

WIAS News

March 2010



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Another good year for WIAS

After the successful Peer Review over 2003-2008 it comes as no surprise that 2009 was again a good year for WIAS. With a total of 18 promotions and 34 new PhD students we are continuing the strong upward trend of the past few years. At the moment WIAS has a little over 140 PhD students, of which more than half are international students. The gender ratio is in favor of the women, with approximately 55% of WIAS PhD students being female. The past year was also a year for prestigious grants. Joost van der Borne received a Veni Grant from NWO and Martien Groenen received an ERC grant. During the annual management meeting with the Rector Magnificus, Martin Kropff expressed his appreciation for the excellent progress of our graduate school. The standard is high, but we expect an even greater year in 2010!

WIAS Science Day a success

On January 28th 2010 the fourteenth WIAS Science Day took place at Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld in Wageningen. With 10 presentations, 16 posters and 90 visitors it was, once again, a great success! Subjects ranged from genetic imprinting and MRSA transmission to behavioral characterization of village dogs in Mexico. However, as already implied by the theme, there was 'Unity in Diversity'.

At the end of the day, a number of prizes were awarded. Roos Molenaar received a prize for the best oral presentation and Julia Mas Muñoz for the best poster. Marije Oostindjer was presented with the WIAS publication prize for the best paper published by a WIAS PhD student in 2009 and Carol Souza da Silva received an EAAP Grant from the Nederlandse Zoötechnische Vereniging (NZV). Congratulations prize winners and a special thanks to the organizing committee for the wonderful day!

International Advisory Board coming to Wageningen

On March 19th the WIAS International Advisory Board (IAB) will be coming to Wageningen for their annual visit. The IAB consists of 5 renowned scientists from the Netherlands and abroad who have an important advisory function within WIAS. This year they will be meeting with the WIAS Board, Education Committee and WAPS council to discuss current affairs affecting WIAS. At the end of the day they will hopefully provide some valuable recommendations for the coming year.

Graduations

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|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| - Miriam Schutter | AFI | January 25 th | 16:00 |
| - Javier Martín-Tereso López | ANU | March 5 th | 16:00 |
| - Haisheng Nie | ABG | March 8 th | 16:00 |

Graduate School Courses and Seminars

The "Ethics and Philosophy in Animal Sciences" course has been totally renewed and will take place from March 3rd to March 5th in Soest. The new course leader, Professor Tjard de Cock Buning of the Vrije

Universiteit Amsterdam, aims to develop professional competence to analyze and make accountable decisions on complex ethical issues related to animal sciences. It promises to be an interesting course!

New course dates

October 12th – 15th Introduction Course
June 1st – 8th Statistics for Life Sciences

For further information about upcoming WIAS and WGS courses, please check www.wias.nl > courses & seminars.

Meetings and Stipends

Sustainable Development Diplomacy

For the second year in a row, a 2-week Executive Education Course on **Sustainable Development Diplomacy** is offered. This second edition of the SDD course will take place from June 6th to 20th in the Netherlands. Please note that there are scholarships available for Wageningen University students.

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University (Boston), Wageningen UR (University & Research Centre) , and the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature, and Food Quality (LNV), in cooperation with the Sustainability Challenge Foundation (SCF), have organized a first-of-its-kind two-week executive education course on Sustainable Development Diplomacy.

The purpose of the course is to provide (future) leaders in the public, private or non-profit sectors, with a combination of theory and practice of sustainable development diplomacy. The course aims to teach experienced mid-career civil servants and diplomats as well as excellent Masters and PhD students.

The first week consists of lectures, self-study hours, group assignments and case presentations on international sustainable development politics & policy, law & diplomacy, and negotiation & management. During the second week, participants will join the existing International Program on the Management of Sustainability (IPMS), which has been organized by SCF in the Netherlands for 16 years and is taught by Fletcher staff and other international faculty. This program consists of negotiation theory and tools, consensus building exercises, simulations, and actual case discussions. In these two weeks, participants gain high-quality knowledge and skills in both theory and practice of sustainable development diplomacy.

The deadline for application is **Thursday, 15 April 2010**.

For more information, please contact Barbara Koliijn of Wageningen University (Barbara.koliijn@wur.nl) or Viv Mestdagh of SCF (viv.mestdagh@tiasnimbas.edu).

Carolina Macgillavry PhD Fellowship 2010

This fellowship is intended for a sandwich PhD program for young scientific researchers in the natural and life sciences coming from one of the countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) will award one PhD fellowship per year to a maximum of €50,000.

Nominations for the Carolina Macgillavry PhD Fellowship can be submitted to the KNAW until **May 15th, 2010**.

For detailed information about conditions and a nomination form, please visit www.knaw.nl, and see Subsidies (in Dutch) or Funding (in English), call +31 (0)20 551 0829 or e-mail jeffrey.muskiet@bureau.knaw.nl.

WIAS News questions, comments or contributions? Please contact Patricia Huijbers at wias@wur.nl