

March 2015

www.wageningenur.nl/wias

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WIAS Graduate Programme

Wednesday 25 February was the final selection for the WIAS Graduate Programme. This programme, funded by NWO, gives the 4 most excellent MSc students the opportunity to do a PhD at the WIAS group of their choice. Nine promising MSc students presented and defended their PhD proposal. The jury consisted of the members of our International Advisory Board, chairman Prof Nico van Straalen (VU), Prof Jos van Putten (UU), Dr Karen Plaut (Purdue Univ) and Dr Shirley Tarawali (ILRI, CGIAR). They selected Natasja Costermans (ADP/HAP), Sem Jacobs (CBI/EZO), Jerine van der Eijk (BHE/ADP) and Thomas Staessen (AFI) as winners of the 4 PhD positions. Congratulations!

The NWO grant consisted of 4 PhD positions. However, we do consider it as very important to continue this programme. Therefore we were able to allocate funding for 1 PhD position per year from our own funds. This spring, the selection for the second round of the WIAS graduate programme will start.

WIAS Lectures

The next WIAS lecture will be given by Dr Dirkjan Schokker, post doc researcher at Wageningen Livestock titled "**Improving animal health by modulating the gut system**". This lecture will be held on *Tuesday 24 March at 12.15 in room A0107* of the Zodiac building. Free lunch is provided and registration is not needed.

Other dates for the WIAS lectures are: 21 April, 26 May, 22 September, 20 October, 17 October, 22 October.

WIAS Science Day 2015

The WIAS Science Day 2015, which was held on February 5th in Orion at the Wageningen Campus, attracted a total of 160 WIAS PhD candidates and staff members. The presentations and lectures of PhD candidates and keynote speakers made this a very interesting and inspiring day, with the overall theme of how we can meet the growing demand for food.

Three keynote speakers gave interesting and inspiring talks about how to face several challenges to meet future demand for food. Dr Claire Heffernan, the director of the Livestock Development Group of Reading University in the UK was the first keynote speaker. She talked about the emergence of animal diseases threatening food production. The second keynote speaker was Prof. Louise Fresco, the president of Wageningen UR executive board and she gave her views about the issue of increasing pressure on land used for global food production. The third keynote speaker was Dr Ruth

Newberry, associate professor at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences and she talked about the assurance of animal welfare in relation to a growing demand for food.

Eighteen PhD candidates presented their work with oral presentations in two parallel sessions and twenty-four PhD candidates presented their work with a poster. The oral and poster presentations were scored by judges consisting of WIAS staff members. The winners of the oral prizes were Heleen van Kernebeek and Sandra van Kuijk who gave the best presentations in each of the parallel sessions. The winner of the poster presentation prize was Yvonne van der Meer.

Furthermore, the NZV travel grant was awarded to Runa Kuley and the education committee handed out the education prize to John Bastiaansen. The final prize was the publication prize, which was selected and handed out by the International Advisory Board, and won by Antony Prabhu. The successful WIAS Science Day ended with drinks and dinner at Zodiac.

The WIAS Science Day committee wants to congratulate all prize winners and thank all chairpersons, jury members, participants and presenters for their contribution to the day. We hope that you all had an inspiring day and let's Face the Future together!

The WIAS Science Day Committee 2015,
Novi Mayasari, Sofie van Nieuwamerongen, Aart van der Linden, Nirupama Benis, Henk van Lingen, Mahmoud Haidar and Floor Biemans

PhD pitches at the 97th Dies Natalis of Wageningen University

This year the theme of the Dies celebration on Monday 9 March is 'Fascinating Nature'. PhD candidate Sebastian Henrion from the Experimental Zoology group will give a pitch at the symposium. For more information and registration, [click here](#).

IAB visit

The WIAS International Advisory Board visited Wageningen Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 February. They met with the new WIAS Board and were impressed by the progress WIAS made, especially with the implementation of the online assessments and the PhD advisors. The IAB members met with the chair holders to discuss their first draft of the self-evaluations for the Peer Review. Wednesday they were fully occupied with the presentations and interviews for the selection of the four most excellent MSc student. Overall, the remarks and comments of the IAB during their visit were very helpful and we thank them for their valuable input.

New WIAS Members

The last few months we have welcomed the following PhD candidates: Julian Langowski (EZO), Moniek van den Bosch (ADP/ANU).

