

Communication, Philosophy and Technology Internships & thesis topics on offer

Internships

The sub-department Communication, Philosophy and Technology (CPT) at Wageningen UR is pleased to announce the following list of internship placements for interested students. Please note that your internship must always be approved by your supervisor. Be sure to read the internship manual before making arrangements with an organisation. Over time this list will change as opportunities are taken by fellow students, or new opportunities arise. Please contact our education coordinator Mieke Muijres (education.cpt@wur.nl) if you have a question or want to inquire about the possibilities.

#1 Internship: Digital and social media intern

Organisation

East-West Seed
www.eastwestseed.com

Description of the internship

Are you an expert in social media? Are you aiming for an international career? If you happen to love farming as well, you just found your ideal internship. Tropical vegetable seed company East-West Seed is looking for an intern to help develop and implement its digital and social media strategies across the organization. You will work at the East-West Seed headquarters in Thailand, with travel opportunities to the Philippines. The internship is for a period of 6 months, starting in January 2016.

Start and duration

January – July 2016

Location

Head office in Ban Bua Thong (near Bangkok), Thailand

Language requirements

English

#2 Internship: Imago Restore kringloop

Organisation

Restore Kringloop
www.restorekringloop.nl

Description of the internship

Restore kringloop is een regionaal kringloopbedrijf met 3 winkels (in Barneveld, Ede en Veenendaal), 5 brengpunten, 2 magazijnen, een fietswerkplaats, sorteerafdeling, logistieke afdeling, kleding- en textielcontainers op 54 plekken, 28 betaalde krachten, 76 vrijwilligers en 30 leerwerknemers. De missie van Restore kringloop is het klantgericht werken aan sociale werkgelegenheid en hergebruik van goederen en grondstoffen. Dit doen wij door goederen op te halen/ te verzamelen, te sorteren/repareren en door te verkopen wat verkoopbaar is. We bieden

hiervoor professioneel begeleid werk aan verschillende doelgroepen; vrijwilligers (sociale activering), mensen met beperkte loonwaarde en mensen met een afstand tot de arbeidsmarkt (opbouwen werkervaring).

Hoewel Restore kringloop duidelijke milieu en sociale doelstellingen heeft (milieu sparen, werk creëren, naast koopjeskansen bieden) en deze ook duidelijk communiceert via website etc. blijft het stoffige kringloopimago uit de branche hardnekkig aan ons plakken of zien mensen kringloopbedrijven als commercieel. Onze specifiek sociale doelstelling en not-for-the-profit bedrijfsvoering zou juist "gunverhogend" moeten werken, maar lijkt niet goed uit de verf te komen. Hier zouden we graag wat aan willen doen!

We proberen op verschillende manieren alle drie bovenstaande aspecten duidelijk te communiceren naar buiten toe, via de website en (social) media. We hebben hiervoor een communicatiemedewerker in dienst die twee dagen per week voor ons bezig is. Ook krijgt het sociale gezicht aandacht door regelmatig mee te werken aan sociale acties (slaapzakken inzamelen voor Lesbos, doneren van goederen aan verschillende instellingen etc). Op de website staat bijvoorbeeld een lijst met goede doelen die wij ondersteunen en we schakelen regelmatig de media in als we ergens aan mee werken.

Restore kringloop wil graag door een student van de WUR laten onderzoeken hoe de beeldvorming rond het bedrijf precies vorm krijgt en waar de kansen en uitdagingen liggen rond het vormgeven van een imago dat ons past. De exacte invulling van deze stage / MSc thesis opdracht wordt in overleg bepaald.

Start and duration Z.s.m.

Language requirements Dutch

#3 **Internship: De beleving van de Haringvliet**

Organisation **Wereld Natuur Fonds Nederland (WNF)**
www.wnf.nl

Description of the internship *Achtergrond van de organisatie*
Het Wereld Natuur Fonds Nederland (WNF) is deel van een internationale natuurbeschermingsorganisatie (WWF) met als missie om de meest belangrijke gebieden op aarde te behouden en een toekomst te bouwen waarin de mens leeft in harmonie met de natuur. De organisatie heeft kantoren in ongeveer 90 landen wereldwijd. Er is een gezamenlijke wereldwijde strategie die zich richt op natuurbescherming en het reduceren van de bedreigingen op de natuur. Het WWF zoekt naar oplossing in samenwerking met burgers, bedrijven, overheid en lokale bevolking.

