organise an Alumni day this year, as to not have one too close to the next one in September. The committee has been looking into alternative interpretations of the Alumni day, which will be continued next year. The Alumni borrel organised in the second quarter was combined with a Pub Quiz, which was attended and received well.

Due to the coronavirus, the committee decided not to organise an Alumni day in September 2020. They will discuss a new date with our successors.

2.3 BAPC AND BAPC COMMITTEE

Last October, the BAPC organised by Desda and Thalia took place. The committee was helped by over 30 enthusiastic volunteers and the event was very successful.

Desda, CognAC, the committee and we discussed the future of the committee and of the annual Nijmegen BAPC preliminaries. It was decided that some members of the BAPC committee would stay in the committee, and organise these preliminaries, as these people now have the technical knowledge necessary to organise the event. This was deemed a better idea than to transfer back to new boards having to reinvent the wheel each year.

¹See policy plan 2019-2020, section 1.2 (Year Schedule)

2.4 BATAVIERENRACE AND BATAACIE

The start of the Batacie was good this year. The committee decided against organising preliminaries, as it became clear last year that people weren't really enthusiastic about having to attend preliminaries. The people who wanted to join our running team this year had to prove they could run their preferred distance by sending the committee some data of their training. The committee had already formed the running team, and finalised their planning for the race when it got cancelled due to the coronavirus.

2.5 BIT-EVENT AND BIT COMMITTEE

We, as well as Synergy, had some struggles finding committee members for the BIT committee at the start of the year. However, we managed to find enough enthusiastic members in the end, and the committee had a good start. They found an external location and were well on track with their promotion plans and finding speakers and partners. Sadly enough, this event got cancelled due to the coronavirus as well. The original plan was to evaluate this edition of the BIT event extensively, to be able to make a well substantiated decision about the future of the event. In the end, after discussing it with our successors as well, the decision was made to discontinue the BIT event. Synergy is planning to continue to organise the event. We asked them to change the promotion significantly, to make sure partners don't associate the event with us anymore.

2.6 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND EDUCACIE

The Educacie had some issues with their internal structure, as the sub-committees have become less defined in the first few months of the year. This change was evaluated, and some possible solutions were considered. The outbreak of the coronavirus changed some things again, but we are positive that the committee, with some internal changes and quite some new members will function well when things start up a little more.

Only two weeks before the measurements against the coronavirus started, the Symposium took place. The theme 'Gaming Technologies' was less popular with our partners than hoped, which made the organisation and implementation of the company market a bit harder. Nonetheless, live gaming sessions and the talks made the event turn out to be very successful.

2.7 EVENTS COMMITTEE

In the past few years, the number of organising parties has increased drastically with the addition of societies and other committees, such as the First Year Student Committee and the International Committee. This is why the Events Committee decided they wanted to focus more on the quality of their events than on organising as many events as possible. In an internal evaluation, the committee brainstormed about how to achieve this, and, among others, indicated that they wanted to organise 18, instead of the originally planned 24 events. This number was not met due to the coronavirus, but was still a positive change within the committee.

The committee organised some well-received events in the last few months.

2.8 ORIENTATION AND ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

The Orientation Committee has had a challenging couple of months, in a slightly different way than other committees. In contrast to other committees who work towards one big event, their event wasn't cancelled entirely. Rather, the committee had to adapt their plans again and again due to changing policies from both the government and the university. In the end, the orientation was—naturally—very different than the usual orientation week. Making sure the new students got to bond with each other, with Nijmegen, and with Thalia was definitely more difficult than normal, as almost everything was online. However, taking all this into account, we can look back at a successful organisation and orientation days.

2.9 STUDY TRIP AND STUDY TRIP COMMITTEE

The first few months of this year, the Study Trip committee worked well on organising a study trip to Stockholm. Unfortunately, at the time of the original deadline, there weren't enough registrations yet. Subsequently, it was decided that a new deadline would be set, and new promotion would be made. Additionally, the threshold of 60EC was removed. This resulted in enough registrations.

The study trip was, naturally, cancelled as well due to the coronavirus. At the time of cancellation, not all participants had signed their contract yet, which included the terms for cancellation. With that, we found out the contract was not covering all general cases for cancellation and thus not complete. In the end, Thalia covered all remaining costs for all participants. To ensure the same mistake—not getting the contracts signed in time—won't be made again, the committee has updated the plan of action and contract, and future boards will keep a closer eye on this.

2.10 WEEKEND COMMITTEE

With a very enthusiastic weekend committee, the Thalia Weekend of this year promised to be successful again. Unfortunately, the weekend got cancelled. The majority of the committee members has decided they want to organise this year's weekend next year, so the work of this year won't be in vain.

CHAPTER 3

PARTNERS

3.1 RELATIONS

During our board year, we have maintained relations with a lot of partners we have previously collaborated with. We have also started collaborations with some new interesting companies like Picnic, bol.com and Blue-Conic that, we think, can provide a lot of value to Thalia. We think this will provide our members with a wide diversity of companies to get in contact with.

