
New timetable postponed

Student-staff Council votes
against fast-track launch | p.6|

Vibrating fork

It won't really help you
lose weight | p.9|

Insect girl

Cupboards full of insect snacks in
your student room | p.25|

RESOURCE [EN]

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 19 – 1 June 2017 – 11th Volume



Growing pains

Survey shows: the limits are in sight | p.12

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

BLOOD WEDDING

A young woman leaves her bridegroom standing at the altar and goes off with a former lover. That is the gist of the Spanish play *Blood Wedding*, performed this week in the Belmonte Arboretum by Pierrot and Columbine, the Ceres Drama Society. Although the play is over 80 years old, it is still relevant today, says student Jelle Leeuw. 'The men in the play are proud and hardworking, while the women are stuck at home all day. They are not allowed to express their sexuality because that makes them sluts. Exactly what happens nowadays with 'slut shaming' of girls in student societies.' There are more open-air performances of the play on 1,2,3 and 4 June.

📸 LvdN, photo: Sven Menschel



>> CONTENTS

no. 19 – 11th volume



>> **10**

SACRED NATURE

Communication on 'wilderness' often has religious overtones



>> **20**

DISPOSABLE SCIENTISTS

'After footballers, scientists are most often in temporary employment'



>> **24**

PIANO OUT OF THE WINDOW

A bizarre student house tradition in the Heerenstraat

AND MORE

- 5 Two Vidi grants**
- 6 Arnold Bregt is new Dean of Education**
- 8 Tree tweets about its sap flow**
- 10 Measuring soil moisture by satellite**
- 18 Bioplastics: fact and fiction**
- 22 Which student party are you voting for?**
- 26 Another 1400 rooms needed**
- 27 Meanwhile in Great Britain**

SUNNY FOR NOW

Resource asked all the professors and study coordinators what effect the growth in student numbers is having on their work. A big effect, it turns out. Lectures are more crowded so not surprisingly more students ask for a personal explanation or a pat on the back. Of course it makes a difference if you have to explain something 20 times or 70 times. But there were some surprising results too. Based on what I'd been hearing on the grapevine, I'd expected our survey to show that the pressure of work had become much too much. But that turned out not to be the case. Most professors still see the sunny side of Wageningen, helped by creative solutions, constructive thinking and a large dose of enthusiasm and loyalty. If you read the opinions on pages 12-15 and run through all 26 questions on resource-online.nl, you have to conclude that WUR's creative staff are keeping their spirits up. At the same time, some have clearly reached their limit. So I am curious to know what the results will be if growth continues and we ask the same questions next year. I forecast clouds.

Edwin van Laar



>> 'Bonus packaging is misleading' | p.8

SURVEY: EDUCATION IS UNDER PRESSURE

The continuing rise in student numbers is putting pressure on Wageningen education. Teachers' workloads are heavy and getting heavier, teaching methods are being adapted and are becoming less personal. This is clear from a survey by Resource.

The editors sent a questionnaire to full professors and programme coordinators in all 86 chair groups. The survey consisted of a combination of statements and open questions about growth, its consequences for teachers, and the standard of the education offered. The results make clear that the growth in student numbers is putting almost all the chair groups under pressure. As an example, 90 percent of the respondents feel that the workload of permanent staff is increasing because of the growth, and three quarters spend extra time solving 'growth problems'.

Groups are getting bigger and bigger, and lectures and practicals too. This is making the education more impersonal for students, think half the professors

and 70 percent of the programme coordinators. Chair groups are reaching for various means of coping with the pressure. Colleagues, PhD candidates and student assistants are being brought in to help. If funding allows, additional staff are being appointed, but that is a luxury not all chair groups can afford.

Most teachers are adapting their teaching methods to make their job doable. Instruction is taking place via films, practicals are being overhauled, shortened or simplified. Excursions are sometimes cancelled because the group is too big. To keep grading within bounds, fewer writing assignments are being required of students. Multiple choice questions are replacing open questions and students are peer-reviewing each other's work in 'thesis circles'.

Only a small minority, however (11 percent of the professors and 28 percent of the programme coordinators) feel that the quality of the education has suffered from the growth. They think that is because of the tremendous efforts

and commitment of the teachers, who often spend far more of their own time on their teaching work than they really should. Their research work suffers as a result. In their explanatory comments, numerous respondents say the limits have been reached.

The educational innovations

that have been introduced are not always seen as positive, either. Growth has forced people into innovations which would not otherwise have been introduced, or only at a much later stage. **✉ RK**

*Read too the article on p.12:
Growing pains at WUR*



ILLUSTRATION: PASCAL TIEBMAN



**See the photo series
on resource-online.nl**

WILL IT STAY UP...?

... or will it tumble down? Competitors in the Battle of Wageningen University & Research are trying to keep their Jenga tower upright. The Battle is a regular feature of the annual WeDay, which took place last Tuesday. Departmental teams locked horns on the athletics field at De Bongerd Sports Centre. At other locations on and around the campus, WUR staff threw themselves into a range of sports such as archery, pole-dancing, golf, boxing, climbing and canoeing. Or they could try their hand at motorcycling, an 'escape room', the Dutch card game *klaverjassen*, and craft activities. **✉**

PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

TWO VIDIS FOR WAGENINGEN

Joris Sprakel and Mark Zwart have each been given a prestigious Vidi grant by the Dutch Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). They will get 800,000 euros for their research.

Joris Sprakel of Physical Chemistry and Soft Matter will be looking for the plan that nature uses to construct complex molecular structures. That construction process goes wrong surprisingly rarely. Sprakel: 'Nature uses helper molecules that make sure that the building blocks are in the right place at the right time.' Sprakel compares it to building an IKEA cupboard. That works fine if you follow the instructions. He wants to find those instructions.

'That would be revolutionary for the world of nanomaterials.'

Mark Zwart of Genetics will be trying to discover the secret of what are known as multipartite viruses. They have a segmented genome, spread across multiple virus elements. 'It's as if you post an item in several different envelopes,' explains Zwart. 'That seems to be a terribly inefficient and eccentric way of infecting things. So what's the advantage? I have some ideas about that, which I want to test out.'

The funding body NWO granted a total of 89 Vidis. They are part of the innovative incentive scheme of Veni, Vidi and Vici grants for early-career, experienced and very experienced scientists respectively. **RK**

COLUMN|STIJN

Rejected

Dear editor,

I always knew it was a bit of a gamble. Actually, it's a gamble whenever you submit a manuscript to an academic journal. First you need the editor to approve of the study, and then you need the reviewers to agree.

So hey, that my evening should begin with a standard rejection email is par for the course. Anyway, you have prepared me well for rejection by announcing the rejection percentages loud and clear – and repeatedly – on the website. 'Please be aware that more than half the articles we receive are not even forwarded to reviewers.'

What I mean to say is: I am an experienced receiver of rejections and I have a lot of understanding for your situation. You must get flooded with manuscripts from PhD candidates. Each one the work of a young researcher whose contract has probably already run out, and whose next job probably depends entirely on whether they can get their work published in your journal. It can't be much fun to be confronted with that misery day in day out. But it is crucial for the sciences that journals remain critical. So I have great respect for your work.

I do have one frustration that I would like to share with you, however. Why, oh why do you all use such complex systems for the submission of manuscripts? Why do you insist on knowing right from the start endless codes and the work addresses of all 30 co-authors, if you are going to reject most manuscripts straightaway anyway? And why is it that most of you use exactly the same system, from the same company, and yet everything is totally incompatible with everything else, so we have to fill in everything all over again for every journal?

I hope you can alleviate my frustration. Apologies if you receive several versions of this email: I have asked the readers of my column to send it too.

Kind regards,

Stijn

Stijn van Gils (29) is doing doctoral research on ecosystem services in agriculture. Every month he describes his struggles with the scientific system.



in brief

>>STERKSEL

Two-storey pig shed

WUR's experimental pig farm, Sterksel, gained a new two-storey pig shed on 17 May. A raised platform one metre above the ground increases the pigs' space by 25 percent, making it easier for them to withdraw and giving them some space to rootle and play. In theory, this should reduce the amount of tail-biting that goes on. VIC Sterksel is going to study whether that works in practice. **AS**



A raised platform gives the animals more space.

>>ARTWORK

Sounds at sea

Wageningen Marine Research is going to work with artist Xandra van der Eijk to study the effect of human sounds on the sea life in a work of art. Last week Van der Eijk won the Bio Art and Design (BAD) award, worth 25,000 euros. She hopes

her art will raise awareness. 'The human impact on the North Sea is huge, but we don't know exactly what effects we have. I want to give people an experience which will sensitize them to that.' Researcher and diver Joop Coolen of Marine Research is going to record sounds for her and measure vibrations in the North Sea. Marine Research does other research on sound as well – on the effects on sea life of ramming piles into the seabed, for example. **AS**

>>SUSTAINABUL

Almost full marks

For the fifth time in row, Wageningen has won the SustainaBul prize for the most sustainable higher education institution. TU Eindhoven came second. *Studenten voor Morgen* (Students for Tomorrow) awards the prize to the institution which has gone furthest in incorporating sustainability into its education, research and operations. Wageningen got 393 of a possible 400 points. WUR fell short of full marks because it has refused to publically press the ABP pension fund to invest less in the oil industry. It also lost points for its lack of vision on mobility, aimed at getting its staff out of their cars. **RK**

**Read the whole story
on resource-online.nl**

FAST-TRACK INTRODUCTION OF EXTENDED SCHEDULE REJECTED

The Student Staff Council (SSC) has rejected a fast-track introduction of the 'extended daytime schedule' for Wageningen education. The council at the university wants the executive board to postpone implementation for a year after meeting some additional demands.

The SSC met on 24 May to discuss the extended schedule. Only two of the 16 council members voted for implementing it in September this year. Most of the members voted 'no, unless...', stipulating eight conditions.

One condition laid down by the council is that teachers and course coordinators get sufficient time to adapt their classes from 45

to 40 minutes. The transition to a timetable with more, shorter lecture slots also requires additional support from the education department in the coming year, says the council. Further conditions are that no student on any degree programme should have classes until 19.00 hours on more than two days a week, and that lectures scheduled after 17.00 hours should be recorded so that students can catch up at other times.

The SSC also argues for at least two long lunch breaks a week so that students and teachers can continue to plan meetings and activities during the break. The timetable should not lead to split shifts for support staff; an independent evaluation should be

made of the real gains in teaching time delivered by the timetable; and its implementation should be postponed by one year. The main reason given for the postponement is that fast-tracking the implementation will put more pressure on staff who are already extremely busy.

A majority of the SSC will agree to the implementation of the timetable from September 2018, on condition the board meets the above-mentioned conditions.

Some of the council's wishes, such as the uninterrupted shifts and long breaks, have already been agreed to by the board. The board has not yet responded to the rest of the SSC's conditions. **AS**

'INTERACTION BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS IS OUR STRENGTH'

Arnold Bregt succeeds Tiny van Boekel as education director at WUR. He sees interaction between teachers and students as key to the success of Wageningen's education programme. 'Keeping up that quality is the main task.'

Two months ago, Arnold Bregt, professor of Geo-information Science and Remote Sensing, was approached about whether he would be interested in becoming Dean of Education at the university. He had to think about it for a week – 'I am perfectly happy in the chair group' –, but decided to apply after all. 'I am education-minded, and education is the most important part of my work to me.'