Het onderzoek: Droomfondsproject Haringvliet

Het stille Haringvliet. Weinig herinnert nog aan de dynamische monding van twee grote Europese rivieren, Rijn en Maas, die het ooit was. Een delta

waar het getij en de natuurlijke overgang van zoet rivierwater naar zout zeewater voor oer-Hollandse deltanatuur en soortenrijkdom zorgden. Ooit, want met de voltooiing van de Haringvlietdam in 1971 kwam het unieke deltaleven tot stilstand. Het getij viel weg, trekvisseren konden vanaf zee de rivieren niet meer op zwemmen, kustvogels en andere planten- en diersoorten verdwenen.

In 2018 gaan de Haringvlietsluizen op een kier. In aanloop hierop werkt een unieke coalitie van zes natuurorganisaties - ARK Natuurontwikkeling, Natuurmonumenten, Sportvisserij Nederland, Staatsbosbeheer, Vogelbescherming Nederland en het Wereld Natuur Fonds - aan een natuurlijker Haringvliet. De financiële bijdrage uit het Droomfonds van de Nationale Postcode Loterij is daarbij een onmisbare impuls. Onze ambitie: ruim baan voor de dynamiek van deltanatuur, trekvisseren en -vogels waar mensen van kunnen genieten! Meer informatie: www.haringvliet.nu

Onderzoeksvraag

De Haringvlietdam was het sluitstuk van de Deltawerken. Destijds gebouwd om ons land te behoeden voor een nieuwe watersnoodramp, maar wel ten koste van het karakter van de grootse vruchtbare riviermonding die het tot 1971 was. Met het op een kier zetten van de Haringvlietsluizen in 2018 wordt de functie van riviermonding een beetje hersteld. Er is gedurende een groot deel van het jaar weer sprake van een zoet-zout overgang op het Haringvliet en trekvisseren kunnen er weer tussen de zee en rivier migreren. Maar er kan meer. Denk bijvoorbeeld aan het beheren van de Haringvlietdam als een stormvloedkering.

Voor een algehele draagkracht voor deze ontwikkeling is het belangrijk om te weten wat de bewoners van de ZH-eilanden nu, zo'n 60 jaar na de watersnoodramp in 1953, van deze ontwikkelingen vinden. De centrale onderzoeksvraag is:

Hoe kijken de bewoners van de ZH eilanden aan tegen natuur en een meer dynamische delta, zoutwater en getij op het Haringvliet en 'building with nature'-oplossingen?

Het is hierbij interessant om de houding van de lokale bevolking te plaatsen in een historisch perspectief. Van vroeger, naar nu naar een mogelijke toekomst. Door middel van het definiëren van een aantal tijdvakken kan op basis van geschreven bronnen en eventueel diepte interviews informatie uit het verleden worden gehaald. Door middel van interviews met lokale bewoners kan de huidige houding in beeld gebracht worden. Op basis hiervan kunnen conclusies worden getrokken voor de toekomst.

Methode

Literatuur onderzoek en interviews

Studenten profiel

WNF zoekt naar een enthousiaste masterstudent met als achtergrond antropologie/ sociologie of een andere relevante studie. De student moet interview ervaring hebben en in staat zijn zelfstandig veldwerk te doen. In overleg kan de student enkele dagen per week op het kantoor van WNF werken om te schrijven en informatie te zoeken

Start and duration In overleg. Bij voorkeur 6 maanden, te beginnen rond februari-maart 2016.

Language requirements	Dutch
Allowance	250 euro per maand op full time basis, in overleg aan vulling op reiskosten t.b.v. het veldwerk.

#4 Internship: Index for innovation capacity

Organisation **Wageningen UR, Knowledge Technology and Innovation group**
www.wageningenur.nl/kti

Description of the research project We are looking for someone who can help to develop an index for 'capacity to innovate' at the level of a district or value chain. Several indexes exist, but they are all at national level. It would involve literature study around existing indexes, and translating these towards more local level situations. This could be a Bachelor thesis or an Internship project.

Thesis topics

The sub-department Communication, Philosophy and Technology (CPT) at Wageningen UR is pleased to announce the following list of thesis opportunities for interested students. You can either select an available thesis topic from the list, or develop your own thesis topic. Please note that the topic of your thesis must always be approved by your supervisor. Over time this list will change as opportunities are taken by fellow students, or new opportunities arise. Please contact our education coordinator Mieke Muijres (education.cpt@wur.nl) if you have a question or want to inquire about the possibilities.

