

# WIAS News



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## NEWS

### WIAS Science Day

The annual Science Day on 8 March offered oral presentations and posters by PhD students, which were unanimously rated as 'high level' this time. As extras we had presentations by VENI winner Bas Rodenburg and Prof. Sjoerd Wendelaar Bonga, the new Chair of the WIAS International Advisory Board. The students of the Hotel School had prepared a tasteful lunch and dinner, and the overall – very smooth – organisation was in the hands of the WAPS Council committee. Thanks again to the organisers for a job well done!

Four prizes were awarded:

- Publication Prize: Maaïke Joerink, former PhD student of the Cell Biology and Immunology group, currently working at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Presentation Prize: David Lentink, PhD student of the Experimental Biology Group.
- Poster Prize: Gonçalo Santos, PhD student of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Group.
- Education Prize: Marianne Bruining, WIAS Education Coordinator since 1998.

Congratulations!

Next year's Science Day will be on Thursday 13 March 2008. Block this day in your calendar already now!

### INREF POND book

The WU-funded PhD research programme INREF POND (2001-2007) has resulted in a dozen PhD thesis on integrated agriculture-aquaculture farming systems, and these results have now been integrated in a beautiful book 'Fish ponds in farming systems' edited by Akke van der Zijpp et al. Fresh from the printer, the book was presented at the Science Day to the directors of the two most involved graduate schools: Prof. Lijbert Brussaard of PE&RC (C.T. de Wit graduate school of Production Ecology and Resource Conservation) and Prof. Johan van Arendonk of WIAS. More info on the book at [www.wageningenacademic.com/fishponds](http://www.wageningenacademic.com/fishponds) and from Roel Bosma.

### Meeting International Advisory Board

The day after the Science Day, the International Advisory Board (IAB) had meetings with the WIAS Board and Director, the Education Committee and the WAPS Council. Like its name implies, the IAB advises WIAS on strategic issues.

Among others, we had an interesting discussion on a dilemma WIAS struggles with for several years now: should the education and training of PhD students aim for 'life-long learning' or should it result in a pre-defined level of competences. The IAB advised to go for a pre-defined (and well defined) level of competences and to stimulate – but not force – life-long learning. If WIAS adopts that policy, the consequence is that waivers (exemptions) may become possible for older PhD students who have already mastered certain elements of the WIAS Training and Supervision Plan. The Education Committee will discuss it further and you will read the outcome in WIAS News.

Later this year, WIAS and its Chair groups will perform a midterm evaluation – i.e. halfway the external peer reviews of 2004 and 2009. A self study including a SWOT analysis will be made by each Chair and the IAB has promised to come back in November and discuss this midterm evaluation.

## **IN-DEPTH COURSES, SEMINARS AND SYMPOSIA**

### **NVI Course Lunteren 2007**

March 22-23 at the Congrescentrum De Werelt in Lunteren.

This years' central theme is the "Compartmentalization of the immune response" with leading scientists from the USA, Canada, Italy, England, France and the Netherlands who will give keynote lectures and meet you during the informal "meet the speaker" breakfast sessions. Please view the programme and register at [www.nvi.nl](http://www.nvi.nl).

Please note that in contrast to previous years the meeting will start at 11.00 am.

### **Statistics for Life Sciences**

In an inventory carried out by the WAPS council many PhD students indicated the need for an advanced course in statistics to analyze their data. From May 30 – June 5, a five day course can be attended. Topics are: linear models, data analysis with SAS, maximum likelihood, generalized linear models, mixed linear models and bayesian statistics. Teachers are Fred van Eeuwijk, Gerrit Gort and Bas Engel (Biometris) and Henk Bovenhuis (ABG).

On the WIAS website [http://www.wias.nl/courses/view\\_course.php?ID=71](http://www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=71) you can find more detailed information on the course; amongst others on prior knowledge required for this course. When you are willing to attend this course, please register before April 4 on the website

[http://www.wias.nl/courses/view\\_course.php?ID=71](http://www.wias.nl/courses/view_course.php?ID=71)

When you are willing to attend this course, but at these dates it is not possible for you, please send an email to Marianne Bruining and mention in which months in the autumn the course should be organized.

### **Multivariate Analysis**

18, 19, 20, 25 and 26 April 2007

The course is presented by Dr Cajo J. F. ter Braak and ir. Saskia L.G.E. Burgers and is mainly based on the book "Data analysis in community and landscape ecology" of Jongman, Ter Braak & van Tongeren (1995). More recent developments are also part of the program. Practical exercises, the use of Canoco for Windows (4.5) and GenStat for Windows and interpretation of the output are an important part of the course.

<http://www.dpw.wageningen-ur.nl/peenrc/index.php> (courses and activities // post graduate courses)

### **Complexity in and between Social and Ecosystems**

1-11 May 2007

Aims of the course

- to develop a theoretical perspective on complex dynamics in and between social and eco-systems by exploring existing theories and by combining ecological, social science, institutional, and evolutionary concepts
- to critically reflect on the differences between models, theory and experiments and its consequences for research
- to understand sudden and catastrophic regime changes, situations of uncertainty and non linear behaviour

- to analyze adaptive influences of scientific and indigenous knowledge
  - to assess best practices of sustainable resource management at a global, regional and local scale
- [http://www.ceres.wur.nl/PhD/courses.html#Upcoming\\_courses](http://www.ceres.wur.nl/PhD/courses.html#Upcoming_courses)

## SKILLS COURSES

### WIAS Workshop Writing winning grant proposals

WIAS Director Johan van Arendonk will give this workshop for the third time now. Dates have been set at: afternoons 13.30 – 17.00 h in room C on 25 May, 21 June, 20 September, 11 October and 13 December. Registration by e-mail to Gerrie van Eck.

