

PhD ceremony

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RESOURCE **[EN]**

For everyone at Wageningen University & Research

no 14 – 26 March 2020 – 14th Volume

Home-working WUR

Nine colleagues on
what it is like | **p.12**

**INTERNATIONAL
EDITION**

**LIMITED
EDITION**

CHOCCHIP




WUR staff + Ophardt dispenser

WUR staff work with all kinds of equipment. This time the Tools of the Trade series looks at a special newcomer that nobody escapes using.



THE COOLNESS OF ALCOHOL

Suddenly, it stands in waiting for visitors to every building on the campus. Please disinfect your hands, with hand alcohol produced in nearby Veenendaal. Greenhouse workers are used to washing their hands a lot. But now, with the coronavirus lurking around every corner, it's getting to be a habit with all of us. Quite a nice feeling, actually, the coolness of evaporating alcohol.  RK, photo Sven Menschel

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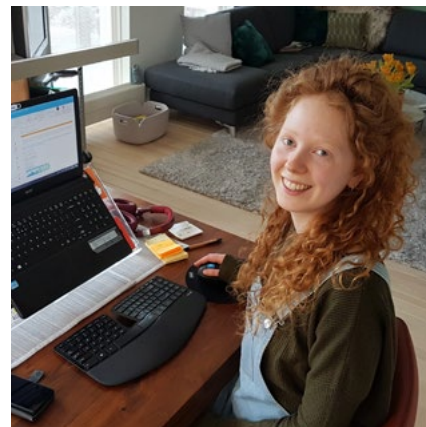
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LIMITED EDITION

It's extraordinary how much has happened in the last weeks. There are no more classes on campus, the first PhD ceremony via Skype has taken place, and most WUR employees are working at home. Several of them talk about how that's going on page 12 of this edition. Then there was the Bachelor's Open Day, which was entirely digital for the first time, lecturers are teaching online (optionally dressed as a banana, see page 5, and page 24: Operation all online). And 'digital coffee machines' have sprung up online, where colleagues can hang out for a chat. I repeat: all this has happened in the space of 10 days! In this *Resource* we report on this new – temporary – reality. With a limited print run, incidentally: now the campus is practically deserted, we've decided not to print the usual number of copies and to primarily distribute the magazine digitally. So you won't find *Resource* in the usual trays around the campus.

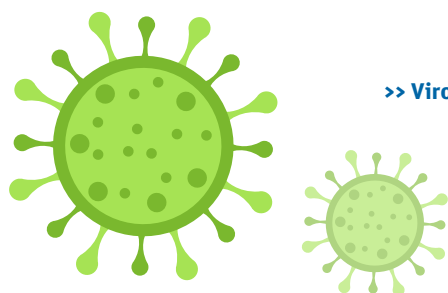
For more news and analysis, follow us on social media too – such as [facebook.com/WUR.Resource/](https://www.facebook.com/WUR.Resource/) and [Instagram@resource_wur](https://www.instagram.com/resource_wur). And check our website regularly: resource.wur.nl. For now: stay safe and good luck, everyone!

Willem Andrée, editor-in-chief

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A COUNCIL: WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

In a series of four articles, *Resource* talks to members of WUR's various participatory bodies. People have until 22 April to come forward as candidates. The elections will run from 2 to 6 June 2020.

Part 3: Anouschka Hof, tenure tracker and member of the Joint Works Council (OR). 'I can do something for staff.'

'I've been on Tenure Track at the Wildlife Ecology and Conservation chair group since July 2017. I joined the OR at Wageningen Environmental Research (ESG) as an external member in January 2018. I've been a full council member since the beginning of 2019, as a vacancy arose due to sickness. Combining Tenure Track with the OR is doable as long as I don't take on a big role, such as chairing a committee. So I'm on the council and I'm on the Personnel



committee, that's all. The committee meets once a fortnight and the whole OR once a month. In between there are regular meetings with the directors of ESG and Human Resources. I think I spend an average of two to three hours a week on meetings, reading, gathering information and writing memos and newsletters. The plusses of being on the OR for me are getting a better idea of the organization and being able to do something for staff. I can look into their workplace and work station situations, for instance. As a member of the OR, you get access to more in-depth information; you get to know other people at WUR and you often know more about what's going in. What is more, I can now let other OR members and the directors know what problems we encounter with Tenure Track. I do feel that we are listened to, but unfortunately, action is not always taken. My term on the OR ends this summer, and then I'm stopping. I have just had a baby and combining Tenure Track, parental leave and OR work would be too much, in my view.' **AS**

AN ONLINE FIRST FOR PHD COUPLE

WUR has now had its first entirely online PhD ceremonies. Jarst van Belle and Pauline van Haperen took the plunge on 24 March. Interestingly, they were also each other's 'paranymph' (assistant).

The two — who did their PhDs in the Laboratory of Plant Breeding, where they met four years ago — considered postponing the ceremony but decided to go ahead. They had planned to defend their PhDs on the same day anyway. 'That was easier for family and friends; then everyone could come at the same time,' says Van Haperen. 'But we can forget that now.' They defended their theses via Skype. 'The protocol is the same,' says Dean of Sciences Wouter Hendriks. Even the beadle is online. Of course it was not possible for the documents to be signed in the usual way; that will be done later. The defence was recorded and will be available afterwards to the general public. A live stream of the event was not technically possible.

OWN AUDIENCE

The two were each other's assistants for logistical reasons. 'We initially had four other assistants but we didn't want to take any additional risks. It is a real shame our original assistants couldn't be there.' The two plan to celebrate in style later. Van Belle: 'We will schedule that for a Friday rather than a Tuesday.' They will give a lay presentation on that day for their family and friends. That wasn't possible now because there was no audience. Van Haperen: 'My sister lives with us so we had one woman and each other as the audience.' **TL and RK**



If you want to read the full interview and find out more about how an online PhD ceremony works, go to resource.wur.nl.

NO MORE CAMPUS TEACHING THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

WUR teaching will be online only in both period 5 and period 6. That means no more lessons on campus before the summer holidays.

This decision comes after WUR discussed the matter with other universities. WUR is, however, keeping its options open to some extent; measures may be adjusted depending on how the pandemic develops in the Netherlands. 'There may be room for fieldwork and practicals in the second half of period 6,' according to a letter sent to programme directors.

An exception may also be made for lab and experimental work in grad-

uation subjects. Permission will be needed from the chair-holder for this. Students who need to work in a campus building as a result must stick to WUR's coronavirus hygiene rules (see www.wur.nl). **LZ**



SEEING THE STUDENT PSYCHOLOGIST ONLINE

Now that the campus is deserted and people are being advised against face-to-face contact, the student psychologists are lending an ear online.

'There has been a lot of uncertainty about the situation in the past few weeks,' says student welfare manager Door van der Sloot. 'We can imagine it might be good to have someone to talk to about your worries or loneliness. These are difficult times for foreign students too, so far from their families.'

Normally there is a walk-in surgery every day in the Forum for such brief consultations but that has been cancelled for now due to the coronavirus measures. The idea is to have a virtual walk-in surgery instead. Van der Sloot: 'All the student psychologists are working from home at the moment, using Skype or the phone. We are doing our regular appointments remotely as well.'

CALMING

Students who feel the need for a short talk can send an email to Studentpsychologists@wur.nl. Van der Sloot: 'Put "Short consultation" in the



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

subject line. We will then try to call you back the same day.'

There has not been a huge demand for the online walk-in consultation as yet. In fact, there have been fewer requests than normal for psychological support anyway in the past week. 'I can imagine some students are not keen on talking online,' says Van der Sloot. 'I also heard from a few students that they actually find this situation calming as they have fewer commitments. That is a positive aspect to this situation. We shall have to see whether that remains the case over the next few weeks.'

The team of student psychologists is currently investigating whether the group training sessions, for example on procrastination and fear of failure, can be held online. **📧 CJ**

TEACHING IN A BANANA SUIT

Assistant professor of Rural Sociology Jessica Duncan thought of a way of getting her students actively involved in her online lecture: 'We agreed that if the students asked enough interesting questions in the first half of the lesson, I would dress as a banana for the second half.'

'When we were preparing the online lectures with the team last week, we realized that most people find it difficult to sit through long pre-recorded lectures. It wouldn't be fair on my students to just have me talking and showing PowerPoint slides.'

Duncan wants her students to be actively involved in the lecture. 'Some of the students find it nerve-racking to ask a question in class, even in a virtual classroom because everyone can see what you write. So I made the banana deal as a way of motivating the students to get actively involved. Not because I particularly enjoy dressing as a banana — well OK, it was quite fun — but to encourage the students to use the chat function.'



PHOTO: JESSICA DUNCAN

That approach worked, says Duncan. 'They were enthusiastic so I had to put on my banana suit for the second half. My approach is to try and give them good teaching and to acknowledge that students are worried at the moment. What we can do is provide a clear structure, a good education and a smile.' **📧 LZ**

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Two subjects

A column should really only address one subject, but today my daughter interrupted my online consultation, sporting her unicorn hairband and singing 'Let it go' from the film *Frozen*. In other words, everything's different in these extraordinary coronavirus times, so I'm taking the odd liberty as well. First I want to come back to the subject of pensions, having had angry emails from readers saying: 'I have a right to my pension and there is enough.' Now I don't begrudge anyone a pension, but I don't begrudge myself one either, so I'm sticking to my point that a low coverage ratio is a necessity. Postponing cutting it is stealing from the younger generation. But you'll see now that these strange coronavirus times and their impact on the stock market will be used by the senior citizens' associations as an argument for not cutting it now, in exceptional times. Sounds logical... Except that even at my relatively young age I have already witnessed the following 'exceptional circumstances': the dotcom crisis, the financial crisis of 2008, the Greek crisis, Brexit and now the coronavirus crisis. I'd like to think the next 30 years of my career will be less eventful, but I wouldn't bet on it.

Anyway, I don't really have time to think about my pension now. Because, like me, everyone I know is working flat out from a house full of unicorn daughters to teach and digitalize courses. I wish them all luck, and I'm finding it inspiring to see how hard everyone is working to keep the university going from a safe distance. As we say in Dutch: strength, everyone! **📧**

Guido Camps (36) is a vet and a postdoc at the Human Nutrition department. He enjoys baking, beekeeping and unusual animals.



OPEN DAYS GO ONLINE

Last Saturday, WUR held an online version of its usual Bachelor's Open Day because of the coronavirus measures. The open day attracted 2700 visitors, more than expected. Now the Master's Open Day will be going online too.

The Bachelor's Open Day was just over a week away when the government imposed a ban on all events for more than 1000 people. Paul Heijmering, Information & Recruitment manager: 'We immediately started thinking about an alternative. We were inspired by the great at-

‘It actually went very well’

mosphere at the International Open Day, when WUR had online contact with about 2000 students from all over the world and in different time zones; that gave us the idea for an online version. It would undoubtedly be technically

feasible but what about the content and organization? At that point there was nothing at all in terms of online content or interaction possibilities.'