#1	MSc Thesis: Uptake of Better Management Practices (BMP) by Indonesian oil palm farmers after training and demonstrations
Organisation	This project is a cooperation between the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation (KTI) group and the Plant Production Systems (PPS) group of Wageningen UR. www.wageningenur.nl/kti www.wageningenur.nl/pps
Description of the research project	<p>Indonesia is the largest producer of oil palm in the world, and more than 43% of the oil palm plantations is owned by smallholder farmers. Smallholders have a poor yield compared with large plantations, and one reason is that they often use sub-optimal management practices. In this project, we work since 2014 with 14 farmers in two different areas of Indonesia (West Kalimantan and Jambi) to test the use of Better Management Practices (BMPs) in demonstration plots. We would like to know to what extent farmers participating in the project implement the better practices in their other fields, and if any learning happens by the farmers in the community who are not participating in the project but who can see the Better Practices when they are implemented in the experimental plots. Are there any enabling factors that allow some farmers to learn and implement the better practices, or constraining factors that lead to non-adoption?</p> <p>As a comparison, classroom trainings about better practices, with and without field exercises, have been implemented in a second research area in Jambi, Sumatra. Classroom trainings are faster and cheaper than experimental plots, but it is unclear to what extent farmers adopt the trained practices, and why. We would like to know more about this, and to compare the classroom training approach with the use of experimental plots. Are there common 'attractive' practices that all farmers like to implement? And are there practices which most farmers perceive as useless or too difficult? What is the difference between farmers and between areas? These and many other questions we would like to answer.</p> <p>The student working on this project is expected to develop a research plan, carry out two to three months of field work in Indonesia accompanied by a translator, process and analyse the results, and write a thesis report. We are specifically looking for a student with a broad interest who is able to work in the field independently.</p>
Start and duration	A.s.a.p.
Location	Indonesia

Allowance Funding is available for the air ticket, transportation in the field, a translator, visa costs. All other costs are to be paid by the student.

#2 MSc Thesis: Vulnerability and floods in Bangladesh

Description of the project Each year 18% of Bangladesh (about 26,000 sq. km) is flooded. Most floods are within tolerable limits, meaning that the local population has found ways to deal with them without resulting in casualties, food shortages or heavy damage. But occasionally floods are devastating. A main challenge is to create creating effective linkages between formal institutions, authorities and farmers in reducing vulnerability to floods. A MSc thesis project on vulnerability and floods can be formulated for the Jamalpur area in Bangladesh.

Location Bangladesh

Language requirements English

#3 MSc Thesis: Natural Resource Management in north India

Organisation **People's Science Institute (PSI)**
<http://peoplescienceinstitute.org>

Description of the research project The People's Science Institute (PSI) is an NGO based in Uttarakhand (India) working on empowerment of the poor and the productive, sustainable and equitable use of available human and natural resources. PSI runs several projects for social and technical support of local communities focusing on natural resources management, disaster mitigation and response, environmental quality monitoring and strengthening of local institutions. Students can define a thesis project within and about PSI's project.

Location India

Language requirements English

#4 MSc Thesis: Serious games to observe interaction between pork farmers and its effect on innovation adoption

Organisation **Wageningen UR, Information Technology group**
www.wageningenur.nl/inf

Description of the research project Pork stinks, or does it? To increase the societal acceptance of the pork sector, innovations that tackle societal concerns need to spread among the

farmer population. The spread of these innovations is influenced, among other factors, by interaction between farmers. To gain more insight into norms and leadership on the spread of innovations I developed a serious game. In the game, players (acting the role of a pig farmer), have two goals: (1) collectively manage societal acceptance of the pork sector, and (2) individually manage the financial viability of the farm, through investments and innovation adoption. During the game, players can interact and have the option to go for their own profits, increase individual societal acceptance scores, and/or collectively increase the societal acceptance score.

Several things can be measured during the game: (1) patterns for investment decisions over the course of the game, by looking at the choice for investment decisions a player makes every round, (2) the behavioural strategies of players, by looking at how they explain their investment decisions (this could be individual profits, individual drive for societal acceptance, or felt pressure to contribute to societal acceptance), and (3) observation of interactions between players by e.g. categorising participants' remarks as suggestions, agreement, etc. (see Bales, 1950). The latter should be able to give insight in the presence of leadership or norms and might give causal explanations for the behavioural strategies players choose.

