



Jury report UvA Lecturer of the Year 2021

We, the jury for the UvA Lecturer of the Year 2021 – comprising Manish Jhinkoe-Rai (CSR), Thomas Riedlsperger (CSR), Jules Declérieux (ASVA), René Smits (Lecturer of the Year 2020) and Karen Maex (Rector Magnificus UvA) – would like to show our gratitude and praise to the seven nominees. We are both pleased and impressed by the high level of teaching talent of the nominees. They all show great commitment to their students and their learning process.

The seven nominees have already earned their title as faculty Lecturer of the Year through the voting process. We congratulate our seven nominees with their title!

In assessing who deserves the title of UvA Lecturer of the Year 2021, we looked at lecture recordings, course manuals and testimonials of students and staff. We found the task to be very inspiring; we saw a diversity of disciplines and teaching styles. Below, we announce our winner. Thereafter, we present our findings on the nominees. We discuss the nominees in alphabetical order.

For the way in which he engages with his students, his excellent use of structure and use of concrete application of theory, the award of **UvA Lecturer of the Year 2021** goes to: **David Bos** from the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (FMG)!

David Bos (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences)

David Bos has mastered the art of explaining complex subject matter, while making meaningful connections with his students. He teaches courses in the bachelor Interdisciplinary Social Sciences and *Social Trends, Social Problems & Social Policies* in the interdisciplinary Exchange Programme Social and Behavioural Sciences. David also taught the Master's course Dutiful Citizenship and co-coordinated a course at AUC. In his lecture recording, we saw how David employs a pleasant tempo of explanation and actively involves his students in the lecture. David has a great talent for storytelling, he takes his time in explaining and asks questions to engage his students. He does so by encouraging students to think about real-life applications of sociological theory. Students praise David for his in-class teaching, but also for how he stays involved with the learning process outside of lectures. Students feel free to write or call David if they have questions, or as one student puts it: 'He really cares'. We also saw his dedication to teaching and the learning process shine through in his course manual. The level of detail and clearly set-out structure in the course manual are very impressive. It is the combination of great storytelling, clear course structure and connection with his students that make David this year's winner of the Lecturer of the Year-award.

Fatjon Kaja (Faculty of Law)

We have great admiration for how Fatjon connects with his students. Fatjon is affiliated to the Amsterdam Center for Law & Economics and teaches in the minor Law and Economics and in the Master Law & Finance. In the lecture recording, we saw he asks students to introduce themselves when they ask a question. We saw that Fatjon is very much involved with his students and makes excellent use of the Socratic method. His commitment is a recurring theme in the messages from students as well: engaged, personal, knowing all names – students appreciate how Fatjon goes above and beyond to help them. One student wrote us s/he strongly recommends everyone to follow the minor Law and Economics if you are interested in opening your mindset, learning, and challenging yourself. We also learned a lot from the lecture recording and could clearly see why Fatjon has been awarded the faculty-title of Lecturer of the Year.

Joep Leerssen (Faculty of Humanities)

Rarely have we seen a lecturer talk so passionately about history without shying away from using humour. Joep teaches in European Studies. His lecture recording was a true joy to follow – Joep uses anecdotes and film fragments to support his teaching. In doing so, he succeeds in explaining complex subject matter in an understandable way. We were impressed by how much information Joep is able to get across in a relative short period of time. From the messages of students, it became very clear why Joep has been awarded the title of faculty Lecturer of the Year: many students wrote us about Joep's humour, intelligence and wit, they call him 'the perfect professor' and his lectures the 'highlight of the day'.

John van Boxel (Faculty of Science)

John teaches in meteorology, climatology and climate change and is affiliated to the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics. In the lecture recording, we observed how John succeeds in integrating humour and interaction into his lectures. His passion for the subject of climate change was very clear in both the lecture recording and messages we received from students. In fact, almost all comments from students incorporated the term 'passionate'. Students praise John for his flexibility and the way in which he succeeded in adopting his course to the corona-measures. He did so by emphasizing the in-class interactions in Zoom-classes. Moreover, we saw in the messages from students that his stories really stick. One student wrote us: 'I'll never look at a cloud the same way.'

Jos Bramer (Faculty of Medicine)

From our assessment, two central themes with regard to Jos' teaching arise: his uplifting spirit and his creativity in teaching. Jos is an oncological orthopedic surgeon and lecturer in orthopedic surgery. Students praise Jos for his humour, enthusiasm and in general making lectures fun to attend (even in Zoom!). One student also praises how Jos takes the initiative to just 'have a talk' – this creates a connection with students they truly appreciate. In the lecture recording, we saw that Jos uses a creative way of teaching: he uses a dialogue-format with his co-teacher in which they exchange arguments back and forth. The jury would like to give a honourable mention to Jos for the way in which he checks in with his students during times of corona-measures; students praise Jos for not only checking on their progress in learning, but also their mental health. It is because

of lecturers like Jos that our students could keep pursuing their academic career, for which we are very grateful.

Samar Mosa (Faculty of Dentistry)

Colleagues and students speak very fondly of Samar. She teaches cariology in the bachelor programme at ACTA. Although we did not assess Samars teaching directly (there was no lecture recording or course manual available), we received warm recommendations from her colleagues and students. Samar is a committed lecturer; her strength is to put the students at ease, so that they are able to interact freely and feel welcome. At the same time, students appreciate Samars honesty and direct feedback. In doing so, she keeps a great balance between creating a pleasing and accessible atmosphere and guarding a professional line. One students describes Samar as (among other things) fun, attentive and smart, to conclude with: ‘All in all the best teacher of the year/millennium.’

Stevan Rudinac (Faculty of Economics and Business)

Students show great praise for the way in which Stevan makes complex subjects accessible, or as one student puts is: ‘He made the minor Data Science and Artificial Intelligence fun rather than depressing (when thinking how hard it was)’. Stevan teaches *Algorithms and Data Structures* and *Machine Learning* in the minor programme. In the lecture recording, we saw how Stevan brings a lot of enthusiasm in teaching. Although we have no particular background in the subject matter, Stevan’s enthusiasm really helped staying engaged during the lecture. We actually learned a lot from the lecture recording, no easy feat. We would like to also give Stevan the honourable mention with regard to how he kept in touch with his student during difficult times. We saw many students praising Stevan for going above and beyond to listen to mental health concerns and to help students during this pandemic year. This lead to a lot of capital letters in the comments made by students, to express how Stevan did ANYTHING within his power to make online teaching a success. We would like to send our praise to Stevan for how he helped students during difficult times.