During his interview Bregt was asked for his vision on education. 'I see education as a complex adaptive system. There are a lot of players involved who interact with each other and with their environment, thus shaping the education.' Wageningen education is good, he believes, because the building blocks are good. 'Our strength lies in the courses, in which motivated teachers and students interact and are innovative. That quality is under pressure now from the rise in student numbers. There are always factors you have to respond to in education. You have to evaluate and adapt continuously to keep up to date. My role as Dean of Education is to increase the adaptive capacity of the Wageningen education ecosystem.'

Together with teachers, students and staff, Bregt wants to develop scenarios for Wageningen education in 2025. 'Maybe we should change our education programme in response to the growth. Perhaps we should integrate the online MOOCs more in the regular education



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

Arnold Bregt: 'My role as Dean of Education is to increase the adaptive capacity of the Wageningen education ecosystem.'

programme. And how do we cope with the growth in the supervision of thesis projects? Are there other options besides thesis circles? Currently we have a master/apprentice model with plenty of contact between teachers and students. That personal attention is labour-intensive, but it does produce quality. Keeping up that quality when we have more students is the main task.'

Curbing the growth is not unthinkable for Bregt. 'We are scientists, aren't we? We educate

people to be able to solve problems and develop products. You acquire the skills you need for that by practising. So if we need to set a limit on admissions, we should. But perhaps we could also take on more staff or get PhD candidates to teach more.'

Bregt will work four days a week in Atlas as Dean of Education and carry on working one day a week at his chair group. 'I will go on supervising PhD candidates, which is important to me.' **AS**

'CATFISH RESEARCHERS WERE SCRUPULOUS IN SPITE OF PRESSURE'

There was nothing incorrect about the actions of LEI researchers who produced a report on fish farming in the Netherlands for the ministry of Economic Affairs in 2010. They were conscientious in the face of pressure from the ministry to change their conclusions. This is the verdict of the WUR Committee for Scientific Integrity (CWI) after an investigation.

The LEI (now Wageningen Economic Research) had done a study of the prospects for farming catfish in the Netherlands. What started as a simple helpdesk question from the ministry grew into a more extensive research report, which also deals with the competitive position of African catfish compared with the Claresse, a cross-breed of several catfish species.

In the first version of the report the researchers concluded that there

was 'not enough data available to establish whether Claresse is being substituted for the African catfish'. The ministry asked the researchers to change this, in view of ongoing legal action by a few catfish farmers. They were suing the ministry for compensation because it had given a tilapia farmer a subsidy, and he had then gone over to Claresse farming. The catfish farmers, meanwhile, had not come in for subsidies.

The project leader refused to change the text but was then put under pressure by the ministry, he reported to the CWI. Eventually he adopted the ministry's proposed formulation, but adjusted the text a little. The researcher endorses the new text wholeheartedly, he told the CWI. The catfish farmers are now suing WUR for changing the conclusions in a research report and preventing them from getting compensation. **AS**

WANTED: STUDENT EDITORS

Are you very involved in student life? Do you know what's going on? Do you live writing and asking probing questions?

Why not become a student editor at Resource?

We offer good remuneration and intensive supervision. Interested? Send and email to resource@wur.nl by 2 June, outlining your motives and with samples of your writing

RESOURCE

For students and employees of Wageningen UR



IN THE NEWS

Who? Ute Sass-Klaassen, associate professor of Forest Ecology and Forest Management

Why? Presented the first tweeting tree in the Netherlands

Where? Media outlets such as NOS News, RTL's Late Night show and newspapers *Volkskrant*, *Trouw* and *7Days*

'They wanted to know the tweeting tree's name'

The tweeting tree even got on RTL's Late Night with Umberto Tan. How did that come about?

'Resource's film drew a lot of media attention. I didn't go on television myself; they used that film. I have just been interviewed for the youth magazine *7Days*. Q News was absolutely hilarious. They just cracked jokes. They wanted to know the tree's name. It was all completely daft.'

Is that annoying?

'I think it's super that people are so interested. I am surprised though. I'm not a Twitter user myself, and nor are the people I know. After a few days we already have more than 3200 followers!'

What kind of information do they get?

'The system was supposed to send a couple of automatic tweets a day about the sap flow

or the growth, but we've already adjusted that. We now send a tweet ourselves four times a day. We add more variation and more data.'

Can you keep that up?

'No, soon we'll go back to automatically generated tweets. This is all personal initiative, done in our free time. We do it because we think it's important. But we would love to get research fund-

ing to expand it. A European network of tweeting trees could achieve a tremendous amount.'

RK

Read too the article on p. 8



FOTO: HELENA LIGHERT

POPLAR TWEETS ABOUT ITS GROWTH

The poplar on the terrace next to the Orion building on campus posts tweets. Since Friday, 26 May, the 28-metre tree has been keeping us informed about its physiological wellbeing.

‘Good morning, my sap has just started flowing,’ would be a typical tweet posted by the poplar under the name @TreeWatchWur. Or it could let us know at the end of the day how many litres of water it has lost through evaporation that day. This is all possible thanks to sensors in the tree and technology that turns the measurement data into text messages.

Project manager Ute Sass-Klaassen of Forest Ecology and Forest Management infects you with her enthusiasm about the tweeting tree, the latest thing in public information in her field. Unprecedented in the Netherlands, although Belgium already has a beech, a sycamore and an oak draped in measuring equipment, and Germany has a tweeting Scots pine.

Key elements in the data flow are a sap flow meter and a dendrometer. The sap flow meter measures the speed at which the tree transports water. The dendrometer measures the change in the tree’s width, which not only increases over time due to growth but also fluctuates in the course of a day. The tree shrinks during daylight hours as its water evaporates and swells at night as it soaks up water. A climate station — for air humidity and temperature — and a soil humidity meter complete the array of equipment.

Sass-Klaassen acknowledges that the tweeting tree is a gadget intended to introduce the general public to Wageningen’s soil research. But it must not be imagined that the setup is purely for show. ‘There is real science behind that gadget,’ says Sass-Klaassen. ‘The measurements are being used to get a picture of the tree’s physiological response to environmental



PHOTO: HELENA LUGTHERT

The tweeting tree is not purely for show, says project manager Ute Sass-Klaassen. ‘There is real science behind that gadget’.

factors. Everyone knows about annual growth rings. Their width tells you about the general growing conditions for the tree. But we will be looking inside rings at the size of the cells.’

The shape and dimensions of the cells give information on the environmental factors during growth. For example, smaller cells are formed during periods of drought, explains Sass-Klaassen. ‘So you can obtain information about the climate and how the trees reacted to that from the size of the cells. Every tree is an archive. But you first need to find the key that will

let you decipher that information.’ The tweeting tree will help them find that key because its data will feed models that predict how trees will respond to climate change. **GRK**

See the video
at resource-online.nl



BONUS PACKAGING IS MISLEADING

Bonus packaging with large blocks of colour can mislead consumers, according to research by Kai Purnhagen of the Law and Governance chair group and Erica van Herpen from Marketing and Consumer Behaviour.

In what is known as the Mars case, the court ruled that bonus packs of ice cream containing 10 percent extra but where the coloured bonus strip took up 30 percent of the packaging were not misleading. That conclusion was based on the assumption that the average consumer will read the packaging properly

and is therefore fully informed, says Purnhagen. But he thinks that assumption is unscientific.

He and Van Herpen therefore set up an experiment with coffee packs. The participants, 126 Wageningen students, were shown different packs: one with the right bonus percentage in which the coloured bonus block took up a proportionate area, one with the right percentage and an excessively large coloured area, one with just the percentage and one with just the coloured area.

The results show that the size of the coloured area often has much more effect than the

percentage figure displayed. If the coloured area is larger, people think there is more in the pack, even if it says 10 percent extra in both cases. They overestimate the amount by even more in packs without a percentage figure.

‘We haven’t checked yet whether this affects consumers’ purchasing behaviour,’ says Purnhagen. ‘For the law only sees it as misleading if someone then actually buys the product. That is something we have to investigate further in a follow-up study.’ **RTL**

PEOPLE EAT NO LESS WITH A VIBRATING FORK

A vibrating fork is not a miracle cure for overweight, it seems. Researchers from Human Nutrition discovered that people do eat more slowly with this kind of fork, but do not feel full faster and do not end up eating less.

People are often unaware of their own eating habits, says researcher Monica Mars. They can only change their habits if they are confronted with them. A vibrating fork is intended to show people that they eat too fast. If there are less than 10 seconds between mouthfuls, the fork starts vibrating and a red lamp switches on. The idea is that people eat more slowly and therefore eat less.

To find out if this is really what happens, the researchers divided 114 test subjects randomly into two groups. Both groups ate their meals with the Slow Control 10sFork, but for one group the vibration function was switched on and for the other it was not. A bowl containing 800 grams of spaghetti Bolognese was set in front of the participants, who were welcome to help themselves as often as they liked.

On average, people who got a signal from the vibrating fork ate more slowly than those who did not: 4.6 mouthfuls

per minute as opposed to 5.3. They took an average of 9 minutes and 44 seconds over their meal, while the control group took an average of 8 minutes and 12 seconds. But in the end the participants from the two groups ate the same amounts – an average of about 430 grams – and felt equally full.

The researchers had not really expected this outcome. Previous research suggested that people who eat more slowly feel full sooner and eat less in the end. Mars: 'Because the participants in this study had to serve themselves, it is possible that they cleaned their plates out of habit and did not stop when they felt full.' So it is hard to say whether the fork can help people lose weight.

A study is currently under way in which people who are highly motivated to change their eating habits are testing the fork. The researchers want to know whether using the fork can help people learn to eat more slowly in the long term. The research is part of an NWO project called Take it Slow, and is being implemented in collaboration with partners including the Behavioural Science Institute of the Radboud University in Nijmegen, and Utrecht University of Applied Sciences. **TL**



The 10sFork designed by the company Slow Control starts vibrating if the gap between mouthfuls is shorter than 10 seconds.

VISION <<

'Video recordings of slaughter definitely help'

All Dutch abattoirs are to be fitted with cameras so that the Netherlands Food and Consumer Safety Authority (NVWA) can monitor animal welfare. This has been agreed between State Secretary Van Dam and the meat sector. Marien Gerritzen, who does research on animal welfare at Wageningen Livestock Research, applauds the idea.

Why camera surveillance now?

'The immediate impetus came from Animal Rights footage from an abattoir in Belgium, which showed abuse. But activist groups such as The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals have been wanting cameras in abattoirs for a long time. A few abattoirs already have cameras in place for their own use, but so far they haven't shared the footage with the NVWA. That is going to change now. A good thing: monitoring is good.'

Are there abuses then?

'I often visit abattoirs for my animal welfare research on slaughter. Here in the Netherlands I have never seen anyone treating pigs the way they were doing in that Belgian abattoir. I was really shocked by that mistreatment. Of course things sometimes go wrong when the animals are unloaded, when they are waiting for slaughter, or being herded towards the stunner, but it is usually a case of stress due to haste, heat, or two groups of animals being combined. There has been more supervision in recent years: the large abattoirs have appointed animal welfare officers. But video recordings will certainly help because if abattoir workers know they are being filmed, they will be more careful about how they treat the animals.'

Why hasn't this been introduced earlier?

