



Field Notes July 2019:

- **WTMC Annual Meeting 2019**
- **WTMC Perspectives Day**
- **Spring Workshop “Postcolonial”**
- **WTMC Writeshop**
- **Summer School “Experimenting, or Trying to Change the World with STS”**
- **Further WTMC events**
- **Renewed ‘Joint Agreement’ of WTMC member institutions**
- **WTMC Board**
- **Congratulations**

WTMC Annual Meeting 2019 – save the date!

The WTMC Annual Meeting 2019 will take place on **13 December** ([De Balie](#), Amsterdam). We expect contributions from Annalisa Pelizza (Bologna/Twente), Ruth Müller (Munich) and Maja Horst (Copenhagen/Wageningen), and a book presentation and discussion (E. Turnhout, W. Tuinstra, and W. Halfman: *Environmental Expertise: Connecting Science, Policy and Society*).

WTMC Perspectives Day

On Sunday, March 10, WTMC offered the first ever “WTMC Perspectives Day”, organised by Veerle Spronck and Serge Horbach. During this day, current WTMC members and WTMC alumni met to share perspectives on career opportunities after finishing a WTMC dissertation. Several alumni discussed their career experiences and reflected on what their WTMC background has offered them. During short speed date sessions, participants got the chance to ask further questions and discuss any concerns or hopes about finding a job both inside or outside academia. At the end of the day, there was a workshop on how to design, rather than find, a perfect future STS job. The event took place at Rijksmuseum Boerhaave in Leiden and included a guided tour through the museum. The “WTMC Perspectives Day” was highly appreciated by the participants. Consequently the WTMC Board decided to offer similar events also in the future.

Spring Workshop “Postcolonial”

May 8-10, 2019, more than 20 PhD researchers, coordinators Bernike Pasveer and Anne Beaulieu plus speakers Alana Helberg-Proctor, David Ludwig, Nishant Shah, and Esther Turnhout met in Soeterbeeck to look at a variety of propositions for what a post-colonial project for STS could be, and which ambitions have been and could be formulated. Where are we, today, as a field? The participants experienced a good mixture of inspiring lectures and interactive work.

WTMC Writeshop

On 24 May 2019 another “Writeshop” took place in Utrecht. Koen Beumer and Iris Wallenburg acted as senior discussants of six PhD researchers’ written pieces. Once more this format was highly appreciated by the participants.

WTMC Summer School [“Experimenting, or Trying to Change the World with STS”](#)

The Summer School 2019 will take place 26-30 August in Soeterbeeck. Anchor Teacher is **Michael Guggenheim** (Goldsmiths, London), a scholar working on experts and lay people, materiality and use, sociology and arts. This Summer School will *“take up various recent attempts to move to a more experimentalist and interventionist STS which is learning from its own accounts of science. What could STS experiments look like? What happens if STS scholars design interventions and devices to invent the (social) world? How do we account for our own roles in such experiments and how do we care for the people with whom we design such projects? What is the role of devices, exercises, prototypes, and trials? How can we gain the necessary skills to design such experiments?”* (programme text) Further lecturers are **Willem Halffman, Klasien Horstman, Bernd Kräftner and Nelly Oudshoorn**.

Further WTMC events 2019 and later

- **Writeshop** 25 October, Utrecht (details to be announced)
- [Autumn Workshop “Open”](#), 18-20 November 2019, location Soeterbeeck (details to be announced).
- **Summer School 2020** with Anchor Teacher [Edward Jones-Imhotep](#), York University, Toronto. He studies the social and cultural life of machines, focusing on the intertwined histories of nature, technology, and social order in modern Europe and North America. His research is particularly interested in understanding what technological failures reveal about the historical place of machines and machine behaviors in the fabric of modern societies. Edward also develops digital and artifact-based methods and computational tools for investigating that history. (Further details to be announced).

Renewed 'Joint Agreement' of WTMC member institutions 2018-23

During 2018 the 'Joint Agreement' (*gemeenschappelijke regeling*), i.e. the rules forming the institutional basis for all WTMC activities, have been renegotiated with our member institutions. Meanwhile the Boards of all institutions have signed the document. The new agreement is characterised by some shifts in membership, overall stability and no substantial budget change. Together with this document an updated version of the *WTMC Huisregels* has been agreed.

WTMC Board

Since January 2019 **Harro van Lente** (UM) is chairman of the Board. Other Board members are Agnes Meershoek (UM), Marianne Boenink (UT), Barbara Regeer (VU), Ellen Moors (UU), Geert Verbong (TUE), Sarah de Rijcke (UL), Barend van der Meulen (Rathenau Instituut), Pieter van Rees (RUG) and Andrea Wojcik (UM). The Board met on March 29 and July 5, 2019.

Congratulations

[Trudy Dehue](#), science sociologist and philosopher, author and emeritus professor of the University of Groningen and long-standing member of WTMC, has been awarded the **KNAW Academy Medal**. The prize will be awarded to Trudy for starting the societal debate on important issues in science, in particular the sciences devoted to people: psychology, psychiatry and brain research. The award ceremony will be on Thursday afternoon, 29 August in the Trippenhuis in Amsterdam.

Pieter van Rees (RUG) was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to do part of his research on citizenship education at CUNY.

Stefan Kuhlmann, July 2019