SERIOUS ATTENDEES

Don't ask how, but they did it. Despite the minimal preparation time, a fully fledged Online Open Day took place on Saturday with an appealing presentation for each degree programme, and students, study advisors and programme directors answering questions via WhatsApp and Instagram Stories. 'It actually went very well,' says Heijmering. The Open Day attracted 2700 visitors, more than he had expected. The interaction exceeded expectations too. What people discussed confirmed the impression that the virtual attendees were serious about this and the Online Open Day was meeting a need.



SAMPLING ATMOSPHERE

Now it has been decided to hold the Master's Open Day, on 30 April, online too. People are thinking hard about what form it should take exactly. Fortunately they have a bit more time to prepare: six weeks instead of six days. Heijmering hopes in due course to be able to organize an event in which students can sample the atmosphere 'live' on campus. 'Of course that is one important aspect of the Open Days. Whether it is possible depends on how the coronavirus situation develops.' **MR**

IT NETWORKS COPE WITH HOME WORKING

WUR's IT systems are able to cope with the fact that everyone is working from home, concludes IT officer Floris Jan Zwaan after over a week of home working.

'Really pleased,' says IT specialist Floris Jan Zwaan looking back on the first week with everyone working at home. The systems held up with no major disasters. It was a nerve-racking period for his group. Working from home depends crucially on properly functioning connections and people who know what they should be doing. 'I reckon we have become pretty knowledgeable about IT,' he concludes with satisfaction.

The figures confirm this. After peaks of 500 phone calls on the first Monday and Tuesday, the Service Desk was back to the normal level of under 200 calls by the Friday. The figures also show we do a lot of Skyping to discuss things with one another. There were 3000 sessions on the Tuesday, and an amazing 11,641 sessions the day before. Zwaan thinks this is because people were testing out the unfamiliar system.

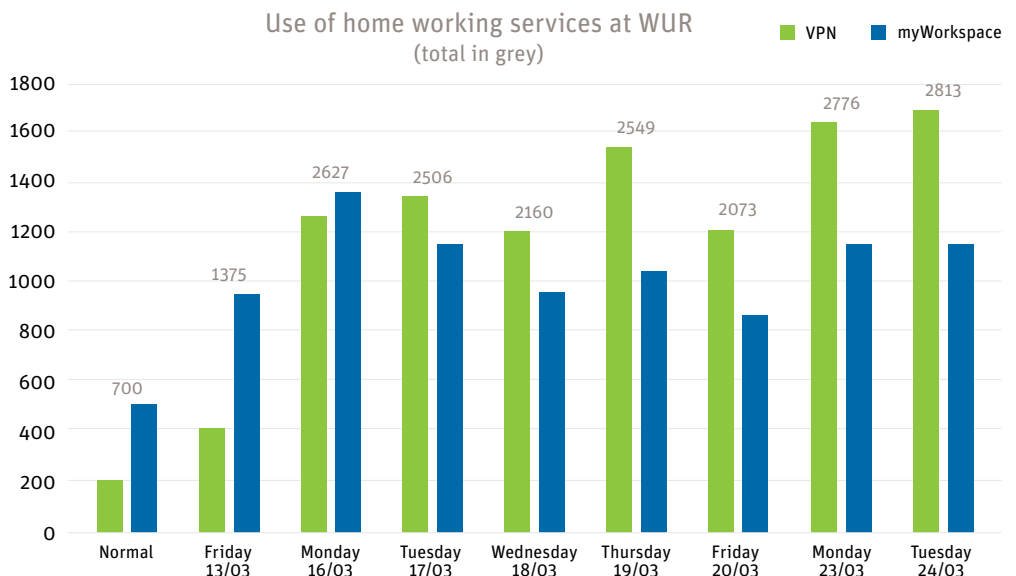
HERD ANIMALS

WUR staff are making a lot of use of myWorkspace and VPN to get access to the WUR serv-

ers. Usage levels are still increasing, as the graph shows. The pattern is familiar, with Wednesday and Friday as the quietest days. But there are still a lot of people working in the WUR buildings on campus and elsewhere — about 1000 people a day according to Zwaan. The daily pattern for when people log in is strik-

ing too, says Zwaan. 'You see a peak every day in the morning at eleven thirty and in the afternoon at two o'clock. Funny. People are herd animals, whether they work on campus or at home.' **RK**

(If you are curious about how people are working from home, see page 12 and further.)



LOUISE O. FRESCO

ON THE CORONAVIRUS AND SCENARIOS

It's all stations go for WUR's Executive Board, which is having to take new decisions and additional measures every day because of the coronavirus crisis. How does it arrive at those decisions? What is happening behind the scenes and what does the future look like? *Resource* spoke to President of the Executive Board Louise O. Fresco.

The Executive Board is currently working on the basis of three scenarios: a slowdown phase, with people working from home wherever possible, a theoretical lockdown phase and a recovery period. The Crisis Management Team (CMT), which was set up on 12 March, is working out the details under the leadership of Board member Rens Buchwaldt. The team meets several times a day and the Executive Board once a day. All online, of course. Fresco: 'At present we are mainly discussing practical matters such as how to keep our IT systems future proof and how to deal with students' internships and research projects. But we are also looking at what to do about staff holidays or employees who have just joined the organization. And what a lockdown scenario would mean for WUR. Those scenarios are being worked out further for teaching or HR, and adjusted as new information becomes available.' The CMT is coordinating everything.

THE NEW NORMAL

WUR is currently in the slowdown phase. The crisis team is working with HR on decisions that have to be taken because of the restrictive measures imposed by the government. Fresco: 'What does this mean for our construction plans, for example? Should we close more buildings, which labs should stay open and with what staffing



levels? To some extent, these are decisions for the business unit managers but we need to act together. The slowdown phase will probably last another two months, perhaps even four. What if it continues beyond the summer holidays? What should we do for staff and students who don't have a good internet connection at

'We need to find a new normal'

home? How can we support colleagues with young children or sick relatives, and what can we do for international students who become ill?'


We need to find a 'new normal', says Fresco. 'It also needs to become less stressful than the past 14 days. We want tailored solutions to keep everyone as motivat-

ed as possible as they work on teaching, research or new ideas. Times of crisis can sometimes actually be the catalyst for innovations. It is important for us to hold onto our typical Wageningen creativity and enthusiasm, even if the situation doesn't improve soon and fatigue sets in.'

STUDENTS

Students face other problems too. Some are abroad and want to come home. Others were just starting an internship that has now been cancelled. Foreign students are worried about family back home and wondering whether they should return. 'We coordinate our approach to many of the issues affecting students and PhD candidates with the other universities, with the rector taking the lead here. For example, we decided that we would do all the PhD ceremonies online. So the slowdown is bringing about some big changes.'

CREATIVITY

'Have we taken the right decisions so far? As prime minister Mark Rutte said, "You have to take 100 per cent of the decisions with 50 per cent of the information". We are constantly on the alert. You can compare the situation with standing on a ball that keeps on rolling, so you are constantly having to adjust. I see an awful lot of creativity and goodwill; I am full of admiration for everyone.' Eventually there will be a recovery phase, says Fresco. 'It is unclear when this will start. We will then need to restart our usual operations in a new reality. Because this period can have consequences for financing or the intake of new students, including those from abroad. WUR doesn't have any urgent financial issues but we very much want to achieve our ambitions.'  WA

Send your suggestions and ideas to info.corona@wur.nl

VIROLOGY IS CONTRIBUTING TO A CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

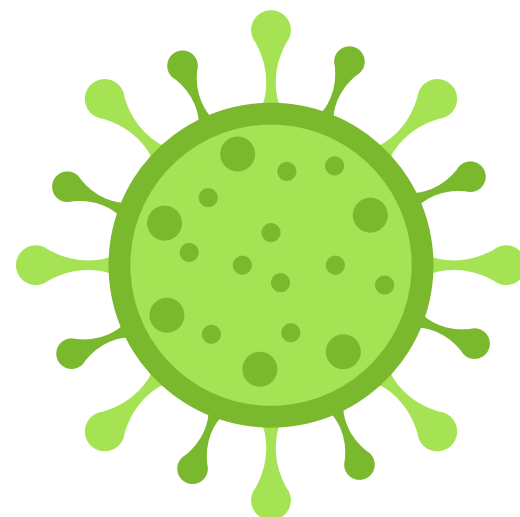
The Virology chair group in Wageningen is contributing to the development of a vaccine against the new coronavirus. The group will be making a protein that could be used in a vaccine against COVID-19. 'Other research groups, including our Danish partner, are developing other proteins,' says researcher Gorben Pijlman. 'The protein that performs best in the tests will be used in the coronavirus vaccine.'

A coronavirus has a rough surface, with proteins sticking out of it. The virus needs these spikes, as they are called, to penetrate our cells, where it makes us ill. Pijlman is going to create synthetic versions of those proteins that

will prime the body's immune system to deactivate the virus. 'If the protein is injected, the body will recognize it as foreign and manufacture antibodies and memory cells. If you then catch the coronavirus, the body can make antibodies that deactivate the virus.'

TESTS

Pijlman is now in the early stages of producing these proteins, working with a PhD student and a lab technician on cloning the fragment of DNA from the coronavirus. He hopes to have an active protein in two months. But that is not the same as having a vaccine. 'We'll have to test the protein extensively, to find out if it is effective and safe. We need to try it out thoroughly on animals before it can be licensed for use.'



The Wageningen virologists are part of a European consortium led by the Danish company Express2ion Biotechnologies. **AS**

KENYAN DAIRY COWS NEED BETTER FEED

Most dairy farmers in Kenya have a small herd, low productivity and poor access to markets. PhD candidate Salome Migose studied how yields could be increased. Good quality feed is essential to growth.

The majority of Kenya's farmers herd cattle and cultivate crops. This mixed crop-livestock system is not very productive. Development organizations have been trying for years to find ways to increase farmers' productivity so that they can supply more dairy products for the ur-

ban population. Salome Migose discovered that farmers near urban areas have plenty of sales channels for their milk and get a good price. But grassland is scarce, resulting in a shortage of feed and young cattle. As a result, the milk production per cow is low. While rural areas do have a sufficient supply of grassland and feed, milk prices are lower and the quality of the feed leaves much to be desired. This too results in lower milk yields per cow.