'The abattoirs used the argument of their employees' privacy, and that is still an issue. I don't know all the details of the agreement between Van Dam and the meat sector, but I assume that there won't be any live footage coming from the abattoirs. The NVWA can demand to see footage and is obliged to destroy it after some time to stop it falling into other hands. I understand that point, because the images can make it look worse that it really is. A bleeding animal that is still moving, for instance, looks terrible. But if the animal is properly stunned, there is no animal welfare problem.' **AS**



‘NATURE PUBLICITY PROMISES TOO MUCH’

Publicity materials about nature often have religious overtones. The state and nature management organizations should be aware of the expectations they are generating. That is Peter Jansen’s message in his thesis *Framing nature*, for which he is due to obtain his PhD on 14 June. His supervisor is Henk Jochemsen, professor holding an endowed chair in Christian Philosophy.

Jansen says a religious subtext plays a role in communication materials about new ‘wilderness’. He is not talking about explicit references to religion or a personal God. ‘I mean a religious experience in the broadest sense of the term. An experience that takes people beyond what you can comprehend rationally. A reference to a deeper layer that you are tapping into. Feeling a connection with something bigger than yourself that people experience as “sacred”.’

Such experiences are often promised in

publicity materials about new nature. That can mislead visitors, as Jansen found out in his research on Tiengemeten in Zuid-Holland, an agricultural island that has been returned to nature. The publicity material talks of ‘an escape from everyday life’, for instance. ‘Nature is presented as a better world. It promises you that you will rediscover yourself and feel born again when you come back.’ But visitors don’t get that feeling when they are there. And they find that disappointing.

Jansen’s advice is to be more neutral in the publicity about nature and avoid ‘weighty words’. ‘Adjust your communication to match the actual experience that awaits visitors.’ **RK**

A poster in which the nature conservation foundation Natuurmonumenten encourages parents to come and experience nature with their children.



ILLUSTRATION: NATUURMONUMENTEN

SATELLITE MEASURES SPONGE EFFECT OF CLAY SOIL

Moisture causes clay soil to shrink and swell up. These changes can be tracked using satellites. In theory, that should give a measure of how wet the soil is, but this is not so predictable in practice.

Hydrologist Bram te Brake received his PhD on 17 May for his thesis on the use of radar images to measure water storage from soil shrinkage data. He used radar interferometry, a technique that so far has mainly been used to look at the impact of earthquakes or gas extraction. Radar images from satellites flying overhead give information about the vertical displacement of the soil. Depending on the wavelength used, it is possible to measure whether a soil surface fell or rose between two recordings to within a few millimetres.

Clay soils shrink when they dry out. You see that from the cracks in the soil. But the shrinkage takes place vertically as well as horizontally. This subsidence (or expansion) can be deduced by comparing radar images that were recorded at reasonable intervals. Te Brake did that for clay soils in the Purmer polder in Noord-Holland province.

But it is not as simple as it sounds. That is because of the distorting effect of the ground cover: the radar does not ‘see’ the difference between the soil and everything growing on



PHOTO: BRAM TE BRAKE

it. ‘The short wavelength I was using meant I couldn’t really carry out any more measurements from June on because the signal was distorted by crops,’ says Te Brake. He also found out that the shrinkage behaviour of clay soil was more erratic than he had expected: the soil does not shrink to the same ex-

tent in all directions. Taken together, these factors make it difficult to get a decent calculation of the changes in water storage.

Te Brake’s conclusion is that the principle works, but there is a long way to go before the method can be used in practice for water management because of all the issues. **RK**

MEANWHILE ON...

RESOURCE-ONLINE.NL



PHOTO: GUY ACKERMANS

BY THE NOSE

WUR will be celebrating its centenary in 2018. *Resource* has been delving into the archives and digging up interesting photos.

The protester in this photo is being held firmly by the nose by one police officer while a second officer is pulling his left arm and a plainclothes policeman is tugging on his scarf from behind. Photographer Guy Ackermans took this picture in 1985 during a demo protesting at the evacuation of squatters. Perhaps you have a good story about the evacuations in the 1980s or perhaps there is another photo in the series *A century of... free opinions* that brings back memories. Let us know. Drop in on the editors or send an email to vincent.koperdraat@wur.nl.

See the photo series
'A century of... free opinions'
on resource-online.nl

LOWER HOUSEPLANTS

In mid-May, Plantum, the association of Dutch plant breeding companies, handed out Lower Houseplants in the square next to the Lower House of Parliament in The Hague. Researchers from WUR were among the scientists who gave talks on plant science research for the general public, politicians and civil servants. The organizers behind the event wanted to show how important plants are to the Dutch economy, the food supply and the environment.

GOODBYE, STUDENT HOUSE

Blogger Jan-William Kortlever has nearly finished his degree so he is saying goodbye to his student house. After six and a half years, he will be going back to live with his parents. He is finding it harder than he expected. 'I've grown to love the people, the chaos, the noise and the smell. It feels like part of me is dying and will never return. They were golden years.'

Read the full blog
on resource-online.nl

BEACHCOMBING

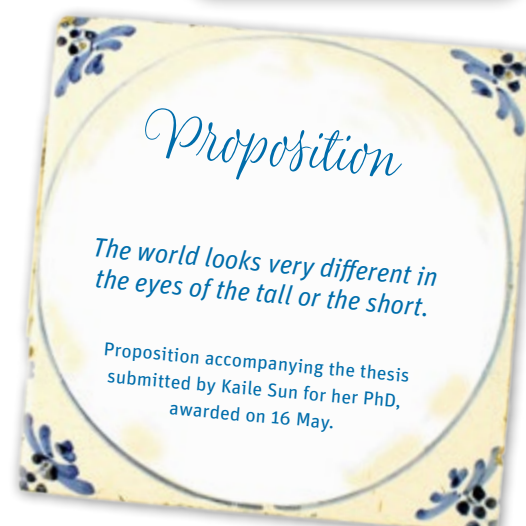
Wageningen researcher Wouter Jan Strietman will be beachcombing on Spitsbergen. Every year, tourists collect up thousands of kilos of garbage on the beaches. Strietman, who works at Wageningen Economic Research, will examine each item of waste for clues to the source. Once he has identified the polluting companies and sectors, he wants to start a dialogue with them.

CAMPUS RING ROAD

News about the municipality's plans for a ring road around the campus is always guaranteed to get people talking on the web. The recent *Resource* item on protests against the campus ring road was no exception. A certain PJ says: 'What people opposing the campus route don't really realize is that this route will be more than 70 metres from Noordwest district, crossing the WUR experimental fields. There will be more than enough room for walking and recreation.' Hanneke disagrees: 'The tone of this message is rather patronizing to everyone who's worried about the quality of life in Noordwest and on

campus. The university refuses to discuss measures to spread the peak traffic (...), such as discouraging use of cars by staff living less than 10km from campus.'

Read all the comments
at resource-online.nl



Growing pains at WUR

Wageningen has a strong position on the market. Student numbers are going up every year. But that growth is taking its toll, suggest responses to a survey by *Resource*. Workloads are too heavy and the quality of the education is under pressure. 'I feel the situation has become tenuous.'

text Roelof Kleis illustration Pascal Tieman photos Sven Menschel

It is abundantly obvious that the campus is getting busier and busier. Lecture halls are full, all the work stations in the Forum are often occupied from early in the day, and the queues in the canteens are getting longer. But what are the implications of this for the education programme and the staff who work on it? Are these growing pains, and if so, how painful are they? To get an idea about that, *Resource* did a survey among full professors and programme coordinators in the chair groups (see: The Survey, p.14).

WORKLOAD

For several years now, the biennial staff monitor has been revealing that staff are under serious pressure at work. That work pressure has a lot to do with the growth in student numbers, shows the *Resource* survey. The rising student numbers have increased the workload, professors and programme coordinators regularly have to spend extra time solving the problems caused by the growth, and the teaching and administration take up more time than they did a few years ago. Groups are getting bigger, it is harder to keep an overview, the preparation and logistics of lectures, group work, practicals and excursions are much more time-consuming, it is harder to find suitable teaching space, and grading papers takes up a lot more time. The idea was that additional staff would be taken on to take the worst of the pressure off. But most chair groups don't have the money for that and have to make do with the staff they have, and with the help of PhD candidates, student assistants or other temporary input. But not all members of staff are keen on teaching. After all, more teaching means less time for research, acquisition and writing articles.

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

In response to the growth, many teachers and chair groups are shifting to other forms of education which are less labour-intensive. In practicals, instruction films are replacing explanations by the teacher. Group work is taking the place of individual assignments. Online course materials, video clips and e-learning are taking over parts of the teacher's job. Students peer-review each other's thesis chapters, relieving teachers of some of their time-consuming supervisory work. These changes and innovations are helpful but don't get rid of the work



pressure. What is more, the experience of the majority of the professors and coordinators questioned is that the changes are making the education less personal. And that is endangering Wageningen's famous small groups and personal touch. Few of the respondents think this is affecting the quality of the education, though. But a clear warning can be heard from all sides: the limits are in sight.

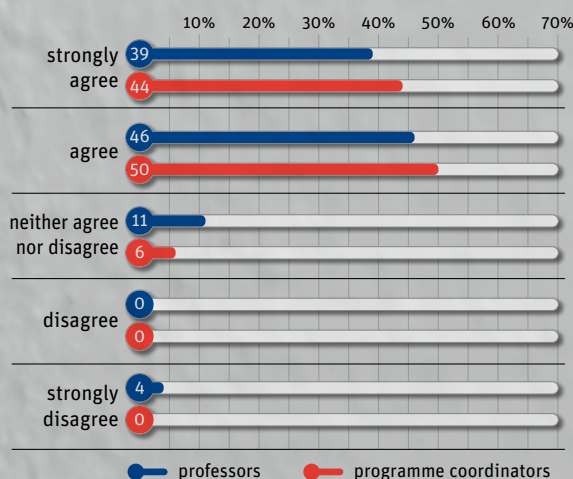
Below are the responses to the main statements about workloads, educational innovation and educational quality, with a selection of the comments respondents made.

WORKLOAD

More students mean more work. That goes for lecturers, professors and other permanent staff, and to a lesser extent also for PhD candidates, suggest the responses to this and similar statements.

Statement:

The growth in student numbers is affecting my workload



Michel Riksen, degree programme coordinator for Soil Physics and Land Use: 'I see more and more colleagues working through the lunch hour and at home in the evenings to get everything done in time at peak periods. We want more staff but given the financial situation, that is not possible. Growth is a good thing but it's got to stay manageable. You must make sure additional resources and staff keep pace with the growth. That doesn't seem to be the case now. At some point you reach the limits.'

Rik Leemans, Professor of Environmental Systems

Analysis: 'The work pressure is extremely high now. But the amount of sick leave taken is low. That is because teachers are very loyal and they carry on coming in to teach, even if they are running a fever. If you ask me, we've got a tenuous situation on our hands now, with the possibility of a domino effect if one teacher drops out. Unfortunately, the budget does not

allow for taking on extra staff. At the moment, PhD candidates help out on a regular basis, but they also have to finish off their theses within four years.'

Hannie van der Honing, degree programme coordinator for Cell Biology: 'Our student numbers have risen enormously, which means that all the practicals now have to be offered three times per period. So colleagues have to teach more often because we are trying to keep the student-teacher ratio more or less the same. It is also getting more difficult to timetable

'Wageningen runs on its enthusiastic staff, but that is not sustainable'

courses. To offer an additional series of practicals there has to be teaching space available. We are running up against the limits of what's possible here too.'

Ute Sass-Klaassen, degree programme coordinator for Forest Ecology and Forest Management: 'Wageningen University runs on its enthusiastic and motivated staff, but that is not sustainable. A lot of my colleagues have already gone beyond the limits of an acceptable workload. Not that all the work pressure comes from the teaching load. It is a combination of an increasing teaching load, the research side with its restricted and competitive grant programmes, and the requirement to acquire more projects.'

