



**Field Notes December 2019:**

- **WTMC Annual Meeting 2019** (and date 2020)
- **WTMC Series Teaching and Learning STS**
- **Vacancy WTMC PhD Training Coordinator**
- **Summer School 2019 “Experimenting, or Trying to Change the World with STS”**  
(and outlook 2020)
- **Autumn Workshop 2019 “Open”**
- **Spring Workshop 2020 “Care”**
- **WTMC Field Trip**
- **WTMC Practice Workshop**
- **WTMC Writeshops**
- **WTMC Board**
- **Congratulations**

See also  [https://twitter.com/wtmc\\_net](https://twitter.com/wtmc_net)

**WTMC Annual Meetings 2019 and 2020**

On December 13, 2019, more than 60 colleagues convened in “De Balie”, Amsterdam, and



debated STS approaches to “identification”. A recent book “Environmental Expertise” relevant for the WTMC community was presented and discussed, and a panel of PhD candidates reflected on the

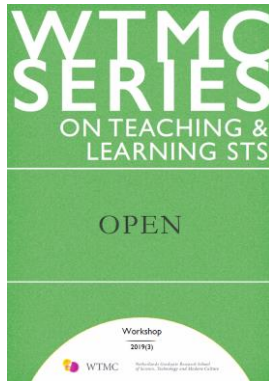


relation of “STS and Engagement”. In the afternoon Ruth Müller (MCTS, Munich) gave a lecture on “Health, Wealth and the Epigenome” followed by an engaged debate with the audience.

**Save the date:** the **WTMC Annual Meeting 2020** will take place on **11 December** (De Balie, Amsterdam).

## WTMC Series Teaching and Learning STS

At the Annual Meeting on December 13, 2019, Training Coordinators Anne Beaulieu and Bernike Pasveer launched the new [WTMC Series Teaching and Learning STS](#).



The Series aims to increase the visibility of WTMC's training programme, to acknowledge the work of coordinators, contributors and participants, and to share a resource that is central to its activities. The publications represent the content of WTMC workshops and summer schools. Concretely, a particular event topic is described, core readings from STS and other relevant literature are connected to the topic, and issues and questions are raised. Each event also addresses skills and methods that are essential to STS.

The Series publications are available at: <https://www.wtmc.eu/wtmc-series/>, they have an ISSN (2666-2892) and a DOI number.

## Vacancy WTMC PhD Training Coordinator

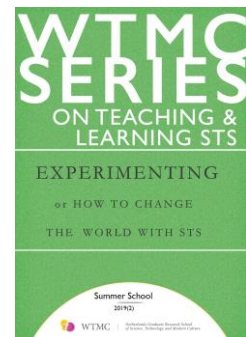
WTMC is looking for a PhD training coordinator, starting September 2020. The new coordinator will collaborate closely with a second coordinator (currently Anne Beaulieu) and with the academic director. The coordinator positions are crucial for the success of WTMC, as providing training for a new generation of scholars in the field is one of the main tasks. A detailed call for applications will be spread via [wtmc-news@googlegroups.com](mailto:wtmc-news@googlegroups.com). Please send applications to Stefan Kuhlmann ([s.kuhlmann@utwente.nl](mailto:s.kuhlmann@utwente.nl)) before **March 1, 2020**.

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



The Summer School 2019 took place 26-30 August in Soeterbeeck. Anchor Teacher was **Michael Guggenheim** (Goldsmiths, London), a scholar working on experts and lay people, materiality and use, sociology and arts. This Summer School aimed *“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 included Willem Halffman, Klasien Horstman, Bernd Kräftner, Nelly Oudshoorn.

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**Save the date:** the WTMC Summer School 2020 will take place **August 24-29**. Anchor teacher is [Edward Jones-Imhotep](#) (York, Canada), a historian of the social and cultural life of machines.

### **WTMC Autumn 2019 Workshop “Open”**

The workshop took place November 18 - 20, 2019. The participants considered the recent quest to make science more ‘open’. While a lot of attention tends to be directed at openness in relation to scientific output (mainly publications) and related potential benefits, there have also been critiques of the open movement and the restrictions and hierarchies it tends to reproduce. Guest lecturers were Frank Miedema (UMC Utrecht), Evelyn Wan (TILT, Tilburg University), Colette Bos (NWO), Paul Wouters (Leiden University), Ismael Rafols (Leiden University, Ingenio and SPRU).

See [Frank Miedema’s tweet](#).