ALFALFA

The research showed that farmers with a large herd have a higher yield per cow (and a higher income) and that these farmers invest in better feed. But that is not the case for many Kenyan farmers. Cattle farmers could increase their production by growing alfalfa and feeding this to their cows, as well as by buying concentrated protein-rich feed from suppliers. According to Migose, the farmers located between 20 and 50 kilometres from the city are most likely to benefit from better animal feed. At this distance, there is sufficient land for growing feed while the farmers can still get the higher milk prices. **AS**



PHOTO: ROBIN NIEUWENKAMP / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

PESTICIDE RESEARCH GETS 15 MILLION

For the first time, European researchers are going to do integrated research on the effects of pesticides on the environment, plants, animals and people. The project coordinator is WUR professor of Soil Physics and Land Management Violette Geissen. She wants to use this integrated approach to establish the real health risks posed by pesticides. To this end, she has brought together a multidisciplinary team from 28 institutions in 10 EU countries. Over the next five years, they will work on the project 'Sustainable Plant Protection Transition - A global health approach' (Sprint). The project starts in September this year. About 2000 different pesticides are in use in Europe. Geissen: 'We want to measure the effects of pesticide cocktails as they really occur in the food chain, and get a clear picture of what residues are present in Europe's ecosystems and food systems.'

In the Netherlands, Geissen's group will study conventional and organic farms. Geissen's Soil Science group will collaborate on this with bee specialists and animal scientists at WUR and with Wageningen Food Safety Research.

AS

DO ANIMALS GET CORONAVIRUS?

There is no evidence that animals can be infected with the coronavirus that is now in circulation. But we should err on the side of caution, says virologist Wim van der Poel of Wageningen Veterinary Research. He and his colleagues are going to study whether and how animals can catch the virus, as part of the efforts to develop a vaccine.

Do animals play a role in transmitting this coronavirus?

'We don't have any data from China showing that pets and livestock can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the official name of the virus that causes COVID-19 – 'coronavirus disease-2019' in full, ed.), or that they are a source of infection for humans. But that is something that calls for further research.'

Coronavirus patients should keep contact with pets to a minimum, including stroking and cuddling

A dog in Hong Kong did test positive for SARS-CoV-2.

'At present it is not clear whether the dog was really infected, or whether it was a case of an environmental contamination, with the virus getting onto the dog's mucous membranes through contact with the owner.'

It is compulsory to report any case of an animal testing positive for coronavirus.

'Vets who suspect that a dog or cat is showing symptoms after contact with a

coronavirus patient can get in touch with us. If an animal tests positive, we will report this to the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Organization, which will pass the information on to the World Organization for Animal Health.'

Are you getting a lot of requests for testing now?

'Up to now we have tested just one dog, and it didn't have the virus. We also got a request recently to test ingredients for animal feed and foodstuffs. There are no indications that the virus is spread via food, but apparently some countries want to err on the side of caution and are tightening up import requirements.'

You are going to research how animals react to the virus?

'In collaboration with an international consortium, we are going to research whether and how animals get infected. We are doing those tests in the context of vaccine development because new vaccines have to be tested on animals first. People are working on developing vaccines in various places around the world. The consortium spreads the odds of success so we can produce a vaccine as fast as possible.'

What should a pet owner or a farmer do if they catch the virus?

'Even though there is no evidence that pets play a role in spreading the virus, coronavirus patients are advised to keep contact with pets to a minimum, including stroking, cuddling and letting them lick you. If possible, leave pet care to others in the house who are not sick. The same advice applies to livestock farmers. Better safe than sorry.' **TL**

VISION

'Don't ask too much of people'



It looks like WUR staff will be forced to work from home for the time being. How does this affect people? Resource asked Herman Kok, lecturer in Business Management & Organization. 'This might open up the home working debate.'

What does working from home do to people?

'People who were already working from home have adapted to it and are used to finding the right work-life balance. But I think there is a large group who had no idea what to expect. Now they are trying to work at the kitchen table with the kids running around and their partner at home, for instance. That is stressful.'

A lot of research has been done on working from home since the 1980s, mainly with regard to the work-life balance, satisfaction and professional and social isolation. However, little attention has been paid to the spatial aspects of the home working environment. That is why we have decided to make a virtue of necessity: the current situation gives us a unique opportunity to study this on a large scale and so I have started a free nationwide monitor with my company Shign. We are studying the effects of the space and facilities employees have on their well-being, work-life balance and productivity. That will be interesting for employers, and for us researchers of course.'

How can the organization support people?

'Mainly by not asking too much of people. Working from home is normally about doing administrative tasks with the occasional meeting. You can't expect people to do the same as at the office. Filling the days with online meetings is going too far. People need to find their own rhythm. They also have a need for social contact. That has to be online now. Some people arrange virtual coffee breaks for chatting. As regards the workplace, ergonomic aspects are important of course but I don't think you should expect your employer to go all out right now. I am not expecting employees to make an issue of it at the moment, but it might cause problems if the situation continues for long.'

Does working from home have benefits?

'I think we can learn from this situation. To date, WUR has always been reluctant to let staff work from home so I am curious to see what the experiences are and whether there will be an evaluation. At the moment everyone is working at home whether they like it or not, but if it suits some people perhaps they could do so more often. This is an opportunity to open up the home working debate.' **TL**



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

CORONA KNOWLEDGE

Scientists are hard at work trying to understand the novel coronavirus. This page gives an overview of studies that have appeared in recent weeks in scientific journals.

NOT A HUMAN INVENTION

Fans of conspiracy theories, take note: this coronavirus was definitely not made by humans. Research by Kristian Andesen *et al.* of the Scripps Research Institute gives irrefutable proof of this. The researchers base their conclusion on the analysis of spike proteins, which the virus uses to attach itself to human

‘Coronavirus was definitely not made by humans’

cells. These protrusions look like a crown from some angles, giving the virus class its name. The spike attaches itself to a protein on the cell wall, fitting so neatly that the researchers say this could only be the result of evolution. What is more, the general molecular structure of the virus is very similar to known,

non-pathogenic coronaviruses that are found in bats and pangolins (scaly anteaters). According to the scientists, if someone had wanted to deliberately design a deadly virus, they would have used an existing pathogenic virus. The researchers conclude that we can rule out the possibility the virus was developed by humans.

BATS

This coronavirus very probably came from bats. Its relatives SARS, MERS and Ebola were also transmitted to humans via bats, either directly or indirectly. That is no coincidence, say researchers (Cara Brook *et al.*) from the University of California, Berkeley. Bats have an advanced immune system that is constantly on high alert. Viruses arm themselves against it by reproducing faster and faster, before the bat's immune system can strike back. Mammals with less advanced immune systems, such as humans, are defenceless against these viruses.

VIRUS SURVIVES LONGEST ON PLASTIC

Coronaviruses can survive a long time outside human hosts. It all depends on what surface they end up on, according to American research (Neeltje van Doremalen *et al.*) from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The scientists tested the stability of the novel coronavirus and the SARS virus in five different conditions: contained in an aerosol (a cloud of droplets) or placed on plastic, cardboard, copper or stainless steel.

It turned out that the surroundings made a huge difference.

The coronavirus gave up

the ghost soonest in an aerosol (air): it did not survive more than a couple of hours. Next were copper (four hours) and cardboard (24 hours). The virus remained stable for longest on stainless steel (48 hours) and plastic (72 hours). The quantity did decline exponentially over time.

NO SYMPTOMS BUT STILL INFECTIOUS

You can catch the coronavirus from a carrier who doesn't have any of the symptoms of the disease. This was shown by Chinese/American research (Zhanwei Du *et al.*) from the University of Texas. The researchers determined the time between the first signs of the disease — the serial interval — in Chinese patients who had infected one another with the virus. That interval was only four days on average. A much more alarming result was the finding that in 13 per cent of the cases, the second person infected showed symptoms before the person who had given them the virus did. So even if you don't have symptoms, you may still be carrying and transmitting the virus.

BLOOD GROUP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

People with the blood group A are more susceptible to the coronavirus than people with O, according to a Chinese study (Wang Xinghuan *et al.*) from Wuhan University. The researchers investigated blood samples from 2100 patients in two hospitals in Wuhan and Shenzhen. Of the patients who died from the virus, 41 per cent had blood group A and 25 per cent blood group O. The two groups are found in roughly equal proportions in the local Chinese population. The same pattern was seen in the SARS outbreak in 2003. It is not clear why the virus has a bigger effect in blood group A. **① RK**



STOMACH WAITS PATIENTLY

Marlou Lasschuijt, a PhD candidate in the Human Nutrition and Health group, investigated whether and how signals from the mouth influence the production of digestive and satiety hormones in test subjects. ‘Not all test subjects think: great, delicious strawberry gel!’

One in five Dutch people suffers from obesity, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Some eating habits, such as eating more slowly, reduce food intake and prevent overeating. Previous studies showed that the body already starts producing hormones such as insulin before the food reaches the stomach. That helps digestion and creates a full feeling. Lasschuijt investigated whether sweetness and chewing for longer influenced that Pavlovian effect — with surprising results: ‘We didn’t find that Pavlovian response in our study.’

How do you explain that?

‘We thought the hormone response would depend on the type of food. In our study, the test subjects ate a kind of strawberry gel. They weren’t familiar with it and didn’t like it either. We

therefore chose something lots of people like for our follow-up study; chocolate dessert with pieces of caramel or caramel sauce. But even then, the body produced little or none of the hormones before the food reached the stomach.’

‘We didn’t find that Pavlovian response in our study’

That is contrary to previous studies. Which do you trust?

‘Our research, of course. We know exactly how the data was collected. We have looked at the earlier studies in detail and there is a lot of variation in the results. The average Pavlovian response for the hormones is in fact very small. What is more, many of the earlier studies are more than 10 years old. We used the latest techniques in our research.’

So there is no such thing as a Pavlovian response in digestive and satiety hormones?

‘Perhaps it only takes place when someone is



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

really looking forward to a particular food. That is difficult to replicate in the lab with a dish of food and a computer screen in front of you, a spoon in one hand and a tube taking your blood in the other. You could only measure that in a real-life situation where test subjects have a sensor in their arms so that we can measure hormone levels continuously.’ **NvtWH**

PROPOSITION

Monopolies are OK, but make them democratic

A lot of digital platforms get better the bigger they get, and therefore automatically drift towards becoming monopolies, says Jeroen Koendjiharie. That is not a bad thing in itself. In fact, it benefits users. But they should then have more say in things. So his proposition is: Many services like Google, Facebook and Amazon could be considered natural monopolies, and should therefore be regulated by a democratic institution.

‘A monopolist is often seen as undesirable because market forces are no longer in play. Some people want such big companies broken down into smaller units. But I think monopolists are useful in some ways because of

the services they offer. People join Facebook because so many other people are on it. But a company has to make a profit, so it has many other incentives apart from social ones to create a network of that kind. Users have no influence on how the organization is run. I don’t think we should oppose them; we should realize we benefit when a company has this kind of monopoly. But it is good to look for ways of making sure platforms are democratically regulated. For example, by letting a public non-profit organization take the lead. The digital world is an important part of our daily life, so it is a logical step to create a public online domain that is safe and accessible for everyone. An example is the “PublicSpaces” launched in 2018 by the Dutch

public broadcasting company VPRO in collaboration with others, to provide an alternative to commercial apps. That kind of public network gives users a say. And it is important if a

‘Government doesn’t want to depend on commercial platforms for reaching broad audience’

government doesn’t want to be dependent on commercial platforms for reaching a broad audience. If it does well, this kind of public platform will end up being a monopolist too, but at least there is then some kind of accountability.’ **TL**



PhD candidates are expected to submit a handful of propositions with their thesis. In this feature, they explain their most thought-provoking proposition. This time, it’s Jeroen Koendjiharie, who got his PhD on 4 March for his study on the use of thermophilic bacteria instead of fossil fuels to produce chemicals.