Recent PhD graduations

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 13 January | Hooi Ling Khaw (ABG) "Cooperative and uniform fish? Social interactions and variability in live body weight in the GIFT strain (Nile tilapia, <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>) in Malaysia" |
| 20 January | Yogesh Paudel (ABG) "Structural variations in pig genomes" |
| 26 January | Jorgen Nielsen (AFI) "Methods for Integrated Use of Fisheries Research Survey Information in Understanding Marine Fish Population Ecology and Better Management Advice. Improving Methods for Evaluation of Research Survey Information under consideration of Survey Fish Detection and Catch Efficiency" |
| 26 January | Laurent Frantz (ABG) "Speciation and domestication in Suiformes: a genomic perspective" |
| 6 February | Rik van Emous (ANU) "Body composition and reproduction in broiler breeders: impact of feeding strategies" |
| 13 February | Antonio Agüera Garcia (AFI) "The role of starfish (<i>Asterias rubens</i> L.) predation in blue mussel (<i>Mytilus edulis</i>) seedbed stability" |
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News from the WIAS PhD (WAPS) council

New council members

At the WIAS Science Day 2015, the board of WAPS changed. The new council members are:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Merel Verhoeven | -Chair |
| Renny van Hoeij | -Secretary |
| Sanne Derksen – Van Gastelen | - Education committee |
| Novi Mayasari | - Education committee |
| Sabine van Engelen | - Education committee |
| Xiangyu Song | - WIAS Science day 2016 |
| Nazri Nayan | - Activity Committee |
| Rocky Niu | - Activity committee and Treasurer |

The new council will of course be organizing the trusted dinners, drinks and general members meetings that you are very much invited to join.

2nd Wageningen PhD Symposium - Connecting Ideas, Combining Forces

What: A Symposium by and for PhD candidates of Wageningen University

When: May 6, 2015

Where: Forum

Costs: € 25

Dear PhD candidates,

The Wageningen PhD Council (WPC) will organise the second symposium for all PhD candidates of Wageningen University. This year's theme is: '**Connecting Ideas, Combining Forces**' with which we would like to connect Wageningen PhD candidates from all fields of research. Participating in the symposium could bring about new insights into your own work through interdisciplinary discussion and cooperation. It will also give you the chance to exchange ideas, network with fellow PhDs, expand your TSP, and broaden your horizon. Additionally, we are very proud to announce our first very special **key-note speaker: Prof. dr. ir. Louise Fresco**, the President of the Executive Board of Wageningen UR!

The program contains six **Presentation sessions** of one hour each in which 3-4 topics can be presented within the theme of the session. Simultaneously, three **Pitch & Panel** sessions are scheduled in which 2-3 topics can be pitched and discussed within the session theme (max. 3 pitches per topic, 2-5 minutes per pitch).

From February 4 we open our **call for abstracts!** PhD candidates that would like to contribute to one of the sessions are asked to send an e-mail mentioning their chair group, topic, title and abstract (max. 100 words) to the conveners of the session of choice. Please do so **before March 6**. Presenters will get 1 ECTS for their contribution, participants 0.3 ECTS.

Registration is open via the WPC website. For any questions regarding the symposium, please contact us by e-mail (wpc.wgs@wur.nl).

Kind regards on behalf of the WPC,

Chantal Vogels, Marloes van Splunter, Daylan Tzompa Sosa, William Cook, Ita Sulistyawati, Marjolein de Rijk

Website:

<http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/PhD-Programme/Services/Wageningen-PhD-Council/2nd-Wageningen-PhD-Symposium-Connecting-Ideas-Combining-Forces.htm>

PhD party

When: 13th March 2015

Time: 22.00-04.00

Location: Junushoff Wageningen

Other: Free entry, bring a guest

Registration: [click here](#)

Facebook and LinkedIn

Please join our [Facebook group](#) for the latest activities, photos, and polls. You can find blogs from PhD candidates spending a time period abroad there. And join our [LinkedIn page](#) or visit our [website](#) for more information about and news from the WAPS council.