3.1.1 PARTNER INCOME

The amount of partner income this year fell short from the amount budgeted by almost €21.000,-. This is for a large part accounted for by the following factors:

First of all, we had to cancel a lot of partner events due to the corona crisis. Our policy in dealing with this was to invoice as little as possible this year, to give the next board as clean a slate as possible by not postponing our events to their year. These cancellations amount to €5.600,-.

Second, we were unfortunately not able to sign the new main partner contract this year as negotiations are still ongoing, for reasons listed below in the section Main Partner. This amounts to at least €5.000,-.

Another issue we have noticed this year is that some companies have been more reluctant in entering big collaborations with Thalia. One of the main reasons some partners have given for this is that they feel like they get less value out of collaborations with Thalia, compared to other similar associations.

Lastly, this year has been a taxing year on the commissioner of external affairs, in part due to the partner committee being empty at the start of the year and us making the mistake of not dividing the work more between the board members. This means that he was not able to spend as much time reaching out to new companies as previous years.

3.1.2 CORONAVIRUS

From what we have seen in our board year, the coronavirus has not had a big effect on the markets most of our partners are active in at the time, causing us to be carefully optimistic about the future. Even though this is the case at the moment, we can not predict what the effects will be in the coming years.

One thing we have noticed is that communication with partners has been a lot harder, which has caused problems sometimes. This can largely be explained by us and our partners having to adapt to the culture of

working from home. As most companies have gotten used to this by now, this should go smoother in the coming year.

3.2 MAIN PARTNER

The collaboration with Nedap this year has proven to be very satisfying for both parties. Communication has been very smooth throughout the year and the events we organised were popular among the attendees.

²⁴⁵ When it came time to negotiate our collaboration for the coming year, communication fell a bit short. This is largely due to both parties having to adapt to working from home due to the coronavirus and internal changes within Nedap. This means that we could not finish the contract during this board year, but they have verbally agreed to a main partnership for next year. Despite this setback at the end, the partnership has proven very pleasant and fruitful for both parties.

3.3 LOCAL PARTNER

²⁵⁰ The concept of local partner has been a great success this year. Collaboration with Yoast has been really beneficial to both parties, but they found the contract to be slightly too large for what they were getting out of it. Because of this, we will be continuing next year with a slightly smaller contract.

3.4 PARTNER COMMITTEE

²⁵⁵ The Partner committee had some issues in the beginning of the year, due to a lot of the old committee members quitting the committee. The result of this slow start-up is that the committee didn't take over more contacts from the Commissioner of External Affairs, as was planned. After the outbreak of the coronavirus, many partners were very careful with their promises, which resulted in the committee having next to no work for a couple of months. In the last few weeks, the work slowly started up again, and the committee got some new members. The start of the new committees and transfer of contacts has been very smooth.

3.5 PARTNER EVENTS

²⁶⁰ Because of the coronavirus, we unfortunately had to postpone or cancel a lot of events. Since we did not want to put all of this onto the next board, we have decided to cancel most events that had not been invoiced yet and postpone any events that had been invoiced. Using this approach, only three lunch lectures and one participation of the company borrel have been postponed. This means the impact of cancelled events has been mostly limited to our board.

WORD OF THANKS

265 We would like to thank everyone who committed to Thalia this year. These people are especially:

Advisory committee: Koen Verdenius, Milan van Stiphout, Joren Vrancken, Job Doesburg and Rico te Wechel.

Almanac committee: Ayala Hoeks, Tim van Alten, Nienke Wessel and Job Doesburg.

270 **Alumni committee:** Dré Hendriks, Rick Lukassen, Jan Aarts, Ivar Derksen, Milan van Stiphout, Elianne Heuer, Rico te Wechel and Koen Verdenius, Jan Martens and Tim van Alten.

Audit committee: Aucke Bos, Luna Elise Scherthner and Job Doesburg.

275 **BAPCie:**¹ Lars van Rhijn, Ayala Hoeks, Justin Hen, Thijs Limbeek, Timo Maarse, Simone Waning, Anouk Oudshoorn, Jelle Besseling, Job Doesburg and Mees Vermeulen.

Batavieren committee: Niek Janssen, Tim van Alten, Luko van der Maas, Julian van der Horst and Ischa Stork.

280 **BIT committee:**² Michiel van de Noort, Wouter Doeland, Pien van den Abeele, Mathilde Verbeek, Volker Tobien and Rob van der Burg

Board application committee: Rico te Wechel, Tim van Alten, Aline Boels, Nick van Oers and Lars van Rhijn.

285 **Borrel committee "Ctrl+Alt+Delerium":** Jan Martens, Kirsten Kingma, Luc Slaats, Luna Elise Scherthner, Jim Driessen, Joris Reichert, Serena Rietbergen, Iris Delhez, Aucke Bos, Nick van Oers, Milan van Stiphout, Leon van den Boogaard, Richard van Ginkel, Lien Wullink and Todd Bellavia.