How to work from home!

WUR is working *en masse* from home. There's no choice for now. Kitchens, attics and living rooms have become temporary offices. Remember myWURspace? Well, now it's myHOMESpace! And we are all making do.

But how exactly? What does our home office look like? Now that visits in person are a no-no, there is only one way to find out: the selfie! So we called some WUR colleagues and asked them to take a snap of their workspace. These pages show a compilation of those pictures and the associated stories. A peep inside other people's homes is always fun. If you want more, keep an eye on the *Resource* website, where we will be continuing the series. After all, the crisis will be with us for some time. If you want to take part, email resource@wur.nl or share using #WURkfromHOME

text editorial Resource



CARL TIMLER

LECTURER IN FARMING SYSTEMS ECOLOGY

'Working at home is going pretty well. We have a daughter of four and a son of seven. They are getting home schooling now. Only, if they are in the same room they distract each other too much. So we have turned my office into a classroom for my son as well. That is going very well and this morning he concentrated on his work for two hours in a row. I think we inspire each other. My wife does crafts with our daughter and she also still works two mornings week in a pharmacy in Ede. I am doing my own teaching on Zoom, which is a very handy application for meetings. It's a bit like Skype but you can see a lot of people at the same time in a group chat. Students can ask questions, put up their hands, and chat. We can see what they've written and respond if they get stuck. Our group has bought three licenses, and we use one of them for our own team consultations, seminars and colloquia, and two for our teaching.'



HANNAH VAN ZANTEN

ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS CHAIR GROUP

'It's a question of adapting. I am now in the living room with my two children of seven and five. My husband, who normally goes out to work too, is working at home as well. It's a full house, and I work far shorter hours than usual, but it's cosy too. Not only are the children out of school, but the school also expects us to do home schooling with them for three hours a day. We collected homework from the school on Monday, and we have to hand it in again next Monday. I think it's good that the school goes on setting learning goals, but it is an added task. So altogether, it's quite a lot.

I think that effectively I can only work half the usual time. My husband and I study our diaries and then we start puzzling it out. I also try to keep as many appointments as possible on Skype. Everything that can't be done on Skype gets cancelled. And you have to make choices. The main priority for me is for the PhD students to be able to carry on with their work. Luckily, our tasks can be scheduled flexibly – you can hold meetings at any time of day on Skype. If my husband or I have an appointment, the other one looks after the children. It takes a bit of getting used to. I need to be there for the children, but I also keep thinking: I have to do some work.'

SANDER VAN DE GEIJN

PRODUCT OWNER AT FB-IT

'Working at home is great so far! In fact I have even better facilities here than at the office: a nice office with a big screen, and coke in the fridge. I hear from colleagues who work at the kitchen table, and that's not ideal, of course. At first my girlfriend and I both worked in the study, but I Skype a lot with my team whereas she is working on her PhD research. Now she sometimes sit downstairs and we picked up a noise-cancelling headset from the university. I work in the IT department and you can do that perfectly well online through Skype, VPN and the digital desktop. The only thing I occasionally miss is a whiteboard to work things out on. It suits me fine at the moment, but if it goes on for long I shall miss the social contacts.'



IRENE KOOMEN

ADAPTIVE AGRICULTURE ADVISOR AT WAGENINGEN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION (WCDI)



'I should have been in the Ivory Coast, but I'm working on my laptop at home, looking out over my garden in Wageningen. Normally, I would discuss research and training projects on the spot in Africa, but that's not possible now. This afternoon I will discuss the project with my Ivorian partners on Skype. And I've cancelled planned visits to Ghana and Ethiopia.

The coronavirus crisis has a lot of consequences for the work of WCDI. Two ongoing WCDI courses in Wageningen have stopped and the participants have gone home early. Four other courses due to start in the coming weeks have been cancelled. WCDI is studying the possibility of offering the courses online. The training courses within WCDI's development programmes have been cancelled for now too. The projects are continuing but there will probably be delays. I consult the various clients regularly, to figure out how much delay there will be in the projects and how to limit the impact of the coronavirus crisis.

But the coronavirus crisis has its advantages too. Now I am forced to work at home, I finally have time to read and write. And my daughter, who normally works in Amsterdam, has come home. Plus, the coffee is a lot better than at the office!'

FEMKE JANSEN

PHD CANDIDATE IN HYDROLOGY AND QUANTITATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

'I share a house with five others. Some of them are not at home during the day, or they work in their rooms. I like to work at the kitchen table with one of my housemates. I notice that I can concentrate better if someone else is working in the room. And we can take a break for a chat now and then. That variation is important. If I'm on my own, I get distracted more easily. As a PhD student I can carry on my work reasonably well at home. I'm working on my laptop now but I do miss my big screen and if I want to print something I go to the photocopying shop. Tomorrow I've got to supervise a digital computer practical in the virtual classroom, so I'm just going to figure out how you do that. One advantage is that I can decide for myself how I use my time. So yesterday afternoon I worked in the garden with my housemates and then in the evening I can get back to my work refreshed.'



KLAAS METSELAAR

LECTURER IN SOIL PHYSICS AND LAND MANAGEMENT

'I'm sitting in the attic, my office at home. All my books are here, which is quite a luxury really. I took some papers home to tidy up. And mostly I'm busy answering emails and skyping with thesis students. The course Design II in International Land and Water Management has just started. There is a lot of group work, which the students usually do on the sixth floor in the Forum, but they can't do that now. Those groups are now working online in the virtual classrooms on Brightspace, supervised by two student assistants. We teachers can join in and answer question via the computer. It's all one big crash course in working via the internet. One of the problems is that the Wi-Fi in student houses is not great. It can cope with one person being online, but it causes problems if five students are following courses online in one house. But the experimenting is nice. It's like a kind of Open University. Distance learning. What works, what doesn't, how do the students like it? And what can we use once the crisis is over? It's one big experiment. Do I get out of doors? Oh yes. I have a dog. I'd recommend that to anyone, a dog.'

WIM VAN DER POEL

WAGENINGEN BIOVETERINARY RESEARCH

'I'm not very keen on working at home. My two sons of 21 and 22 are both at home too. One is studying History and Politics at Utrecht University, where lectures have been suspended until the end of the academic year. The other one has a zero-hours contract with an organization that manages charging stations for electric cars, and they have closed. I feel like we get in each other's way now and then. One of my sons has exams coming up, so he's studying hard, but the other doesn't have much to do and has thrown himself into gaming. My wife still works a few days a week, because she works at a crèche.

I go to the lab now and then because we can't just stop our experiments. I miss being close to the lab, because I normally pop in there every day. I feel less involved now. I also go to the university to record lectures – a very strange experience, in an empty classroom. I can talk to students on an online discussion platform. I hadn't had much experience with that so that is new.'



KOOS NIJSSSEN

FUNCTIONAL APPLICATION ADMINISTRATOR AT WUR LIBRARY



'I kind of saw it coming so I took my laptop and an extra screen home last Thursday. I've got my own study at home and that works well, in spite of the fact that the internet in the countryside is not superfast, at seven MB per second. We live in an old farmhouse in the village of Elst, which we have done up completely over the past seven years. The triangles on the wall are made of foam rubber and absorb sound. Otherwise it echoes.

My wife has gone to work. She works in the payroll department in the healthcare sector. The staff there are divided into two groups: the "clean" workers, who work at home, and the "dirty" ones, who work at the office. I'm not joking – that's what they call them. I've been teasing my wife about it.

I must say, I find it very quiet alone at home. At the office I like having a bit of bustle around me, and being able to have a chat. But the dogs and horses are here. In my break I walk the dogs, which my daughter would do otherwise. And on the plus side: the Nespresso is a lot better than the coffee from the machine.'

INGE RUISCH

SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATION, PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNOLOGY


'I've worked at WUR for 28 years and I've never been in *Resource*. Bizarre that the coronavirus crisis is making that happen now! I'm sitting here at home at my dark brown colonial table in the living room, working at a small laptop. On Friday afternoon, we decided as a group to all start working at home. 'See you some time,' we said to each other. My colleagues picked up an extra screen on Monday. I didn't. I've been feeling under the weather since Sunday. No, I don't think it's the coronavirus. I haven't got a fever or difficulty breathing. Normally I would have stayed at home, but now I am at home anyway. On Friday I really stockpiled. I had a premonition that this could go on a long time. I often get that kind of premonition. It can be quite scary. Working at home is going fine, but I do miss my second screen. And what I miss most is the social interaction. Normally people drop in on us all day. We are a kind of sounding board for the whole group. We don't get that now. I live alone and I hardly go outside. I'm quite isolated now. Oh, a message from my mother, asking if I'm OK. How sweet. You know, I would have been on holiday in Morocco now. But that couldn't happen. Yes, I can manage. Since I don't feel very well at the moment, it's convenient to work at home. And actually there is a Skype meeting this afternoon with Professor Cees Leeuwis's whole group. A kind of coffee break, to stay in touch with each other. I'll take the photo from behind me. After three days with a runny nose, I don't look my best.' 📷







LEARN SOIL-DRILLING ONLINE

Online education can be tricky when it comes to fieldwork. But Ingrid Lubbers, who teaches Soil Geography and Landscape, has found a solution. For the Landscape Geography course, she and her colleague Jasper Candel have made short 'knowledge clips' using their mobile phones. Here she is in a pear orchard in the fruit-farming region of the Betuwe, demonstrating how soil-drilling is done. 'Then students can learn precisely how deep to drill. Because that does go wrong occasionally. And then you might draw the wrong conclusions.' The clips are available on Brightspace. 'Of course it is no substitute for the usual way of teaching but it is quite nice, actually, to try out something different. We are making the best of it.'  RK, photo Guy Ackermans



Women professors and the old boys network

▲ Professors on their way to the Dies Natalis celebration on 9 March. (Disclaimer: the men in the photo do *not* exemplify the ‘old boys network’ referred to in the article headline.) From left to right: Rick Leemans, Eddy Smid, Petra Hellegers, Ellen Kampman, Karin Schoën, Huub Rijnaarts, Cees Buisman, Marielos Peña-Claros and Carolien Kroeze.

