

PE&RC Messages

March 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

PHD COURSES

Survival Analysis

(10 - 11 April 2019)

Survival analysis, or time-to-event analysis, was originally developed in medical statistics to analyse the effects of covariates on survival times of patients (hence its name). Techniques from survival analysis can be applied in a variety of biological contexts, whenever data consist of time until occurrence of a certain event. Examples are many types of behavioural data, times until recapture, and latency data.

Crop Physiology and Climate Change:

Understanding fundamental processes to counter the challenge

(5 - 10 May 2019)

Crop yields are expected to decline due to the consequences of climate change. This course will explore the effects of elevated CO₂, temperature and drought on crop physiology. Crop traits that can mitigate or even enhance yield under the stress will be explored via a toolbox of options where we will integrate different physiological processes using a systems approach. Modelling will be a central tool in the course..

The Art of Modelling

(6 - 17 May 2019)

Ecological modelling, based on field data, has become an indispensable tool in ecological research. This course presents a conceptual framework for ecological modelling: covering elementary growth models and probability distributions needed to mathematically model processes.

MEETINGS/SYMPOSIA

8th IOBC-WPRS Working Group Meeting

(27 - 29 March 2019)

This meeting brings together the latest insights on current topics in landscape management for functional biodiversity, including the management for multiple ecosystem services, the identification of promising crop and non-crop management options to support biodiversity-based pest management, and initiatives to meet the challenge to halt the ongoing decline of important farmland species. Promising areas for future research will be identified.

Plant Breeding and Biotechnology symposium

(extended deadline for registration: 31 March 2019!)

(11 - 13 June 2019)

During the symposium we will get inspired by four invited speakers within the following four themes: plant breeding for a circular bio-economy, improving plants for sustainable intensification of agriculture under a changing climate, from field phenotyping to phenomics and speed breeding, and knowledge-intensive breeding in the omics era.

International Conference:

Innovative strategies for vector control

Progress in the Global Vector Control Response

(11 - 13 June 2019)

Triggered by the unprecedented global spread of dengue and chikungunya viruses and outbreaks of Zika virus disease and yellow fever in 2015-2016, the World Health Organization developed the Global Vector Control Response (GVCR) as a strategic guidance to countries and development agencies for the strengthening of vector control as a fundamental approach to preventing disease and responding to outbreaks. This conference has been set up to evaluate the GVCR progress, and discuss further strengthening

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **[Bugs at your Service - Fundamentals and application of arthropod-mediated ecosystem services](#)** (31 March - 5 April 2019)
This course provides an overview of concepts and tools that can contribute to the design of multifunctional landscapes that are better suited to capitalize on ecosystem services in conjunction with other land-use functions.
- **[Multivariate Analysis](#)** (30 April, 1, 2, 7 and 8 May 2019)
The course gives a good overview of when and how to use multivariate analysis techniques. It is mainly based on the book "Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data Using CANOCO 5"
- **[Basic Statistics](#)** (13 - 14 May 2019)
This refresher course will focus on basic knowledge of Probability, Statistical Inference (Estimation and Testing), t-tests, simple cases of Regression and ANOVA, Experimental Design, Nonparametric Tests, and Chi-square Tests. Some time is reserved to discuss statistical problems of the participants.
- **[Introduction to R for Statistical Analysis](#)** (13 - 14 May 2019)
This course provides 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.
- **[ISRIC - Spring school on mapping and assessment of soils](#)** (20 - 24 May 2019)
This course focusses on digital soil mapping, classification and assessment for soil and environmental scientists and professionals in natural resources management.
- **[ISRIC - Hands-on Digital Soil Mapping](#)** (20 - 24 May 2019)
This course introduces methods and software for management, analysis and mapping of soil type and soil properties within the R environment for statistical computing. After this course participants will be able to apply the methods learnt to their own datasets.
- **[Design of Experiments](#)** (21 - 23 May 2019)
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.
- **[Machine learning for spatial data](#)** (3 - Friday 7 June 2019)
The design and analysis of experiments, using plants, animals, or humans,
- **[Linear Models](#)** (12 - 14 June 2019)
In this statistical module we study regression, ANOVA, and ANCOVA, set in the general framework of Linear Models. We look at topics like parameter estimation and interpretation, checking model assumptions, regression diagnostics, analysis of unbalanced designs and multiple comparisons.
- **[Generalized Linear Models](#)** (20 - 21 June 2019)
In this statistical module we study how to analyse data that are not normally distributed. We look at fractions (logistic regression), counts (Poisson regression, log-linear models), ordinal data (threshold models), and overdispersion. We discuss (quasi-) maximum likelihood estimation and the deviance.
- **[Mixed Linear Models](#)** (27 - 28 June 2019)
In this statistical module we discuss how to analyse data for which the assumption of independence is violated. So: Do you have a nested experimental set-up? Or repeated measurements? Or weight of the same animal over time? Or pseudo-replication? Then, you are likely to need Mixed Models. In this course, you will learn all about it!
- **[Animal Movement Analysis](#)** (30 June - 5 July 2019)
This course provides participants with skills to work with animal movement data including data management and organization, working with large tracking datasets, data exploration, visualization and analysis of movement data. The course combines several guest lectures from international experts in the field of animal movement research.
- **[Geocomputation using free and open source software](#)** (8 - 12 July 2019)
This course using free and open source software is an immersive 5-day experience opening new horizons in the use of the outstanding power of Linux and the command line approach for processing geospatial data. Jumpstart with R, Grass, Python, Gdal/Ogr library and linux operating system.

