**RPA Polarisation Seed Grant Program 2023-2024**

To apply for the 2023 Pilot grants, please e-mail the completed the [Application Form](https://www.cobras-lab.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/PilotGrant_ApplicationForm_FINAL.docx) to [polarisation-fmg@uva.nl](mailto:polarisation-fmg@uva.nl?subject=[Pilot%20Grant%20Application]%20RPA%20Polarisation) by **April 1, 2023** (end of day).

**General** **Aims of the RPA Polarisation Seed Grant Program**

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| Polarisation – the development or existence of a persisting, extreme, multi-modal divide in attitudes, identities, and behaviors – can be a significant impediment to harmonious and productive societies. Newly emergent patterns of polarisation with respect to topics like COVID-19 policies and climate change interlock with existing cultural and political divides and identities, undermining society’s capacity for taking concerted collective action. Polarisation is a complex phenomenon which is linked to processes at all levels of societal life, including, but not limited to, individual cognitive biases, social group dynamics and larger educational, cultural, and political structures. Interdisciplinary research is key to understanding the interdependencies between (de)polarisation processes across these levels and to building a comprehensive understanding of polarisation.  A key aim of the Research Priority Area (RPA) *Polarisation* at the University of Amsterdam’s Faculty for Social and Behavioral Sciences (FMG) is to support interdisciplinary scientific research on (de)polarisation. Specifically, the RPA fosters interdisciplinary (i.e. cross-department) examination of causes, consequences, mechanisms, and potential interventions targeting (de)polarisation at the cognitive/individual, social/group, and societal levels. To this end, a seed grant program is available to FMG researchers interested in these issues.  Seed grants will be made available in two steps:     1. **2023 Pilot Grants & Matchmaking:** In a set-up phase lasting until the end of 2023, the RPA aims to foster the formation of interdisciplinary teams and support the development of new research lines around polarisation, possibly including initial empirical tests or exploration.   Individual researchers or collaborating researchers can apply for the 2023 pilot seed grant round, to start working towards impactful project ideas and broader interdisciplinary collaboration. The RPA provides approximately 10 small pilot grants (max. 5.000 Euros per project) to support this phase. In addition, to foster the formation of interdisciplinary collaborations, the RPA will organize at least one match making event in 2023, where the recipients of the pilot seed grants and other interested parties can present their research ideas to the wider RPA community and find interdisciplinary collaborators to further enrichen their polarisation-related research lines.   1. **2024 Interdisciplinary Project Grants**: In 2024, larger project grants of approximately 20.000 Euros will be made available for interdisciplinary research on (de)polarisation through a new call for applications. Details will be announced in the course of 2023. |

**Call for Applications Pilot Grants 2023**

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| **Who and What** | * + Applicants can request max. 5.000 Euros per project   + Pilot funding can be used, among others, for participant payments, fielding community surveys, field visits, research materials, help with data collection (research assistant hours), or computing time. Funding can be used for new projects or to add a new, (de)polarisation-related research idea to an existing effort. The funding cannot be used for personnel costs such as temporary teaching replacement.   + Project teams can consist of 1-3 members.   + Assistant, associate, full professors, and post-doc/researchers with main affiliation at the FMG may serve as main applicants. At least one applicant (not necessarily the main applicant) must have a tenured contract at the FMG to facilitate continuation of the work in the coming years. PhD candidates may serve as co-applicants. Note that PhD applicants should receive approval from their supervisors to participate in this application. |
| **Deliverables** | * + The goal of this seed grant round is to provide a strong basis for collaboration. This includes a presentation at the RPA Match Making Event in October 2023 to invite and inspire other researchers to contribute and work with you. During the matchmaking event, you will be invited to give a brief presentation about the work that the pilot seed grant helped fund, including a visual representation of pilot data, research design, or theoretical model. |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | * + Applicant(s) fulfill the criteria named under “Who and What” above   + Clear relevance of the project for (de)polarisation   + Feasibility (project needs to be feasible given financial and time constraints – see Timeline below)   + Potential for interdisciplinary (cross-department at FMG) collaboration in the future. |
| **Evaluation Procedure** | * + All applications will be evaluated for admissibility according to the above “Evaluation criteria” by the RPA board (Drs. Christin Scholz, Marte Otten, and Remmert Daas), who are excluded from all applications.   + If the available funds are insufficient to cover all admissible applications, winners will be selected based on a random draw. |

**Timeline**

**Diagram

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