Kind regards, The WAPS Council

Courses and seminars

WIAS/EPS Seminar 10 March 2015

Dr. Hideki Takahashi, Tohoku University, Japan

Title: Intron-mediated enhancement of disease resistance gene expression in Arabidopsis thaliana

Dr. Haruki Kitazawa, Tohoku University, Japan

Title: Healthy growth strategy for livestock based on immunobiotic evolution

Date: Tuesday 10 March 2015

Time: 13:30 – 14:30 h

Venue: Zodiac A0107, De Elst 1, Wageningen

WIAS Courses

WIAS Introduction Day

When : 23 March 2015

Location : Wageningen

Registration is open (**still a few places available!**)

WIAS course on Essential Skills

When : 24 - 26 March 2015

Teacher : Frank Little

Location : Wageningen

Registration is open (**still a few places available!**)

Ethics and Philosophy in Life Sciences

When : 13 – 16 April 2015

Teacher : Tjard de Cock Buning, Bart Gremmen, Elsbeth Stassen

Location : Wageningen

Registration is open

Fish Immunology / Vaccination Workshop

When : 26 – 30 April 2015

Location : Wageningen

Registration is open

Statistics for the Life Sciences

When : 27 - 29 May and 1 – 3 June 2015

Teachers : Henk Bovenhuis, Bas Engel, Gerrit Gort

Location : Wageningen

Registration is open

WIAS Introduction Day

When : 8 June 2015
Location : Wageningen
Registration not open yet

WIAS Course on Essential Skills

When : 9 – 11 June 2015
Teacher : Frank Little
Location : Wageningen
Registration not open yet

High-Impact Writing in Science

When : 6 – 9 July 2015
Teachers : Prof. Dr Ulrike Müller
Location : Wageningen
Registration is open

Survival Guide to Peer Review

When : 10 July 2015
Teachers : Prof. Dr Ulrike Müller
Location : Wageningen
Registration is open

WIAS Course Design of Experiments

When : 7 - 9 October 2014
Teachers : Michael Grossman, Wiebe J. Koops
Location : Wageningen
Registration is open

Orientation on mathematical modelling in biology

When : 12 – 16 October 2015
Teachers : Johan van Leeuwen en Mart de Jong
Registration not open yet

WIAS Introduction Day

When : 10 November 2015
Location : Wageningen
Registration is open

WIAS Course on Essential Skills

When : 11 – 13 November 2015
Teacher : Frank Little
Location : Wageningen
Registration is open

Wageningen Graduate Schools

PhD/Postdoc Courses

Open for registration

[Career Development for Postdocs: Science and the Alternatives](#) (23 - 31 March (individual intakes), 8 and 22 April (two day training), 1-8 May (individual coaching))

[PhD peer consultation - as support in academic skills development](#) (12 March (13:30-16:30) / 2 April and 30 April (13:30 to 15:30), 27 March (13:30 to 16:30) / 1 May and 5 June (13:30 to 15:30)
[Efficient Writing Strategies](#) (11 and 25 March / 8 and 22 April)
[Systematic approaches to reviewing literature](#) (6, 13 and 20 March , 2 and 24 April)
[Career Orientation](#) (6, 13, 20 and 27 March)
[Mobilising your - scientific - network](#) (17 and 25 March)
[Project & Time Management](#) (24 March, 7 April and 5 May / 9, 23 April and 21 May / 19 May, 2 and 30 June)
[Scientific Publishing](#) (26 March)
[PhD Competence Assessment](#) (31 March (personal meeting 7, 8, 9 April / 19 May (personal meeting 2, 3, 4 June))
[Writing Grant Proposals](#) (7 and 21 April / 12 and 26 May / 9 June)
[Scientific Writing](#) (8, 16, 30 April / 7, 28 May / 4 and 11 June or 23, 29 April / 14, 28 May / 11, 18 and 25 June)
[Interpersonal Communication for PhD Students](#) (9 and 10 April)
[Effective behaviour in your professional surroundings](#) (9 and 10 April)
[Entrepreneurship in and outside Science](#) (13, 20 April and 18 May)
[The Essentials of Scientific Writing and Presenting](#) (13, 15, 20 and 22 April)
[Ethics and Philosophy in Life Sciences](#) (13, 14, 15 and 16 April)
[Information Literacy including EndNote Introduction](#) (15 and 16 April)
[Research Ethics](#) (20, 21, 23 and 24 April)
[Stress Identification & Management](#) (23 April)
[Data Management Planning](#) (12 May)
[Last Stretch of the PhD Programme](#) (22 May)
[Career Assessment](#) (each month - individually based and you can plan a date with the organizers upon registration)

Waiting lists for courses below

Fully booked, waiting list available ([click here](#))

Techniques for Writing and Presenting a Scientific Paper
 Voice Matters-Voice and Presentation Skills Training

Other courses and training of interest

[Free feedback on your academic text during the Editing Desk walk-in hours](#)

Time : Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Location : Wageningen UR Library (Forum building) room 2.51

[English for IELTS](#) (starting 14 April (8.30 – 10.30))

[Evening Courses in Dutch](#) (Starting 2 March (from 18.00 or 19.45 hr.)

