

Resource

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The journalism platform for all at Wageningen University & Research

Slight fall in
BSc registrations

Ukrainian refugees
in WUR building

Student squatters
on vacant plot

Open Science
Community launches

Bird flu
in Gelderland

Exit exhibition
'The photos hurt
people' | p.12

**Letting rip
in course
evaluations**
'Pure bullshit'
p.20



Contents

NO 17 VOLUME 16



14

**From orchard
to food forest**



18

**Empty lecture halls?
Compulsory
attendance!**



23

**UNIQUE houses
Static caravan in
ecovillage**

5 Dialogue about
inclusiveness 'badly
needed'

6 WUR employees in ABP
parliament

7 How the guppy got a
placenta

10 The lowdown on
drought

24 75 years of Rural
Sociology

26 Five tips for open
science

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background stories at
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FOREWORD

Dialogue

Should you remove what seems at first to be an innocent photo exhibition because it offends some people in the WUR community? No, of course not, was my initial reaction. Long live freedom of speech. That's how we do things here. As you've guessed, this is about the *Power of the Wasted*, the waste recycling photos taken by alumnus Jurriaan Veldhuizen (see p. 12). The images offended the African community so much that WUR decided to take the photos down. Whereas the outdoor exhibition site had been set up during lockdown precisely to encourage dialogue. In this issue, Sebastiaan Berendse explains on behalf of WUR why the photos won't be returning. In essence, it is about compassion, understanding and empathy. About wanting to belong and be taken seriously. About our dominant Western viewpoint and being able to see things from a different viewpoint. Which is tricky. And the photos could have helped. After all, you need to see it in order to understand it. Now it seems the photos won't be returning, but the intention is that there will be a dialogue. So the photos *have* served a useful purpose.

Roelof Kleis
Science editor





FREEDOM

After two years of Covid, Liberation Day was back to normal: strolling round town with a beer or bottle of water in your hand, music coming at you from all sides. For many students this was their first real Liberation Day party, but it was a special celebration for older students too. 'We sat down on the sofa at 8 pm on 4 May, remembered all the people who are no longer with us and shed a communal tear. And now we're relaxing, taking a break from thinking about uni and seriously enjoying ourselves.' LZ

Photo Luuk Zegers



Ukrainians in WUR building

As of yesterday, WUR is housing 25 refugees. They can stay for three months in a building due for demolition opposite the student flats on Haarweg. The building is the former premises of the Human and Animal Physiology chair group. It has housed students for several years, but their planned relocation to Idealis student rooms will now be brought forward.

The students' planned relocation to Idealis student rooms will be brought forward

was only available until last Wednesday. Besides the WUR location, the Woningstichting housing association has also made two buildings available on Mondriaanlaan. Until recently, these buildings housed 42 care clients. A number of refugees are being placed with host families.

Host families

More than 100 host families in Wageningen have signed up to offer accommodation. Between the WUR buildings, the Woningstichting and the host families, there is now enough accommodation for the 125 refugees who were staying at the WICC hotel. That means they can remain in Wageningen.

The host families and refugees will be supported by Welkom in Wageningen and people from the Wageningen Volunteer Centre. A site manager will be appointed in the WUR and Woningstichting buildings to act as a contact person for refugees and local residents. Once the refugees have left the Haarweg building, it will be demolished to make room for residential housing in Kortenoord. ^{RK}

The refugees were staying in emergency accommodation at the WICC hotel in the town centre, but that



At 3 per cent down, WUR is performing about the same as most of the other universities.
Photo Marte Hofsteenge

Slight fall in BSc first-year registrations

In mid-April it looked as if WUR was heading for a 10 per cent drop in Dutch preliminary registrations for BSc degrees but a last-minute surge brought the number on 1 May almost up to the 2021 figure.

At 3 per cent down on last year, WUR is performing about the same as most of the other universities. The average is -1.6 per cent, with a couple of

Big jump in registrations to study Tourism

outliers (+14 per cent for Radboud University and -21 per cent for the University of Twente). Education Marketing & Student Recruitment team leader Renske van Dijk is 'reasonably' satisfied. 'Of course the slight fall means we are not where we want to be, especially given that the preliminary registrations already declined last year.'

The difference with respect to 2021 is manageable: 3 per cent is only 50 students, and a lot of school leavers still have to finalize their decision because they have registered for several degree programmes. The number of unique applicants nationwide is 63,000, and they had registered for 104,000 programmes as at 1 May.

Van Dijk concludes that this year's school leavers are not yet sure what degree to do.

Ups and downs

The best-performing WUR degree programmes in terms of increasing registrations of Dutch students are Tourism (+110 per cent), Communication & Life Sciences (+43 per cent) and Economics & Policy (+39 per cent). Although Van Dijk points out that Tourism was particularly unpopular during the pandemic and the absolute increase is quite small, from 11 to 23 BSc registrations. The biggest drops are for Molecular Life Sciences (-23 per cent), Soil, Water, Atmosphere (-22 per cent) and Environmental Sciences (-33 per cent), although there are a lot of international preliminary registrations for the latter. International registrations form a relatively small proportion of the BSc intake because WUR only offers six BSc degrees in English. International registrations are growing, though: +8 per cent for EU students (207 registrations) and +43 per cent for non-EU students (283 registrations). However, there is usually a big gap for non-EU students between preliminary registrations and the actual number of first-years. ^{ME}

80

Eighty medals were stolen from the room of Biotechnology Bachelor's student Frederieke Slager (20). Slager won the medals during her career as a synchronized swimmer. They were hanging on the wall in her room as trophies and a reminder of all that hard work in the water. 'Whenever things were not going so well or I felt stressed, I'd look at them and think: fight on, and you'll be fine.' She found four medals amongst the trees near the Junushoff. If you have a tip, send an email to frederieke.slager@wur.nl LZ

Teacher of the Year vote after all

Nothing had been heard about the award for the best WUR teacher for a while, but it seems people will be able to vote from 16 to 29 May. The delay was because University Fund Wageningen had handed over the organizing to Education & Student Affairs. A longlist of the 10 best teachers will be announced on 3 June. A student jury will choose the winner. The award ceremony will be on 11 October. LZ

Read all about it on resource-online.nl



BODY (PARTS) LANGUAGE

STUDENTS DO COMPLAIN WITH LANGUAGE SKILLS THAT WITHOUT FRILLS TELL WHAT'S ON THEIR BRAIN

HERSCHO DUDS

WUR starts dialogue about 'belonging'

In June, WUR will start a dialogue about inclusiveness and discrimination. And that is badly needed, says Percy Cicilia Jr., who heads the DARE (Decolonialization, AntiRacism and Equity) project. 'WUR says it is international and inclusive, but that is not enough. There are differences, people are treated differently and that shouldn't be happening.'

The immediate reason for the dialogue is the photo exhibition on the billboards outside Impulse that was taken down last year. The images of informal waste recycling in Ghana in photos taken by the Dutch WUR alumnus Jurrian Veldhuizen led to fierce protests from the African community. They said the photos gave a negative, stereotyped, incomplete and damaging representation of Africa. Cicilia Jr. agrees. He says the debate has everything to do

'WUR says it is international and inclusive, but that is not enough'

about a dominant worldview – heteronormative and Western – that is seen as normative, standard and right.'

Uncomfortable conversation

The discussion about the photos ties in with DARE's mission: mainstreaming the conversation about antiracism and discrimination. It is not yet clear what form the event in June will take. Cicilia Jr.: 'I think it needs to be about how we can have emotive and uncomfortable conversations without taking our own uninformed impressions as the starting point.'

with the broad interpretation of the concept of colonialism. 'Colonialism is not just about the colonial past. It is

That uninformed approach was evident in the photographer's decision to use the word 'scavenger' in the captions. Cicilia Jr.: 'That's simply discriminatory. It's just as bad as using the N-word. Working out you can't say that is hardly rocket science. A bit of googling would have been enough.'

The meeting in June will be preceded this month by a dialogue in Plus Ultra for invited guests, organized by the Centre for Value Creation, which also organized the photo exhibition. The theme will be how to deal in future with potentially divergent responses to public art exhibitions. RK

See also the interview with Sebastiaan Berendse of the Centre for Value Creation on page 12.



Camps and Van Rijn in ABP parliament

WUR employees Guido Camps and Fédes van Rijn have been elected to the accountability body of ABP, the pension fund for government and education workers.

Camps heads the LOP party ('list for independent pension oversight') and Van Rijn has her own one-person party Groen & Eerlijk ('green & fair'). The two parties were officially linked with one other. That collaboration

The two parties were officially linked and gained a combined three seats

benefited nutrition researcher Camps' group in particular. Agricultural economist Van Rijn got 8324 votes on her own, three and a half times as

many as Camps. Those votes translate into two seats plus a remainder seat. As Groen & Eerlijk only consists of Van Rijn, the other two seats go to Camps' group.

