

PE&RC Messages

June 2018

PE&RC Day – 8 November 2018

We have five wonderful speakers lined up for you! They will each give their own perspective on the social networks of nature, something we humans form quite easily nowadays with our technology. Yet social networks are something very natural, that has existed since long before we created technology. During the 2018 PE&RC day on November 8th we will explore how these function within a wide range of ecosystems and organisms.

Interested in who our speakers are? Or what they will talk about? Then keep an eye out for the PE&RC messages. Or follow us on Twitter (@PEandRC) and Facebook, where we will place our speakers in the spotlight regularly!

To learn more, please visit www.pe-rc.nl/PD2018.

PE&RC Day 2018

The Social Network of Nature

November 8th



HIGHLIGHTS

Working Conference - Models, improving photosynthesis and better crop yields: is this the future?

(21 June 2018)

Life on earth depends on photosynthesis. Crop yields are a function of the dynamics of photosynthesis during the day and during the growing season. Increasing yields to produce more food, fodder, and the biomass for a non-fossil carbon economy therefore requires enhanced photosynthesis. Significant progress has recently been made in designing plants with improved photosynthesis; field trials have proven that this will work, even or especially under fluctuating light. However, scaling effects from the molecular level to crop yield makes it difficult to predict the result of bioengineering plants and crops. Developing models that can quantify such effects are crucial to support the application of improved photosynthesis as a route to produce better crop yields.

PE&RC / NWO Graduate Programme 2018 – CALLS OPEN UNTIL 3 JULY 2018

(Deadline 3 July 2018)

Two calls offering PhD positions in PE&RC for talented MSc graduates have just opened. One is an NWO call (open to all), and the other is a PE&RC call (focused on PE&RC groups of Wageningen University). The PE&RC call partly overlaps with the NWO call, and both calls close on the same day (July 3, 14.00 CE(S)T). In some cases, it is possible for applicants to submit their application both to PE&RC and to NWO. However, there are some important differences between the NWO Graduate Programme call and the PE&RC Graduate Programme call. All details about these calls can be found [here](#).

On-site PhD course on Farming Systems and Rural Livelihoods (Uganda) **(15 – 29 September 2018)**

This course provides skills and methods to analyse (the dynamics of) farming systems as embedded in the complex livelihoods of rural people in Africa. Typically, these skills and methods integrate agro-ecological analyses with understandings of the social organization of agricultural production, and the differential ways in which the wider socio-economic environment impacts on farming systems (e.g. the importance of rural-urban linkages, socio-cultural orientations in rural livelihoods, farm investment patterns, labour allocations. Special attention will be given to the vulnerability of agricultural production and aspects of food security in the face of global environmental, social and economic change. Tools for exploration of the adaptive capacity of rural livelihoods and their rural-urban connections will also be reviewed critically.

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **Efficient Writing Strategies - Amsterdam Edition** (13, 27 September, 11, 25 October, 8 November 2018)
Efficient Writing Strategies will guide you through the different stages of an effective writing process and give you the opportunity to discover your strengths and weaknesses and the strategies that work best for you. At the same time, you will make a good start to your writing task, be it an article, research paper or proposal. NOTE: This course will be offered at the University of Amsterdam, and in collaboration with Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS). PhD candidates of Wageningen University are advised to take this course in Wageningen under the umbrella of WGS, as this offers them the reduced course fee that is not applicable for this course in Amsterdam.
- **Principles of Ecological and Evolutionary Genomics** (26 - 28 September 2018)
Ecological genomics is a quite new scientific discipline, which studies ecological complexity, nutrient cycles, life-history patterns and responses of organisms to environmental stress at the genomic level. Analysis of environmental genomes will improve our understanding of ecosystem functions and biodiversity and may help to define and measure environmental quality.
- **Uncertainty Propagation in Modelling** (10 - 14 December 2018)
The purpose of this course is to familiarize participants with statistical methods to analyse uncertainty propagation in spatial modelling, such that they can apply these methods to their own models and data. Both attribute and positional errors are considered. Attention is also given to the effects of spatial auto- and cross-correlations on the results of an uncertainty propagation analysis. Computer practicals make use of the R language for statistical computing.

