



PE&RC Messages

March 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

[Huub and Julienne Spiertz Fund](#) (deadline: 1 April 2017)

The HSJ Fund financially supports PhDs and postdocs associated to Wageningen University and younger than 35 years of age. They may receive one stipend of maximum € 1.500 per year for a study trip to a foreign university or research institute.

[PE&RC Weekends](#) (first years & last years edition) (21-23 April 2017)

PE&RC organises three types of PE&RC Weekends. Firstly, a 'first years weekend' that is particularly useful for people in the early stages of their PhD. Then, there is a 'midterm weekend' for PhDs that are about halfway down the PhD trajectory, and finally, a 'last years weekend' for PhDs that are close to finishing their PhD project and that are starting to look ahead. This is the announcement for the first years edition and the last years edition, which run simultaneously.

[The Art of Modelling](#) (12-23 June 2017)

Modelling is a crucial part of today's science. Particularly in agronomy, ecology and environmental sciences, where models are used for assessing sensitivity of systems to disturbances or changes in external factors, and for predictions of future system states. This course provides an introduction to modelling. Modelling concepts will be dealt with in detail, going through the basic steps to be taken

[Summer School: Animal Movement Analysis](#) (2-7 July 2017)

The aim of this course is to provide participants with skills to assist them in working with animal movement data including data management and organization, working with large tracking datasets, data exploration, visualization and analysis of movement data. Location: The Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED), University of Amsterdam.

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- [Masterclass Adoption of agricultural and conservation practice](#) (2 May 2017)

This course will examine individual's behaviour towards adopting conservation practices using different approaches that include economic, social and psychological aspects of the decision making process.

- [Introduction to R for statistical analysis](#) (8-9 May 2017)

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.

- [Hands-on Global Soil Information Facilities 2017](#) (15-19 May 2017)

The aim of this ISRIC course is to introduce various components of GSIF and provide hands-on training within the R environment for statistical computing.

- [World Soils and their Assessment 2017](#) (15-19 May 2017)

This is an ISRIC course on international standards for soils classification and assessment. It will provide an introduction to the soils of the world and their diversity, their main forming factors, classification (according to the World Reference Base for Soil Resources 2014), and management.

- [Design of Experiments](#) (19-23 May 2017)

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.

- **Linear Models** (7–9 June 2017)

In this module we continue with Regression, ANOVA, and ANCOVA, set in the general framework of Linear Models. We see this module as the central module, and advise all participants to partake as it forms the basis of other advanced modules such as "Generalized Linear Models" and "Mixed Linear Models". We look at topics like parameter estimation and interpretation, checking model assumptions, regression diagnostics, analysis of unbalanced designs and multiple comparisons. The main statistical software used in the course is R.

- **Generalized Linear Models** (26–27 June 2017)

In this 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. In computer practicals participants can familiarize themselves with models and methods. The main statistical software used in this course is R.

- **Agent-based modelling for resilience** (26-30 June 2017)

Resilience of systems is a major research challenge for our world's future. The systems in which our societies operate have social, ecological and technical components that are ever more connected. Our ambitions for guiding these systems are growing. Agent-based modelling is one of the techniques for investigating the complex, often surprising behaviour of these systems, and their response to policy interventions.

- **Mixed Linear Models** (29–30 June 2017)

In this module we discuss how to analyse dependent data, that is, data for which the assumption of independence needed in Linear Models is violated. With mixed linear models a more appropriate model, allowing for dependence between observations, can be specified, which will lead to more reasonable conclusions. In this module, you will learn about these models (also about the formulation in matrix notation, covariance matrices included), about the way to fit them to your data using software, and about the output produced by the software. The main statistical software used in this course is R.

- **Environmental Signalling in Plants** (28-30 August 2017)

The PhD Summer School has an attractive program with many expert speakers in the field of environmental signalling in plants.