Low turnout


The LOP now has 6 of the 19 seats in the 'members' category of the ABP accountability body. That is one more than before the election. FNV-ACOP is the biggest group with eight seats. The accountability body has 48 seats in total, of which 19 are for working members, 18 for pensioners and 16 for employers. The turnout for the elections was low. Only 5.5 per cent of the more than 1.2 million members eligible to vote actually cast a vote. RK

Squatters on vacant plot

Last Saturday, squatters took possession of the site near Hoogvliet supermarket where the Vada printers used to be. The idea for this action arose at a get-together of veteran Wageningen squatters who used to occupy buildings in the 1980s and 90s to protest at the shortage of housing. They say the shortage has only got worse. The Vada printers building was demolished in 2012 and the plot has been vacant ever since. As of last Saturday, six people are occupying the site, including three WUR students. They are sleeping in tents, cars and vans. An army tent has been put up to serve as

a kitchen. They aren't connected to the water supply or electricity, so they collect water in jerrycans and use a solar panel to charge their phones.

'We hope to be able to stay here at least a year,' says Master's student Chip, who has parked her camper van on the site. 'The current owner has building plans, but construction will start in 2023 at the earliest. I know for certain that far more people in Wageningen need somewhere to live and we have room for more people here.' [cj](#)

 [resource-online.nl](https://www.resource-online.nl)



Bee start-up spreads its wings

Student platform Enactus lets students learn about social entrepreneurship first hand by setting up their own business. The BeeGrateful project, which builds bee hotels to help bees get established, is the first Wageningen Enactus project that will be able to continue without support. The first Streetlight Bee&bees (bee hotels attached to streetlights) were hung up in Wageningen a year ago. Now Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht municipality also has such bee hotels, mini Bee&bees are on sale to consumers and there are plans for 60 bee hotels in 27 villages in Italy as part of a biodiversity project. The photo shows Master's student Lisa Beckers (Plant Biotechnology and Biobased Sciences) of BeeGrateful. LZ • Photo Florine Zegers

 [resource-online.nl](https://www.resource-online.nl) **FULL STORY ONLINE**

Bird flu infections spreading in Gelderse Vallei region

'A bird flu virus circulating in the Gelderse Vallei region would be a disaster scenario,' said bird flu expert Nancy Beerens from Wageningen Bio-veterinary Research (WBVR) recently in a Dutch newspaper. Shortly afterwards, analysis of bird flu reports in and around Lunteren pointed to farms infecting one another.

On instructions from the government, WBVR is analysing the genetic code of the highly pathogenic H5N1 bird flu virus found on poultry farms. Almost all the earlier outbreaks this season could be traced to separate infections via wild

'It is often unclear how the virus was able to spread in a particular case'

birds. But analysis of the recent infections in the Gelderse Vallei region shows a different picture: two clusters of infections, with closely related viruses in each cluster. 'This

probably means two farms were infected separately by wild birds and then the virus managed to spread to neighbouring farms,' says Beerens, who heads the Dutch Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at WBVR.

Hitching a lift

The disaster scenario is that the bird flu virus travels further from the infected farms. That is why the poultry farms within one kilometre of the outbreaks are being culled as a precautionary measure. Farms in a radius of three kilometres — which is dozens in this poultry-specializing region — are having samples taken by the food safety authority NVWA for analysis by the WBVR lab in Lelystad. That means 'all hands on deck,' agrees Beerens. 'The analyses of the samples have to be ready the next day.'

Beerens fervently hopes they are able to stop the further spread of the virus. 'The virus can hitch a lift with people, materials, dust particles or rodents, for example. It often remains unclear how the virus was able to spread in a particular case.' ME

Photo Shutterstock

How the guppy got a placenta



Genes for transporting food evolved rapidly in guppies with a placenta.

The guppy family (*Poeciliidae*) is viviparous and there is also an enormous variation in the way embryos develop in these fish. Some species have large individual eggs in the womb, each with its own food supply, cut off from the outside world. Others have small

'Species with a placenta are more streamlined and can dodge predators better'

eggs that get fed as they develop, which requires a placenta. Henri van Kruistum (Animal Breeding & Genomics and Experimental Zoology) obtained his doctorate with research on the development of the placenta in the evolution of these fish.

Parallel evolution

Van Kruistum compared the DNA codes of 26 fish species and looked at how much certain genes had changed. A large number of mutations is a sign of rapid evolution in that gene. He was surprised how clear the results were. 'The fish are all largely the same, except for the placenta.' The fish with a placenta

displayed accelerated evolution in certain genes, which did not evolve as fast in fish without a placenta. The genes in question mainly coded for proteins that transport nutrients. Van Kruistum: 'These are probably needed to feed the embryos from the placenta.' The genes evolved in the same way in different fish species with a placenta, independently of each other. A nice example of parallel evolution.

Streamlined

If a placenta evolves independently in so many different fish species, it must offer a significant advantage. Van Kruistum: 'One idea is that the placenta makes a fish more streamlined, because the embryos are on average smaller throughout the pregnancy than they are in a fish that has to make a large egg beforehand. Species with a placenta can therefore dodge predators better. These species seem to be at an advantage in habitats with many predators or a strong current. Without these factors, no placenta evolves.' ss



A Little Wiser

Can water go bad?

Bottles of water have an expiry date. But can water actually go bad? Bacteria and moulds need two things to grow: food and water. 'In clean water, there are no sugars or other nutrients to help them grow, and as long as the cap is on the bottle, they don't get in either,' says Marcel Zwietering, Professor of Food Microbiology. 'So the water doesn't go bad! The best-before date is there because it is a legal requirement, but you can safely drink the contents after that date: 'The quality of some products may deteriorate a bit, but nothing will happen to pure water.' And the water bottles we drink from all day long? 'With every sip you take, some saliva containing food and bacteria from your mouth always flows back into the bottle. If you reuse a bottle, it will soon be full of bacteria,' says Zwietering. 'A study by a former WUR employee showed that the water from some of the reused bottles was officially not suitable as drinking water for cows, because of the high concentrations of bacteria in it.' But the good news is: it is not dangerous for us. They are your own mouth bacteria and they don't make you sick. If that still sounds gross to you, Zwietering says you should wash your bottle every now and then. 'Hot water will do. You can also use washing-up liquid, but that contains organic substances on which bacteria and fungi

can grow, so you should rinse the bottle thoroughly afterwards.'

Dutch tap water is clean, so it is safe to store it in a clean bottle. It is better not to refill bottles that have contained juice or milk, because they do provide a breeding ground for bacteria and fungi. You can clean these bottles thoroughly with hot water and washing-up liquid. 'Glass and stainless-steel bottles are easy to keep clean, thanks to their smooth surfaces,' says Zwietering. 'Plastic works too and is nice and light. However, little bits of organic material can leak out of the plastic and form a breeding ground. So the best advice is still to replace the water regularly.' TL



'If you reuse a bottle, it will soon be teeming with bacteria'

Marcel Zwietering, Professor of Food Microbiology

Every day we are bombarded with masses of sometimes contradictory information on pressing issues. In this feature, a WUR scientist gives you something to hold on to. What are the facts of the matter?

Every question makes you a little wiser. Do you dare to ask yours? Email us at redactie@resource.nl

Illustration Marly Hendricks

Whale Godfried shows how it works

Beached dead whales don't necessarily need to be removed and disposed of. Leaving the carcasses to rot in suitable places is a good option too.

That is the conclusion of a study by researchers from Wageningen University on the effects of the decomposition process in a beached minke whale deposited on Rottumerplaat sandbank in the Wadden Sea.

The whale Godfried, named after the writer Godfried Bomans, was found on Rottumerplaat at the end of 2020. The Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) and the nature management agency Staatsbosbeheer decided to leave the animal to decompose at a suitable spot. Wageningen Marine Research monitored the process carefully for seven months. The provisional conclusion is that nature benefits.

Beetles

'Insects, in particular, benefit from this for years,' explains lead researcher Martin Baptist. The carcass attracted a total of 57 different species of beetle, including the carrion beetles *Nicrophorus vespillo* and *Necrodes littoralis*. Of the beetles, 21 species had never been found on the island before. Some of the beetles came from the mainland, attracted by the smell of the rotting whale.



The state of the carcass was studied meticulously • Photo Martin Baptist

'Insects, in particular, benefit for year'

And the carcass is not gone yet, by any means. Baptist estimates that it could take another three years before the flesh and skin have decomposed completely.

Nitrogen

As well as insects, the surrounding nature benefits from rotting carcasses too.

The smell is not too bad for humans, though. The researchers visited the carcass every other month to take measure-

ments and make notes. Cameras were used to monitor the carcass continuously. According to Baptist, nutrients seeping into the soil mean that the nearby vegetation is literally greener and grows taller. 'That is because of that barrage of ingredients. But close to the carcass, plants die because of the high concentration of nitrogen. It is so high that it becomes toxic.'