The goal of this thesis project is to observe norms and leadership tendencies between players during the game and derive interpretations from these observations to say something about the choice for behavioural strategies of players. For this, the student is expected to design methods for the measurement of norms and leadership in interaction and analyse the data. Methods are e.g. questionnaires before and after the game, an ethogram to categorise observations in terms of norms and leadership, film recordings and conversation analysis, and debriefing sessions with the game participants.

Start and duration Between December 2015 – August 2016

Location Wageningen

Language requirements Dutch

#5 MSc Thesis: De toekomst inrichten met het levende cultureel erfgoed

Organisation **Wetenschapswinkel Wageningen UR**
<http://www.wageningenur.nl/nl/Onderwijs-Opleidingen/wetenschapswinkel.htm>

Description of the research project De Stichting Zeldzame Huisdierrassen en De Oer Akker houden zich bezig met levend cultureel erfgoed en het behoud van genetische diversiteit van rassen en gewassen.

De organisaties willen meer bekendheid geven aan het levende cultureel

#7 BSc and MSc Thesis: How can we stimulate social eating en physical activity among elderly in nursing homes by means of new technology/serious games?

Organisation **Strategic Communication group, Wageningen UR**
www.wageningenur.nl/com

Description of the research project Elderly people in nursing homes are often suffering from multiple diseases at the same time. As a healthy lifestyle is important to prevent and decrease health-related issues among elderly, we aim to improve their eating behavior and physical activity. Therefore I am looking for students who are interested in:

- Which personal factors contribute to healthy eating behavior among elderly in nursing homes? (BSc thesis)
- Which environmental factors contribute to healthy eating behavior among elderly in nursing homes? (BSc thesis)
- Which personal factors contribute to physical activity among elderly in nursing homes? (BSc thesis)
- Which environmental factors contribute to physical activity among elderly in nursing homes? (BSc thesis)
- Are serious games able to promote physical activity among elderly, and if so, which techniques are incorporated within these games that make them successful? (BSc thesis)
- Which factors stimulate the use of new technology among elderly and which barriers do they perceive? (MSc thesis)
- Systematically designing a serious game targeting eating behavior among elderly in nursing homes (MSc thesis)
- Systematically designing a serious game targeting physical activity among elderly in nursing homes (MSc thesis)

#8 BSc Thesis: Index for innovation capacity

Organisation **Wageningen UR, Knowledge Technology and Innovation group**
www.wageningenur.nl/kti

Description of the research project We are looking for someone who can help to develop an index for 'capacity to innovate' at the level of a district or value chain. Several indexes exist, but they are all at national level. It would involve literature study around existing indexes, and translating these towards more local level situations. This could be a Bachelor thesis or an Internship project.

#9 MSc Thesis: Analysis of institutional innovation and change trajectories

Organisation **Wageningen UR, Knowledge Technology and Innovation group**
www.wageningenur.nl/kti

Description of the research project We are also interested in someone who could be involved in documenting and analysing histories/trajectories of institutional/policy change around

AR4D (Agricultural Research for Development) initiatives in East Africa (Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo). This could be an MSc thesis project, or an assignment for a recent graduate.

#10**MSc Thesis: Deeper analysis of institutional constraints**

Organisation

Wageningen UR, Knowledge Technology and Innovation group
www.wageningenur.nl/ktiDescription of the
research project

In Burundi we are looking for someone who could further analyse institutional constraints identified by innovation platforms, and help translate these into strategies and options that may tested by these platforms. Again, this could be an MSc thesis project, or an assignment for a recent graduate, possibly in combination with topic #9.

Location

Burundi

#11**MSc Thesis: Assessing sustainability of rural electrification and solar-powered malaria mosquito traps in Kenya**

Organisation

Wageningen UR, Knowledge Technology and Innovation group
www.wageningenur.nl/ktiDescription of the
research project

Recently, a research project has successfully combined rural energy provision with malaria control on an island in Lake Victoria. It is expected, however, that organising maintenance and sustainability may pose problems now that the project has ended. A student is asked to study whether and how the community succeeds in organising sustainability.

Location

Kenya