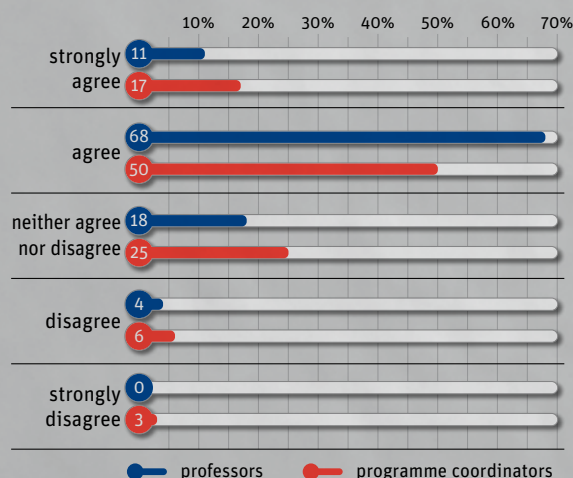
Marcel Dicke, full professor of Entomology: 'Staff are spending more time on education. That poses a challenge, but then education is our core activity. We should be happy about the rising student numbers. That is something we worked hard at for years, and now that is bearing fruit. We can be proud of that. The work pressure is certainly a problem, but that is mainly down to the large and rapidly increasing amount of administration the chair groups get landed with.'

EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

A crisis makes people creative. Teachers and chair groups are making numerous changes in order to cope with the growth in student numbers, the survey reveals.

Statement:

I am adapting the educational methods I use to cope with the rising student numbers



Tinka Murk, full professor of Marine Animal Ecology:

'By introducing modern ways of delivering education and organizing processes smartly, you have more time left for the content of the classes and for coaching students. For the supervision of students writing their theses we have introduced thesis circles. And we're pleased with those.'

Rachel van Ooteghem, degree programme coordinator for Biobased Chemistry and Technology:

'We have added a preparatory assignment in which students go through a practical using 'dummy data'. Students don't have to carry out all the experiments themselves anymore. And that is a step backwards. If you do the experiment you update a logbook and pass on that information. But all the students do have to prepare the experiment, do the calculations, discuss it and write a

report. We have also made templates for the report, which makes checking it faster. Then you can concentrate on the comparison of the theory with the data, rather than on the layout of the report.'

Carlijk Wentink, teacher and degree programme coordinator for Health and Society: 'We have adapted our methods to make the teaching less labour-intensive and to cater for larger groups. Individual assignments, for example, have been turned into pair work or group work. I think it's a pity that's necessary: students

'We have invested in digitalizing parts of courses'

should get the chance to do more individual assignments. We are working with peer feedback and making more use of student assistants to help with the grading and the supervision of work groups. We are also trying to include more multiple choice questions in our exams. We have set a limit to the number of thesis students and the number of supervisory sessions.'

Johan Verreth, full professor of Aquaculture and Fisheries:

'In the regular education programme we have invested a lot in digitalization and offering parts of courses online. Thesis topics which do not fit into an existing line of research are discouraged as much as possible, because they require extra input in the supervision. We share the final thesis projects with colleagues from Wageningen Research.'

Fons Debet, degree programme coordinator for Genetics:

'The education has been made more extensive by using resources for students more efficiently through Blackboard. For practicals, information is passed on via instructional film clips rather than face-to-face by teachers. Less assistance is needed.'

THE SURVEY

Resource sent a questionnaire to all the full professors and programme coordinators in all 86 chair groups. The survey consisted of 22 statements and 4 open questions about the growth in student numbers and its consequences for education programmes and the teachers, staff and PhD candidates. One third of the professors and almost half of the degree programme coordinators filled in the survey. Taken as a whole, the responses paint a picture of the situation in 56 percent of the chair groups. The responses are representative for the five sciences groups, and therefore give a fair indication of the current situation. Some of the results are included in this article. The responses to all the statements can be seen on resource-online.

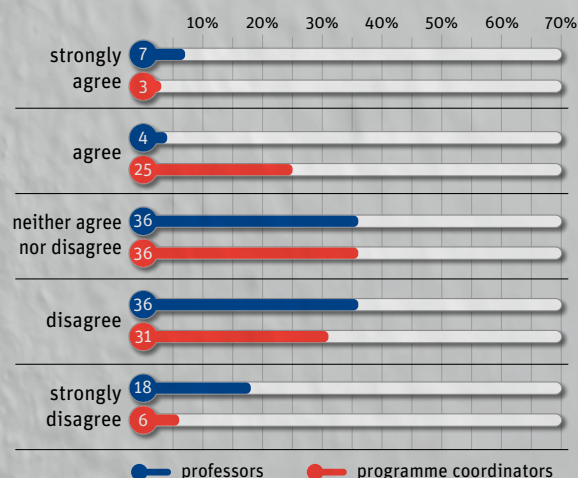
**See all the survey results
on resource-online.nl**

EDUCATIONAL QUALITY

Is growth happening at the expense of educational quality? The degree programme coordinators have a somewhat gloomier take on this than the professors, although a majority in both groups feels the quality has been kept up in the last couple of years.

Statement:

The quality of the education has gone down in recent years



Eldert van Henten, full professor of Farm Technology:

'The quality of our education is still being kept up. I have a feeling that we confuse educational quality with lots of contact hours and personal attention. That is a misunderstanding. Students need high quality attention, there is no question about that. But we shouldn't pamper them. I think it will be to the benefit of our students' development if they can develop more and faster into self-reliant people who can think for themselves.'

Roel Dijkema, degree programme coordinator for Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management:

'Thanks to the efforts, commitment and fanaticism of the teachers, we are still managing to keep up standards. That is obvious from the student evaluations too: the scores for courses have not gone down significantly over the years.'

Fred de Boer, degree programme coordinator for Resource Ecology:

'Innovative educational methods

are fine, and are necessary. But that cannot always make up for the loss of quality. We have won a prize for the best course at this university several times (and this year again), but I don't think we'll get it next year. There are several reasons for that, related to the increase in students, which leads to a lower rating for the course.'

Han Zuilhof, full professor of Organic Chemistry: 'My education team is using a thousand and one new ways of optimizing both the workload and the quality they deliver. Still, you can't help noticing that the calibre of

'Standards have been maintained up to now, but we have reached the ceiling now'

the students has gone down. Our students are less well-trained and therefore not as good in the lab, and they have less experience of reporting than they had a few years ago.'


Jan van Kan, degree programme coordinator for Phytopathology:

'Unfortunately it is often the case that you spend 80 percent of your time on the weakest 20 percent of students. It would be nice if we could get the best 20 percent of students doing even better by stretching them with more one-to-one interaction. But we don't have enough time or attention to identify those positive exceptions and stimulate them.'

Edith Feskens, full professor of Nutrition and Health over the Lifecourse:

'I think standards have been maintained up to now, but we have reached the ceiling now.'

Remco Uijlenhoet, full professor of Hydrology and Quantitative Water Management:

'I don't think the quality of the education has suffered in recent years, partly thanks to the tremendous efforts and commitment of the staff. The average calibre of the students being admitted to the degree programmes is a cause of concern. Luckily there are still some highfliers among them but there are also a lot of middling students who require a disproportionate amount of attention. We need stricter student selection.' 





THE GOOD LIFE

Ivo Roessink doesn't beat about the bush: yes, he is living the good life here. 'Here' is the aquatic experimental station of Sinderhoeve in Renkum, possibly the least known part of WUR. It consists of 11 hectares of

experimental fields on Telefoonweg, one kilometre outside Renkum. Barely half an hour's cycle ride from campus, it is where much of the Wageningen research on water quality and eutrophication takes place. 'We study the

ecology of water plants and duckweed, for example, in ponds, tanks and ditches. But we also research the effects of pesticides in ditches. What happens then and what kind of recovery can you expect? What are the conse-



quences if a species disappears from the ecosystem?' Ecotoxicologist Roessink manages the site. He got that job after completing his PhD at Sinderhoeve. He took to it like a duck to water. Working outdoors in the sun. Frogs

croaking in the distance. The 20 experimental ditches are an El Dorado for these animals. The photo shows Roessink setting up a new experiment that will take two years. Duckweed is growing in 100 circular tanks

under different conditions. 'The duckweed is being subjected to varying degrees of burden from nutrients. The data that produces will be used to develop a complex ecological model.'

© RK, photo Margriet van Vianen

Bioplastics

fact and fiction

Bioplastics have a 'green' image. But in reality they are not a miracle cure for litter and other environmental problems. The truth lies – as always – somewhere in the middle, shows a review of the facts produced by Wageningen researchers.

text Tessa Louwerens photo Guy Ackermans

More and more big companies such as Coca-Cola are investing in bioplastics as a sustainable alternative to traditional plastics made from fossil fuels. But there is quite a lot of uncertainty about bioplastics. Are they always more environmentally friendly? Are they the solution to the plastic soup in the ocean? Which garbage bin do they belong in? This confusion has made it difficult for companies to switch to these materials. To provide a bit more clarity, Wageningen Food & Biobased Research reviewed all the research on bioplastics, at the behest of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). This resulted in the report *Biobased and biodegradable plastics – Facts and figures*. 'A lot has been written on this subject but the evidence is often missing,' says researcher Christiaan Bolck. 'In our report we line up the scientific facts and everyone who wants to say or write something about this kind of plastic can refer to it.'

OIL PRICE

The study by Bolck and his colleagues included the market for bioplastics. In 2015, the production capacity for biobased and biodegradable plastic (see box) was approximately one percent of the total global production. This proportion is expected to go up. Bolck: 'Generally, biobased and biodegradable plastics are more expensive, but there are already several examples of competitive products and if more of those are produced, the price will go down. Besides, the price of fossil fuels depends on the price of oil, which tends to fluctuate more than the price of biomass.'

Biobased and biodegradable plastic is currently used for food packaging, disposable cups and cutlery, carrier bags and agricultural materials, among other things. The best way to use the plastic depends on its qualities. Its permeability for water vapour makes a biobased PLA

unsuitable for bottles, but could be an advantage in 'breathable' packaging for fruit or vegetables.

PLASTIC SOUP

Nor is biodegradable plastic a panacea for the 'plastic soup' of plastic litter that ends up in the sea, says Bolck. Because even if plastic is biodegradable, it does not necessarily break down quickly. The speed at which it disappears depends on the material and the environment. Bolck: 'There are biodegradable plastics which break down completely within a few months, but in that time a seagull can already suffocate on a plastic bag.' So the litter problem is not solved at a blow with bioplastics.

Most biobased and biodegradable plastics can be recycled mechanically in the same way as conventional plastics. But with the exception of recycled PET bottles, many recycled plastics are not 100 percent pure, making them unsuitable as food packaging for food safety reasons. Bolck: 'It is technically possible to distinguish between different types of plastic, including the various types of biobased and biodegradable plastics. But in practice it has proven difficult to separate them 100 percent.' Recycled plastic is therefore always a mix of different types of plastic.

Biodegradable plastics can also be composted. That means that the consumer can dispose of them with the organic waste. But then it does need to be clear what is biodegradable plastic and what isn't. At the moment about one percent of household waste consists of non-compostable plastic. Bolck: 'Dutch waste disposal workers are afraid there will be more non-biodegradable plastic in the organic waste because consumers can't tell plastics apart. So they are reluctant to accept biodegradable packaging, apart from the compostable bags for organic waste.' This problem should be solved by clear pictograms which show which bin the packaging should go into.