## WGS and CENTA Courses

### Writing Grant Proposals

5, 12 April & 3 May 2007

This course is intended for PhDs in their last years and post-doc researchers, who want to learn how to write a project proposal for funding. The course will focus on clear and concise writing that meets the requirements of funding agencies.

[http://www2.wau.nl/centa/index.cfm?fuseaction=Cursus.showCourse&cursus\\_id=76](http://www2.wau.nl/centa/index.cfm?fuseaction=Cursus.showCourse&cursus_id=76)

### Project and Time Management

27 march, 10 April & 8 May 2007

For PhD students, planning, control, monitoring and management of their research project and time are essential in accomplishing the PhD. Achieving this in 4 years time is a real challenge. To manage the research projects better and to get more out of time is what this course is all about. This 3-day short course provides insight into project and time management and ways to improve them. Hence it is time well spent.

There are still two places available in this course:

[http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS\\_Project+and+Time+Management/](http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_Project+and+Time+Management/)

### Scientific Writing

27 March, 3, 17, 24 April & 8, 15 May 2007

This writing course is designed for doctoral students who are currently writing an article or a dissertation. Scientific Writing will enable you to improve and receive feedback on your writing and to discuss it with others involved in the same process. The course assumes that students learn best through interaction with others and with the course materials. We will therefore look at example texts and critique each other's work.

[http://www2.wau.nl/centa/index.cfm?fuseaction=Cursus.showCourse&cursus\\_id=68](http://www2.wau.nl/centa/index.cfm?fuseaction=Cursus.showCourse&cursus_id=68)

### Career Assessment

(participation by making an appointment with Meijer & Meijaard)

This Career Assessment:

- Gives PhD candidates insight in their personal skills, competences, strength and weaknesses;
- Gives insight in what needs to be developed more and how;
- Will reflect on prior assessments;
- Allows PhD candidates to follow a more tailor-made training programme related to the areas that need attention;
- Can provide more insights to the supervisors on how the candidate is best supervised (in case PhD candidate imposes no objection).

[http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS\\_Career+Assessment/](http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_Career+Assessment/)

### Creating Your Scientific Network

Attached you'll find the course outline and programme of the course: "Creating Your Scientific Network" which will be given on April 13 & 27.

[http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS\\_Networking](http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_Networking)

### **Project and Time Management**

27 march, 10 april & 8 may 2007

There are still a few places available in the Project and Time Management course starting March 27th.

[http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS\\_Project+and+Time+Management/](http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/WGS_Project+and+Time+Management/)

### **Presentation Skills**

Start next course: 21 May 2007

<http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/education/programmes/PhD+programmes/General+Courses/>

### **Courses from the Library**

Wageningen UR Library soon organises the following courses:

- 3 April: EndNote Demonstration Session, 12.30 pm-1.00 pm, room C45, Atlas building (free)
- 5 April: Introduction to the Wageningen UR Digital Library, 9.00 am-9.45 am, room C70, Leeuwenborch (free)
- 10 and 11 April: Guide to Scientific Digital Artwork, 2 days, room PC87, Building De Haar, Haarweg 10 (€ 360)
- 11 April: Working with EndNote 9, 9.00 am-12.30 pm, room 235, Jan Kopshuis (€ 100)
- 12 April: EndNote Advanced, 9.00 am-12.30 pm, room 235, Jan Kopshuis (€ 100)

More information about the courses you'll find on <http://library.wur.nl/desktop/services/courses>

## **FUNDING AND AWARDS**

### **Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds**

Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds provides grants for PhD candidates spending part of their research period abroad. For further information and application contact Ms. Marieke van der Kruijs ([mk@cultuurfonds.nl](mailto:mk@cultuurfonds.nl)). Deadline is 1 April 2007

### **Rubicon**

NWO Rubicon grants are a step up to an NWO Veni grant and can be submitted in 2007 on 2 April, 3 September and 3 December. [read more](#)

### **NWO Cooperation Great Britain**

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between NWO and the British Council applications can be submitted for subsidies for research visits to the UK or for organising joint workshops or seminars with British researchers. The conditions are stated in the brochure. Deadline is 30 June 2007. ([visit NWO](#))

### **EU programme Ideas**

Het programma Ideas is een nieuw onderdeel van het kaderprogramma en biedt financiering voor excellente onderzoekers, die grensverleggend onderzoek willen verrichten. Voor het uitvoeren van dit programma is een speciaal agentschap, de European Research Council (ERC) opgericht. Aan het hoofd van de ERC staat de Scientific Council, die de wetenschappelijke strategie van de ERC bepaalt en zorg draagt voor een zo hoog mogelijke kwaliteit van de uitvoering van het programma.

De deadline voor de Starting Grant (vergelijkbaar met een vidi-beurs) is 25 april. De starting grant mikt op jonge onderzoekers (voorwaarde: eerste PhD tussen de 2-9 jaar) met een excellent onderzoeksproject. Deze grant biedt jonge onderzoekers de kans de overstap te maken naar een onafhankelijke positie en daardoor dus zelfstandig onderzoek uit te voeren.

In de loop van 2007 zal een oproep worden gepubliceerd voor de Advanced Investigator Grant (vergelijkbaar met vici, echter hier geldt geen maximum voor het aantal jaren na promotie). Deze Grant is bedoeld voor reeds gevestigde onderzoekers en biedt hen de mogelijkheid hun excellente onderzoek voort te zetten. Zie: <http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm>