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PE&RC | The Graduate School for Production Ecology and Resource Conservation

PE&RC Messages

December 2019

The Graduate school PE&RC looks back on an eventful and exciting year 2019. We are proud to offer state-of-the art postgraduate education in the Netherlands at a national level. Thank you for your contribution to the success of PE&RC and we hope to see you soon in one of the following courses or activities! One activity to certainly mark down in your agendas is the

PE&RC New Year's Drinks, which is scheduled for Wednesday the 15th of January. It takes place in the Lumen building of Wageningen Campus (Lumen 1) and starts around 4:30 PM.

Season's greetings and best wishes for the New Year!

HIGHLIGHTS

International PhD Course | Root Ecology

(19 – 24 January 2020)

This post-graduate course focuses on root ecology, how roots grow, function and interact with the surrounding environment. We will discuss differences and similarities between roots in natural ecosystems and roots of agricultural plants and how future research and breeding of agricultural plants can exploit the knowledge obtained from natural systems. The course will be held at Parkhotel de Bosrand in Ede.

PhD Course | Multivariate Analysis

(29 – 31 January, 3-4 February 2020)

In this course, the participant will be provided with both the basic understanding of the principles of multivariate methods and the skills needed to use those methods in his/her own work. The course consists of lectures and computer practicals using RStudio.

PhD Course | Chemical Communication

(2 – 6 February 2020)

This course will provide 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. The focus of the course will be on consumer-resource interactions underlying pollination and biocontrol services, the spatial ecology of pollinators and natural enemies, the impact of pest management practices on arthropod-mediated ecosystem services, and the design of multifunctional landscapes that support arthropod-mediated ecosystem services as well as other land-use functions. The course will be held at Parkhotel de Bosrand in Ede.

Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2020 (NAEM)

(11 - 12 February 2020)

Each year, on the second Tuesday and Wednesday of February, the Netherlands Ecological Research Network (NERN) organises her annual conference, the Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting (NAEM). This conference is particularly geared towards people working in the field of ecology and/or evolution. It aims to strengthen the network of ecologists in the Netherlands, Belgium, and surrounding countries and provides an overview of the work carried out by the people in the network. The NAEM meeting is two full days, each day consisting of a plenary session, in which a

Dutch/Flemish and an international world leader present their view on a specific topic in ecology or evolution, two sets of five parallel sessions (including more workshop-like sessions), and a poster session. The 2020 program features exciting plenary sessions on "Chemical communication – Nature's universal language" and on "Soil carbon dynamics in a changing climate", a workshop on science communication, and over 100 oral presentations. The meeting is going to take place in the Conference Centre "De Werelt" in Lunteren, NL.

International PhD Course | Science of Conservation

(18 February – 4 March 2020)

Due to human land use and climate change, the world around us is changing rapidly. Natural vegetation and wildlife are challenged to adapt to these changes, but in many areas biodiversity is declining. The repercussions of these losses for ecosystem functioning and human well-being may be enormous. At the same time, many areas are experiencing a rewilding in terms of both natural vegetation as well as wildlife. Both declining as well as increasing biodiversity create huge global challenges but also opportunities. Challenges arise when, for example, increasing numbers of wildlife enter the human-environment interface, creating conflicts with agriculture and forestry, increasing zoonotic disease risk, and disease transmission between wild and domestic animals. On the contrary, biodiversity may provide opportunities in the form of ecosystem services, such as pollination, meat from hunting, recreation and income-generating opportunities through eco-tourism. The complexity of human-wildlife interaction raises a fundamental question: How do we balance healthy and diverse vegetation and wildlife with the requirement of social and economic sustainability? This question is central to this course on the science of conservation, which will be held at the [Southern African Wildlife College](#) in Hoedspruit, just outside the borders of Kruger NP in South Africa.

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **[Structural Equation Modelling](#)** (11 – 15 May 2020)

While much of statistics focuses associations between variables and making predictions, the aim of structural equation modelling is to establish causal relationships between variables. The focus of this course will be on classical structural equation models with a small number of (latent) variables, but we will also give an introduction to recent developments on methodology for high-dimensional data.

- **[ISRIC - Spring school on world soils and their assessment](#)** (11 – 15 May 2020)

ISRIC – World Soil Information is organising the spring school on world soils and their assessment. The aim of this course is to introduce methods and software for the management, analysis and mapping of soil type and soil property within the R environment for statistical computing.