FARMLAND

Generally speaking, the production of biobased plastic relies less on non-renewable resources. Instead, it makes use of raw materials such as sugar, starch and waste products such as beet pulp. The use of edible materials for generating energy or manufacturing plastics is controversial. Bolck: But you can't just condemn outright all uses of edible products for other things than food. It gives farmers more security, for instance, because they can sell their crops for other purposes.'


Currently, 0.2 percent of farmland worldwide is used to grow raw materials for bioplastics. 'If we substituted bioplastics for all our petroleum-based plastics, we would need about five percent of all the biomass harvested annually,' says Bolck. But this seems to him an improbable scenario, because alternative materials sourced from garbage and waste flows from agriculture will be used as well.

GREENHOUSE GAS

The environmental impact of the production of bioplastic is not easy to determine. 'It is sometimes claimed that just as much CO₂ is emitted in the production of biobased plastics as in that of petrobased plastics, and that it is therefore not necessarily better for the envi-

ronment,' says Bolck. 'But our report shows that in most cases smaller amounts of greenhouse gases, including CO₂, are released in the production of biobased plastics.' On the other hand: 'If you look at negative environmental effects that are specific to agriculture, such as eutrophication and acidification, you'll find that biobased plastics contribute more to them than petrobased plastics,' says Bolck. This is because farmland is used to pro-

duce bioplastics.

According to Bolck, it is difficult to generalize about the environmental impact of plastics because so much depends on the kind of plastic in question. 'You cannot simply say that all conventional plastics are bad for the environment, any more than you can say that all biobased plastics are good for the environment. The truth is more complex.' 

BIOBASED OR BIODEGRADABLE

'Bioplastic' is actually a confusing blanket term. It gets used to denote biodegradable plastic, which dissolves into the environment, as well as for biobased plastic, which is made out of biomass. These are two different characteristics, however, which sometimes go together and sometimes do not. There are biobased plastics which do not break down in the environment, and biodegradable plastics which are petroleum-based. Biodegradable plastic, moreover, can be divided into compostable plastic, which breaks down fast, and non-compostable plastic, which breaks down more slowly.

	Petrobased	Partially biobased	Biobased
Non-biodegradable	PE, PP, PET, PS, pvc	bio-PET, PTT	bio-PE
Biodegradable	PBAT, PB (A), PCL	Blends based on starch	PLA, PHA, cellophane

Job-hopping scientists

Permanent jobs are becoming increasingly rare in the academic world. Young researchers are often forced to hop from one temporary contract to the next. 'The traditional academic is now a threatened species.'

text HOP, Matthijs van Schie illustration Paul Gerlach

Should you stay on for a PhD or not? Steven de Rooij, currently a postdoc at Leiden University, faced this choice when he finished his Master's in Theoretical Information Studies at the University of Amsterdam. 'My professor said, "I don't recommend it if you want to be sure of a stable job."' His advice surprised De Rooij and he decided to go for a doctorate anyway. 'I was really keen to do the research.'

Nine years later, after four temporary postdoc jobs at different institutions, De Rooij understands what his prof was warning about. 'There are few permanent positions and the competition is huge.' He doesn't know yet what he will do when his current contract in Leiden ends. 'I'm actually quite disappointed with the way things are in the academic world. My expectations were based on my father, an emeritus professor of history. He said that if you did good work and developed the right contacts, you would eventually automatically get a decent post. But those days were clearly very different.'

FLEX-ACADEMICS

De Rooij's story is typical of the situation that increasing numbers of young academics are finding themselves in, if we are to believe the scientists' union VAWO. Chair Marijtje Jongsma says the proportion of 'flex-academics' including PhD candidates is currently around 60 percent; excluding PhD candidates, it is about 40 percent (see the graphs). All these academic staff struggle with the long-term uncertainty, difficulties in

insuring against occupational disability and problems building up a decent pension.

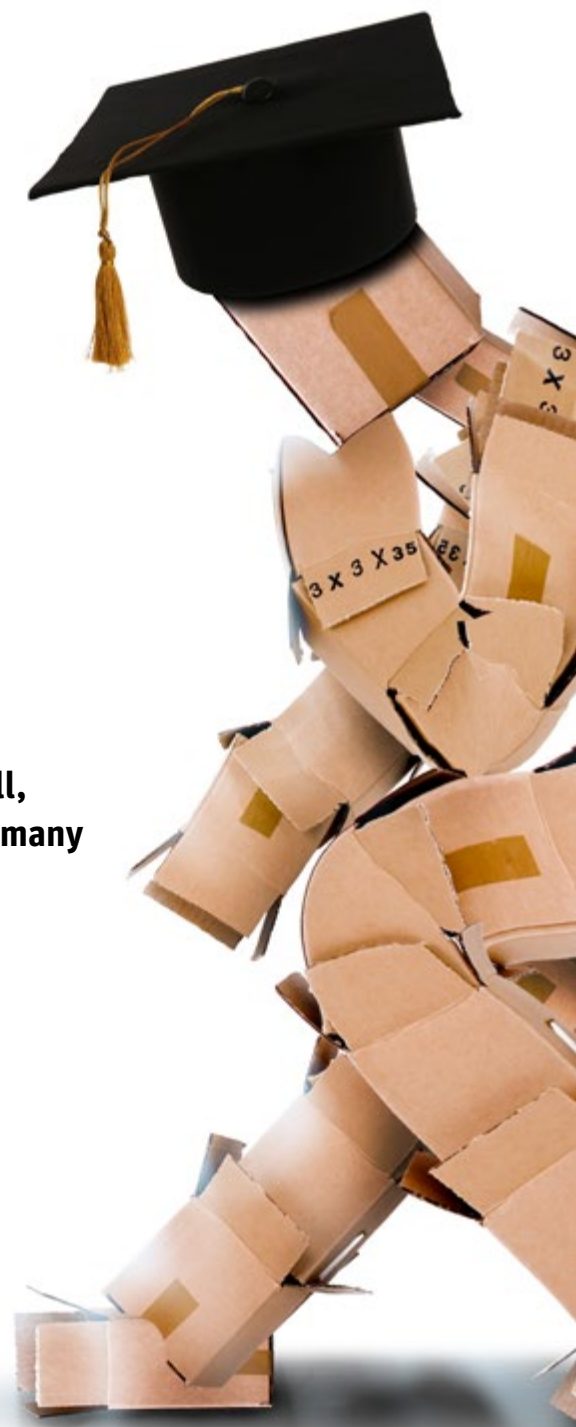
VAWO gets a lot of complaints about this. It exerts pressure on universities to improve job security. Jongsma: 'As an academic, you spend years developing yourself until you become an expert in your field. So you don't want to end up as a "disposable scientist".'

In the 2015 collective labour agreement for universities, the unions managed to get a promise that no more than 22 percent of all teaching vacancies would be for four years or less from then on. However, in practice universities have

'Apart from professional football, there is no other sector with as many people on temporary contracts'

various means of wiggling out of this, says Jongsma. 'Some universities have gone for blanket offers of five-year contracts for their teaching staff; that lets them formally stay nicely under the 22 percent limit, but a five-year contract still means you have a temporary job.'

Even tenure track contracts, in which young researchers have to work hard for a few years to prove they are good enough for a permanent position, are temporary even if they are for more than four years. Jongsma: 'In Anglo-Saxon countries a tenure track position is a permanent job: it's "up or stay" whereas in the Netherlands it's "up or out". If you manage to achieve the targets



you can hope to get a permanent post and otherwise it's tough luck.'

IDEOLOGICAL EXPLOITATION

Academics are forced into 'university hopping'. 'Everyone in this scene knows stories of young lecturers who give one another tips in the train about where work can be found. You end up hopping across the country,' says Jongsma.

This is not a very enticing picture why would anyone still want a job in academia? After all, a Master's from a university gives you plenty of opportunities in other sectors. 'That's true,' says Jongsma, 'but if you still want an academic career after spending ten years on your Bachelor's, Master's and PhD, you've proved yourself to be passionate about your subject. Our enthusiasm is also our Achilles heel because that attitude is what makes it so easy to exploit us.'

Peter Tamas agrees. He works at the Education and Competence Studies Group at Wageningen University & Research, where he specializes in research methodology. He calls it

'ideological exploitation': it is easy to take advantage of ambitious people. He himself has a permanent job as a lecturer in methodology but a temporary contract as a researcher that ends in two months' time. 'Such flexible contracts are a complete mess', says the American.

Switching to a 'regular' career is not an option for Tamas. He laughs. 'Who's interested in a research methodologist? I like to ask fundamental questions, but many companies find that threatening.'

CONTINUITY

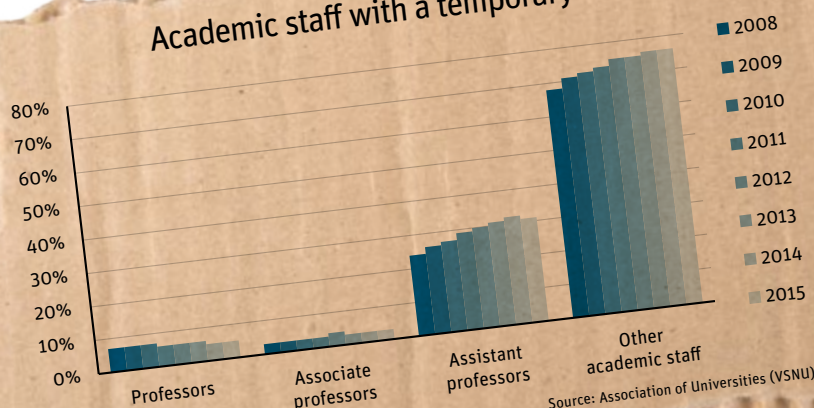
But do academics actually have any reason to complain? Isn't a temporary contract just part and parcel of the modern, increasingly flexible job market? No, says Prof. Andries de Grip, director of the Research Centre for Education and the Labour Market (ROA) in Maastricht. In his view, academia would benefit from a larger nucleus of permanent staff. 'The advantage of flexible contracts for employers is that you can easily make switches, but the downside is that you are hardly investing at all in knowledge and continuity. Whereas that is particularly

important for universities. Now they are threatening to turn into organizations with an aging top plus a large group of young, constantly changing workforce below. That doesn't help continuity.'

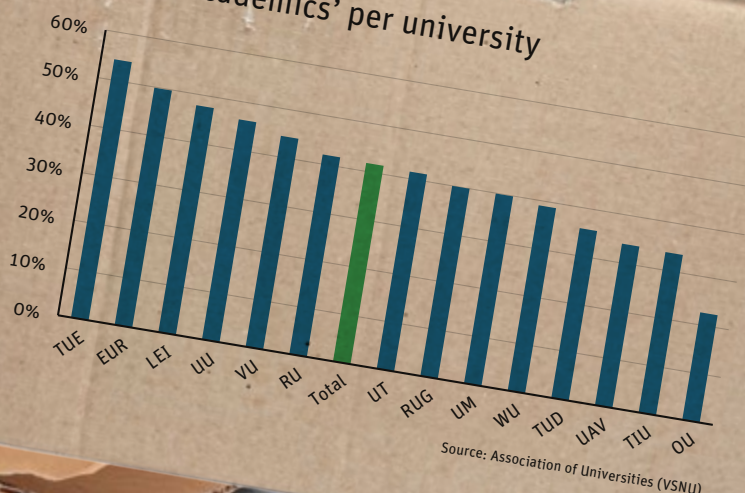
VAWO chair Jongsma regularly hears people saying that society in general is turning into a 'gig economy' and that just happens to be the way the labour market is these days. 'But apart from professional football, there is no other sector with as many people on a temporary contract as in the academic world. Even big companies have no more than 15 to 20 percent temporary employees.'