Other Postgraduate courses

- **Course Statistical analysis for new phenotyping techniques** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (25 – 27 June 2018)
- **BioSB course: Algorithms for Biological Networks (5th edition)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (25 - 29 June 2018)
- **Summer School Unstable geographies of play, ownership and empowerment; An Action Research Event** @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands (28 – 30 June, 3 July 2018)
- **Summer School on agroecology and animal production** @ Clermont-Ferrand, France (2 – 5 July 2018)
- **Course Introduction to Ecometabolomics for Ecologist** @ Leipzig, Germany (27 – 31 August 2018)
- **Towards a Global One Health: an interdisciplinary lens to explore synergies, trade-offs and pathways for food systems transitions** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (27 – 31 August 2018)
- **Course Matrix Approaches to Health Demography** @ Rostock, Germany (5 – 16 November 2018)

Career development, skills and competences

- For a complete overview of this type of courses offered by **Wageningen University & Research**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of this type of courses offered by the **Graduate School of Life Sciences at Utrecht University**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of this type of courses offered by **Leiden University**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of this type of courses offered by **The Graduate School of Science at the University of Amsterdam**, please click [here](#).

Note that when you would want to have a course like this organised at your own institute, please contact [Claudius van de Vijver](#)

Symposia, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars and other activities

- [Lunch meeting 'Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative'](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (19 June 2018)
- [Meeting Food systems think tank](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (20 June 2018)
- [CWE symposium "Towards renewable energy: opportunities and consequences for freshwater and marine ecosystems"](#) @ Delft, the Netherlands (29 June 2018)
- [Tropentag 2018](#) @ Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium (17 - 19 September 2018)
- [International Conference on Ecological Sciences](#) @ Rennes, France (22 - 25 October 2018)
- [PE&RC Day 2018](#) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands (8 November 2018)

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- [Insect-Plant Interactions \(IPI\) lunch meeting](#) (19 June 2018 - 12:30h)
This Tuesday 19 June Onne will start off with his MSc thesis proposal entitled 'Comparing Brassicaceae species for their adaptations to multi-herbivory'.
- [WEES Workshop and Seminar: Chris Templeton](#) (28 June 2018, 13:30 - 17:00h)
In this month's WEES (Wageningen Evolution & Ecology Seminar) Dr. Chris Templeton (Department of Biology, Pacific University (USA)) will give a lecture, called 'Sound the Alarm! Anti-predator communication in social flocks of chickadees and tits'. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday 28 June 2018 (13:30 - 16:00h) in Orion (room C4016) at 13:30h. For a complete overview of all PE&RC discussion groups, please click [here](#).

Position Announcements

- For job vacancies, check [our website](#).

Calls and other information

- [NWO call 'Graduate School Green Top Sectors'](#) (Deadline: 3 July 2018)
This programme offers talented MSc students the opportunity to write their own proposal for a PhD project within the area of the top sector Agri&Food and Horticulture & Starting Materials. Note that a meeting regarding 'Matchmaking with the private sector for the NWO call Graduate School 'Groene Topsectoren' 2018' is organised on Wednesday 13 June from 09:00-13:00h at AC de Meern, Meerndijk 59, 3454 HP, De Meern.
- [NWO call 'Refugees in Science'](#) (Deadline: 13 September 2018)
The aim of this call is to fund one-year appointments for academics who have fled their home country and wish to continue their scientific career in the Netherlands.
- [Funds to publish in an Open Access journal](#) (Deadline: Continuous application)
Since the rise of fully Open Access journals some 15 years ago, there is a possibility to disseminate your research more widely. Some publishers nowadays also offer the option to make an individual article from subscription journals Open Access. WUR Library supports you in Open Access publishing. Find out what your possibilities are or contact us for immediate support.
- [NWO Visitor's Travel Grants](#) (Deadline: Continuous application)
Researchers in the Netherlands can apply for a visitor's grant for highly qualified senior researchers from abroad who hold a PhD. With this grant these researchers can stay in the Netherlands for a maximum of four months)

If you have information that you would like to have included in the PE&RC messages, please send this information to Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl

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