Wageningen University doesn't have many female full professors, but their numbers are growing. That is thanks to Tenure Track, a career ladder that has been climbed by a fair number of foreign women professors too. But there are hardly any women among the special professors. Why is it so difficult for women to break through into the higher academic ranks at WUR? An analysis.

text Albert Sikkema photo Guy Ackermans

There are still not very many women chair-holders in Wageningen. Of the 94 occupied chairs – about 10 are currently vacant – 15 are occupied by women. That is 16 per cent. Three new women were appointed to chairs last year: Martha Bakker, Emely de Vet and Josephine van Zeben. The number of women occupying chairs is growing slowly, because the post of chair-holding professor becomes available on average every 20 years. So with 100 chair-holding professors at WUR, you can appoint five women professors a year, at the most. That is why the Executive Board came up with a fast-track career ladder for potential full professors: Tenure Track. Assistant professors can

climb to the position of personal professor in 12 years if they meet stringent academic criteria. Associate professors can do so in six years. They have to teach 500 hours, write five scientific articles a year, supervise eight PhD students a year, and win a substantial research grant. The board believed that this system, in force since 2010, would speed up the rate at which women become full professors.

NATIONALITY

In recent years, about 600 teachers have been appointed to a Tenure Track post at WUR. Over 40 per cent of them were women. Meanwhile, there are now 66 personal professors in Wageningen, 16 of them women – 24 per cent. The system is still in its infancy, but even in this category, women are advancing slowly. Interesting differences can be observed between the women chair holders and the personal professors. The 15 female chair-holding professors are all Dutch, with the exception of Rachel Creamer, who is British. By contrast, numerous nationalities are represented among the personal professors. Yuling Bai (China), Maria Barbosa (Portugal), Bettina Bock (Germany), Gerlinde De Deyn (Belgium), Violette Geissen (Germany), Marielos Peña-Claros (Bolivia) and Luisa Trindade (Portugal) have all become personal professors through the Tenure Track system. Would they have become professors without this career path? Not all of them, surely. Personal professors are mainly expected to obtain research funding and supervise postdocs and PhD students, whereas chair-holding professors have to manage a chair group and need to have a network. That puts newcomers at a disadvantage.

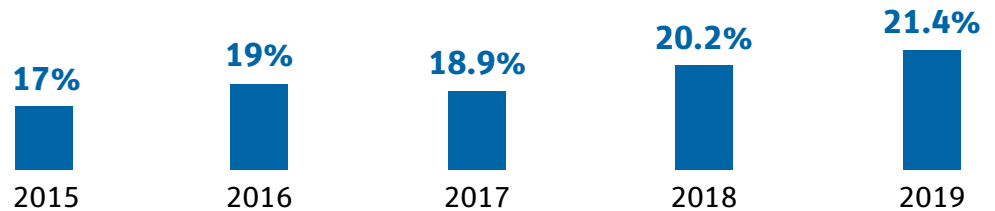
NETWORKS

When it comes to networks, women (and foreign women in particular) get far fewer opportunities than men. The evidence for this comes from another list of professors: the Wageningen list of professors by appointment, who are sponsored by a company, organization or foundation. WUR has a total of 64 such professors funded by the Netherlands Institute of Ecology NIOO, the National Institute for Public Health and Environment RIVM, the FAO, the nature management organization Staatsbosbeheer, Rijnstate hospital, the meteorological institute KNMI, the Netherlands Agricultural and Horticultural Association LTO, the Dutch Butterfly Foundation, and the companies Shell, Unilever, Danone, Friesland Campina, Nutreco, Philips and BASF. And how many of these 64

professors are women? A mere five, less than eight per cent of the total. No doubt all the professors by appointment are highly qualified – after all, they have been assessed by the Academic Board. But nearly all of them were nominated by their employer, who also funds the chair, after which they were assessed and appointed without an open application procedure with competition. OK, these are only part-time appointments for a

period of five years, but that is not the point. The point is that the only women who did get through all these hoops were Tinde van An del, Ine van der Fels-Klerx, Saskia van Ruth, Louise Vet and Cor van der Weele – along with 59 men. And hardly any of the men are young or foreign. It’s an old boys network in the sciences at Wageningen. WUR might ask the external financiers of chairs whether there are no able women available. **B**

WOMEN PROFESSORS (including personal professors)



CHAIR-HOLDERS: 94 in all, 15 of them women



Martha Bakker, Imke de Boer, Rachel Creamer, Edith Feskens, Petra Hellegers, Ellen Kampman, Carolien Kroeze, Eveline van Leeuwen, Tinka Murk, Monique van Oers, Ivonne Rietjens, Katrien Termeer, Christa Testerink, Emely de Vet, Josephine van Zeben.

PERSONAL PROFESSORS: 66 in all, 16 of them women

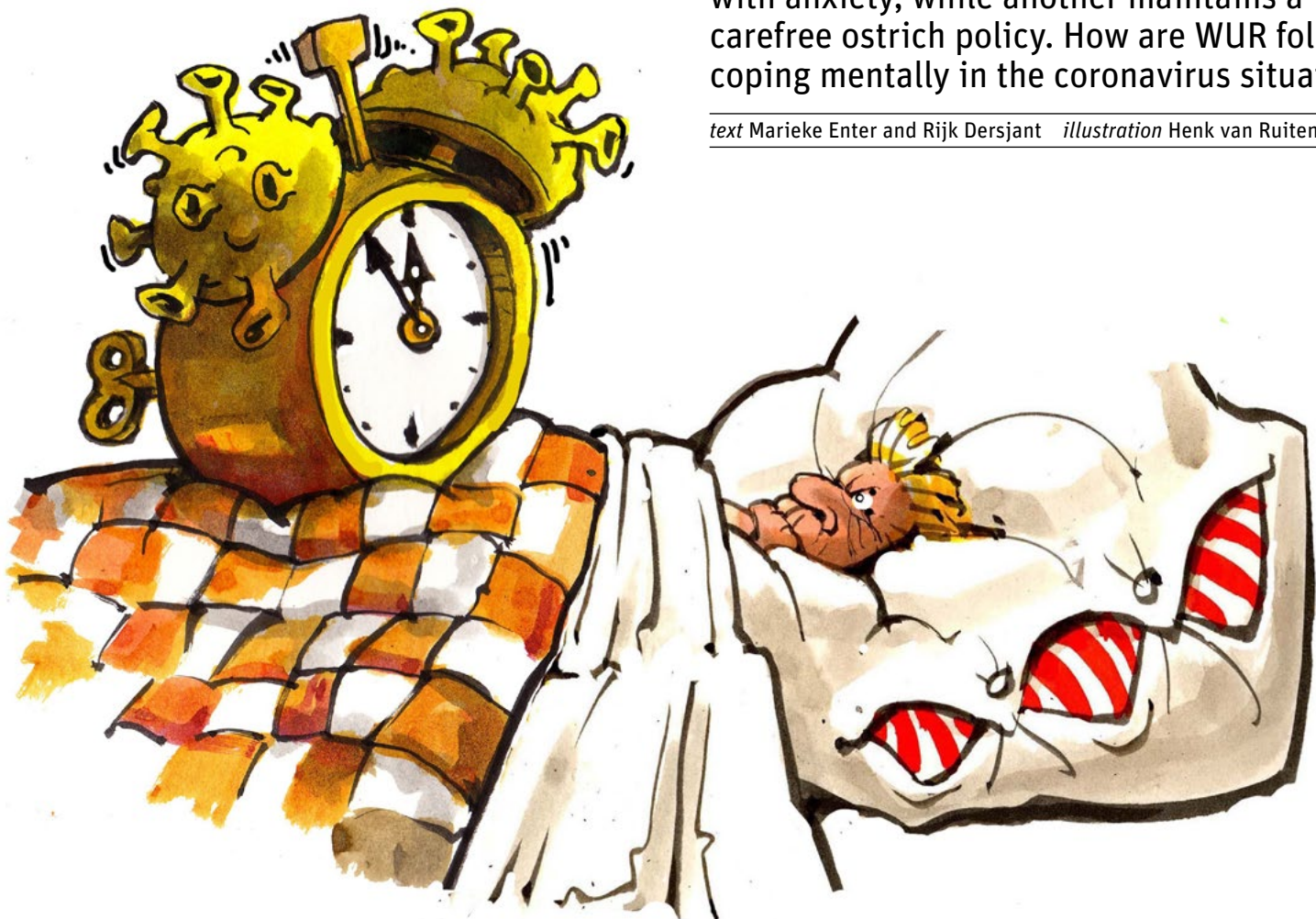


Yuling Bai, Maria Barbosa, Bettina Bock, Gerlinde De Deyn, Violette Geissen, Marianne Geleijnse, Francine Govers, Lisette de Groot, Ellis Hoffland, Miranda Meuwissen, Hedwig te Molder, Liesje Mommer, Marielos Peña-Claros, Karin Schroen, Luisa Trindade, Esther Turnhout.

‘THE CORONAVIRUS DOES/DOES NOT GIVE ME SLEEPLESS NIGHTS’

The measures to combat COVID-19 have turned our daily lives upside down. But besides their practical impact, there are also emotional ones. One person may be crippled with anxiety, while another maintains a carefree ostrich policy. How are WUR folk coping mentally in the coronavirus situation?

text Marieke Enter and Rijk Dersjant *illustration* Henk van Ruitenbeek



Coen d'Ancona



Food Sciences internship coordinator

'This coronavirus crisis has serious consequences for internships. The students who were soon going abroad for their internships have been the most worried. After a week of uncertainty and chaos, we now know that they can no longer go for now. So they have to find an alternative. And there is time pressure on them, because there may be financial consequences if they haven't completed their internship by September. That is stressful. The students who are still abroad on their internships* are less worried. Depending on the local coronavirus situation, they carry on working if they can, and take a break if they have to. **Of course it's still a fact that nearly everyone is stressed about how the situation will develop.** Personally I can put it to one side at the end of the day. But I can imagine how fear and worrying take over, especially if you belong to a vulnerable group or have loved ones who do.'

**These students have since been advised to return to the Netherlands as soon as possible.*

Ineke Leenders



Student psychologist

'Everyone reacts in their own way to this crisis. Our concern at present is mainly focused on the international students, because their social network is not as big and they are often worried about their friends and family back home. And the other way round, of course: there is quite a lot of pressure on some international students to come home. The decision whether to stay or not brings all sorts of dilemmas with it – about things that Dutch students face too: how will this affect internships and research, will it mean delaying graduation, and what are the implications for the financing? **Everyone feels insecure and a bit scared at the moment, although I think the students I have spoken to up to now are adapting to the situation well.** Of course we student psychologists are available to provide support over Skype, for instance. Send us an email and we'll contact you the same day.' Studentpsychologists@wur.nl

Minella Haazelager



MSc student of Climate Studies and Forest & Nature Conservation

'I watched Rutte's first press conference on the ski slope in Austria, where I was on holiday with my family. We hadn't really been in any doubt as to whether we should go there. **Not out of naivety; we kept a firm eye on the news. But we had the impression it was OK to go.** We went to a small resort and we intended to avoid the big après-ski parties and other crowds. Of course, in the ski resort the talk was all of the coronavirus crisis, but apart from that there wasn't much sign of it. Until Friday, our last day there, when the whole area went into lockdown. Five coronavirus infections had been diagnosed in Lech, not far from where we were. But there were cases in Brabant by then too. So no, I don't regret going skiing. And I'm not afraid of spreading the infection, although I do take the risk seriously. Because I've been to Austria, I cancelled all my appointments and I'm doing everything online. Purely as a precaution, because I'm feeling fine.'

