

PE&RC Messages

September 2018

PE&RC Day – 8 November 2018

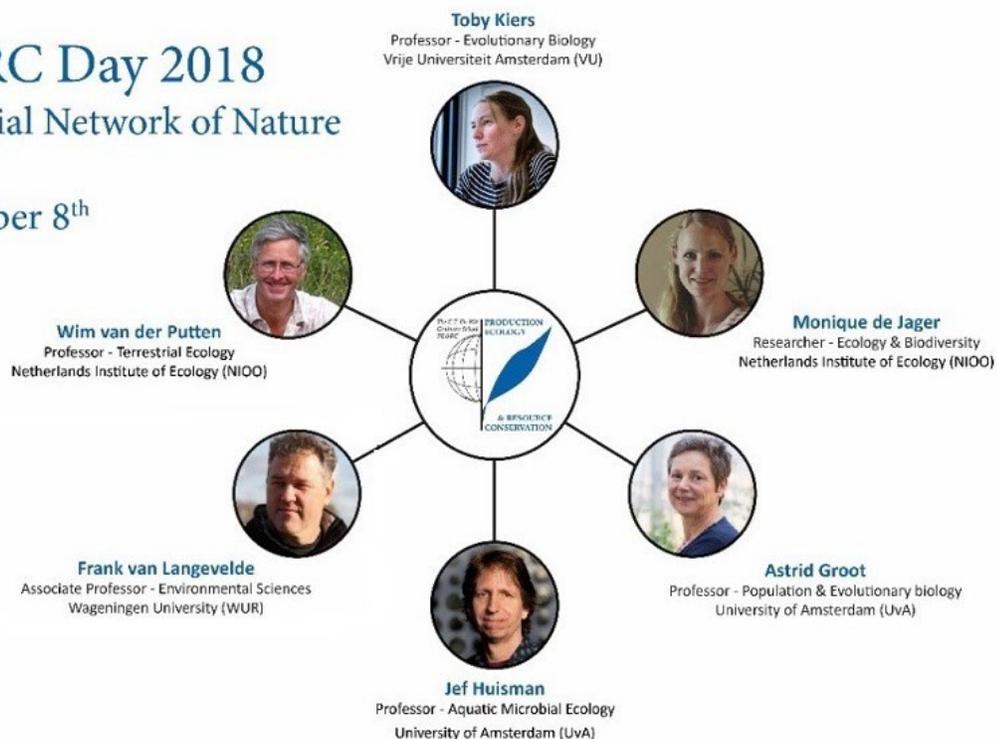
We have six wonderful speakers lined up for you! They will each give their own perspective on the social networks of nature, something we humans form quite easily nowadays with our technology. Yet social networks are something very natural, that has existed since long before we created technology. During 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

Symposium - Innovative solutions for plant cultivation in the urban environment

(4 October 2018)

In recent years, due to the increasing relevance of urban agriculture in world cities, a number of interdisciplinary researches on associated topics is emerging. Urban horticulture is being promoted in cities from all over the world with the main aim of fostering food security and associated ecosystem services. The highly dense urban fabric may lead to experiment cultivation in spaces that were not previously meant for hosting plants, as in the cases of rooftop greenhouses or artificially illuminated indoor

environments. In this half-day symposium, the multifaceted aspects associated with innovation in urban horticulture will be addressed.

Consumer-Resource Interactions

(2 - 6 December 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 Weekends coming up!

Friday 12 - Sunday 14 October 2018 – First years weekend | *The idea of this weekend is to make PhD candidates more familiar with what to expect during the PhD track and how to avoid major catastrophes and disappointments. Focus will be on the PhD process and pitfalls you can encounter along the way as well as the criteria for a successful PhD within 4 years. Furthermore you will be informed about the PhD Programme itself and the role that the Graduate School plays as a process facilitator.* [More information and registration](#)

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 October 2018 – Midterm weekend | *Whereas the idea of the first years weekend was to make you more familiar with what to expect during the PhD track and how to avoid major catastrophes and disappointments, this will be the time to reflect and see if nevertheless such catastrophes and disappointments have surfaced, and how to deal with them. An essential part of the weekend is also reflecting on the question "Am I on Schedule?" We will also discuss people's personal plan of action for the second part of the PhD. Apart from this, the importance of networking and peer-coaching are highlighted. Finally, this weekend is meant to get back in touch with your fellow PhDs and learn from them how to tackle specific issues.* [More information and registration](#)