She says the academic world is increasingly adopting an hourglass model. 'The upper part consists of professors and associate professors who almost invariably have a permanent post. The lower part consists of the nomads. The traditional academic, with a permanent job and whose time is split evenly between research and teaching, is now a threatened species. It's bizarre that we are accepting this situation.' **①**

Academic staff with a temporary contract



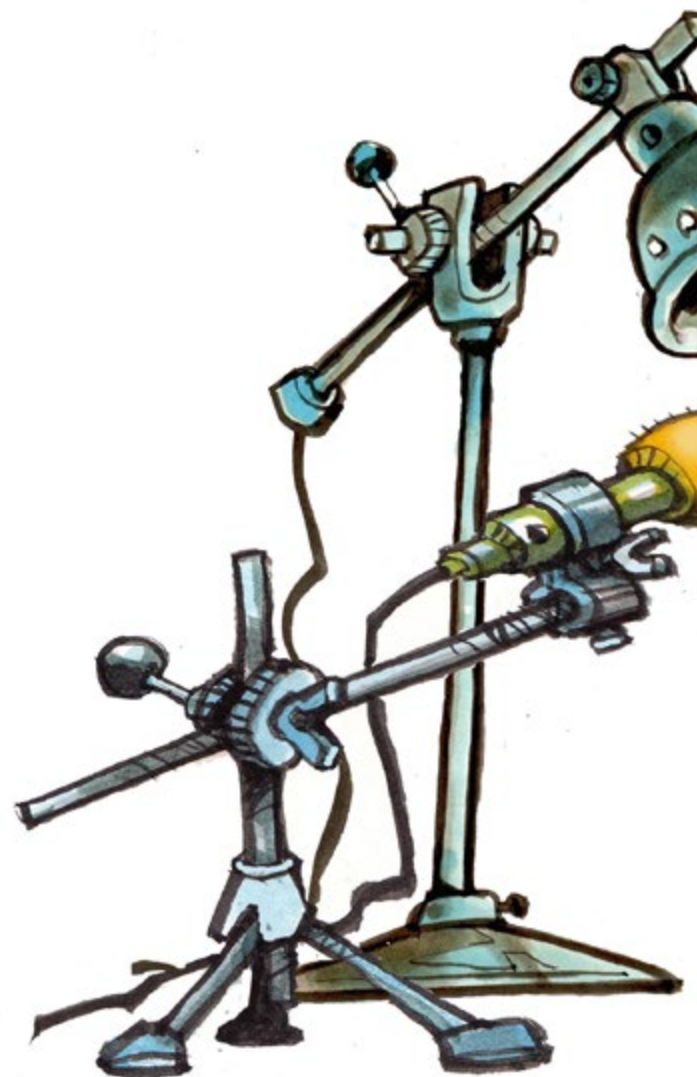
'Flex-academics' per university



WHO ARE YOU VOTING FOR?

The final period of the academic year has begun and that means: Student Council elections. The elected students will soon be defending your interests within Wageningen University. Who are you going to vote for and why?

text Carina Nieuwenweg and Madhura Rao illustration Henk van Ruitenbeek



Paula Krol



MSc student of Food Safety

'I'm voting for VeSte because they are the party for active students and I'm an active student myself.'

I think they have been doing a good job of representing active students, for example by making sure that the FOS

regulation was modified to provide a reasonable amount per month for students doing a board year, after the government grant was turned into a loan. Next year I expect them to keep on being committed to active students. One of the things that are important to me is that it should be much easier to access programmes on WUR computers from your own laptop, such as EndNote for referencing, or certain tools for data processing.'

Nienke Hendriks



MSc student of Biology

'I will probably vote for the Christian party CSF because I really like their socially-minded positions. They got the university to create places for refugee students and to pay more attention to people with

psychological problems. They also keep things more in perspective. I get the impression that VeSte, for example, assumes that everyone would like to serve on a board and lead a very active student life. **I have voted for CSF for the past two years. The first year because they had the best plans and the second year because they had proven their worth.** They do pretty well at really getting things done.'

Siyao Wu



MSc student of Food Safety

'I want to vote for S&I because I like its attitude when it comes to representing all students. **Being an international student myself, I am impressed by the way S&I emphasizes sustainability and internationalization.**

I also know some students who work for this party and they are really committed to doing their job well. I believe that they will stand side by side with students and therefore deserve our votes. As for what I expect, I hope they will work efficiently and reply promptly to all students' requests. Since I am far from home, I hope that I can rely on the Student Council for support when I am in trouble, and can therefore feel more relaxed and secure here.'



Jasper Remmerswaal



BSc student of Business and Consumer Sciences

'I am not voting because I don't know enough about it. There is not enough information provided. **I don't have much idea what people on the Student Council do and whether they even have**

any power at all. Seeing how evening classes are being introduced in spite of them, they don't seem to have much influence. So I don't know what the elections are really about and what the choices are. As far as I'm concerned, the university should make clearer why the Student Council is important, if it even is important.'

Pietro Della Sala



MSc student of Plant Sciences

'I am thinking of voting for Sustainability & Internationalization as they have an eye for the growing international community in Wageningen, and in particular aim at creating opportunities for meeting and integrating during the first few months of the year. A second reason is that I share the same concern for the

environment and, **even though Wageningen is already doing great, I think this is the only party that would carry sustainability further during the coming years.** I want to support the current candidates in particular because, as they are all MSc students, I believe they bring more maturity to discussions with the authorities at the university and outside it. When elected, I expect them to fulfil my expectations and surprise me by even going beyond them!'

Martijn van Galen



MSc Molecular Life Sciences

'I am probably going to vote for VeSte because I think it's important for a student party to stand up for active students. **There is more to university life than going to class. It is a period of your life in which you**

develop on several fronts. The Student Council is a good example of that, itself. But I can well imagine why students might vote for a good friend. Besides the fact that they'd like their friends to win, they also have a better idea of what they are capable of and what they stand for.'

Peter Kiers



BSc student of Business and Consumer Sciences


'I can keep this very short: I am not going to vote because I reckon any student can defend my interests. You see, I think all students agree on most things. That evening classes get in the way of social life, for instance. **We all have the same problems so I can't be bothered to study the minor differences between the representatives.** I do think the Student Council is a good thing to have, because students should have a say in things. You spend at least three years here. You can't just transfer to another university if you don't agree with the policy.'

Rahul Shenoy



MSc student of Environmental Sciences

'This is my second year here and I am going to vote for S&I again. Broadly, the party stands for Sustainability and Internationalization, both of which appeal to me

totally. As sustainability is the concept which many of Wageningen University's activities revolve around, I feel there should be a representative in the Student Council who makes sure it is truly implemented. **I have attended many of the activities that S&I organizes and I feel their enthusiasm and spirit.** They are also quite active on social media and I have received quite some important information from them, which I wouldn't otherwise have known, especially about insurance and visas.' 



PHOTOS: BART DE GOUW

Throwaway pianos

The residents of Ceres house Heerenstraat 6 maintain an unusual tradition. When one of their number leaves they throw a piano out of a third floor window.

At a goodbye party on Friday 19 May for four departing housemates, two pianos bit the dust.

The tradition started in 1983, when the last musical resident of that period left the men's student house. 'The neighbours were

glad to be rid of his piano playing,' explains resident Dennis, 'so his housemates thought it was time to chuck the piano out of the window.' It then became a tradition for departing residents to throw a party – and, as part of the festivities, a piano. It has to be a piano that was obtained free. 'A write-off with three keys is most suitable,' says Dennis.

At the latest piano-throwing party, safety precautions were taken. The residents had protected windows with mattresses and kept

a safe distance themselves. And they cleared up all the debris nicely afterwards. DdV

See the photo series
on resource-online.nl

GVC football club wants to join Thymos

A Wageningen town football club wants to become one of the student sports associations (SSVs) under the sports foundation S.W.U. Thymos.

'We play free of charge on the pitch at De Bongerd, 75 percent of our players are students and we are expecting to grow. So it is a logical step to become a student club,' says Rijk Dersjant, a student of Nutrition and Health and a player in GVC's first eleven.

GVC also wants to professionalize its first eleven. 'We notice that students who

are good football players prefer to join another club with a higher standard.' So for the next season, GVC has hired a professional trainer. Thymos is helping to fund this, on condition that GVC becomes a Thymos club. Members of an SSV only have to buy a sports card. 'With no subscription and a good trainer, we hope to attract more good footballers so we can improve our pay and increase our membership.'

It is a shame that the non-student members will have to leave, acknowledges Rijk. 'Especially in the 3rd and 4th men's

elevens, there are ex-students and recent graduates who enjoy carrying on playing with their friends. So we've arranged with Thymos that they can go on playing for the club for three years. Footballers who have done a lot for the club become honorary members. They get to stay with GVC for ever.'

The transition is not completely sewn up yet. At S.W.U Thymos's AGM at the end of June, all the student sports associations get to vote for or against GVC becoming one of them. LvdN

She has installed extra cupboards in her student room as storage for all her little boxes of insect snacks and pasta. Evelien Donkers is still a student but is already working for a French insect product company and trying to conquer the Dutch market.

text Linda van der Nat photo Sven Menschel

‘They call me the insect girl’

Evelien Donkers sometimes takes little boxes of freeze-dried grasshoppers to birthday parties. ‘Especially if I suspect they are going to be a bit boring,’ says the MSc student of Food Technology. ‘When you put a box of insects on the table it always causes a stir.’ It has already gained her a big network. ‘They call me the insect girl.’

Donkers speaks so passionately about her fruit-and-nut bars containing mealworms, her savoury insect snacks, and her pasta made of insect flour that the only surprise is that she ended up in this job by chance. ‘For the Entrepreneurship Master’s track, I took the course called New Venture Creation, in which you have to launch your own product on the market. My idea wasn’t picked, but that of a fellow student from Italy was. She wanted to make granola bars with insects. I wasn’t very keen to do that. People started saying that insects were the food of the future ten years ago, but it still hasn’t happened so I was sceptical. But because I got on well with her, we worked together anyway.’

STARTING OFFER

They wrote a business plan, built a website and baked bars made with insect flour in the Italian student’s oven. It went extremely well: the pair got a 9 for the course, received 5000 euros in starting capital from StartLife, and

entered a competition in Denmark. Sadly, their collaboration broke down. ‘She was super-meticulous and I wasn’t. I’m not sloppy but I like to get on with things. She was very temperamental and would yell her head off at me when things didn’t go her way. I got fed up with that.’

Meanwhile, someone who works at the French company Jimini’s had spotted their

‘I do everything from sales and marketing to purchasing insect flour’


website. Donkers: ‘Jimini’s has a staff of about 20 and wanted to expand abroad. This man was doing some competitor analysis and he rang up with all sorts of questions. There was a real click so at the end of the conversation I said I still needed somewhere to do an internship and asked him to talk to his boss.’

Donkers arrived at Jimini’s headquarters in France on 14 July, a national holiday. ‘I said I wasn’t going to live in France, didn’t intend to learn French, and wanted an internship allowance of 600 euros. And I demanded a job in the company after my internship. It was my starting offer but the director said yes straightaway.