- **[ISRIC - Hands-on Digital Soil Mapping](#)** (11 – 15 May 2020)

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 to their own datasets.

- **[Resilience of Living Systems - From fundamental concepts to interdisciplinary applications](#)** (24 – 29 May 2020)

During the course, the participants will learn about the basic concepts of resilience and their application, from an interdisciplinary perspective. Accordingly, we will address how resilience theory can be used to tackle fundamental and societal issues from a socioeconomic and bio-physical perspective and will provide a critical reflexion on the relevance, use, and applicability of the concept of resilience.

- **[Forest Management across Europe – Towards climate-smart strategies](#)** (21 – 30 September 2020)

In the third edition of the European Forestry course, organised under the flag of the Euro League of Life Sciences (ELLS), we aim to shed light on the current management strategies of European forests, and how to adjust these to become climate-smart.

- **[Land Dynamics in an Era of Change: Learning from the past to face the future](#)** (12 – 23 October 2020)

The course takes an interdisciplinary perspective to study the complex issues related to the dynamics of the landscape and the development of sustainable systems. For this course we use the slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains in South Africa as a case study.

Career development, skills and competences

- **Wageningen University Library training programmes**, please click [here](#).
- **Wageningen Writing Lab to improve writing skills**, please click [here](#).
- **Educational Staff Development teaching skills courses (open to employees of Wageningen University & Research)**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of courses offered by **Wageningen Graduate Schools**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of courses offered by the **Graduate School of Life Sciences at Utrecht University**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview courses offered by **Leiden University**, please click [here](#).
- For a complete overview of courses offered by **The Graduate School of Science at the University of Amsterdam**, please click [here](#).

Note: if you are interested in organising a similar course at your own institute, please contact [Claudius van de Vijver](#)

Symposia, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars and other activities

- [NWO Information and match-making session - call Living labs for the restoration of rural biodiversity](#) (17 January 2020) @ Utrecht, the Netherlands
- [Workshop "AI and remote sensing for better cities"](#) (20 January 2020) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands
- [WIAS | PhD course Genotype by environment interaction, uniformity and resilience](#) (3 -7 February 2020) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands
- [World Biodiversity Forum 2020](#) (23 - 28 February 2020) @ Davos, Switzerland
- [Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity](#) (10 - 12 March 2020) @ Rome, Italy
- [VIBes in Biosciences 2020](#) (11 - 13 March 2020) @ Leuven, Belgium
- [International Symposium : Future of Butterflies in Europe](#) (2 - 4 April 2020) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands
- [Early career conference - IBS Amsterdam 2020](#) (17 - 19 April 2020) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- [6th International Symposium on Knowledge and Capacity Development for the Water Sector](#) (27 - 29 May 2020) @ Delft, the Netherlands
- [4th International Conference on Global Food Security](#) (16 - 19 June 2020) @ Montpellier, France
- [Conference Plant Health, Agriculture & Bioscience \(PHAB 2020\) - call for papers](#) (9 - 11 September 2020) @ The Hague, the Netherlands
- [Ecology & Evolution Conferences 2019](#) [check overview of up and coming conferences](#)

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- For a complete overview of all PE&RC discussion groups, please click [here](#).

Position Announcements

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

Open calls

- For open calls, check our [website](#).

Upcoming PhD Defences

18 Uta Priegnitz
Dec Wageningen University | Centre for Crop Systems Analysis
11:00 Understanding seed potato selection practices in Uganda

20 Shaphan Yong Chia
Dec Wageningen University | Entomology
16:00 Black soldier fly larvae as a sustainable animal feed ingredient in Kenya

15 Bob Boogaard
Jan Wageningen University | Laboratory of Virology
16:00 Baculovirus per oral infectivity - a complex matter

17 Astrid Bos
Jan Wageningen University | Geo-information Science and Remote Sensing
16:00 Towards performance assessment of subnational forest-based climate change mitigation initiatives

20 Shivangi Srivastava
Jan Wageningen University | Geo-information Science and Remote Sensing
16:00 Multi-Modal Urban Land-Use Characterization

27 Dominique Joubert
Jan Wageningen University | Mathematical and Statistical Methods - Biometris
16:00 Structural identifiability of large Systems Biology models

4 Jessica de Bruijn
Feb Wageningen University | Entomology
16:00 Information reliability shaping parasitoid foraging behaviour

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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