It remains to be seen whether Rijkswaterstaat will return dead whales to nature again more often in future. But project leader Rick Hoeksema is certainly enthusiastic. 'Normally we dispose of a large carcass like that. Now it turns out that it fulfils a function in the ecosystem. You might predict that, but it's still amazing to see that it really does work that way in practice.' ^{RK}

Open initiative

Friday 13 May will see the official launch of the Open Science Community Wageningen, a platform for and by WUR researchers that aims to provide inspiration as well as practical pointers.

'There are multiple ways to make your research more open. But where do you

start, what is a good approach? And how do you stay away from the dark side: your data or research being hijacked by a party with evil intentions? WUR does provide support – the Open Science & Education Programme does a great job – but still it is pleasurable to spar and exchange experiences with fellow researchers,' one of the founders, PhD student Annika Tensi, explains. 'Almost all Dutch universities have an Open Science Community; we

are happy to be joining them.' During the launch event, an Open Science Lighthouse Award will also be presented to a Wageningen scientist whose open science approach is a shining example. *Resource* will report on the event online. ^{ME}

Read more on page 26: five tips about open science

The lowdown on drought

Some welcome rain fell in a few places on Saturday, but in general, it is once again extremely dry in the Netherlands. Resource phoned up Floris Lafeber, a Master's student of Meteorology and an assistant meteorologist at Weeronline.

What's going on that it's so dry again?

'Our region has had a succession of high-pressure areas for a while now. That makes for calm, dry spring weather and means disturbances from the Atlantic Ocean hardly get the chance to reach us. It will stay that way for the time being, with a new high-pressure area coming in after the weekend.'

Is that good or bad news?

'That depends on who you ask. Personally, I like the weather very much, partly because I am currently training for the Nijmegen 4Days Marches, so I'm doing a lot of walking. But hay fever sufferers and farmers are defi-

nately not happy with it. Especially as the wind is going to pick up. Pollen spreads more easily then, and the topsoil dries out more quickly.'

Isn't this stable spring weather extremely boring for a meteorologist?

'It's not that bad! At Weeronline, where I've been working as an assistant meteorologist for three and a half years now, it's actually really busy right now: around the first summer day in the Netherlands – when the temperature in De Bilt exceeds 25 degrees – there's always plenty of media attention. We also report a lot of information about the strength of the sun, which is currently quite high, at 5 to 6. And *Resource* is not the only one with questions about the drought. Unusual things are also happening elsewhere. The extreme heatwave in India and Pakistan, with temperatures of over 50 degrees, is really remarkable.'



In dry spring weather, pollen (from the birch, for instance) stays in the air longer. Bad news for people with hay fever • Photo Shutterstock

Is this your favourite kind of weather?

'To be honest, what I love best is extreme cold. As soon as the temperature drops below -10, my heart starts beating faster.' ME

In other news science with a wink

◆ CRUNCH

Researchers at the University of Amsterdam have discovered a way to make chocolate even tastier. Using 3D printers, they created structures that improve the mouthfeel of chocolate. Basically, this entailed making chocolate crunchier by building it up in layers. The more times it breaks in the mouth, the more pleasurable it is. That's the crunch.

◆ OLD (1)

If you eat less, you live longer. And if you only eat when you are active – which for most of us means during the day – you live

even longer. Well, it works that way in mice, anyway. This is the conclusion of a long-term study by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in the US. The researchers subjected hundreds of mice to different eating regimes for four years.

◆ OLD (2)

Mice on a diet live on average 10 per cent longer. Mice on a diet that only eat at night live 35 per cent longer. The mice added as much as nine months to their average two-year lifespan. In human terms, that would mean not 78 but 104 years. Wow, then I

can see Ajax win the championship 44 more times. Just by eating well and at the right time!

◆ SNAPFEET

Researchers from Cambridge have developed an app (Snapfeet) with which you can try on shoes online. Based on a few photos of your feet, the app makes a 3D model of them, calculates your shoe size and uses augmented reality to show how the shoes look on you. Like this, the app reduces the number of shoes that get returned. A shoe-in of a research project. RK

Online, part 2



Guido Camps

Two weeks ago, I gave a lecture on science communication to about 150 students. Well, theoretically 150 students, as there were only seven in the room. The rest could of course have been watching the screen at home with great concentration, but there is also a chance that they missed it. I think that as a university, we overestimated how easy it would be to go back to 'normal'. First of all, the staff are not yet back to normal either; they are seeking a new balance, with people spending significantly less time on campus than they used to. Sec-

'I don't want to force students to come, but I don't want to lecture to a wall either'

ondly, students take about five years to do a Bachelor's plus a Master's, and now students have been studying at home for two years (as one of the restrictive Covid measures). We therefore lack institutional memory of the 'old normal' within a large proportion of the student population. This means that a lot of students have never experienced the benefits of living in Wageningen. And for some of them, coming to the campus suddenly becomes a massive chore and a hassle, especially for just one lecture of an hour.

I asked myself: why do I want the students to come to lectures? Aren't they old enough and mature enough to decide for them-

selves whether or not they want to come to a lecture? I struggle with this, just like many colleagues (see also the discussion on page 18), because on the one hand I think that students are mature people who are allowed to make their own choices, but on the other hand, the practice often shows that some guidance and encouragement help students to make the 'right' choice. A degree and the development you experience as a young adult during these years is more than just that one lecture. It is a phase in which you are left to your own devices, meet new people and learn to run your own life. This is more difficult when you stay at home and watch the occasional lecture online. On the other hand, I recognize that there are many ways of going about it and that I am making a lot of assumptions about other people. It's going to be a challenge to find a new balance, particularly in education, where the temptation to watch lectures online will not actually provide a full substitute for in-person attendance. Again, I struggle with this, because I don't want to force students to come, but I also don't want to lecture to a wall. So it is precisely now that I hope that our students, student councils and study associations will be proactive and come up with some proposals. We've got to do this together.

Guido Camps (38) is a vet and a researcher at Human Nutrition and OnePlanet. He also enjoys baking, beekeeping and unusual animals.

Dismantled Africa exhibition will not return

‘WHY PUT IT BACK IF THAT HURTS PEOPLE?’

In spite of a promise made, the dismantled photo exhibition *Power of the Wasted* will not be coming back. Sebastiaan Berendse, director of Value Creation and responsible for the exhibition, explains the decision. Text Roelof Kleis

The 19 large photos in the new outdoor gallery at Impulse were on display for barely a week in September last year. The images, taken by International Development Studies alumnus Jurrian Veldhuizen, showed the informal recycling of plastic waste in the Ghanaian city of Kumasi. The exhibition of the photos provoked great anger among some African students. Sebastiaan Berendse, director of Value Creation and ultimately responsible for Impulse’s programming, had the photos taken down. The plan was to remove them temporarily in order to calm things down and take time to talk about it. But it has since been decided that the exhibition will not return at all.

What was wrong with those photos?

‘That is not the right question. The content of the exhibition is not in itself the problem, so much was clear from the many discussions there have been since it was removed. The problem was the narrative that the images evoke for the African community. Images always carry emotions and feelings. Those who look at them have a particular experience.’

So what is the narrative that is evoked?

‘It is about seeing Africa only in terms of underdevelopment. They feel that the exhibition says: you see,

it’s still a shithole. In their view, the photos are stereotypical. They do not deny that this is also a part of the African reality, but it is only one aspect of it. They feel the photos portray them in a negative, one-sided way.’

What I see in the photos is people who earn their living by creatively recycling waste.

‘Yes, that’s true. I didn’t initially think these images evoked anything objectionable. And of course that was not what WUR or the photographer intended. But I grew up in Western Europe, raised by white parents. The discussions made me realize that I look at things in one way and someone else might experience it very differently.’

In WUR’s explanation of why the exhibition will not return, a link is made with colonialism and racism. Isn’t that far-fetched?

‘That may seem a big step, but ultimately that is the crux of the reactions. In the discussions we held, we dug beneath the fierce reactions to get to the deeper pain underlying them. In the end, it largely boils down to not feeling recognized as part of the wider WUR community. The feeling that “I don’t count”. They feel they are looked at and approached through a white Western lens. So that’s what we need to talk about.’

If the photos themselves are not the problem, then why are they not returned – put in context?

‘In the end, that decision was made by the Executive Board. I advised against putting up the exhibition again, in consultation with Inge Wallage, Director of Corporate Communication & Marketing. This was precisely in order to create space for a broader conversation about colonialism and racism and to address issues such as diversity and inclusiveness within our organization. Can you have a good conversation about that, if at the same time you blatantly kick some people in the shins by hanging up those photos again?’

In the statement, you talk about ‘freedom of expression, without insulting anyone’, but also ‘without cancelling a priori anything that’s uncomfortable’. But isn’t that what is happening here: cancelling a photographic art exhibition?

