

PE&RC Messages

October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS

PE&RC Picture Awards 2017

(DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: Monday 16 October 2017, 2 PM Dutch time)

Similarly to last year, we have decided to award something that we feel every PhD candidate of PE&RC can equally compete for and that are attractive to look at for the broader (scientific) public: pictures or other visualisations of your work! We will have two categories, one about your PhD Thesis cover, and one about your PhD field-/lab-/modelling work. Each participant can submit 2 images (one in each category). The top 3 of each category will be awarded a prize with a value of € 75,-, € 50,-, and € 25,-. The pictures will be exhibited during the PE&RC Day, and everyone at the PE&RC day will get the chance to vote for their favourite. At the end of the PE&RC Day, the votes are counted, and the prizes awarded! Submit your pictures at www.pe-rc.nl/picture-award.

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!

Traub 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 Traub 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".

Current Themes in Ecology 2017

Innovation in Conservation

(Wednesday 29 November 2017)

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). [Call for 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, the deadlines for submission of contributions and registration on the [NAEM website](#).

PE&RC Postgraduate courses

- [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.
- [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.
- [Structural Equation Modelling](#) (22-26 January 2018)
While much of statistics focusses on associations between variables and making predictions, the aim of structural equation modelling is to establish causal relationships between variables. The focus 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.
- [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.
- [Survival Analysis](#) (22-23 February 2018)
In this short course, the concept of survival analysis will be introduced and it will be shown how to apply the methods to biological data. Main topics are how to handle censored data, estimation of Kaplan-Meier survivor curves, the Log-Rank test, and Cox' regression models for estimating and testing effects of covariates.

PE&RC Discussion group meetings

- [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.
- [Careers After PhD \(CAP\) Seminar – AfricaRice and Bayer Vegetable Seeds in the Spotlight](#) (25 October 2017 (16:00-17:00 hrs), NIOO Colloquium Room, Droevendaalsesteeg 10, Wageningen)
The aim of the seminar series is to inform current PhDs about career perspectives after their PhD by bringing them into contact with PE&RC alumni. In a one-hour setting we ask two PE&RC alumni to give a brief presentation on their career pathway after they finalised their PhD. Afterwards there will be drinks and the opportunity for PhD candidates to address the speakers with their specific questions. In this edition of the CAP seminar, we will have two invited speakers. First, Martje Notten, who works at Bayer Vegetable Seeds, and second, Jonne Rodenburg, who works at the Africa Rice Center.
- [R Users meeting: Making presentations in Rstudio: my \(good/bad\) experiences with IOSLIDES](#) (7 November 2017 (16:30 hrs), Wageningen University Campus)

This meeting is hosted by Paul Torfs, the location is room C406 in the Forum building (102), Droevendaalsesteeg 2, Wageningen.

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

Career development, skills and competences

- 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

- [WIAS mini-seminar: Evolutionary Ecology – Biodiversity from genes to species communities](#) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands (23 October 2017 – January 2018)
- [Staring lecture 2017: Mountains, climate and biodiversity: why ecology is important for understanding biological patterns](#) @ KIVI, Den Haag, the Netherlands (25 October 2017)
- [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)
- [Symposium 'Future of aquatic carbon: impacts, feedbacks and mitigation](#) @ NIOO-KNAW, Wageningen, the Netherlands (17 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)
- [MOOC – Landscape Restoration for Sustainable Development: a Business Approach](#) @ Online (continuous)

Position Announcements

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

Calls and other information

- [Heineken Prizes 2018](#) (Deadline: 15 October 2017)
The international Heineken Prizes, worth \$ 200,000 each, reward outstanding achievement in the fields of: Biochemistry and Biophysics; Cognitive Science; Environmental Sciences, History; Medicine.
- [NLBIF Call for Projects](#) (Deadline: 16 October 2017)
The call seeks applications that focus on publishing biodiversity data via the GBIF portal (www.gbif.org) or that support data publication (either by means of infrastructure or participation).
- [Visiting Professors Programme](#) (Deadline: 1 November 2017)

The visiting Professors Programme enables outstanding foreign researchers to spend time working in the Netherlands.

- **[NWO Talent Scheme Information Meeting \(Veni, Vidi, Vici\)](#)** (3 November 2017)
Information meeting for researchers that want to apply for a Veni, Vidi or Vici grant. Practical information will be given and laureates, selection committee members and NWO coordinators will share their experiences. The morning programme and the afternoon programme are both for all disciplines. The meetings will be held in English.
- **[Academy Ecology Fund](#)** (Deadline: 15 December 2017)
The Academy Ecology Fund supports ecological fieldwork in the Netherlands and abroad and ecological research abroad by young ecologists working in the Netherlands. Funding is intended primarily for fundamental research. Projects seeking a fundamental solution to practical problems are also eligible.
- **[Funds to publish in an Open Access journal](#)** (Deadline: Continuous application)
Since the rise of fully Open Access journals some 15 years ago, there is a possibility to disseminate your research more widely. Some publishers nowadays also offer the option to make an individual article from subscription journals Open Access. WUR Library supports you in Open Access publishing. Find out what your possibilities are or contact us for immediate support.
- **[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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