I was the first food technologist at the company, and he was keen to have me. Now I take care of all the company’s marketing in the Netherlands.’

DETERMINATION

Donkers organizes tasting sessions, visits shops and speaks at conferences. ‘One day I’m handing out muesli bars at Radboud University in Nijmegen, and the next I’m talking to a big supermarket. I do everything from sales and marketing to purchasing insect flour. I’m not paid what I’m worth but I have a great deal of freedom to allocate my time as I wish.’

Now that she has found her place, Donkers is extremely ambitious. ‘I am good at networking and leading people. Eventually I want to be an associate in this company, and they know that.’ Whether she owes her determination to her years as a judoka – Donkers got a grant from the Niels Smith top sports fund – she cannot say for sure. ‘I like getting on with things. Action, not talk. The main thing I learned from judo was that nothing is impossible. Hard work got me a long way as a not particularly talented judoka because I showed my ambition and gathered the right people around me.’ 



YOUNG

Intensive exercise keeps you young, shows a study by Brigham Young University. The DNA of sporty people turns out to be nine years younger than that of people who don't get any exercise and seven years younger than that of those who get moderate amounts of exercise. You have to be active to get the benefits: at least 30 minutes of exercise a day, five days a week, for women, and 40 minutes for men.

OLD

Older mice dosed with THC, the active component in marihuana, develop the memory of a young mouse, discovered scientists at the University of Bonn. Human trials are still under preparation. The researchers hope they are on the track of a new approach to dementia. Now that would be something: start your memory training with a joint.

FROZEN

Healthy young mice were born from eggs fertilized by sperm kept for nine months in space on board ISS, reported Japanese scientists from the University of Yamanashi. That is good news for space travellers: sperm can handle a dose of radiation. The scientists have vague dreams of a human sperm store on the moon. For emergencies.

DIABOLICAL

The annual top 10 of the most extraordinary newly discovered species includes some lovely specimens again. There is only one flower in the top 10: *Telipogon diabolicus*, an orchid from southern Colombia. The plant owes its name to the resemblance between its stigma and stamens and a devil's head. The list is compiled by the International Institute for Species Exploration. About 18,000 new species are discovered annually.



PHOTO: M. KOLONOWSKA

Another 1400 rooms needed

Because of the continuing growth of the university, Wageningen needs another 1400 student rooms, say Wageningen municipal council, WUR and student housing provider Idealis. So the municipality has designated new locations for temporary and permanent rooms.

Wageningen University is set to go on growing for the coming five years. The university expects to grow from 10,500 students now to 14,500 students in 2022. Approximately half of the additional 4000 students will want a room in Wageningen, which means a shortfall of 1400 rooms in the not-too-distant future.

The municipality, Idealis and WUR have therefore identified places where new student complexes could be built in the coming years, or where temporary accommodation could be created. The list includes the old post office on the Plantsoen, the old vocational college on the Marijkeweg and buildings on Duivendaal and De Dreijen. There are also possibilities for extra rooms around the Asserpark and Bornsesteeg student residences. The municipality has designated a total of 18 locations where Idealis or project developers could create student accommodation.

The building and repurposing plans take into account the prediction that student numbers will go

down again in five to ten years' time. The municipality wants to concentrate on mixed permanent housing in which other groups such as seniors can live, as well as students.

It was announced earlier that 300 temporary student units are to go up on the disused plot on the corner of Nieuwe Kanaal and the Kortenoord Allee. There are also advanced plans for 178 permanent rooms on the site of the former Diedenoort higher education college on the Churchillweg, about 200 permanent rooms at Costerweg 65, and 120 permanent rooms on the plot of the former Kirpestein garage on the Ritzema Bosweg. **AS**



PHOTO: SVEN WENSCHER

Sun, water and beats

Wageningen students who like festivals and techno usually have to go to Amsterdam and Utrecht. But on Saturday 27 May seven stu-

dents ran their own festival: Schoolslag.

Nearly 500 techno fans let their hair down all day long at student rowing club Argo. In this summery Ascension holiday week, the result was a popular combination of sun, water and beats. And of course, beer at stu-

dent prices.

The organizers reckon there's a fair chance the event will be repeated next year. **LvdN**

See the photo series on resource-online.nl

PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER



Swapping clothes for sustainability

The chance to pick up a new blouse or pair of trousers and learn something about making the fashion industry more sustainable while you're at it. This was the aim of the fashion film night run by the Circular Economy Wageningen Student Hub (CESH) on Tuesday 23 May.

CESH was formed a little while ago by a merger of Circular Economy Wageningen with IBBESS. The first group was set up in 2015 by several Master's students who wanted more courses on the circular economy, and the second group was formed by students who organized the International Biobased Economy Student SymbioSUM in 2016.

The fashion film night was part of their first event: Circular Fashion 2017, through which CESH seeks to raise awareness about the way our clothes are produced.

At the Heerenstraat cinema on 23 May, there were racks full of second-hand clothing. If you had contributed a pair of trousers, a skirt or a dress, you could choose some-

thing 'new' to go home with. 'This way, clothes that one person is bored of wearing get a second chance in someone else's wardrobe,' says CESH board member Diewertje de Wagenaar, a student of Landscape Architecture. At the cinema, documentaries were also screened which give a glimpse behind the scenes of the production, recycling, upcycling and design of fashion. The evening was a success, says De Wagenaar. 'There were more than 75 people in the room. We are extremely pleased with that.'

The Circular Fashion Symposium follows in Impulse on 2 June. The programme includes lectures by Jef Wintermans of the Sustainable Clothing Covenant and Peter Koppert of the fashion branch organization Modint. And the winner of the design competition for the WUR centennial sweater, initiated by CESH, will be announced. **AI, LvdN**

See the photo series on resource-online.nl

MEANWHILE IN... THE UK

'My sister lives in Manchester'

Twenty two people, including a number of children, were killed in a terrorist attack at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester Arena in the evening of Monday 22 May. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. The threat level was raised from severe to critical and about 1000 troops were deployed to Britain's streets. Joe Clokey had some stressful hours trying to get hold of his sister.

'I am closely following the general elections in my country, so I immediately saw the first posts on Twitter. There wasn't much information at first, only the rumours of a "loud noise". Only after several hours was more clarity given about the origin of the explosions.

These first moments were very stressful, because my sister lives in Manchester. She is working at a firm that helps organize events and this firm

was hired for the Ariana Grande concert. My parents, especially, were freaking out when we didn't hear from her, but luckily she was just asleep. The first reaction of the government was to put more troops



PHOTO: GOODMAN/LNP/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

on the street, but right now they think they've got it under control. At least the threat level changed back from critical to severe a few days ago. Personally, I was worried about the influence this event might have on the elections on the 8th of June. You would expect people to vote more right-wing. This would mean even more isolation after Brexit, while we already have distanced ourselves from other countries. This seems short-sighted to me.

Luckily, the Manchester attack only seems to have slightly improved May's personal ratings. I think it has to do with the British mentality: "keep calm and carry on". People are always putting things in perspective and don't base something important as a vote on one single incident.' **AB**



Joe Clokey (25), Master's student of Environmental Sciences from the UK, talks about the political and personal impact of the terrorist attack in Manchester.

YOU ON CAMPUS

Wageningen has a lot of things to offer, but not for those who love the sea and the mountains. If you like skiing, surfing or mountain climbing, you are definitely in the wrong place. That's why Fabian Scherer (26) did not really take to Wageningen when he passed through on his way from Germany to Scheveningen to surf there.

However, thanks to his double degree in Environmental Economics in combination with the university of Bonn, he ended up in Wageningen for almost nine months.

Fabian grew up close to the Alps. Talking about Wageningen, he says: 'It's super flat!' Even though Fabian cannot practise his favourite sports here, he still managed to find a lot of other activities. 'A great thing about the Netherlands is the really nice asphalt: it is great for skateboarding.' Especially if the weather is nice, you can find Fabian outside,

often biking, running, skateboarding or just eating dinner with friends or making music together. 'When the sun is out, we grab our instruments and scramblers, and make electronic music.'

Fabian lives in the perfect place to sit outside like this, an old Dutch thatched farmhouse in the middle of fields. Here he enjoys the abundance of birds and bird

'The Netherlands has really nice asphalt: great for skateboarding'

noises that he has come to associate with Wageningen. However, even though life is good now everything is green, Fabian was not so happy with the Dutch winter. 'Everything was grey and wet and most of the students left at weekends.' Now the weather is nice, students stay around longer, Fabian has

found. Anyway, he's been going away a lot at weekends himself. 'The infrastructure is great, I can drive to see German friends and family or I can fly to my girlfriend and dog in Italy, both in just a couple of hours.'


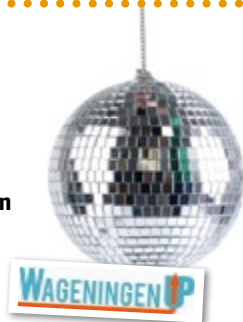
Fabian is positive about the Dutch mentality. 'People are open and friendly, but still efficient and effective.' He still wants to finish writing his Master's thesis elsewhere, though.  AvdH



PHOTO: ANNE VAN DER HEIDEN

PARTIES

In the party mood? Wageningen Party Promotion (WUP) tells you where to find one. See too www.wageningenup.nl.



KSV - PROUD TO BE GOLD!

Thursday 1 June from 23.00 to 05.00

Wear all your gold medallions, don your golden slippers, put on a glitter wig and get all your bling out. Everything goes at this public party, as long as it's gold. The golden beer awaits you. Don't forget your student card and ID.

SHOUT - HOMO TOP 50

Saturday 3 June from 23.00 to 03.00

The summer holiday is fast approaching, which means it's time for the annual Homo Top 50. You can help determine whether it's a good party by voting for your favourite tunes on the Shout site.

SPOT - SPOT THE UNIVERSE 2.0

Wednesday 7 June from 19.00 to 00.00


A cultural festival in The Spot, an ode to the diversity within WUR. Wednesday may be an odd day for it but hey, there's never a wrong time for a party! So come for some dancing, drinking and eating at this festival.  AvdH



PHOTO: SVEN MENSCHER

The MIMI party with garlands 1.0 was held at Nji-Sri on 18 May.

Wageningen Master's students do internships and thesis research all around the world, getting to know their field and other cultures. Here they talk about their adventures.

‘People in the UK can be arrogant’

‘Before I came to the Netherlands, I applied to the University of Glasgow. Unfortunately I could not go there because I didn't have funding. After starting my Master's in Wageningen I took the chance to do an internship in Glasgow. I have visited several countries while studying in Europe but I had never been to the UK.

The reason I like the University of Glasgow is because it is a very famous university with a long history. In my research group they are working on building an artificial cell and their results are very promising and interesting. My project is about the use of artificial cells for purification purposes in waste water remediation. The first step is to allow the system to sense heavy metal ions. I am trying to build a simple genetic circuit into a cell-free system: a tool that allows us to study biological reactions that happen within the cell, without other complex interactions in the background.

I really enjoy doing synthetic biology. I can use my creativity in trying to create something new, like products, biofuel and biopharmaceuticals. This was also one of the reasons that I came to the Netherlands, where we have really good synthetic biology groups. I am hoping to continue in this field as a PhD student

after my Master's.

Going from the Netherlands to the UK was not a big step but I did notice some differences. In our own microbiology department in Wageningen there are many technicians and everything is well organized. In my current lab there is a lot of nice equipment but only one lab manager. It is difficult for him to manage everything and if we have a problem, we have to wait a long time before it is fixed. Also, the risk assessment here in Scotland is stricter. Before I could start doing lab work, I had to fill in a lot of forms.