‘No, I don’t think so. But I do understand that it can be seen that way. Not putting the exhibition back is a big step. But I don’t see it as going whichever way the wind blows. We have discussed that aspect of it at length – the way expression of opinions and art can raise questions.

‘They feel Africa is portrayed negatively and one-sidedly by the photos’

The thing is, it would be rather strange to put the photos back when you know that it hurts people in your community and at the same time you want to have a conversation about how you can form a more inclusive community together. The two don’t go together.’

Were mistakes made in this whole process?

‘Yes. Before we hung up the photos, we could have given much more thought to the one-sided image of Africa that was being portrayed and what these images might evoke. The context of the exhibition from the WUR perspective was missing too. Why are we displaying this? What is the objective? We will have to do that differently next time. But even then, you cannot always predict what will happen. And then the important thing is how we respond in the end. We will have to find the right way of dealing with such things together as we go along. That’s why you have conversations so you can see each other’s point of view.’ ■



The now empty outdoor gallery at Impulse • Photo Guy Ackermans

From orchard to food forest

‘NOTHING IS STANDARD, IT IS CHANGEABLE COMPLEXITY’

On Droevendaal experimental farm, students and graduates are developing a knowledge centre for food forests.



Text Roelof Kleis

If you imagine it with the sound muted, it is idyllic. An orchard on a farm, full of apple and pear trees and the odd walnut. A row of tall oaks along the Kielekampsteeg, a watercourse and a couple of ponds. And hundreds of young trees: the new additions for a food forest in the making. But with the sound up, you are standing on a plot of land along the busy Mansholtlaan near Droevendaal experimental and teaching farm.

Lecturer Kees van Veluw (Farming Systems Ecology) has been using the orchard as a design location for the Master's course in Ecological Design and Permaculture for many years. 'A design method for agricultural systems based on natural processes,' he explains. 'As part of the course, students make their own design for that orchard.' The impressive results prompted him to turn it into a project. 'A project led by

students right from the start. Education, research and experience all in one go.'

Idealists

The first step was taken three years ago. Since then, the initiative has developed into the food forest in the making that you see today. The driving forces behind the forest are former students Louise van der Stok, Jordy van Eijk and Pablo van Neste, idealistic biologists. Van Neste, a study advisor for the BSc programme in Forestry and Nature Management, is happy to give a guided tour of the exactly one-hectare site. 'It looks simple,' he says, pointing to the watercourse that has been dug. 'But there is much more to it than digging a ditch. We apply the principle that each element has many different functions. The ditch not only provides drainage, but is also a source of water for animals, and crops and trees grow along it.' 'The water also works like a mirror,' he continues. 'The bank is slightly warmer on one side than on the other. That is how you create niches for different plants. Nothing is standard here; it is all changeable com-

plexity'. The vegetation plan makes use of this kind of gradation too. Van Neste: 'Smaller vegetables on the south side, rising to tall trees on the north side. This is how you make maximum use of the sun.'

Fine particles

This multifunctionality also applies to the embankment along Mansholtlaan that was constructed in November last year. 'Thanks to that embankment, you already hear a lot less of the noise,' says Van Veluw. 'But it also provides protection against fine particles and the cold northeast wind, so the frost doesn't get the blossom anymore. The embankment also has several plateaus that capture the heat for different microclimates: figs and apricots, for example, will do very well.' As far as species are concerned, the basis is indigenous species such as apples, pears, walnuts and hazelnuts. But there is also room for non-native high-yielding trees and shrubs. So in about 10 years' time, there will also be mature Chinese mahogany trees ('onion soup trees') and



From the left: Louise van der Stok, Jordy van Eijk and Pablo van Neste • Photo Guy Ackermans

Szechuan peppers – exotic species from China and other parts of the world. ‘In early spring, the leaves of the onion soup tree taste like French onion soup. That has a lot of potential. And the Szechuan pepper is very popular with top chefs.’ Commercial potential plays an important role in the choice of plants. ‘It is certainly a commercial experiment as well,’ agrees Van Neste. ‘We are looking at how you can set up a food forest so it becomes what is known as a community-supported agri-

‘It seems simple, but there’s more to it than just digging a ditch’

‘It is certainly a commercial experiment as well’

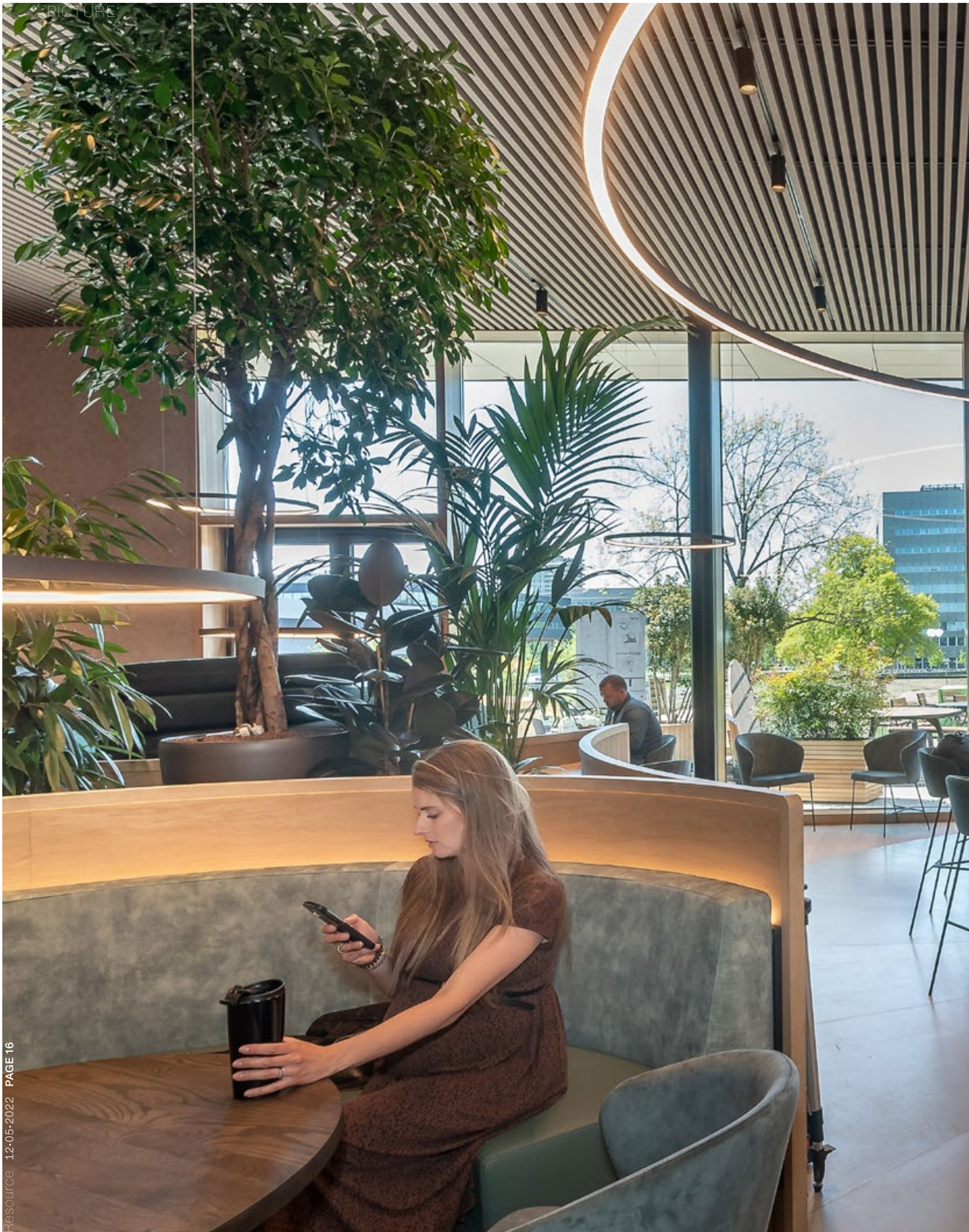
culture model, in which the farmer is supported by a group of locals. In addition to production, there is also room for services such as workshops, training courses and providing a place to come for inspiration. I am in charge of the ecoliteracy programme: schoolchildren from Bennekom come to our site every week for lessons.’

Strategy

But the trio’s plans go way beyond all this. They want Droevendaal Food Forest to become the hub of a kind of knowledge institute about food forests. Van Neste: ‘In the next three years, we want to set up a number of pilots elsewhere in the Netherlands, where the scientific foundation for food forests will be laid. In co-creation with farmers or land-owners, young people will be given the opportunity to start up a business in a food forest. We want to monitor these forests, collect data and provide feed-

back to WUR and other institutions.’ The Regeneration Foundation has now been set up to carry out these ambitious plans. What is needed for now is for the small stuff to grow fast. Anyone who wants to start a food forest needs to be in for the long haul. ‘Don’t expect too much of it to begin with, and hold on to the belief that things will work out eventually,’ says Van Neste. ‘But there are also strategies for short-term success. There is currently quite a lot of space between the young plants. You can grow vegetables there. That is a strategy for keeping your head above water.’