Wageningen in'to Languages also offers a variety of other courses that may be of interest to you, for more information [click here](#)

For short international PhD courses in Europe [click here](#)

For other courses of the Wageningen Graduate School look at the [website](#).

Course for Supervisors: Effective Supervision of PhD candidates (with actor)

Course schedule

| Dates | Start time | End time | Coordinator | |
|---------------|------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 19 March 2015 | 10:00 | 17:00 | Heleen Danen | Apply |
| 12 May 2015 | 10:00 | 17:00 | Heleen Danen | Apply |
| 23 June 2015 | 10:00 | 17:00 | Heleen Danen | Apply |

Course description

Wageningen Graduate Schools (WGS) offers three separate one-day workshops called “Effective Supervision of PhD candidates” (part I, II and III), which can be followed individually or in sequence. Each separate day is rewarded with a certificate for completing part I, II or III. Dr. E. Cocheret de la Morinière and co-workers are all academics with extensive experience in training and coaching supervisors and PhD students. They are specialists in scientific management and conversation skills. ElroyCOM is acknowledged by the CRKBO as an official educational institute. The training is strongly recommended as element of Tenure Track.

The workshops aim to help you to become a more effective supervisor of PhD candidates and save time. Only 10% of PhD students finish within four years. The key factors causing delays can easily be circumvented, provided you invest in the start-up, clear agreements, managing planning, effective coaching and making timely management decisions.

Programme

Part I: starting up (19 March 2015)

During the start-up of a PhD candidate and his/her project it is crucial to make clear agreements on the responsibilities, roles and tasks of all involved. We inform you of formal rights and procedures at Wageningen University and supplement this with ElroyCOM guidelines to start up a PhD candidate. We also help you to set up a help network for the candidate, relieving pressure on supervision and making the PhD student self-sufficient as early as possible. In the afternoons, we help you effectuate this in conversations with a professional training actor, based on the Situational Leadership theory (Hersey & Blanchard 2004).

Part II: Managing progress (12 May 2015)

Save time and maintain control over project progress! After the start-up, the PhD project demands close monitoring. The main aim is to gain control over the project’s progress in an effective way. Good and simple planning helps to anticipate and make management decisions, whilst leaving room for flexibility and creativity and for the stimulation and growth of the PhD candidate. We therefore help you to make an easy and flexible planning, which can then be delegated to the PhD candidate. Since planning is not an aim in itself, the focus is on risk management: how do you maintain control over project progress when things change or setbacks occur? In the afternoons, we practice conversations on the topic of planning and monitoring with a professional training actor. It is strongly recommended you follow Effective Supervision Part I before subscribing to Part II, although it is possible to subscribe to Part I, II and III individually.

Part III: Finishing the PhD project (23 June 2015)

Make sure the project ends, with quality work and little delay! The goal of the PhD project is contributing to science, educating the PhD candidate, and his/her timely graduation. This phase need not be stressful to supervisors and PhD candidates. Wrapping up the project demands a timely and sharp look at the end criteria (contents of the thesis, publications, etc.) and following formal procedures. It also takes communicating with all project partners involved (e.g. manuscript committee, promotor, partners, industry, etc.) and coaching the writing process. We briefly devote attention to supervising the PhD student to the “afterlife”: do you want them to stay as post-docs, or how can you help them to a next job? We practice situations with a professional training actor that helps you lead the PhD candidate and the project to successful completion.

Fee for each Workshop

Reduced fee: Supervisors who are member of a Wageningen Graduate School (EPS, PE&RC, VLAG, WASS, WIAS, WIMEK) and are supervisor of PhD candidates who will be defending their thesis at Wageningen University € 300,-

Full fee: All other post-docs and staff of Wageningen University € 600,-

Extended fee: All other participants € 1200,-

The fee includes study and training material, coffee / tea, refreshments and lunch.

Information

For information please contact Heleen Danen, tel. 0317-482923 email Heleen.Danen@wur.nl

PhD Workshop Carousel

WGS PhD Workshop Carousel

17 April 2015

Wageningen Graduate Schools is organising a day of diverse workshops for PhD candidates of Wageningen University. Some of these workshops are full training sessions, while others are teasers that give insight in the main issues and solutions regarding the workshop topic. We recommend that you participate the whole day as this also gives you a good network opportunity. *Please note: during registration, you need to indicate which workshops you would like to follow, and since each workshop has a limited capacity and workshops are filled on a first come-first serve basis, be quick!*

More information can be found on the website: www.nern.nl/carousel2015.