Eugene van Meteren



Idealis caretaker

'I'm not losing any sleep over it, but I am very aware of the seriousness of the situation. Where I live in the middle of Tiel, you can't miss the coronavirus crisis: it is weirdly quiet on the streets. And at work there is a big contrast with the hustle and bustle I usually experience as a caretaker. I do miss that liveliness and all the spontaneous chats with residents. Luckily the Netherlands doesn't have a total lockdown and we are still allowed out of doors, even though you have to be a bit sensible about that of course. **I don't fool around with precautions such as social distancing and frequent hand-washing.** Perish the thought that my daughter or my 82-year-old mother should get the virus from me. I follow the coronavirus news closely, but it doesn't make me anxious. At the most, it keeps me alert to limit the risk of spreading the infection.'

Lowell Nelson



MSc student of Animal Sciences

'Actually, I was planning to stay in Wageningen, but the universities in Canada advised overseas students to come back. **I haven't been in the Netherlands very long, I don't have much of a network here, I'm not registered with a GP, and I wouldn't have a clue what to do if I fell ill.** So I thought it would be better to go home. I booked a flight, emailed my professors and packed my bags. I can quite easily carry on with my courses from Canada, now that all the lectures are on Brightspace and there is an interactive learning environment. The only hitch is the time difference with the Netherlands. But I'm pleased that I can carry on studying. And that we live in countries where we can sit out the situation like this. I feel that both Canada and the Netherlands are dealing with the situation well.'

Hanne Bookelmann



Alumnus, MSc International Development Studies

'I have offered international students and their families help through Wageningen Student Plaza on Facebook. With my background – as a WUR alumnus, a Psychology graduate and now working in the municipal health services (GGD) – I hope I can help relieve their fears. I know from experience that because of their culture, international students do not always express their emotions. But I think international students must have at least as many worries and questions, even if they don't always express them. **Just imagine what it's like to be in a foreign country, where you don't know what information to rely on if such a major crisis erupts – of course you'd be worried!** That's why I made that offer, and my Facebook page for finding reliable information easily about the current situation in the Netherlands. It's called "Corona updates for Wageningen students/ex-pats". Am I afraid myself? Well, I have a severe form of asthma so I am staying at home as much as possible, in line with the advice of RIVM. That's just sensible.' 🌐

More colleagues with functional impairments

‘We think in terms of capacities’

WUR has a new team that is going to work on offering more jobs to people with a functional impairment: Job Participation Support, or ‘jobs’ for short. The goal is to have at least 230 participation jobs in 2024. *Resource* talked to team members Els Dieleman and Cor Meurs.

text Tessa Louwerens photo Sjoerd Schimmel

WHY WAS YOUR TEAM FORMED?

Dieleman: ‘WUR places importance on employing more people with a functional impairment. Not just because of the legally required quota [see inset, ed.] but also because WUR wants to be an inclusive organization. In recent years we have not managed to attract enough candidates, because it is quite complicated, and that includes the rules and regulations. That can be difficult for HR advisors who don’t work on it every day. Because we’ll be working on it as a team from now on, we can build up more expertise and a network, and support the organization optimally in this.’

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GO ABOUT IT?

Meurs: ‘We look for candidates through the Employers’ Service Point (a database of the Employee Insurance Agency UWV) and check whether any of them match our internal vacancies. And we also investigate the scope for creating suitable jobs, for example by allocating particular tasks to team members. Examples could be archiving, search work or invigilating exams. It is important to ensure continuity, it’s not about odd jobs (at this stage).’

Dieleman: ‘We look at candidates in terms of their capacities and not their limitations:

often someone can do a job just as well as anyone else, but might need a quiet workplace or a shorter working day. This way of searching – starting from the person rather than the job description – still has to take root in the organization.’

WILL THERE BE JOB ADVERTS FOR PARTICIPATION JOBS?

Dieleman: ‘You are not allowed to state in a job advert that you are looking for someone with a functional impairment, because that would be discrimination. On WUR’s vacancy site, there is a sentence at the top of the page inviting people with a functional impairment to apply. And as a rule we also mentioned jobs in each job advert. We are talking to the WUR recruiters about making the job descriptions more inviting and accessible for our target group. At present, the bar is set very high and the requirements for the job are set at the maximum. It doesn’t feel as though we are prepared to make adjustments, to working hours for instance.’

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

Meurs: ‘We tend to think of functional impairment as meaning someone in a wheelchair. But it is much broader than that. In fact, a wheelchair doesn’t in itself constitute a functional impairment. It might be a matter of

JOB AGREEMENT

To help people with a functional impairment get jobs, the Dutch government drew up the Job Agreement Act (part of the Social Agreement), which said that a total of 125,000 ‘participation jobs’ should be created between 2013 and 2026, with 25,000 jobs in the public and semi-public sectors. Municipalities or the UWV decide who qualifies for this kind of job. These people are included in the Target Groups Register. Because the goal for 2026 for the government sector is very unlikely to be reached, quota legislation was introduced in 2018. This requires employers to make a certain percentage of their jobs participation jobs. For WUR that currently means 229.5 participation jobs. Els Dieleman, Job Participation Support project leader at WUR: ‘In WUR’s case, we expect serious growth in the next few years, so the number of participation jobs will go up beyond that number.’ A participation job is equivalent to 25.5 hours a week. Employers who do not reach their quota will pay a fine of 5000 euros per job that is lacking, as of 2022.

being able to work a limited number of hours: someone who can do the job fine, but only for a maximum of 16 hours a week. It's not just about support staff roles either. We get candidates with university degrees for whom we might try to find jobs as researchers or teachers.'

Dieleman: 'Most of them are young people. Students who end up on social security after graduating, and who later turn out to have a functional impairment, maybe due to psychological problems. We work with Student Career Services to point students towards the Target Groups Register [see inset, ed.] to increase their chances of a job.'

THE GOAL IS 230 JOBS IN 2024. IS THAT FEASIBLE?

Meurs: 'We started in November. Up to now we have created 38 jobs and another 11 people are working on secondment from the sheltered workshop they have been working at.'

Dieleman: 'We expect that the number of jobs will increase as soon as jobs becomes better known. The pool of candidates is pretty full, in any case. And it is very likely that the legislation will be simplified, so that socially

responsible outsourcing, for grounds management and cleaning for instance, counts as well. But there is still a lot to be done.'

ISN'T IT VERY EXPENSIVE OR A LOT OF WORK TO HIRE SOMEONE VIA JOPS?

Dieleman: 'If people with a functional impairment are in the right job and participate fully, everyone benefits. There is a shortage of labour and work pressure is high in the organization: by bringing together tasks that don't get done in a new job, you kill two birds with one stone.'


'We tend to think of functional impairment as meaning someone in a wheelchair'

Meurs: 'Jops ensures good preparation and support, and that any necessary adjustments at the workplace are made. And every new member of staff costs a bit more time at the

start. It won't make any extra demands on a department's budget: from 2020 all WUR units will contribute to this form of participation in the labour market. The employee works for the unit and behind the scenes, while their salary is paid by jops.'

WHY IS WUR INVESTING SO MUCH IN THIS?

Dieleman: 'Apart from the legal requirements, it is important that WUR promotes a sense of community. We all have limitations that can affect us. We need to be aware that we could be a bit more tolerant and that we should look after each other. A functional impairment can happen to anyone. And then it is nice to know that you work for an organization that has a good attitude to that.'

It is also impressive to see how motivated these employees are. Most of them are young people who wouldn't get a job by the standard route. A Works Council member expressed it well: "We don't recruit a special group, we recruit them in a special way." 

*If you have questions, get in touch with jops@wur.nl
More information at www.wur.nl/jops*



▲ The jops team, from left: Cor Meurs, Els Dieleman, Petra Krop and Ann-Marie Ryan.

Operation All

Transfer an eight-week period of campus teaching online for the entire university in just a few days – an impossible task? No. It took trial and error, experiments, creativity and sheer perseverance, but period 5 was able to start entirely online.

text Roelof Kleis and Luuk Zegers *illustration* Yvonne Kroese



The decision was taken shortly before the start of period 5: all WUR teaching would move online for the time being. Teachers had just a few days to make the switch. A massive challenge, says Dean of Education Arnold Bregt. ‘But we were lucky with the timing as we already had a lot of people in digital teams helping teachers because of the transition from Blackboard to Brightspace. On the Friday when the decision was taken to have all teaching online only, the support teams were already on standby to help teaching staff.’

And so WUR’s army of teachers got to work. The weekend beforehand and the first two days of period 5 were all about experimenting with the options for online teaching, reflecting and swapping ideas on solutions for lessons that are difficult to do online.

The first thing assistant professor of Rural

‘Trying out something new is actually quite fun’

Sociology Jessica Duncan did was to develop a strategy for how best to share information with her students. ‘Some students were quite worried, not just about the virus but also about their education. So I gave them as much information as possible and we started a WhatsApp group so that we can communicate easily.’

Online



In the first live web lecture, Duncan challenged her students to ask questions. If they asked enough interesting questions in the first half of the lecture, Duncan would give the second half of the lecture dressed as a banana. ‘Not because I particularly enjoy dressing as a banana but to encourage the students to use the chat function.’ It worked: the students got fully involved and Duncan taught the second half in a banana suit. See page 5.

FIELDWORK ONLINE?

Jente Ottenburghs (who lectures on Ecology) is using guest lectures recorded last year in the Climate Change Ecology module. ‘Students also have to read a book and do exercises on that. We supervise them via email. They would normally have to work in groups, studying a chapter from that book and giving a presentation to the other group members. But of course we can’t do that now.’ Ingrid Lubbers (Soil Geography and Landscape lecturer) teaches Landscape Geography. She doesn’t have any ready-made lectures available from last year. ‘We didn’t record the lectures last year precisely because we wanted the students to come to the lectures in person.’ That module also includes a lot of days of fieldwork. How do you deal with that? ‘The idea is for teachers to go into the field themselves and film videos of the work using a mobile phone,’ explains Lubbers. ‘And then make it available using Brightspace. That digital learning environment has been a godsend. Of course it can’t replace normal teaching but being able to try out something new is actually quite fun. We try to make the best of things.’ (See the photo on pages 16 and 17.)

‘IT SHOULD JUST WORK’

Not everything is a success straight away, says Jan Dijkstra (associate professor of Animal Nutrition). ‘I did my first live web lecture on the first Tuesday of the period. I wanted to explain to the students how we would be doing this module now that it would be entirely online. But I heard afterwards that many of the students couldn’t get access because the system wasn’t working. Fortunately it was recorded and they could replay it later — although that too was difficult even at a quiet

things have worked but there is an awful lot still to do. But the mood is positive on the whole. We are all doing our bit and trying to get as far as we can.’ 🗨️

‘We are very dependent on the technology’

time like a Tuesday evening.’