Meanwhile, the site is already becoming an attractive place for animals. ‘We recently spotted the blackthorn plover here,’ says Van Neste. ‘That is an endangered species on the Red List. Hares have been spotted here too. A forest ecosystem attracts many species. Even on a postage stamp like this one hectare.’ ■





NOVUM

Novum, Latin for 'something new', is the name of the Faculty Club in brand-new Omnia. It is true there was nothing like it before on campus. The restaurant plus cocktail bar is run by caterer Hutten. Another novel aspect is the menu. The aim is to serve products that come from start-ups on campus and WUR's experimental farm. The restaurant has seating for 62 people. It is open on workdays from 9 am to 5 pm and on Tuesday and Thursday evenings until 9 pm. You can walk out onto the patio for views overlooking the campus. RK

Photo Sven Menschel

Two sides

Empty lecture halls? Make attendance compulsory!

It's a frustrating fact that the lecture halls remain empty. Should we make attendance compulsory for students? Lecturer in Organic Chemistry Tjerk Sminia and associate professor of Business Economics Yann de Mey on 'the carrot and the stick'.

Text Willem Andrée • Photos Guy Ackermans



Yann: 'I am against it. One of the main goals of a university education is for students to learn to plan for themselves, to be independent and to see the consequences of their decisions. And to realize that it is an impoverishment of their education if they do not attend classes. If you make it compulsory, you deprive them of this learning process.'

Tjerk: 'Essentially, I am also against compulsory attendance, if only because of the administration involved. Compulsory attendance goes against the spirit of the university. There are elements that you can make compulsory, such as practicals and seminars where you teach skills that cannot be learned online. In chemistry, for example, you need to be able to draw molecules, which you have to train to do. I then want to be able to see directly how students are developing, spot their errors and respond to them. I know from experience that attendance works. In period 1 - when everyone enthusiastically returned to the campus after Covid - 95 per cent of

my students passed. In period 2 - when the drive to come to class dwindled again - that dropped to 50 per cent. I try to make that clear in my lectures, but apparently that is not enough. So for seminars, I do tend to favour making attendance compulsory.'

Yann: 'Of course I can teach my courses online, but there isn't the same depth. I also notice that in online lessons, students ask a question, I answer and they go offline again. When you are together in a room, you can go into greater depth. Perhaps students see it differently. They find working online more efficient. So yes, it is the carrot or the stick. We now try to motivate students with a bonus: half of the bonus is for the quality of the work, the other half is attendance. If students really cannot come to class, fine, but then no full bonus. This is how you

‘We try to motivate students with a bonus’

Yann de Mey, associate professor of Business Economics

Take them in tow at first, and from period 3 they can make up their own minds'

Tjerk Sminia, lecturer in Organic Chemistry

steer them in the right direction without saying "you've got to be there".

Tjerk: 'Is that really necessary, a bonus? Free coffee and muffins, offered by the university... Attendance remains low at the moment, so it seems we are not making it clear enough to them why they are at university and what possibilities it offers. First-years especially have to be taken by the hand and one way of doing that is to make attendance compulsory. Later on, they can decide for themselves whether or not they want to attend.'

Yann: 'Things are in transition. It may pick up again after the summer holidays. But there is now a cohort that has gone through the first and second years of their Bachelor's degree almost entirely online. It's the only system they know. Here's an example. My wife also works at WUR and had supervised a student during his Master's thesis. It was possible to hold their last meeting in-person. My wife was pleased about that, but the student said: "Then I'd have to travel and it would cost money", not realizing that a live presentation would get him a better grade. She really had to persuade him, after he had already done his entire MSc online. Everyone has to adapt again, that's the crux of the matter. Perhaps, indeed, we should make things clearer

to them, which we could do through the student societies. Like: this is how it works.'

Resource: 'What if the lecture theatres remain empty? Will you both still be against making attendance compulsory?'

Yann: 'For lectures, I would certainly never do it. You could also increase the pressure by taking away the option of recording lectures. Let students read the book if they want depth. I will never make it compulsory.'

Tjerk: 'I agree with Yann. The practical sessions need to be compulsory, for the sake of my own motivation too actually. And we have also stopped making lectures available live online: we still put recordings online, but only three weeks later. And we should be more insistent about it. As Yann says, this can be done through student societies. We must explain how important it is to attend classes. Basing our case on arguments and good sense.'

Yann: 'I don't have much faith in that. I want to understand why they don't



come. I believe the reasons are diverse. I think students are unaware of the problem. They say, "It's allowed, isn't it?" I want to understand why they don't come, and whether they understand the impact it has on their learning process.'

Resource: 'And do you see a case for an 80 per cent attendance rule, for example?'

Yann: "No again. But if I notice that attendance stays low and students stubbornly stay at home at their screens, then I will make my classes even more interactive and ask everyone to read through the material beforehand. Then you can discuss everything in-person in the lecture hall. You can ask questions, walk around the room, and see from their faces whether they understand. You've got to create interaction in the lecture hall, to encourage students to attend.'

Tjerk: 'And here again: take them in tow at first, and then from period 3 they can make up their own minds.' ■

What do you think? Comment on this article at www.resource-online.nl.

Course evaluations are not always encouraging

‘It’s pure bullshit that we had to learn this’

Course evaluations: once created to improve education, a small number of students seem to use them mainly to let off steam with hurtful remarks. ‘I wonder if they realize how much impact that has on lecturers.’



Text Luuk Zegers

It’s pure bullshit that we have to learn this; ‘that teacher is a worthless character; ‘I don’t want to be mean, but she’s not a very good teacher.

Everything around her was chaotic and badly prepared and all the practicals she gave went wrong’.

These are just a few of the comments in course evaluations that are difficult for lecturers to use to improve their teaching, but which do have an impact. Jan Kammenga, personal professor of Nematology, drew attention to this phenomenon in the [no]WURries feature. ‘It’s a question of a small group of students who do not observe normal standards of decency in the anonymous course evaluations. Maybe they think their comments disappear into the cloud and nothing is done with them. But that’s not the case. They really do go to the lecturer, who then reads at the

end of the day that the course they teach is “bullshit” or that they are a “worthless character”.’

Mental pressure

Organic Chemistry lecturer Tjerk Sminia recognizes the picture sketched by Kammenga. ‘There is nothing wrong with criticism in itself, but if you or your colleagues are slandered, it affects you enormously. Most students respond in a civilized way, but every time a course is evaluated there is some unpleasantness.’ A case in point was a recent evaluation about Organic Chemistry 1, in which someone wrote a whole A4 about why that course was ‘total bullshit’. Sminia: ‘According to this first-year student, the content of the course was bad, the lecturers were bad, in fact everything was bad. There was nothing in it that we

could use to improve the course. And this is one of the highest rated major courses taught here. Maybe it has something to do with the distance that grew up between teachers and students while we were teaching online.’ Dean of Education Arnold Bregt has also heard about the increasing number of

‘Maybe it has to do with the distance between teachers and students after we started teaching online’



'Every time a course is evaluated there is some unpleasantness' • Illustration Valerie Geleen

discourteous responses in course evaluations. 'If you have worked very hard to get things done, especially in the Covid period, and you get severe criticism that you can't defend yourself against, it is a tough blow to take.' Often it is only a small number of students who let off steam in a rude way, says Bregt. 'But research into feedback shows that negative comments have five to ten times more impact than positive comments. This is not Twitter, and maybe we should remind students of that. Keep the criticism constructive. Then we can do something with it.'

Harmful to careers

The course evaluations are intended to improve courses, but they are also used to assess the performance of lecturers

on the tenure track and those working towards the Basic Teaching Qualification (BKO). Sminia: 'And if you are new, don't have a permanent contract yet, and you know that the course evaluations go to programme directors, programme committees and so on, then in addition to coping with these comments you also have to worry about the possible consequences for your reputation and your career.' Kammenga sees this as problematic too. 'This makes for far too much mental pressure on young lecturers.' Associate Professor of Animal Ethics Bernice Bovenkerk was a member of several working groups on course evaluations. She thinks they have become too important over the years. Bovenkerk: 'It is good for a chair holder to know that

a certain course is not scoring very well and how it can be improved on, but it's no more than that.' She doesn't think the evaluations should be used to assess the performance of lecturers. After all, they tell us little or nothing about the lecturers' capacities, Bovenkerk says. 'And yet they are used in Wageningen to make decisions about promotions. The student evaluation working group brought this up a few years ago, and advised against it, particularly in



Course evaluations in brief

- At the end of each course, students are asked to fill in a course evaluation. They receive an invitation in their WUR email and answer questions in PACE, a tool for educational evaluations. Participation is anonymous, so students feel safe to express their criticism.
- The course evaluations contain a number of closed questions. In these, students can indicate how a course scores in different areas on a scale of 1 to 5. There are also a number of open questions.
- PACE summarizes the results, showing the average grades and the answers to open questions. These results are then sent to the lecturers, programme committees, programme directors and others involved in the course.
- The course evaluations are intended to improve the course, but they are also used to assess the performance of lecturers. There is criticism of this, partly because it is easier to achieve higher scores for, say, a small MSc course with a nice excursion than a compulsory BSc course with hundreds of students.

the context of tenure track. Last year we wrote a letter about it as members of Wageningen Young Academy. But it still happens.'