Where: ORION

When: April 17

Costs: €50

Who: PhD candidates from Wageningen University

Register for the WGS PhD Workshop Carousel: [Click here](#)

Wageningen Graduate Schools Discussion meeting

Research Funding by government and industry: our ticket to societal relevance or the end of independent science?

Location: Forum 217

Date & time: 11 March, 16:00-18:00 PM, followed by drinks

Science-in-Transition (www.scienceintransition.nl) has initiated a national discussion about how to value science, stating that societal relevance in science is undervalued and should be a factor in the decision on funding. At the same time the initiators state that the scientific community should have a critical look at science funding by and collaboration with third parties. In addition to the benefits also the risks should be considered. For Wageningen University Research Centre these are important issues to discuss as the university has a strong societal basis working in the domain 'healthy food and living conditions' and highly values collaboration with third parties.

For the meeting of March 11 we have invited speakers from government, industry and our own institution, who will discuss the connection of Wageningen University with private and public partners in the light of the changing relation between science and society.

Invited speakers:

Ernst van den Ende, director Plant Sciences Group Wageningen UR

Ruud Cino, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment

Niels Groot, Dow Benelux

All staff members, PhD candidates and postdocs of Wageningen University are invited to join this meeting. The meeting is free of charge. Please sign up for this meeting by sending a mail to Ingrid Vleghels, Graduate School 'Experimental Plant Sciences' (EPS), ingrid.vleghels@wur.nl

Organisers: Dr. Ingrid Vleghels, Graduate School Experimental Plant Sciences (EPS)

Prof. Huub Rijnaarts, Graduate School Environmental and Climate Research (WIMEK)

Programme:

- 16:00 Welcome & introduction – Ingrid Vlegghels, Graduate School Experimental Plant Sciences
- 16:10 Researcher’s perspective on collaboration with governmental organisations and industry – Ernst van den Ende, director Plant Sciences Group Wageningen UR
- 16:25 Government’s perspective on collaboration with scientists - Ruud Cino, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
- 16:40 Industry’s perspective on collaboration with scientists - Niels Groot, Dow Benelux
- 16:55 Summary by Huub Rijnaarts, Graduate School Environmental and Climate Research (WIMEK)
- 17:05 Discussion with PhD panel
- 18:00 Drinks

Other

Workshop Successful writing STW-proposal

In collaboration with Technology Foundation STW, we will organise a workshop on March 24 addressed at the successful writing of STW-proposals. The last years there have been many changes regarding the offer of research funding instruments by STW as well as submission’s criteria and Intellectual Property Rights policy.

The workshop consists of two presentations, with opportunities for questions and discussion.

1. General introduction on STW and her research funding instruments by Eppo Bruins, director of STW
2. Tips on how to write successful STW-applications by Marja Dijksterhuis, coordinator primary processes & policy, with special attention for the submission’s criteria and knowledge transfer/IPR-policy
3. Discussion

The workshop is appropriate for scientists both having already experience and with no or limited experience with STW, who aim at writing a STW-proposal. Please realise that only scientists holding a permanent position or tenure track can formally submit proposals at STW. The ‘Vernieuwingsimpuls’ (VI, with broad application possibilities) will not be treated.

STW-Workshop: Tuesday March 24, 13.30 – 15.30, NcountR meeting room at the Impulse building.

Please, for organisational reasons, give notice of your participation a.s.a.p. to: gionata.leone@wur.nl

NEW SERVICE: Wageningen in’to Languages

Are you in need of instant feedback on your academic text? Are you a bit overwhelmed by all the tips you’ve been receiving from colleagues? Not sure whether editing or text coaching is the way to go? Drop by during the [Editing Desk](#) walk-in hours at Wageningen in’to Languages for a free consult!

- * Every Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm
 - * 20 to 30 minute consults
 - * Room 2.51 of the Wageningen UR Library (Forum Building)
-

You are also welcome to come to the walk-in hours if you have a different question related to language or translation. Translation coordinator Bert Keurentjes has over a decade of experience in the language and editing business, six years of which he has spent at In'to Languages. He also chairs the national translation expertise group of NUT (association of university language centres in the Dutch language area) and co-founded the CercleS Translation Focus Group.

Activities

Next PhD Graduation in May.

If you have any questions about this WIAS News please contact Denise Magendans (executive secretary) at denise.magendans@wur.nl