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 October 2018 – Last years weekend | *In this weekend, PhD candidates in the last years of their track are prepared for the specific challenges that await them. Among these challenges are the preparation of a thesis, meeting the deadlines associated with thesis defence and the choice of a further career inside or outside science. Next to this attention to the challenges, participants are offered the opportunity to reflect on the years spent obtaining a PhD: what have they learned, what have they not learned, what do they want to pursue in the future.* [More information and registration](#)

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **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.
- **Bayesian Statistics** (15 - 16 October 2018)
Nowadays, with the advance of computing and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithms, Bayesian statistics is becoming a powerful alternative for traditional Frequentistic statistics. The philosophy behind Bayesian Statistics is discussed. Practical examples are studied, and analysed using the (freeware) program WinBUGS. Participants will be surprised how easy they can tackle problems that are quite complicated to handle with traditional Frequentistic statistics.
- **Linking Community and Ecosystem Dynamics** (21 - 26 October 2018)
This course focuses on theoretical concepts, such as autocatalytic loops and positive and negative feedbacks between organisms in ecological networks. Also, the importance of non-trophic interactions by ecosystem engineers, and how these principles can be used to link communities to ecosystems to enable to understand how environmental change affect community and ecosystem dynamics.
- **Introduction to R for Statistical Analysis** (8 - 9 November 2018)
The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to R, a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. Focus of the course will be on getting familiar with the R environment, to use R for manipulation and exploration of data, and to perform simple statistical analyses. Hands-on exercises will form a large part of the workshop. After introduction of a topic, participants can work through some exercises, familiarizing themselves with the ideas.
- **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.
- **GIS in Practice** (10 - 22 December 2018)

GIS is commonly used as a tool to deal with spatial information. Although GIS packages are becoming increasingly user-friendly, the conceptual model behind the storage, analysis, and display is still essential to properly deal with these systems. This course aims to give an overview of this conceptual model, after which it will go in-depth in the use of ArcGIS using a number of practical cases.

- **[Basic Statistics](#)** (10 - 12, 17 & 18 December 2018)
This is a refresher course for PhD candidates. The level is that of a second course in Statistics. We will refresh basic knowledge of Probability, Statistical Inference (Estimation and Testing), t-tests, simple cases of Regression and ANOVA, Experimental Design, Non-parametric Tests, and Chi-square Tests. Some time is reserved to discuss statistical problems of the participants.
- **[Design of Experiments](#)** (19 – 21 December 2018)
The design and analysis of experiments, using plants, animals, or humans, are an important part of the scientific process. Proper design of an experiment, apart from its proper analysis and interpretation, is important to convince a researcher that your results are valid and that your conclusions are meaningful.

Other Postgraduate courses

- **[Course Matrix Approaches to Health Demography](#)** @ Rostock, Germany (5 – 16 November 2018)
- **[Electron Microscopy from Amsterdam to Wageningen](#)** @ Wageningen/Amsterdam, the Netherlands (12 - 16 November 2018)
- **[Global perspectives on adaptive wildlife management](#)** @ Sweden/South Africa (December 2018 - February 2019)

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

- **[Celebration Festschrift Emeritus Professor Johan Bouma](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (20 September 2018)
- **[Workshop Remote Sensing and Forest Resource Monitoring](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (15 October 2018)
- **[Symposium - Breeding Data: Statistical Advances in Modern Plant Breeding](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (16 October 2018)
- **[Symposium - Earth Futures](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (19 October 2018)
- **[International Conference on Ecological Sciences](#)** @ Rennes, France (22 - 25 October 2018)
- **[Online e-conference on responding to the fall armyworm outbreak in Africa](#)** @ Online (22 - 26 October 2018)
- **[International Soil Modeling Consortium \(ISMC\) Conference - New perspectives on soil models](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (5 – 7 November 2018)
- **[Symposium Dier of Ding \(in Dutch\)](#)** @ Utrecht, the Netherlands (24 November 2018)
- **[NCG symposium 2018](#)** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (29 November 2018)

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- **[B-Wise Seminar](#)** (2 October 2018 – 12:30h)
On Tuesday October 2nd, the first B-Wise meeting of the new academic year will take place at 12:30h in room C0226 in the Forum building. Lunch will be available from 12:00h onwards. Speakers: Christian Gilissen (Radboud University, Human Genetics and Genome Diagnostics) and Mohammad Alanjary (WU Bioinformatics).

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

- **[KNAW Beijerinck prizes for Virology](#)** (Deadline: 1 October 2018)
The Beijerinck Virology Prize is awarded every two years in the field of virology.
- **[PE&RC Call for Institutional Collaboration 2018](#)** (Deadline: 11 October 2018)
PE&RC has initiated a new call to stimulate collaboration between Wageningen University and the other PE&RC partner institutes via short joint PhD and/or postdoc projects.
- **[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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