### **WTMC Field trip**

As an initiative of the WTMC Educational Committee Koen Beumer and Serge Horbach organised a “Field Trip” for PhD candidates to the Dutch Ministry Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap (MinOCW) on November 21, 2019. The participants got useful impressions of how such an organisation works.

### **WTMC Policy Workshop**

The WTMC Board has decided to test the format of ‘Practice Workshops’ for PhD candidates. The first event is a [workshop ‘Providing Evidence for Policy Making’](#), organised by and to be held at the [Rathenau Institute](#), The Hague, on 24 January 2020.

### **WTMC Spring 2020 Workshop “Care”**

While STS has a long tradition of studying ‘care’ as an object of research, of talking *about* care, recent approaches challenge the conventional readings and uses of ‘care’. This workshop will engage with care as proposed by the ground-breaking writing of Haraway, Puig de la Bellacasa, Tsing, and Nading and others. This work aims to explore the possibilities of care in/with our multispecied and diverse world.

Guest lecturers: [Israel Rodríguez Giralt](#) (UO de Catalonia), [Iris Wallenburg](#) (EUR), [Christian Ersten](#) (UM), and [Esha Shah](#) (WUR).

The workshop will take place **April 1-3, 2020** in Soeterbeeck.

## WTMC Writeshops

On 25 October 2019 another “Writeshop” took place in Utrecht. [Kornelia Konrad](#) (UT) acted as senior discussant of four PhD researchers’ written pieces. Once more this format was highly appreciated by the participants.

On **Friday 27 March 2020**, WTMC will organize the next Writeshop. [Agnes Meershoek](#) (UM) will act as senior discussant this time.

## WTMC Board

The composition of the WTMC Board has partly changed. Current members are H. van Lente (UM, chair), A. Meershoek (UM), M. Boenink (UT), B. Regeer (VU), E. Moors (UU), F. Alkemade (Tu/e), S. de Rijcke (UL), P. Diederens (Rathenau), NN (external). The PhD representatives P. van Rees and A. Wojcik will leave (their term ends 12/2019), Ivan Veul and Tessa Roedema have agreed to serve on the Board for the next two years.

## Educational Committee

The PhD representatives on this committee S. Horbach & V. Spronck will leave (their term ends 12/2019), Selen Eren & Jackie Ashkin have agreed to serve on the EC for the next two years.

## Research Committee

We have re-established the WTMC Research Committee. It works as an advisory board for the WTMC Board and the Director, for instance when an evaluation of WTMC has to be prepared or when novel thematic research directions have to be identified, or to help positioning STS research in the Dutch and European research funding landscape. [Anique Hommels](#), [Amade M’charek](#), and [Barend v.d. Meulen](#) have agreed to serve on this committee, together with the Academic Director.

## Congratulations

- PhD defended: **Jorijn van Duijn**. *Fortunes of high tech. A history of innovation at ASM International 1958 – 2008*. Maastricht University. 22 november 2019 (supervisors: Harro van Lente, Dirk van Delft).
- PhD defended: **Claudia Egger**. *Mental health online. The enactment of expertise on bipolar disorder on American and French online platforms*. Maastricht University. 4 December 2019 (supervisors: Sally Wyatt, Tamar Sharon).
- [Lotte Krabbenborg](#), Assistant Professor Philosophy and Science Studies at Radboud University Nijmegen, has been appointed as a member of **The Young Academy** of KNAW as from March

2020. Lotte had followed the WTMC Training Program 2007-2011 and is an active **WTMC member**. *“Sociologist and political philosopher Lotte Krabbenborg studies the various ways in which the public influences the development, implementation and social embedding of science and technology. She is specifically interested in opportunities for and obstacles to early identification of those ethical and social aspects of new technologies that should be taken into account when deciding on matters of scientific and technological development. Well-known examples would be nano-technology and genome processing. At The Young Academy, Krabbenborg intends to carry out evaluation studies into science and technology democratisation initiatives, such as the Dutch National Research Agenda. She will also focus on developing institutional and other guidelines meant to optimise the dialogue between science and society.”* (The Young Academy).  
Details at Young Academy website: [https://www.dejongeakademie.nl/en/news/nieuws/the-young-academy-welcomes-ten-new-members?set\\_language=en](https://www.dejongeakademie.nl/en/news/nieuws/the-young-academy-welcomes-ten-new-members?set_language=en)



*Stefan Kuhlmann, December 2019*