In the UK, I started to realize that Dutch people might be the friendliest people in Europe because people in the UK sometimes seem arrogant. There was less culture shock for me in the Netherlands. The only culture shock I had was the strange Dutch food and the way people say “bless you” when someone sneezes.’  CN

THE WORKS

Who? Tianhe Wang (but you can call him Mark), Master's student of Molecular Life Sciences, from China
What? Five-month internship at the University of Glasgow
Where? Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Read all the interviews on resource-online.nl



BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN THE AID 2017!

I want to guide new students in their first week and help them to get to know Wageningen.

NO

YES

I want to get to know students from different countries and make international friends.

NO

YES

MSC REGULAR

I don't want to miss a single program part during the AID!

YES

NO



MSC LIGHT

I want to be part of a group of hard working students to make the AID a success!

YES

CREW!



Register now at www.aidwageningen.nl!

BUDDY MENTORS WANTED



Become a buddy mentor and make friends from all over the world!

Join the Summer AID and give a warm welcome to the new students.

The groups will be formed of 10-15 students and 2 or 3 buddy mentors.

DO YOU WANT TO DISCOVER THE WORLD
IN WAGENINGEN?

**JOIN THE SUMMER AID
OR START IN PERIOD 1**



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
BUDDY@IXESN-WAGENINGEN.NL

ixESN Wageningen
ixesn_wageningen
ixesn-wageningen.nl

Science Cafe Wageningen

www.sciencecafewageningen.nl

THE JOURNEY TO MARS

Arno Wielders, MSc - CTO of 'Mars one'
Dr. Agata Kołodziejczyk - ESTEC
DR. Ir. Wieger Wamelink - WUR

Thursday, June 1st
19:45 - Live music
20:15 - Science
Café Loburg
FREE ENTRANCE

Sponsored by:



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



RESOURCE



Vacancies student member Board OWI (Education Institute) from 1 September 2017 onwards

Do you have a passion for education, ideas to develop education, a proactive and a critical attitude?

From September 1st, 2017 two student seats in the board of the Education Institute (OWI) are vacant.

Being a student member of the OWI board implies that you represent students in a high governmental body of the university. You will work on a varied range of subjects related to the WU education system like new study programmes, increasing student numbers, quality and internationalisation.

We prefer an international student from the domain Food Science (BAT/MAB, BBT/MBT/MBF, BLT/MFT, MFS/MFQ, BML/MML, BVG/MNH) and Environmental Sciences (BTO, BBW/MEE, BMW/MES, MUE, MCL, BIL/MIL, BLP/MLP, MLE, MGI, BBN/MFN).

Send a motivation letter and resume before June 25 to petra.naber@wur.nl with CC to marlene.janssen@wur.nl

For an elaborate version of the vacancy see <https://team-sites.wur.nl/sites/OWI/default.aspx>

announcements

AFRICA THESIS AWARD 2017

Are you interested in Africa and is your Master's thesis on a related subject? If so, the African Studies Centre in Leiden is offering you the chance to win €500. What's more, the winning thesis will be published in the ASC's African Studies Collection. The award aims to encourage student research and writing on Africa and to promote the study of African cultures and societies. It is presented annually to a student whose Master's thesis has been completed on the basis of research on Africa. The full text of all submitted theses will be made available online via the ASC's library catalogue. Any final-year student who has completed his/her Master's thesis with distinction (80% or higher or a Dutch rating of at least an 8) at a university in Africa or the Netherlands may apply. The thesis must have been examined in the twelve months prior to the deadline of

9 July 2017. Deadline submission: 9 July 2017. www.ascleiden.nl

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: THE GREEN ALLEY AWARD

Are you a green start-up or eco-entrepreneur with a brilliant idea in the green and circular economy sector? And are you based in Europe? Then apply for the Green Alley Award 2017 and become one of Europe's leading sustainable start-ups! All you need to do is to fill out a short start-up profile and send us your pitch deck, introducing your business idea in more de-

tail. Deadline submission: 25 July 2017. More information: <http://green-alley-award.com>

agenda

Thursday 1 to Wednesday 14 June FIVE FILMS FOR STUDENTS

Share the Seed: about a WUR research project in the Congo. *SEED*, *The Untold Story*: about threatened seed species, with gorgeous shots. *Bram Fischer*: an exciting thriller and historical courtroom drama about the barrister who defended Nelson Mandela. *The Other Side of Hope*: a gem from Aki Kaurismäki, a realistic refugee drama brilliantly combined with slapstick, about Khaled, a Syrian who gets a job washing dishes in a Finnish restaurant. *Ascent*: an ode to Mount Fuji in Japan, and a personal tribute by artist Fiona Tan. Venue: Wilhelminaweg 3A, Wageningen.

www.movie-w.nl

Friday 2 June and Saturday 3 June, 20.00

SPRING CONCERTS (WSKOV)

The Wageningen Student Choir and Orchestra Association will give its annual spring concerts this weekend. The choir will sing works including 'Danza Danza' by Herman Strategier and the orchestra will perform Dvorak's 'New World Symphony'. The concerts start at 20:00 and reservations can be made at www.wskov.nl. It is also possible to buy tickets at the door. Standard entrance fee €10, students and children €5. Venue: Grote Kerk (Markt 1) in Wageningen and the Cunerakerk

(Kerkplein 1) in Rhenen, respectively.

Tuesday 6 June

RUW FOUNDATION PRESENTS: A TOUR & PANEL DISCUSSION: ORGANIC VS. INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE, THE FACTS

We'll start off with a tour at the organic dairy farm 'The Hooilanden' followed by a discussion with our expert panel during which we'll examine several statements about organic agriculture. How does it differ from intensive agriculture, and is organic agriculture really preferable? What are the facts? The tour costs €3. Subscribe via ruw@wur.nl. Assemble at 15.30 at the Forum. More information on Facebook.

Friday 9, Saturday 10 and Thursday 15 June at 20.30, Sunday 11 June at 16.00

STICHTING LENS PERFORMS MOLIÈRE'S DON JUAN

This classic comedy, inspired by *Commedia dell'Arte*, tells the story of the legendary womanizer and his fight with the world. Don Juan follows his heart, with absurd, hilarious and sometimes painful consequences. Wandering through a world full of beauty, he pursues one adventure after another. Eight amateur actors have been rehearsing this show since January, under the direction of Jurriaan Kamp. Their preparations included training in *Commedia dell'Arte* and helping with the scenery, costumes and staging. Entrance: €10 / students €7.50. Venue: the theatre at De Wilde Wereld, Burgtstraat 1 Wageningen.

www.stichtinglens.nl

colophon

Resource is the magazine and news website for students and staff at Wageningen University & Research. Resource magazine comes out every fortnight on Thursday.

Address

Droevendaalsesteeg 4,
6708 PB Wageningen
(Atlas, building 104, bode 31).
POBox 409 6700 AK Wageningen.
Secretariat: Thea Kuijpers,
resource@wur.nl, 0317 484020
Website: www.resource-online.nl.
ISSN 1389-7756

Editorial staff

- Edwin van Laar (editor-in-chief)
edwin.vanlaar@wur.nl, 0317 482997
- Lieke de Kwant (editor)
lieke.dekwant@wur.nl, 0317 485320
- Roelof Kleis (ecology, social sciences, economy),
roelof.kleis@wur.nl, 0317 481721
- Vincent Koperdraat (website coordination)
vincent.koperdraat@wur.nl, 0317 481338
- Linda van der Nat (students, education)
linda.vandernat@wur.nl, 0317 481725
- Tessa Louwerens (animals, nutrition),
tessa.louwerens@wur.nl, 0317 481709
- Albert Sikkema (plant sciences, animal sciences, organization)
albert.sikkema@wur.nl, 0317 481724

Others who work on Resource

Guy Ackermans, Annie Berendsen, Jessica Bernard, Ton van den Born, Alexandra Branderhorst, Teun Fiers, Marijn Flippe, Stijn van Gils, Aart-Jan van de Glind, Anne van der Heijden, Yvonne de Hilster, Hoger Onderwijs Persbureau, Milou van der Horst, Anja Janssen, Liza van Kapel, Iris Keizer, Jan-Willem Kortlever, Kito, Helena Ligthert, Anna Luijten, Piotr Kukla, Sven Menschel, Linda Meijer, Carina Nieuwenweg, Rik Nijland, Henk van Ruitenbeek, Julia Schäfer, Eva van Schijndel, Twan van der Slikke, Joris Tielens, Pascal Tieman, Joost Visser, Didi de Vries, Rob de Winter, Remo Wormmeester

Design

Geert-Jan Bruins, Paul Gerlach

Translators

Clare McGregor, Susie Day, Clare Wilkinson

Printer

Tuijtel, Hardinxveld-Giessendam

Subscriptions

A subscription to the magazine costs €58 (overseas: €131) per academic year. Cancellations before 1 August.

Advertising

External: Bureau van Vliet, T 023-5714745
m.dewit@bureauvanvliet.com
Internal (reduced rate): Thea Kuijpers,
resource@wur.nl. T 0317 484020

Publisher

Marc Lamers, Corporate Communications & Marketing Wageningen University & Research



CineMec

Laan der Verenigde Naties 150, Ede
www.cinemec.nl / 0900 - 321 0 321

FILM	FILM	ART
NOW SHOWING	FROM JUNE 8	JUNE 13 & 18
Baywatch Reboot of the popular tv-show. Starring Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron.	The Mummy 3D Tom Cruise will guide us in this spectacular movie!	Michelangelo: Love and Death One of the most famous artists of the Renaissance.

€2 STUDENT DISCOUNT ON FILMS & EVENTS

Deadline for submissions: one week before publication date (max. 75 words)
Email: resource@wur.nl

>>TYPICAL DUTCH



Missing wallet

Recently, while cycling to my friend's place for dinner on an 'inter-period' weekend, I lost my wallet. I must have put it in my pocket and it must have fallen out along the way. Now this is a great reason for panic and just the sort of thing nobody wants to happen to them, especially during a weekend.

That evening I searched for the wallet as thoroughly as I could, trying to recollect where I might have lost it. But I simply didn't find it. The next morning, I went to the police station. They told me to wait for a few days as lost things tend to turn up at the city hall. I found this advice pretty odd since from where I come, a lost wallet is a hopeless situation. But I followed their advice. To my surprise and great delight, a guy living on my block turned up at my door saying that my wallet was found with all its contents intact. The police did not have my phone number but had my address from the contents of the wallet and contacted him to relay the message to me. I thanked him for his kindness and called the police line but their office hours were over. Then another guy came to my door the very next day. He was the guy who had found my wallet and was asked by the police to return my wallet. Luck had never favoured me this much. I am so grateful to all the people involved. I was certain that I had to go through a hell of a lot of effort to replace all the stuff I had lost with my wallet. But thanks to the coordinated effort of police and the wonderful people of Wageningen, I was spared all that trouble. If I liked this society and culture before this, now I admire it even more. I think this is an example of Dutch kindness. **Pranav Kulkarni, Masters' student of Animal Science, from India**

'Where I come from, a lost wallet is a hopeless situation. The people of Wageningen spared me a lot of trouble'

Have you had an interesting encounter with Dutch culture? Send your anecdote (in 250 to 350 words) to resource@wur.nl and earn 25 euros and a jar of Dutch sweets. The editors reserve the right to shorten and edit the contributions before publication.