Research by Troy Heffernan (*Abusive comments in student evaluations of courses and teaching: the attacks women and marginalised academics endure*) shows that course evaluations cause added stress and increase the risk of burnout, especially among people who do not yet have a permanent contract. Bovenkerk: 'It is bad for teachers' self-confidence. I've had colleagues crying on the phone because they got a couple of bad evaluations. One colleague reported that she felt increasingly insecure in front of the class. Then you end up in a vicious circle. It's a high price to pay for an instrument that isn't of much use anyway.'

Biased

Heffernan's research also shows that a disproportionate number of women and minorities are the victims of these anonymous comments. Bovenkerk: 'With

'Keep the criticism constructive, then we can do something with it'

women, for example, there are far more references to their appearance, and women get called "the teacher" and men "the professor". We use a far too biased method of determining whether someone will or will not receive a promotion. It is discriminatory. It might be better to give study associations a role. They can discuss a course with students and discuss the findings with the lecturer later. We tried that once and it worked very well.'

Evaluating less frequently can also help, suggests Bovenkerk. 'If courses receive poor evaluations or are new, you can scrutinize them more often, but with courses that score well year in year out, you really don't need to do it every time.' That may also improve the way students respond, Bovenkerk thinks. 'Students are asked to give their opinion after every period; perhaps they are a little tired of evaluations and that can influence how they answer. Research also shows that

students give higher scores when the sun shines than when it rains. It is context-dependent.'

New system

Would it help to include clear instructions with the course evaluations? Bovenkerk: 'There is already some text about what they are for, but I doubt whether students read it. When I teach, people often ask questions to which the answer is in the study guide. It would make more sense to teach students about how to give feedback.'

Bregt too is critical of the use of course evaluations to assess lecturers. 'We are working with the Recognition and Rewards working group on a new system in which lecturers can choose how they show they are qualified. They can use the course evaluations for this, but they don't have to: it can be done by having conversations with students who indicate whether they have learned something, or by other forms of evaluation.' Bregt hopes that the new teacher evaluation system will be launched in early 2023.

As far as Kammenga is concerned, one thing at least must happen with the course evaluations. 'We have to start a conversation about them. Because it has got to change, that much is clear. The question is, how.' ■





UNIQUE houses

There are student houses and there are weird and wonderful student houses. In this column we visit the latter. This time, a caravan in the Ppauw community.

'I have been living in Ppauw for almost two years now with my converted caravan. There are eight of us living here and we try to live as sustainably as possible. Everything you see here, we thought up ourselves and made or built out of second-hand or discarded materials. And everything is mobile. If we need to leave at any point, we can just move to another place.

'We are off grid, which means that we are not connected to the electricity network, the sewage system or the water supply. That calls for some creativity. We generate electricity with solar panels; **if you want to take a shower, you first have to heat a pan of water**; we purify our own waste water and we compost our poop. Living here means that you spend

quite a bit of time getting basic things done and organized. But I get a lot of satisfaction out of that.

'When you only have a little bit of electricity, you don't use it for a thousand and one devices. I don't blow-dry my hair anymore and I never vacuum. I can keep my house perfectly clean just by sweeping it. And it is small, of course. The only thing I really miss is a washing machine. We don't have enough water or electricity for that. So I take my laundry to friends' houses.

'Because we mainly live out of doors, you get to experience nature and the seasons a lot more. The winter was cold and damp. Everyone went to bed early and everything was low-key. It felt a bit like hibernation. But that had its charms as well. In the common room, there is a big stove that made it cosy. We often sat there together by the fire, playing games and so on.



A static caravan in ecovillage Ppauw

Occupant :

Yanina Willet

Unique because :

it is off grid in the woods

'The best thing about living here is that you have to do everything together, much more than in a student house. That can be challenging at times, but it's instructive and nice as well. And I like that we are in the woods, in nature. When I go out at night to pee and I see the moon, it just makes me very happy. It's well worth living in less luxury to have that.' ☺

If you too want your UNIQUE house in *Resource*, send an email to resource@wur.nl



Yanina Willet in her caravan • Photo Guy Ackermans

A chair group looks back

75 years of Rural Sociology

Rural Sociology celebrates its 75th anniversary this month. With a book, blogs and much more, the chair group honours its rich history, which goes back to just after World War II. *Resource* looked into that long tradition of research on the dynamics of agriculture, the food supply and regional rural development: from post-war reconstruction to nitrogen protests. Text Marieke Enter • Photos Rural Sociology archive/Resource

The starting point - Hofstee

The hardships of the Hunger Winter had not yet been forgotten when, on 9 May 1946, a new professor was appointed in Wageningen: Evert Willem (E.W.) Hofstee, a practitioner of the discipline he himself described as 'sociography'. His appointment followed a recommendation to the post-war Board of Restoration of the Agricultural College that '(...) knowledge of the structure of countries and peoples who compete with our agricultural, horticultural and forestry products is necessary, as is knowledge of the structure of rural communities in our own country and in the East Indies'. The wording says a lot about the spirit of the times, just after the war.

1946

Hofstee then & later

The founder of the chair group, Hofstee, received his doctorate in Groningen in 1937 with a 'sociography' of the Oldambt district of Groningen province, infamous for the big social differences between gentlemen farmers and farm labourers. More than 50 years later, the chair group picked up this theme again when the Wageningen professor of Agricultural History Pim Kooij described the still distinctive region in his introduction to the book *Het Oldambt, deel 2: nieuwe visies op geschiedenis en actuele problemen* (Oldambt, Vol. 2: new perspectives on history and current problems) (1991).



1953



Puzzle pieces

Thanks to geo-information systems (GIS) it is a piece of cake these days to develop mapping material that reveals socio-demographic developments, but in the 1950s it was a time-consuming and expensive business. Hofstee found a solution for that. Together with a toy manufacturer, he developed the 'Kartofoot' between 1953 and 1957. This was a kind of giant jigsaw puzzle of all the municipalities in the Netherlands, with a puzzle piece in ten different colours for every municipality so as to be able to indicate different variables. Did you need an overview of municipalities with a shrinking population or a birth surplus? Or an overview of where farms with more than x many employees were located? An assistant found the right pieces, took a photo - and there was your map.

Kartofoot then & now

The Kartofoot, which was later adopted by Statistics Netherlands, remained an important tool for geo-demographic analysis until the computer took over that role in the 1980s. The Kartofoot used by Hofstee can still be found in the Leeuwenborch; the maps he made with it are part of Wageningen University's special collection.



Farmers' protests

During a national farmers' protest day in July 2021, nearly 100 tractors drove onto the Wageningen campus as an act of resistance to the government's proposed measures for dealing with the nitrogen crisis - and WUR's role in that. The demonstration fitted into a long tradition of farmers' protests, for which the seed was sown 50 years earlier by the Boerengroep (farmers' group). And one of the founders of this group was emeritus professor of Rural Sociology Jan Douwe van der Ploeg.

Protest then & now

At this moment in history, it is threatening nitrogen measures that prompt farmers' protests. In earlier times, they were about large-scale land consolidation (in the 1970s), the milk quota (in the 1980s), the Fertilizer Act (in the 1990s) and the abruptly introduced phosphate rights (also in the 1990s). Rural Sociology has published several studies of farmers' protests over the years, one of the best-known being *Manure and Power* (1994).

In the PhD e-zine you can find out more about the history and research areas of the chair group.



2021

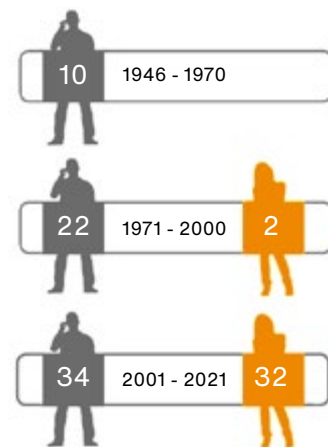
PhD students

With his dissertation on the village of Opheusden as a centre for tree cultivation, Jan Doorenbos was the first PhD student in the chair group in 1950. The first female doctor graduated in 1978: Marijke de Kleijn-de Vrankrijker. The 100th doctor was also a woman: Lucie Sovová graduated in 2020 with the thesis *Grow, share or buy? Understanding the diverse economies of urban gardeners*.