- **Multivariate Analysis** (17, 18, 19, 25, 26 October 2017)

The multidimensional data on community composition, properties of individual populations, or properties of environment are the bread and butter of an ecologist's life. They need to be analysed with taking their multidimensionality into account. A reductionist approach of looking at the properties of each variable separately does not work in most cases. The methods for statistical analysis of such data sets fit under the umbrella of 'multivariate statistical methods'. In this course, our intention is to provide the participant with both the basic understanding of principles of multivariate methods and the skills needed to use those methods in his/her own work.

- **Bayesian Statistics** (25–26 October 2017)

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.

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

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

Career development, skills and competences and career development

- An extra edition of the **WGS Scientific Writing Course** starts on the 24th of May. For more details please click [here](#).
- **Wageningen Graduate Schools** offers an array of these courses. For a complete overview please click [here](#).

Note that all PE&RC PhDs can participate in these courses but that only the WU PhDs are eligible for the reduced fee. Also note that when you would want to have one of these courses to be organised at your own institute to please contact Claudius van de Vijver (Claudius.vandevijver@wur.nl)

Symposia, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars and other activities

- [Network meeting women scientists in Wageningen](#) @ ATLAS 2, Wageningen University Campus, the Netherlands (28 March 2017)
- [Course on Lighting in Greenhouses and Vertical Farms](#) @ Wageningen University Campus, the Netherlands (3–5 April 2017)
- [WGS PhD Workshop Carousel](#) @ ORION Building, Wageningen University Campus, the Netherlands (7 April 2017)
- [4th Annual Wageningen PhD symposium, Sciences: From Local to Global](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (3 May 2017)
- [Training week on Agroecology](#) @ Wanze, Belgium (8–12 May 2017)
- [AGILE International Conference on Geographic Information Science](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (9-12 May 2017)
- [DSSAT 2017](#) @ The University of Georgia, Griffin, USA (15-20 May 2017)
- [IPPN Affordable Phenotyping Workshop](#) @ Jülich, Germany (15–17 May 2017)
- [Frontiers in Ecology: The soil-plant interphase](#) @ Orion building, Wageningen University Campus, the Netherlands (17 May 2017)
- [Epigenesis and epigenics](#) @ Wageningen University, The Netherlands (31 May – 2 June 2017)
- [International Summer School: Evolutionary Biology](#) @ Guarda, Switzerland (17–24 June 2017)
- [Conference Pedometrics 2017](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (27 June – 1 July 2017)
- [International Conference: The Value of Life: Measurement, Stakes, Implications](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (28-30 June 2017)
- [BES Symposium 2017 – The Macroecology of Alien Species: Pattern, Drivers, and Consequences of Global Biotic Exchange](#) @ Durham University, United Kingdom (24–26 July 2017)
- [Summer School in Land System Science](#) @ Filzbach Glarus-Nord, Switzerland (27 August – 1 September 2017)
- [International Congress "Invertebrate Reproduction and Development, Featuring Rhythms of Life and their Alteractions](#) @ Napoli and Firenze, Italy (28 August – 2 September 2017)
- [Fundamentals of Life in the Universe Symposium](#) @ Energy Academy Building, Zernike Campus, Nijenborgh 6, Groningen, the Netherlands (31 August – 1 September 2017)
- [Quantitative Ecology \(Module for Master students and PhD Candidates\)](#) @ Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic (October 2017 – January 2018)
- [3rd International Conference on Global Food Security](#) @ Cape Town, South Africa (3–6 December 2017)
- [Joint Annual Meeting; Ecology Across Borders](#) @ ICC, Ghent, Belgium (11–14 December 2017)

Position Announcements

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

Others

- [WU call for Visiting Scientists 2017](#) (Deadline: 10 April 2017)
- [WU call One Health](#) (Deadline: 10 April 2017)
- [WU Postdoc Talent Programme call 2017](#) (Deadline: 1 May 2017)
- [Funds to publish in an Open Access Journal](#) (Deadline: Continuous application. These funds are only for Wageningen University & Research members. All other Universities have their own funds for publishing in an Open Access Journal)
- [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)
- [Van Gogh Programme](#) (Deadline: Continuous application. Dutch and French researchers who wish to start or continue research cooperation under the Van Gogh Programme can now submit their application for a travel grant for 2016-2017)

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

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