

PE&RC Messages

September 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

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).

Current Themes in Ecology 2017 – Innovation in Conservation (Wednesday 29 November 2017)

Loss of our natural surroundings - and the biodiversity it harbours - has become such an issue that we are currently in the first era of mass extinction caused by man. For many years now, scientists have studied trends of degradation and biodiversity loss, providing essential insight the consequences of these trends ecosystem functioning. Yet, how much of this fundamental scientific insight has directly led to innovations approaches in conserving our natural surroundings and the biodiversity within? This edition of Current Themes in Ecology addresses the role of fundamental science in contributing to the sustainable conservation of nature. We aim to address how innovation in conservation can occur and present examples of how such innovative insights have changed the way individual species or even complete ecosystems are being conserved. More information and registration at www.nern.nl/CT2017.

Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018 (Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 February 2018)

This year will be the 11th edition of the Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting (NAEM). As always, the meeting will be held at Conference Centre "De Werelt" in Lunteren. At this stage, the four plenary speakers have been confirmed, and the call for submissions of parallel session proposals is now open (deadline for submissions = Wednesday 25 October 2017, 12 NOON). You can find more details about the general set-up of the programme and about the deadlines for submission of contributions to the 2018 NAEM meeting on the [NAEM website](#). And of course, you are cordially invited to register your participation and to spread this announcement in your network! More information and registration at [www.nern.nl/NAEM2018](#).

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- **Multivariate Analysis** (16, 17, 18, 20, 24 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, 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.

- **Introduction to Zero Inflated Models with R | Frequentist and Bayesian approaches** (29 January - 2 February 2018)

During the course several case studies are presented, in which the statistical theory for zero inflated models is integrated with applied analyses in a clear and understandable manner. Zero inflated models consist of two integrated GLMs and therefore we will start with a revision of GLM. Zero inflated GLMMs for nested data (repeated measurements, short time series, clustered data, etc.) are discussed in the second part of the course. We will focus on zero inflated count data, and zero inflated continuous data.

- **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

- **Wageningen Evolution & Ecology (WEES) – Dr Andrea Gröne** (28 September 2017 (13:30 – 17:00 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)
The R user group will (re)start into the new academic year. In this first session we want to discuss how we will design our meetings for the next year
- **R user meeting: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly** (3 October 2017 (16:00 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)
The R user group will (re)start into the new academic year. In this first session we want to discuss how we will design our meetings for the next year
- **Seminar B-Wise** (3 October 2017 (12:30-13:30 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)
On Tuesday October 3rd, there will be a B-Wise meeting at 12:30h in room C0221 in the Forum building. Lunch will be available from 12:00h onwards. Speakers will be Katy Wolstencroft (Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science and Dennis van Muijen (WUR Plant Breeding and Rijk Zwaan).
- **Plant form and function discussion group special: Can organ micoclimate 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

- **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

- **Heimans en Thijssse Symposium "Bloemrijk of gifgroen?"** (meeting is in Dutch) @ Utrecht, the Netherlands (23 September 2017; 13:00-18:00 hrs)
- **Seminar 'Extending the range of temperature adaptation for high-quality broccoli** @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (29 September 2017; 11:00-12:00 hrs)

- [**Integration of gender & diversity in your own research**](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (3-24 October 2017)
- [**Seminar Biorhythms \(to bring young musicians and scientists together\) – register before 20 September 2017**](#) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands (4 October 2017; 12:00-18:00 hrs)
- [**PhD day \(P-N\)UT – 'Professional Career Development – your PhD as a stepping stone in your career'**](#) @ Enschede, the Netherlands (4 October 2017)
- [**Symposium: Plant control by LED light**](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (19 October 2017)
- [**Quantitative Ecology \(Module for Master students and PhD Candidates\)**](#) @ Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic (October 2017 – January 2018)
- [**12th Workshop Plant-Insect Interactions**](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (7 November 2017)
- [**PhD-course: Cocoa and Coffee in a Changing Climate**](#) @ University of Copenhagen, Denmark (13-18 November 2017)
- [**Zoology 2017: Genotype-phenotype map: from model systems to ecosystems**](#) @ 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)
- [**Wageningen University & Research Career Day – Explore your future**](#) @ Wageningen University, the Netherlands (6 February 2018)
- [**19th Student Conference on Conservation Science**](#) @ University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (27-29 March 2018)
- [**6th Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress Europe**](#) @ Rotterdam, the Netherlands (14-15 May 2018)
- [**MOOC – Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: a Business Approach**](#) @ Online (continuous)

Position Announcements

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

Others

- [**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 a 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.*
- [**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)*

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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