M/F ratio then & later

In the 75 years that Rural Sociology has existed, twice as many men as women have obtained a PhD. But that balance has changed dramatically over time: from a ratio of 32 men to 2 women in the first 55 years of existence to one of 34 men to 32 women over the past 20 years.



1971

1978

kollektief ritueel aan de landbouwhogeschool

De tekst van een artikel uit de landbouwhogeschool van Wageningen over de academische gewaad. Het artikel bespreekt de geschiedenis van de gewaad en de discussie over het behoud of afwijzen van dit ritueel. Het artikel is getiteld 'kollektief ritueel aan de landbouwhogeschool' en is geschreven door G. J. Munters.



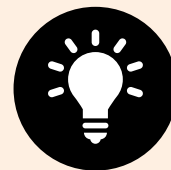
Gowns under fire

As the university was democratized in the 1960s and 1970s, its symbols and rituals came under fire. In Wageningen in 1971, sociologists Gerrit Kooij, a professor himself, and Rien Munters launched a debate on whether it was time to abandon the academic gown. They believed that Wageningen should distance itself from this costume, which they saw as a symbol of the old authoritarian order and at odds with the new relationships at the university. Kooij also felt that the gown was an obstacle to group cohesion.

The gown then & now

The gown debate also featured in *De Belhamel*, the predecessor of *Resource*. 'We do not understand why the faculty hesitates to adopt Kooij's considerations,' wrote Munters in that issue. 'Kooij is enough of a sociologist to recognize the functions of the ritual collective'. Despite the protests of the time, the academic gown is still very much a part of academic traditions today.

Open Science :



Five tips on how to do it (well)

Research and education are becoming increasingly open: findable, transparent and reusable. This makes knowledge accessible for everyone. Sounds nice, but how do you do it (well)? Five tips from Hubert Krekels (WUR Library) and Anna Besse-Lototskaya, programme leader of WUR Open Science & Education. Text Marieke Enter and Coretta Jongeling • Illustration Shutterstock

1

Publish in reliable open access journals

In response to more and more open-access publications, new journals have emerged. These include 'predatory journals', which present themselves as reputable but are not. How do you know who you can trust? Hubert Krekels of WUR Library: 'First check the Journal Browser, a database where you can find out what the reputation of a journal is and which agreements WUR has with it. You can also see which WUR-colleagues have already published there. If in doubt, you can always ask them how they experienced the communication with the journal. Was the review process rather too easy-going? Open access publishing is like online shopping: if it seems too good to be true, it usually is.'

2

Make a data management plan and stick to it

Also known as the 'six o'clock on Friday evening problem', according to Krekels. 'You slave away at your research all week, with the weekend in sight you quickly save your data, and on Monday you can't remember how you did that.' If you start a PhD, it is now compulsory to make a data management plan. In it, you specify how you store your data, how it is collected, what metadata you need to include and what happens to it after your research. Difficult? PhD students and postdocs can take a training course via the WUR Library Service Desk.

3

Beware of pickpockets

Nothing is safe, and certainly not online. Krekels: 'It is easy to steal an article, or an entire dissertation, in the digital world. Prevention is difficult, but with plagiarism checkers you can trace the theft afterwards. Make clear what the copyright is on your online publications and data. That way everyone knows how they are allowed to use your articles and data. The Creative Commons (CC BY) licence means that credit must be given to the creator. You also have options for limiting changes to the content, follow-up licences and/or commercial use.'



‘IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT USUALLY IS’

4

Look further

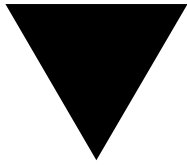
There is more to Open Science than just open access. Anna Besse-Lototskaya, the WUR Open Science & Education programme leader: ‘It also means entering into dialogue with the public and with stakeholders – it is outreach.’ In other words: talk about your research in the media, set up a citizen science project in which the public helps with research, organize a dialogue in Omnia, or make lectures available online (for example via Library4Learning, WUR’s platform for teachers to find and share educational materials). The disadvantage: that kind of work is not yet fully included in the assessment system for scientists. ‘Suppose you create a MOOC. Great for your reach as a scientist, but it takes an awful lot of time, and our Recognition and Rewards system doesn’t reward people for that yet. We are working on this, but it is a lengthy process. And it has to be harmonized internationally.’

5

Ask for help

Is your head spinning by now? No problem. Besse-Lototskaya: ‘Nowadays almost every research group has a data steward. This is a researcher or research assistant who has had a little bit more training in data management and knows what is going on in your field. You can always go to them with questions.’ WUR Library also has a wealth of information about Open Science, and options for calling a helpline. For questions about outreach, go to the WUR Dialogue Navigator Tool on wur.nl. ■

Read more about the Open Science Community Wageningen on page 5.



Key people: Joppe Boon

Everyone is indispensable on campus, but not everyone is in the spotlight every day or takes much of the credit for the hard (team) work that goes on. *Resource* puts these colleagues in the limelight in the Key People series. This time, meet Joppe Boon (36), a bus driver on Syntus line C3, between Ede and Wageningen.

Text Milou van der Horst • Photo Guy Ackermans

'I didn't decide I wanted to become a bus driver myself. The municipality of Wageningen suggested it, after I had been applying for jobs like crazy for two years. It wasn't a good time. I wanted to work but couldn't get a job anywhere. I'm sure it's because I'm hard of hearing - people think I can't communicate.

Before this, I was an administrator and did the bookkeeping for several companies, until I was made redundant. I will never go back to a financial department, because being a bus driver is super, it really is! I enjoy everything about it, especially the contact with passengers: chatting when they come and sit diagonally behind me, being with people. My

'Being a bus driver is really great! I like everything about it'

hearing is not a problem, because I can see when people want to get off from the lights. It's nice that no two days are the same, because of the people, the changing traffic situation, and the irregular shifts. "There was a fight once on my bus, which was nerve-racking.. They really came to blows. I didn't know what to do, because I didn't want to get involved and I'm not allowed to touch passengers. "Keep calm," I said to myself. I pulled the bus over and called the police via the switchboard. Fortunately, they came quickly and took the fighters off the bus. Keeping calm and not interfering was my strategy when face masks were compulsory too. Otherwise you only provoke aggression. And we don't have an obligation to enforce the law, but we do have an obligation to transport people. If someone boarded without a face mask,

I reported it digitally so that someone from Services & Safety could come and check. Fortunately, in the seven years that I have been a bus driver, people have never been aggressive with me. That's because of my personality: I'm always friendly and cheerful and I act normal. During the Covid pandemic, I sometimes drove an empty bus for the entire shift and that was boring. A bus full of people, like on King's Day for example, is much more fun. But I was mainly glad that I didn't have to sit at home during the lockdowns. On the Wageningen Student Plaza Facebook page, I post information about changes to timetables, because the communication from Syntus could be better, especially for international students. Student Plaza is also handy when I find a public transport pass, so the person who lost it can pick it up from me.'





Campus ♦ residents

AgriSim

The dashboard for your fields, your crop consultant and your accountant all in one. This, roughly, is what AgriSim is about, with the whole world as its playing field and at the same time a hyperlocal scope: 10 x 10 metres, the scale of the Sentinel satellites. It is a tool that distils practical crop farming advice from big data such as satellite images, geo-information systems and the farmer's own data, thus helping arable farmers to optimize their yields.

The driving force behind AgriSim is Ronald de Bruijn, originally an econometrician and therefore someone who is completely at home with figures, statistics and risk calculations. He first came into contact with big data for agriculture more than 10 years ago, as a sideline to the Turkish e-commerce business he was working for at the time. 'I suddenly had 10 years' worth of Turkish agricultural data in my hands,' he says.

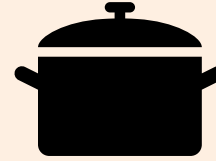
It is a tool that distils practical farming advice from big data

The systematic data mining of this data ran aground due to the political changes in Turkey. But the seed for AgriSim had been sown.

De Bruijn has now been working on campus for about five years - more because of Wageningen as a place to live than because of WUR, which in his view is 'not very innovative, to be honest'. At Plus Ultra II, he helps young entrepreneurs at StartHub to get launched. He also continues to develop AgriSim, for example with a new function that sounds the alarm if a potato field is threatened by diseases such as *phytophthora* or *Erwinia*. It makes preventive use of crop protection unnecessary, and therefore cuts back on expenditure and toxins. And De Bruijn never gets tired of innovations like these. ME

There are about 100 companies on the campus. We introduce them to you in *Resource*. This time: AgriSim in Plus Ultra II

The WUR community is home to all the flavours of the world. Laura Bergshoef (26), a Master's student of Climate Studies and Geo-information Science, shares an easy veggie dish.