290 **Educacie:** Frank Gerlings, Ward Theunisse, Astrid van der Jagt, Nienke Wessel, Elianne Heuer, Jen Dusseljee, Luko van der Maas, Koen Bremer, Amber Pater, Lien Wullink, Evi Sijben, Yannick Hogewind, Max Jongmans, Isolde Hoogendonk, Luuk van Campen, Seraph Jin, Suzan Erven and Violetta Sizonenko.

295 **Events committee:** Niek Janssen, Tom Nies, Giel Besouw, Rico te Wechel, Niels Nieuwveld, Janneau Thijssen, Jesse van Son, Thijs de Jong, Patrick van Beurden, Julian van der Horst, Rik van Brakel and Mark de Jong.

First year student committee: Pien van den Abeele, Dirk Doesburg, Wouter Doeland, Sebastiaan Grein, Anne den Hertog, Imke Huisink, Lucas van Kasteren, Britt Koop, Milan Pullens, Pascal Schmid, Tim van Alten, Stijn Vandenput and Koen Bremer.

300 **International committee:** Polina Moroza, Andrea Minichová, Marie-Sophie Simon, Alex li, Luc Slaats, Kirsten Hagenaars and Julian van der Horst

Lustrum committee: Jan van Bommel, Jen Dusseljee, Julian van der Horst, Jelle Besseling, Charlotte Leu-

¹Not all members of this committee are Thalia members

²Not all members of this committee are Thalia members

305 verink, Rick Lukassen, Polina Moroza, Nick van Oers, Serena Rietbergen and Koen verdenius.

Mercator committee: Tom Koning, Giel de Kort, Jan van Bommel, Luc Slaats, Luna Elise Scherthner, Koen Bremer, Jelle Besseling, Julian van der Horst, Andrea Minichová and Thijs de Jong.

310 **Orientation committee:** Abe Heemskerk, Evi Sijben, Jeroen van Alem, Phil Geelhoed, Tom Evers, Serena Rietbergen, Milan van Stiphout, Rick Lukassen, Koen Verdenius, Jesse van Son, Rico te Wechel, Jeroen Broos and Aucke Bos.

315 **Mentors:** Gijs Hendriksen, Robin Immel, Leon van den Boogaard, Lars van Rhijn, Thijs de Jong, Koen Bremer, Jesper Somers, Nick van Oers, Isolde Hoogendonk, Thomas Klein Breteler, Julian van der Horst, Kimberley Frings, Rik van Brakel, Wouter Doeland, Marie-Sophie Simon, Jorrit de Boer, Tim Reijneveld, Ana Cullen, Lisa Hoek, Michiel Kraan, Stijn Vandenput, Dirk Doesburg, Imke Huisink, Luc Slaats and Jen Dusseljee.

320 **Paparazzie:** Job Doesburg, Sébastiaan Versteeg, Tim van Alten, Nick van Oers, Jelte Smits, Simone Ruijs, Astrid van der Jagt, Polina Moroza, Esther Shi, Jorrit de Boer and Andrea Minichová.

Partner committee: Thomas Klein Breteler, Jen Dusseljee, Jan van Bommel, Isolde Hoogendonk, Ingeborg Kuipers, Debbie Vos, Bas van der Zandt, Leonpold van Ijzendoorn, Marie-Sophie Simon, Kimberley Frings and Michiel Kraan.

325 **SNiCcie:** Pepijn van Manen, Romy Stähli, Luko van der Maas, Roland Leferink, Astrid van der Jagt, Jelte Smits and Marit Leijnse.

330 **Study trip committee:** Marthijn van den Nieuwenhuizen, Daan Derks, Kimberley Frings, Nick van Oers, Taras Khrystenko, Vincent van 't Hof and Rico te Wechel.

335 **Technicie:** Joren Vrancken, Gijs Hendriksen, Jelle Besseling, Sébastiaan Versteeg, Luko van der Maas, Julian van der Horst, Thom Wiggers, Freek van de Ven, Thijs de Jong, Bart Hofman, Lars van Rhijn, Yannick Hogewind, Job Doesburg, Wouter Doeland, Luc Knol, Simcha van Collem, Dirk Doesburg, Marthijn van den Nieuwenhuizen, Mario Tsatsev and Marie-Sophie Simon

Thabloid committee: Robin Immel, Aniek den Teuling, Jan Martens, Joris Reichert, Justin Reniers, Luna Elise Scherthner, Taras Khrystenko, Ayala Hoeks, Tim van Alten, Elianne Heuer, Jan van Bommel, Noël Bangma, Jorrit Geels, Max Jongmans, Job Doesburg, Nienke Wessel, Anda Zale, Tom Koning and Stefan Popa

340 **Weekend committee:** Jelle Medendorp, Max Leijtens, Jorrit Geels, Tom Koning, Patrick van Beurden, Ayala Hoeks, Nienke Wessel, Ana Cullen and Isolde Hoogendonk.

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