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

- [Ritzema Bos Lecture #1: Investigating the biology of plant infection by the rice blast fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (2 April 2019)
- [Symposium and Workshop: Conflict or Coexistence - Facing the Human/Wildlife Interface](#) @ Lyon, France (13 - 17 April 2019)
- [2nd Conference of the Netherlands Society for Evolutionary Biology \(NLSEB\)](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (16 April 2019)
- [Laboratory Skills Course in Soil Biology and Biochemistry](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (13 - 17 May 2019)
- [BCF Career Event 2019 \(The Career Event for Bio/Life Sciences, Chemistry, Food & Pharma\)](#) @ Utrecht, the Netherlands (23 May 2019)
- [Dutch Life Sciences Congress 2019 - 'Communication in Life'](#) @ Bunnik, the Netherlands (28 - 29 May 2019)
- [16th International Symposium on Soil and Plant Analysis \(ISSPA 2019\)](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (17 - 20 June 2019)
- [9th International Granulation Workshop](#) @ Lausanne, Switzerland (26 - 28 June 2019)
- [International Master Class on Healthy and sustainable diets: synergies and trade-offs](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (8 - 10 July 2019)
- [Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation \(ATBC\) 2019](#) @ Antananarivo, Madagascar (30 July - 3 August 2019)
- [Agent-based modelling with NetLogo](#) @ Göttingen, Germany (26 - 30 August 2019)
- [Wageningen Soil Conference \(submission abstracts: deadline 15 April 2019\)](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (27 - 30 August 2019)
- [49th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland](#) @ Münster, Germany (9 - 13 September 2019)
- [Summer School 2016: Transformative Human-Environment Research & Participatory Methods: From Co-production to Co-producing](#) @ Berlin, Germany (16 - 21 September 2019)
- [VertiFarm2019 - International workshop on vertical farming](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (13 - 15 October 2019)
- [10th World Conference Ecosystem Services Partnership \(ESP\)](#) @ Hannover, Germany (21 - 25 October 2019)
- [Biodiversity next](#) @ Leiden, the Netherlands (22 - 25 October 2019)

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- [WEES Workshop and Seminar: Elisabeth Bolund](#) (21 March 2019 -16:00h)
In this month's WEES (Wageningen Evolution & Ecology Seminar), Elisabeth Bolund (Uppsala University, Sweden), will give a lecture called 'The evolution of sexually dimorphic life histories'.

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

CALLS

- [Collaboration Chinese Agricultural University \(CAU\) – WUR](#) (Deadline pre-proposal: **20 March 2019!**)
WU established a collaboration program with CAU called the Agricultural Green Development program and this program also includes jointly supervised PhD projects. The program is not only an education and research base between CAU and WU, but also a Chinese and Dutch communication and collaboration platform for agricultural education and science.
- [VICI 2019](#) (Deadline pre-proposal: 26 March 2019)
The Innovative Research Incentives Scheme Vici is a grant for senior researchers.
- [Rubicon](#) (Deadline: 2 April 2019)
Rubicon aims to encourage talented researchers at Dutch universities and research institutes run by KNAW and NWO to dedicate themselves to a career in postdoctoral research.

- **[NWO call - Smart solutions for horti- and agriculture](#)** (Deadline: 9 April 2019)
A consortium of researchers and private partners may apply for funding for research that provides new, smart solutions that lead to sustainable and circular agricultural systems, while, at the same time, securing a healthy livelihood for farmers and agriculture-related companies.
- **[PE&RC call for Visiting Scientists 2019](#)** (Deadline: 15 April 2019)
The objectives of the PE&RC Visiting Scientist grants are to stimulate scientific quality of research within PE&RC and to strengthen international relations.
- **[WGS Sandwich PhD programme 2019](#)** (Deadline: 20 May 2019)
This year Wageningen Graduate Schools has about six positions available for sandwich PhD candidates. The budget of around € 60.000 covers eighteen months of stay in Wageningen and reimbursements for travel costs of student and supervisors.
- **[Wageningen Graduate Schools \(WGS\) Postdoc Talent Programme - Call for proposals 2019](#)** (Deadline: 1 June 2019)
The Postdoc Talent Programme offers talented researchers from abroad the opportunity to start a career at Wageningen University & Research. Applications should demonstrate the added value of the grant for the applicant's career and the value of the applicant's expertise for Wageningen UR.
- **[Funds to publish in an Open Access journal](#)** (Deadline: Continuous application)
Open Access to research results means that this material is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions. The Library supports you in Open Access publishing.
- **[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)
- **[NWO Open competition - Science KLEIN](#)** (Deadline: continuous application)
In the NWO Open Competition Domain Science - KLEIN researchers can apply individually or in collaboration for curiosity-driven, fundamental research in the research fields of the NWO Domain Science.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **[Climate Letter Dutch Universities](#)**
With this letter, we call upon university management to develop and implement policies to drastically reduce the universities' carbon emissions.

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

<https://www.pe-rc.nl> | <https://www.facebook.com/GraduateSchoolPERC/> |
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