

PE&RC Messages

August 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

[PE&RC Weekends coming up soon!](#)

Friday 1 & Saturday 2 September 2017 – 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](#)

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 October 2017 – 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 21 & Sunday 22 October 2017 – 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 Day 2017 – Preventing the end of the world - How science can save the planet](#) (Thursday 2 November 2017)

Our world is threatened by problems such as global warming, pandemics, overpopulation, food shortage, collapsing ecosystems, etc., which challenge scientists for solutions. Climate change increases uncertainties in natural processes, threatens unique ecosystems and endangers species. Moreover, a growing world population compromises food security; additionally pandemics spread more rapidly through densely populated areas. Threats like this are existential risks to human kind. During the PE&RC Day 2017 we will discuss several adversities and zoom in on solutions. This day is an excellent opportunity for participants to discuss solutions to these diverse challenges with fellow PE&RC members; a day where scientists from a broad variety of fields share one common goal: to save the world!

Treub Symposium 2017 | Biodiversity and Global Change in the

Tropics (Friday 17 November 2017, 13:30-17:30 hrs)

This symposium is an annually recurring event organised by the Treub Maatschappij and the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics (IBED) of the University of Amsterdam. The overarching theme of the symposium is "Biodiversity and global change in the Tropics". The symposium will take place at the University of Amsterdam on Friday 17 November 2017. Invited speakers are Robert Whittaker (University of Oxford), Hans ter Steege (Naturalis / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Martine Rutte (Delft University of Technology), and Erik Meesters (Wageningen University).

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **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.

- **Basic Statistics** (11, 12, 13, 18, 19 December 2017)

This is a refresher course (so it goes into category 2A of the PE&RC TSP). 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** (20-22 December 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.

- **Geostatistics** (5-9 February 2018)

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

- [Agriculture-Climate-Forests-Food PhD discussion group](#) (24 August 2017 (12:15-13:15 hrs),

Wageningen University Campus)

The PhD Discussion group on Agriculture – Climate – Forests – Food is an acknowledged discussion group operating under the Graduate Schools PE&RC and WASS, and is open to all PhD candidates. PhD candidates can obtain TSP credits for their active participation.

- [WEES Special Seminar: Dynamics of Adaptation and Genome Evolution in a Long-Term Experiment – Richard Lenski](#) (31 August 2017 (16:00 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)

*Richard Lenski is a renowned evolutionary biologist. His long-term evolution experiment with *Escherichia coli* is regarded as a landmark in experimental evolution, and his work on the evolution of digital organisms – known as the Avida system – is also highly acclaimed. He is the John Hanna Distinguished Professor of Microbial Ecology at Michigan State University.*

- [Bioinformatics: B-Wise meeting](#) (5 September 2017 (12:30 -13:30 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)

The next B-Wise meeting will be at 12:30h in room C0221 in the Forum building. Lunch will be available from 12:00h onwards. Speakers will be Jens Allmer (Applied Bioinformatics, Wageningen Research) and Jesse van Dam (WU Systems & Synthetic Biology).

- [Plant form and function discussion group special: Can organ microclimate help phenotyping? \(Dr Michaël Chelle, INRA, France\)](#) (18 October 2017 (10:30-11:30 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)

This is a special occasion of the Plant Form and Function Discussion Group meetings. For this meeting, Dr Michaël Chelle has been invited to give a talk. Dr Chelle is research director at INRA Versailles-Grignon in France, and will give a talk titled: "Can Organ Microclimate help Phenotyping?". The meeting will be in room M10 in the Radix building on Wageningen University Campus.

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

Career development, skills and competences

- [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

- [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.

- **For a complete overview of this type of courses offered by Wageningen Graduate Schools, 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

- [Fundamentals of life in the Universe Symposium](#) @ Energy Academy Building, Zernike Campus, Nijenborgh 6, Groningen University, Groningen, the Netherlands (31 August - 1 September 2017)
- [Frontiers in resilience research: from individuals to communities Symposium](#) @ Hotel de Nieuwe Wereld, Wageningen, the Netherlands (18 September 2017)
- [Research Methodology: from topic to proposal](#) @ Leeuwenborch, Hollandseweg 1, Wageningen, the Netherlands (18 September 2017 – 3 November 2017)
- [Heimans en Thijssen 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)
- [Integration of gender & diversity in your own research](#) @ Leeuwenborch, Wageningen, the Netherlands (3-24 October 2017)
- [Symposium: Plant control by LED light](#) @ Forum Building, Wageningen Campus, Wageningen, the Netherlands (19 October 2017)
- [Quantitative Ecology \(Module for Master students and PhD Candidates\)](#) @ Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic (October 2017 – January 2018)
- [Treub Symposium: Biodiversity and global change in the Tropics](#) @ Room C0.110, University of Amsterdam, Sciences Park 904, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (17 November 2017)
- [PhD-course: Cocoa and Coffee in a Changing Climate](#) @ University of Copenhagen, Forestry School Campus, Denmark (13-18 November 2017)
- [Zoology 2017: Genotype-phenotype map: from model systems to ecosystems](#) @ Hof van Wageningen, Hotel and Conference Centre, Wageningen, the Netherlands (23-24 November 2017)
- [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)
- [19th Student Conference on Conservation Science](#) @ Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (27-29 March 2018)
- [6th Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress Europe](#) @ Rotterdam, the Netherlands (14-15 May 2018)

Position Announcements

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

Others

- [Future for Nature Award 2018](#) (Deadline: 15 September 2017) *The Future for Nature Foundation aims to stimulate a new generation of nature conservation leaders by providing support to young and talented conservationists who are committed to protecting species of wild animals and plants.*
- [The GLINKA World Soil Prize](#) (Deadline: 30 September 2017) *The Glinka World Soil Prize honors individuals and organizations whose leadership and activities have contributed, or are still contributing to the promotion of sustainable soil management and the protection of soil resources. The Glinka Prize is an annual award for dynamic change-makers dedicated to solving one of our world's most pressing environmental issue: Soil Degradation.*

- **Visiting Professors Programme** (Deadline: 1 November 2017) *The visiting Professors Programme enables outstanding foreign researchers to spend time working in the Netherlands.*
- **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 the PE&RC messages, please send this information to Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl

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