

PE&RC Messages

June 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

[PE&RC Midterm weekend](#) (7 - 9 September 2017)

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?"

[PE&RC First years weekend](#) (20 - 22 October 2017)

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.

[PE&RC Last years weekend](#) (21 - 22 October 2017)

The idea of this weekend is to prepare PhD candidates in the last years of their track 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.

[Entrepreneurship in and outside Science](#) (2, 3 and 23 October 2017)

This workshop focusses on whether participants have entrepreneurial skills, if they can be developed and whether the participant has the entrepreneurial drive. Accordingly the workshop looks at the different manifestations of intra/entrepreneurship in academia, private companies or in an start-up context. Finally we will progress to opportunity recognition and the art of business modelling, where we also use your own research as building material for creating opportunities.

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- [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.

- [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. Agent-based modelling is one of the techniques for investigating complex, surprising behaviour of these systems.

- [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.

- [Human induced Soil Degradation](#) (2-9 September 2017)

This course uses an interdisciplinary approach to learn about the different syndromes of soil degradation in different countries of the world and their consequences for people and the environment. Furthermore, solutions and sustainable management strategies are discussed.

- [R and Big Data](#) (5-6 October 2017)

The main aims of this course are to introduce participants to Big Data and the similarities and differences between regular modelling approaches and big data modelling, to help them understand the possibilities and limitations of R in big data research, to introduce them to high performance computing and to reproducible research. This course is aimed at experienced R users and should not be seen as a course to learn R.

- [Multivariate Analysis](#) (17, 18, 19, 25, 26 October 2017)

The course is mainly based on the book "Multivariate Analysis of Ecological Data Using CANOCO 5" by Petr Smilauer and Jan Leps (2014). Practical exercises, the use of Canoco for Windows (4.5) and GenStat for Windows and interpretation of the output are important elements of the course.

- [Introduction to R for Statistical Analysis](#) (23-24 October 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.

- [Bayesian Statistics](#) (25–26 October 2017)

Nowadays, Bayesian statistics is becoming a powerful alternative for traditional Frequentistic statistics. 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](#) (12-17 November 2017)

This course focuses on theoretical concepts and how these can be used to link communities to ecosystems in order to understand how environmental change affects community and ecosystem dynamics. We will develop conceptual ideas, using examples from many terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems, like savannas, deserts, forests, soils, streams, oceans, etc..

- [Uncertainty Analysis of Dynamic Models](#) (11-15 December 2017)

The purpose of this course is to make the participants familiar with general statistical concepts describing uncertainty, and methods to compute prediction uncertainty coming from uncertain parameter values. We introduce dynamic input-state-output systems and methods to write your model in this format.

- [Geostatistics](#) (5-9 February 2017)

Geostatistics is concerned with the analysis and modelling of spatial variability. It also addresses how quantified spatial variability can be used in optimal spatial interpolation and spatial stochastic simulation. Fields of application include hydrology, soil science, ecology, geology, agriculture, and forestry.

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- [WEES Seminar | A blend of Genetics, Entomology, and Systematics](#) (22 June 2017 (16:00 hrs),

Wageningen University Campus)

Here, Dr. Alexie Papanicolaou of the University of Western Sydney will present our work in the SNMP gene family, a critical family for olfaction and mating, in order to showcase the value of multi-species phylogenetics and the use of whole genome sequencing. In the context of large scale genome sequencing of multiple new species and the occurrence of misassemblies, our approach provides a framework of how these studies ought to be conducted.

- [Landscape Dynamics – Modelling soil landscapes](#) (22 June 2017 (15:00-17:00 hrs), Wageningen

University Campus)

In order to understand and predict the spatial variation in soil properties, different modelling approaches have been developed. Arnaud Temme will give a presentation on mechanistic soil-landscape evaluation modelling. The second presentation will be on the statistical approach of digital soil mapping, by Gerard Heuvelink.

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

Career development, skills and competences and career development

- **Wageningen Graduate Schools offers an array of these courses. For a complete overview please click [here](#).**

- **[Getting on Track with your VENI application](#) (6,7,8,14,29 Sep; 6,13,27 Oct; 24 Nov; 4,8 Dec 2017)**

This programme aims to provide talented postdocs and other promising researchers the skills and competences needed to develop a high quality research proposal to submit within the NWO Veni programme.

Course participants are researchers interested in applying for an NWO VENI grant in 2018 that will be carried out at Wageningen University

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](#).

Symposia, Lectures, Workshops, Seminars and other activities

- [PE&RC Careers After PhD - Seminar](#) @ Impulse Building, Wageningen University Campus, the Netherlands (21 June)
- [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)
- [NWO Talent Scheme Information Meeting](#) @ NWO Java building, Laan van Nieuw Oost-Indië 300, The Hague, the Netherlands (6 July 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)
- [Wageningen Soil Conference 2017: Soil Science in a Changing World](#) @ Wageningen University & Research, Orion Building, Wageningen, the Netherlands (27 - 31 August 2017)
- [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)
- [IALE-Europe PhD Course – From pattern and process to people and action](#) @ Ghent University, Ghent , Belgium (10-19 September 2017)
- [IALE 2017 – European Landscape Ecology Congress](#) @ Ghent University, Ghent , Belgium (12-15 September 2017)
- [Heimans en Thijssse Symposium “Bloemrijk of gifgroen?”](#) (meeting is in Dutch) @ Leeuwenbergh, Servaasbolwerk 1a, Utrecht, the Netherlands (23 September 2017)
- [3rd Annual FLARE Meeting](#) @ Stockholm, Sweden (29 September – 2 October 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)

- [MOOC – Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: a Business Approach](#) @ Online (continuous)
- [World Food System Summer School: Food Systems in Transition](#) @ Côte d'Ivoire (27 January – 10 February 2018)

Position Announcements

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

Others

- [NWO Graduate Programme call 2017 "Agricultural Systems Resilience"](#) (Deadline: 6 July 2017, 14.00 hrs (CET)). *This programme is part of the NWO theme "Agro, Food and Horticulture" which was developed in coordination with the top sector Horticulture & Starting Materials. Within this programme PE&RC developed a [Research Master Programme](#)*
- [KNAW National Postdoc Prize 2017](#) (Deadline: 15 July 2017). *The National Postdoc Prize was established in 2017 by The Young Academy (DJA) and the Royal Holland Society of Sciences and Humanities (KHMW) as an incentive for postdoc researchers who conduct excellent scientific research that could have a major impact on society.*
- [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

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