On the Wednesday morning of week 1, it was announced that watching live was being disabled for now as it overloads the system. ‘That creates room for students to replay recorded lectures,’ says Dijkstra. He understands teething problems are inevitable. ‘But that doesn’t make it any easier for us teachers. We are very dependent on the technology. When students were unable to access my web lecture, I was inundated with emails. It should just work.’ Even so, the vast majority of the 299 courses in period 5 started ‘normally’. ‘There are a few practicals where you really need to be in the lab yourself,’ says Bregt. ‘You can’t do them from home so those courses have been cancelled. But our lecturers and the online support team have been working incredibly hard. Of course not everything is a success. Some

ONLINE ONLY IN PERIOD 6 TOO

- All WUR teaching will be online only at least until the end of period 6.
- That means the exams will be held online, so teachers need to think about how to arrange that.
- Depending on how the pandemic develops in the Netherlands, the measures may be adjusted to allow fieldwork and practicals in the second half of period 6.
- An exception may also be made for lab and experimental work in graduation subjects (if the chair-holder gives permission).



IN OTHER NEWS

IRON RAIN

Astronomers from ESO (European Southern Observatory) have discovered a planet (called WASP-76b) where it is so hot that it rains iron at night. That's on the planet's night side. On the far hotter day side, the atmosphere consists of iron vapour. The planet is at a safe distance, 640 light years away from us, in the Pisces constellation.

SHORT DAYS (1)

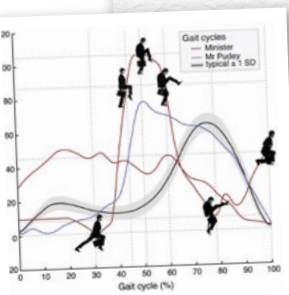
In the olden days (about 70 million years ago), the days were shorter. In the time of the dinosaurs, a day was half an hour shorter, Belgian research for the American Geological Union has demonstrated. The scientists counted 'day rings' in the shell of a fossilized mollusc. The creature grew so fast that a minuscule ring formed in its shell every day. Using laser detection, the researchers arrived at 372 days per year, so one day was 23.5 hours.

SHORT DAYS (2)

Anyway, the earth looked quite different in the time of the dinosaurs (the late Cretaceous period). Take the oceans. The Belgians deduced from their chemical analysis of the shell that the seawater was quite a bit warmer then than now. About 40°C in the summer and over 30°C in the winter. No wonder the wee creature is extinct.

SILLY WALK

Monty Python actor John Cleese's famous silly walk is 6.7 times weirder than a normal gait, British scientists at Dartmouth College have established. In honour of the sketch's 50th anniversary, the scientists measured the variation in the angle of the knee in his gait compared to a normal gait. The researchers concluded that Cleese deserved his post heading the Ministry of Silly Walks. Daft lot.



Binding Study Advice further relaxed due to coronavirus

WUR is taking extra measures regarding the Binding Study Advice (BSA) for Bachelor's students at the end of their first year. The required number of credits had already been lowered to 30 on account of the coronavirus crisis. Now some of the students who don't manage that will be allowed another year to get a positive BSA.

The BSA decrees the number of credits a first-year student must obtain to proceed to the second year. At 36 credits, WUR has the lowest BSA of all the Dutch universities. Because of the coronavirus crisis, and the interruption it can cause for some students, the BSA requirement was lowered to 30 credits on Friday 20 March. Further steps have now been taken.

WUR'S BSA ARRANGEMENTS IN A NUTSHELL

- The BSA for the academic year 2019-2020 is lowered from 36 to 30 credits. So first-year students with 30 or more credits will get a positive BSA.
- First-year students who obtain 24 to 29 credits this academic year will receive a conditional positive BSA. This means they will have until the end of the academic year 2020-2021 to obtain the standard 36 credits for their first year.
- First-year students who obtain fewer than 24 credits this academic year will receive a negative BSA. That means they have to drop out of their degree programme. It is still possible – as always – to appeal to the examining board, which promises that this year 'corona-related circumstances will be explicitly considered in the board's assessment.'

The relaxing of the BSA is a national measure. Contrary to what has been reported earlier in the media, there is no question of the BSA being scrapped countrywide, but all universities are asked to provide extensions to 'students who do not achieve a positive BSA because their studies have been hampered by the coronavirus.' The higher education institutions may implement the measures in their own way.

Wageningen University's Rector Arthur Mol explains why WUR has opted for these measures. 'Students have been able to take all their courses normally for four periods. In period five, 96 per cent of the courses are being taught and examined. So students have not been held up by coronavirus measures until after period 5.' **LZ**



PHOTO: MARTE HOFSTEE

Thirsty? Zzinga does home deliveries of honey cider



Student entrepreneur Fabian Lindner (the prime mover behind the honey-based drink Zzinga) was preparing for a busy spring when the coronavirus crisis struck and all catering outlets were closed. 'We wanted to make sure people got the chance to enjoy our drink, so we have had a lot of it brewed recently,' says Lindner. 'We mainly sell it to bars and restaurants, so the fact that they've closed now is a big challenge for us. We had to come up with a way of selling 6000

bottles in the coming month.' Lindner and his team put their heads together (at a safe distance) and decided to open a webshop. 'In the coming weeks we will be distributing flyers in Wageningen and asking our friends to spread the news. Hopefully, we can deliver our honey cider to all the people in quarantine!' **LZ**

Six-packs and crates of Zzinga can be ordered from the website. The webshop is at: www.zzingabee.com/order

STUDENTS OFFER THEIR HELP

No sooner had the measures against the coronavirus been decreed than the first digital platforms offering help were being launched. Students Ries van Dijk and Hermen Buitenhuis are helping too.

The website *Just people wanting to help* has been in existence for a while now but has suddenly become highly relevant. People can go to the website to ask for help or offer their services, ranging from babysitting to grocery shopping or walking the dog. Nutrition and Health Bachelor's student Ries van Dijk recently became a regional manager for the site.

ON TV

Van Dijk is having a year out as a board member for student society Ceres, but since society activities have come to a standstill, he has plenty of time for other activities. 'We match coronavirus-related requests and offers. We are expecting an increase in the number of ap-

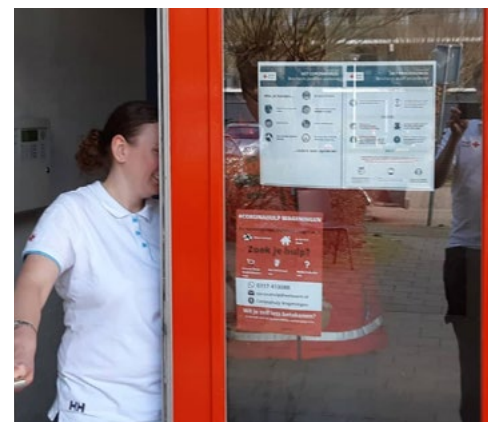
plications because we were on two TV talk shows last week.'

Facebook group *Coronahulp Wageningen* also links those able to help with those in need, but more directly and on a smaller scale. The group grew to almost 1000 members in just four days. Doctors ask if anybody has any face-masks lying around, a pupil requests help in preparing for exams, and another person wants someone to help her parents with their shopping.

'We mainly get calls from vulnerable people'

ASSISTANCE

Hermen Buitenhuis, a third-year Plant Sciences student, got involved in the initiative through the Red Cross. 'The Red Cross offers all sorts of relief help and has now opened an



▲ Volunteers put up posters that tell people how to get help.

emergency phone number (070-445888). We mainly get calls from vulnerable people. Many questions can be solved by phone, but occasionally we offer physical assistance. We are there for people.' **IC**

MEANWHILE IN... BRAZIL

'Beautiful to see that Brazilians are trying to help each other'

COVID-19 is now a global pandemic and has hit almost every country in the world, including Brazil. André Bertran comments on the developments in his home country.

'A large chunk of the population is fearfully following the situation in other places, especially Italy, and doing all they can to slow the spread of the virus. As my cousin lives with her elderly parents for example, every time she returns from walking her dogs, she immediately takes off all of her clothes and has a shower. But, just like in the Netherlands, unfortunately there are also still a lot of people who go to the beach, or host a party. Being social is in our genes, and it's not making this easy.

An even bigger obstacle for containing the damage of the virus is the huge disparity in Brazil. While there are some who can afford the luxury of staying home, the majority of people can't. A huge part of the already struggling

economy in Brazil is our microeconomy: small business owners such as the guy with the food



PHOTO: ALEXANDRE ROTENBERG / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

stand or the woman repairing clothes. If they stop working, the economic damage will be critical. But if everyone keeps going to work, the virus can spread easily.

Our public health system is probably ill equipped to keep up with demand. Initially, there weren't enough tests available. I'm especially worried about my mom. She falls in a triple risk group, as she's over 65, has high blood-pressure and a weakened immune system due to her cancer history. Luckily, my mom is retired so she can stay at home more easily. It's beautiful to see that Brazilians are really trying to help each other. Artists are live-streaming concerts and telling their followers to stay home. Local governments are taking actions and universities are offering their resources. I'd advise everyone to keep in touch with your elderly relatives. And please take care of your own mental health as well.' **IC**



André Bertran (33), just started a postdoc at Nematology.

YOU ON CAMPUS

Just before the strict coronavirus measures were put in place, Luuk Jungerling, a first-year student of Plant Sciences, was enjoying the sunshine on a stroll across the campus. The atmosphere was relaxed, and so was he. 'I don't get stressed too easily and I take life pretty much as it comes.'

Luuk's academic path has been different to that of many students: he came on to Wageningen University from an Applied Sciences Bachelor's degree. 'I did the Bachelor's in Applied Biology at AERES University of Applied Sciences in Almere. Compared to this university, that programme is a lot more practical. Before I came to Wageningen, I got a lot of experience during my three internships. My overseas internship in Surinam in particular was one big adventure!' Luuk has moved around a lot, thanks to all those internships. 'When I was doing my Bachelor's degree, I lived in five different places, but never in a normal student house.

I prefer to be a live-in property guardian [to prevent squatting, ed.] because then you can get a house relatively easily and cheaply. But that has to suit you: it can lack life's luxuries, it can be a bit draughty and not very cosy – if you are living in an office building, for instance. And there are often strict rules such

'I really like being a live-in guardian'

as that you can't have pets. But I like it a lot, especially because you get to live in unusual places. In Vlaardingen I lived in a 20-room villa with nine others, whereas now I'm in a labourer's cottage with a big garden, with just one housemate.'

But Luuk has something else in mind for the future. 'As I see it now, after I graduate I'd like to work for five years to save money. With



the money I save, I'd then like to take at least two years off. What I'd like most would be to build a self-sufficient house with a vegetable garden on a piece of land in the middle of nature in Sweden. What I really don't want is to work 40 hours a week for 40 years, because I think that could get quite depressing at times.' **HB**

Toilet paper? You've got your left hand!