Flavours of WUR

Vegetarian Röstli

'It's been nearly 10 years since I first started living on my own. I moved to London in the same year that it became bizarrely expensive to buy pounds with euros and house prices soared. Out of necessity I learned to cook simple dishes with few ingredients. Now, 10 years later, that's still in my system. You can keep the rösti dish below as simple as you like. It is quick to prepare and very tasty. The recipe comes from my favourite cookery book *Het vegetarische kookboek- snel en simpel koken met 3 - 6 ingrediënten* (Vegetarian cooking with 3 - 6 ingredients). The potato and carrot rösti in the photo are from this book. You can vary the other vegetables.'

Ingredients (for 1 person) :

- 1 large potato
- 4 carrots
- 1 head of broccoli
- 1 bell pepper
- Olive oil
- Pepper and salt



Laura Bergshoef

a Master's student of Climate Studies and Geo-information Science

- 1 Boil the broccoli in a pan for 3 minutes while pre-heating the oven to 185°C. Then put the broccoli in the oven for 10 minutes.
- 2 Peel and grate the potato and three large carrots. Wring out the mixture in a tea towel and add pepper and salt to taste. Shape it into patties.
- 3 Fry the potato patties in olive oil on a medium heat: 5 minutes on each side.
- 4 Cut the bell pepper and the remaining carrot.
- 5 Place the rösti, broccoli, pepper and carrot pieces on a plate.
- 6 Enjoy your meal!

10-euro lunch voucher

Share your recipe with *Resource* and get an **Aurora voucher worth 10 euros**. resource@wur.nl

Irregular Opening Hours – May/June 2022

Forum

		Building	Library	Student Service Centre	ServicePoint IT	Restaurant	Grand Café	Wageningen in'to Languages
Ascencion Day	26 May	10 am - 6 pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Friday	27 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	closed	8 am - 5:30 pm	closed	closed	10 am - 2 pm
Saturday	28 May	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Sunday	29 May	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Monday	30 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5:30 pm	9 am - 3 pm	8 am - 5 pm	10 am - 2 pm
Tuesday	31 May	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5:30 pm	9 am - 3 pm	8 am - 5 pm	10 am - 2 pm
Wednesday	1 June	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5:30 pm	9 am - 3 pm	8 am - 5 pm	10 am - 2 pm
Thursday	2 June	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 5 pm	8 am - 5:30 pm	9 am - 3 pm	8 am - 5 pm	10 am - 2 pm
Friday	3 June	8 am - 11 pm	8 am - 10 pm	10 am - 2:30 pm	8 am - 5:30 pm	9 am - 2 pm	8 am - 5 pm	10 am - 2 pm
Saturday	4 June	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Sunday	5 June	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Monday	6 June	10 am - 6 pm	10 am - 6 pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed

After working hours, entrance is only possible with a WUR card.

Orion

		Building	Bike basement	The Spot	Restaurant
Ascencion Day	26 May	closed	closed	closed	closed
Friday	27 May	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Saturday	28 May	closed	closed	closed	closed
Sunday	29 May	closed	closed	closed	closed
Monday	30 May	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Tuesday	31 May	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Wednesday	1 June	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Thursday	2 June	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Friday	3 June	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 9 pm	8 am - 8 pm (at least)	11:30 am - 2 pm
Saturday	4 June	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Sunday	5 June	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Monday	6 June	closed	closed	closed	closed

Orion is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Aurora

		Building	Bike basement	Your Barista	Blend	Plant	World Flavours
Ascencion Day	26 May	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Friday	27 May	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	closed	closed
Saturday	28 May	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Sunday	29 May	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Monday	30 May	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	closed	12 pm - 2 pm
Tuesday	31 May	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm
Wednesday	1 June	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm
Thursday	2 June	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 7 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm	12 pm - 2 pm
Friday	3 June	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 6 pm	8 am - 5 pm	11 am - 2 pm	closed	closed
Saturday	4 June	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Sunday	5 June	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Whit Monday	6 June	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed

Aurora is closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Leeuwenborch

		Building	Library	Coffee Bar / Restaurant
Ascencion Day	26 May	closed	closed	closed
Friday	27 May	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Saturday	28 May	10 am - 5 pm	closed	closed
Sunday	29 May	closed	closed	closed
Monday	30 May	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Tuesday	31 May	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Wednesday	1 June	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Thursday	2 June	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Friday	3 June	7 am - 10 pm	8:30 am - 6 pm	8 am - 3 pm
Saturday	4 June	10 am - 5 pm	closed	closed
Whit Sunday	5 June	closed	closed	closed
Whit Monday	6 June	closed	closed	closed

Leeuwenborch is closed on Sunday. 30 Minutes before closing time you will be requested to leave the building. After 6 pm entrance is only possible after registration at the reception desk.

**Science Cafe
Wageningen**

AI From data to knowledge

Wednesday, May 18th
Café Loburg
19h45 Live music by
Downtown Grooves
20h15 Science

Speakers
Dr. Anna Fensel (WUR)
Dr. Aneesh Chauhan (WUR)

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IN MEMORIAM

JAN OSSE

The common thread running through Jan Osse's academic life was woven from wonderment, enthusiasm, vision and inspiration. Jan studied biology (1961, Leiden). His dissertation was about the functional morphology of the perch. After a sabbatical in the US, Jan became Professor of General Zoology in Wageningen in 1972. He played a leading role in the development of biology education and put fish biology on the map in Wageningen. Jan stimulated the use of physics to explain mechanisms at work in biology. Jan was an exceptionally inspiring teacher. His lectures were

broad in scope and he certainly didn't stick to the standard curriculum. He was an honorary member of the biologists' association Biologica. Jan tackled a range of administrative posts with verve. He was a knight in the Order of the Dutch Lion and a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). We are very grateful to Jan for his enormous commitment to our university and department. We have lost in him a valued colleague and a dear friend.

*Johan van Leeuwen and
Nand Sibbing (EZO), and
Huub Savelkoul (CBI)*

Colophon

Resource is the independent medium for students and staff at Wageningen University & Research. *Resource* reports and interprets the news and gives the context. New articles are posted daily on resource-online.nl. The magazine is published every fortnight on Thursday.

Contact Questions and comments for the editors:
resource@wur.nl | www.resource-online.nl

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Joining in
'Our chair group is a close-knit club and we regularly organize activities or drinks after work. A new colleague started a couple of months ago. He is very shy and reserved, and doesn't join us during coffee breaks or activities. How can my co-workers and I put him at ease and get him more involved in the group?'

A., staff member
at Plant Sciences



Keep trying

'Because of my maternity leave, the Covid crisis and my busy schedule, I might seem like "an outsider" in my group as well. Your colleague may have similar reasons. Maybe he appears reserved just because you are such a close-knit group, perhaps with inside jokes and fixed coffee times. Do not assume he will join without an invitation. Keep inviting him or simply ask him to come for a walk and grab lunch together. The more you ask, the more welcome and comfortable he'll feel. If after a while he still won't join, ask him if things are fine in his life in general and accept that he simply needs more time to unwind.'

Eirini Pegiou, PhD student of Plant Physiology

Step by step

'It is unfortunate when a new employee does not actively engage in occasions like coffee breaks and other activities. Given that it has been a few months since he started working in your group, I assume you gave him the chance to get familiar with his new working environment. Don't ask your colleague to join every single activity; it might overwhelm him. Rather, first invite him for a low-key coffee break and gradually build up from there. And keep in mind that he simply might not enjoy such activities.'

Donné Mathijssen, PhD student in Fish Migration

Buddy

'It might be an idea to pair up your colleague with a buddy within the chair group. One-to-one contact may feel less overwhelming for him. The buddy may also be able to persuade your colleague to join an activity by inviting him personally. In any case, show that your colleague is welcome; people who are shy usually do want to connect with the rest of the group, but they have to overcome a barrier to do so.'

Fenna van der Poel, teaching and research assistant at Animal Breeding and Genomics

Get to know him

'The first and most important step is to get to know your new colleague, just at the office. Find out what his interests are. Maybe he doesn't go to drinks parties because he doesn't drink, or doesn't participate in sports activities because he's not sporty. Or ask him to organize an activity with you that he likes very much. He can then show you all something without having to step out of his comfort zone, and at the same time you can get to know him better.'

M., PhD student of Agrotechnology and Food Sciences

Shift the focus

'Organize a relaxed activity that is not all about socializing. It could be a film evening or a work-related outing, rather than a drinks party. At a film evening, you hardly need to talk, and a work-related activity feels familiar and within your comfort zone. Who knows, maybe that will help your colleague cross the threshold.'

Koen, Biology student

NEXT WURRY

Flight shame
'I am planning a holiday with my girlfriend in the summer. We want to go to a hot country with great beaches but we have a real problem with the idea of flying there. My parents offered to lend us their car but we were shocked when we worked out how much the journey would then cost us. What should we do: ignore our flight shame or go by car and spend loads of money?'

Bram, Master's student

Do you have advice or tips for this WURrier? Or could you use some good advice yourself? Email your tips or your question (100 words max) by 25 May to resource@wur.nl subject noWURries.