Student and world traveller Angelo Braam couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the run on toilet paper in Wageningen. His tip: use your hand and a splash of water.

Crowds of people were hysterically grabbing as much toilet paper as they could in Wageningen supermarkets last week. Is loo paper really our top priority in the Netherlands? In Turkey, Ethiopia, China – or any of the regions in between them – you wouldn't dream of shaking someone's left hand. That is seen as disrespectful because the left hand has an extra function in many cultures: the one we assign to our toilet paper. Yuck, you might be thinking. Well, that's what they think about us.

PAPER

'If you got poo on your arm, would you just wipe it off with paper? Of course not. So why do you do that with your backside?' Washing

Yuck, you might be thinking. Well, that's what they think about us.

your bottom with soap and water sounded too disgusting for words the first time I heard it, but after this question from a Turkish friend, the penny began to drop. If you're done on the loo in Turkey, you rinse all the body parts in question with a jet of water and

finish the job with your left hand and perhaps some soap. Hygiene Turkish-style – and there's something to be said for it. In my friend's words: 'Europeans always look so smart, but the idea that they just wipe their arses with a bit of paper makes me gag.'

115 ROLLS

In my experience, it's not just in Turkey that people feel that way, but also in Africa and Asia. Hygiene habits come in all sorts, with or without the aid of bidets, plastic watering cans or 'bum guns'. They all show that toilet paper is overrated and it has big ecological disadvantages too: in the Netherlands we use 115 toilet rolls per household per year. That is 115 more than in Ethiopia.

BLOG



Angelo Braam is a third-year Bachelor's student of International Development Studies.

Maybe we should introduce bum guns in Wageningen. Good for our sustainable image and a handy survival tool in times of scarcity. Plus, once you've wiped yourself with your left hand there's no way you'll skip washing your hands. Exactly the hygiene we need at the moment. So, is the toilet paper finished? Use your left hand! **B**

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.

'No one cares about privacy here'

'To round off my Bachelor's in Environmental Sciences I took courses at the Asian School of Environment in Singapore. I came here because I wanted to find out more about volcanoes and natural disasters, but also to learn to understand the Asian perspective on the environment better. And I couldn't think of a better combination of courses than Tropical Ecology and a course about the ocean! In terms of education, it is almost identical to Wageningen – they even seem to have used each other's slides. But life here on campus is different to the Netherlands. It feels like you are spending six months on a campsite, especially in this tropical climate.'

MINIATURE ASIA

'Singapore is the most westernized country in Asia. It is highly developed and they keep on building, but they certainly don't forget about greenery in the city. You can find everything Asian in Singapore: every hundred metres you seem to be in a different country, like Malaysia, India, China, the Middle East, or wherever you can think of. You can travel all around the city with your student card, through the different neighbourhoods. And you can suddenly find yourself in a rain forest or one of the many parks.'

HARD WORK

'Most of my group projects are in the start-up phase, but the locals are really fanatical, I'm told. For example, my Dutch roommate here had a Skype meeting at 11:30 on a Friday night

to put together a PowerPoint presentation of a research proposal. You can't imagine that happening in the Netherlands. Singlish – the local English that everyone speaks here – can be hard to follow at times.'

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

'Because of the coronavirus, we have to report our temperature twice a day, lectures were cancelled and tests had to be done online. Because there is so much surveillance in Singapore, they have been very successful in combatting the virus, but you have no privacy at all in this country and no one seems to care about privacy either. We are so amazingly free in the Netherlands, actually. We are no longer allowed to visit certain countries from Singapore, and I hope that by the end of the semester we can go everywhere without being put in quarantine. Because you can get to Malaysia in no time by bus, or to Indonesia by boat. And if you can put your flight shame on hold, you can see all South-East Asia in one semester!' **MvS**

THE WORKS

Who? Laura Savonije (22), BSc student of Environmental Sciences
What? Minor at the Asian School of Environment
Where? Singapore



Do you too have a nice story about your internship or thesis research abroad?
 Email resource@wur.nl

ALL QUIET AT THE STUDENT SOCIETY

The coronavirus crisis is having a huge impact on student societies, from the cancellation of activities to financial worries. But the parties and the fraternity dinners will be back, says Wouter de Ronde of Ceres.

Student life in Wageningen has undergone an incredible transformation in a matter of days. From a busy campus, an overcrowded library and bicycle jams at the traffic lights to isolation at home and online education. The social side of student life is not the same either. 'It is not a nice situation but it is unique,' says Amber Laan, chair of KSV Franciscus student society. 'The crisis has caused us to cancel all activities for the time being. The society building is closed until further notice.' That doesn't mean the board has nothing to do, though. 'In times of crisis, the society can help make people realize the ur-

gency of the crisis, and urge members to act responsibly,' says Laan. 'We have strongly advised all members to avoid unnecessary social contact for the sake of their own health and that of others.'

PUZZLE

At Ceres too, members are kept up to date on the latest developments, says chair Wouter de Ronde. 'We keep them informed about the RIVM measures and advise against

'Closing the whole society for a few weeks means a loss of turnover'

certain activities, such as house parties and dinners, with your year club for example. At the same time, we try to reassure people: don't

worry about missing these activities – they'll be back later in the year.' It will be quite a puzzle, admits De Ronde. 'A number of major Ceres activities were planned for the next few months, which will have to be postponed. It will be a challenge to do justice to them without scrapping a lot of other activities.' Unitas Youth Club has cancelled all planned activities. 'That is difficult for a society. At the moment we are looking to see whether we can organize online activities,' explains chair Jesse Tilder. 'That could be a party via livestreaming, so you can dance along in your own room.'

REVENUE

Ceres has financial worries as well. De Ronde: 'Closing the whole soci-

ety for a few weeks means a loss of turnover. That turnover would normally be used for building maintenance and renovation, and paying staff. Our treasurers and storekeeper are working on reducing costs to limit the losses.' All the student societies are having to improvise at the moment. 'I am trying to see things as positively as possible,' says Laan. 'You learn a lot from seeing how everyone behaves now. And once the society is allowed to open again – though goodness knows when – there is sure to be a big party. **ILZ**



PHOTO: CERES STUDENT SOCIETY. PHOTO: JULES VAN AUBEL

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RESOURCE
For everyone at Wageningen University & Research





NOT ON CAMPUS – STUDYING IN TIMES OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Student life is all but dead. Events are postponed, parties cancelled and the sports centre is closed for the coming weeks. Students try to make the best of their situation in the coronavirus crisis.

The student members of the AID board (responsible for organizing the annual introduction days) valiantly continue from home with their efforts to organize a successful introduction week. 'We are doing everything we can to make this a success,' says board member Josien Hendricksen (21). 'Luckily, the AID is still a long way away. Everyone is working from home and collaborating through Skype. We took the ergonomic keyboards and mice from the office; everything else we need is available at home. It took a day to figure out what works best, but we were already accustomed to arranging our own schedule. We're doing fine.'

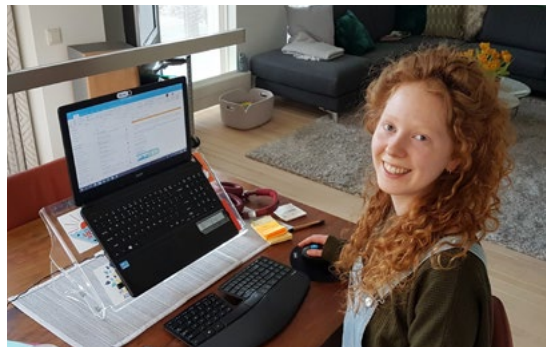
'Many commitments are cancelled, but I need structure'

The AID board keeps a close watch on the university guidelines. Hendricksen: 'So far, we expect the AID programme to stay as we had planned it. We are still working on the assumption that we will be able to have a normal AID.'


Nutrition student Annika Suichies (21) is not new to self-study. Still, she is running into some unprecedented problems in working from home. 'I now realize how much freedom of movement we normally have.' Suichies explains how she creates her daily routine. 'I like routine. Many commitments are now cancelled, but I need structure. My flatmates and I drew up a mini schedule of little activities we can do together, such as baking a cake or doing a yoga work-out in our student room. We make the best of the situation.' The nutrition



▲ Student Annika Suichies and her flatmates have drawn up a schedule of activities.



▲ Student Josien Hendricksen is working from home organizing the AID.

student has some practical advice for her fellow students. 'Find new workspaces in your home. Vary them if possible, and if you are free of symptoms, go outside to enjoy nature and get some exercise. A stroll along the dyke can't hurt, as long as you keep at a distance from others and avoid crowded places. And stay positive but realistic: use your common sense.'  RD

Share your 'not on campus' story via [insta @resource_wur](https://www.instagram.com/resource_wur) or email resource@wur.nl #WURkfromHOME

Announcements

Writing Lab support

In this time of working from home you might need a little extra help in your writing process, so remember the support you can find at the Writing Lab. If you would like some input from a tutor, just apply for a session over Skype or another digital medium. Also, you can still join our workshops. You'll find out more on our

SharePoint website. For more information, email Info.wageningenwritinglab@wur.nl or phone 0317485625.

Agenda

26 March to 16 April

MOVIE W

Because of the measures that have been announced, we are closing our doors from 16 March until at

least the beginning of April. That means all screenings are cancelled. At the end of March we'll decide whether we can open in April, so there is no film programme planned for April yet. We hope to see you again in our cinema before too long. Take care of each other and keep well!

MOVIE.W.NL

Colophon

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>>TYPICAL DUTCH




ILLUSTRATION: HENK VAN RUITENBEEK

Dutch curtains are always open

Whenever I ride my bike or travel by bus, I notice there's something unique about Dutch houses. You can always see right into them! Dutch people's curtains are hardly ever drawn, whether it is day or night, whether it's the middle of a warm summer or a freezing winter.

For me this is an unusual sight. In my own country or the other countries that I have visited, people are most likely to protect their privacy by drawing the curtains. They don't want outsiders to see their activities inside the house.

But here in the Netherlands, it's a bit different. The Dutch just leave their large windows unshielded, allowing passers-by to view their living quarters as if to show they have nothing to hide inside. As their living room is totally exposed, we can observe their activities. We might see them watching TV, reading books, cooking meals or even playing board games.

Yeah, sometimes I do feel strange taking a peek into Dutch houses every time I pass by. But I do love to see the Dutch interiors. They are mostly well-arranged: chairs, tables, lighting, wall decoration, fridge and cabinets – everything is in the right place. It feels satisfying to see their presentable interiors as they're always clean and tidy.  **Afrizal Maarif Imron, MSc Student of Landscape Architecture and Planning, from Indonesia**

The Dutch allow passers-by to view their living quarters as if to show they have nothing to hide

Do you have a nice anecdote about your experience of going Dutch? Send it in! Describe an encounter with Dutch culture in detail and comment on it briefly. 300 words max. Send it to resource@wur.nl and earn 25 euros and Dutch candy.