



Field Notes June 2020

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and <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/119434/>

Dealing with Covid-19: alternatives in the PhD training programme

Covid-19 restrictions have affected also WTMC. Important events of the WTMC training programme (Summer School 2020; Autumn Workshop 2020) had to be cancelled due to the anti-pandemic measures in the Netherlands and abroad. The omission of key elements come with critical effects for the thematic breadth and quantitative scope (ECTS credits) of our training programme, for community-building among PhDs and with teachers, and finally also for the financial basis of our network (dropping income, changing expenditure).

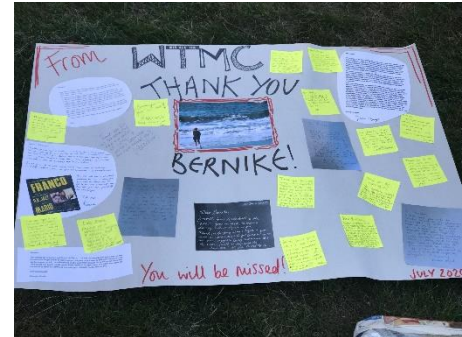
Since March 2020 the Training Coordinators, the Director and the secretariat, in close consultation with the WTMC Board, the Education Committee, and the PhD representatives, have been exploring and have decided on short and medium-term measures to cope with the situation. Currently the Training Coordinators are preparing a few alternative activities that can be done remotely and be self-paced, to some extent. These activities will allow WTMC PhDs to both attain the learning goals of the programme and to connect with other PhDs and members of the STS community. More details will be available to PhDs and their supervisors soon.

All this has happened in cooperative and creative spirits! Beyond short term problem solving management our discussions have triggered reflections about the long-standing conventional structure of the WTMC training programme, also *after* the current pandemic crisis: are there options for more diverse and hybrid (physical, virtual) training modules that can be combined in flexible ways? Education

Committee, Board, Training Coordinators and Director will continue to deliberate in the next few months and inform the WTMC community soon.

Change of WTMC PhD Training Coordinators

After six years of successful work, at the end of August 2020, Training Coordinator **Dr. Bernike Pasveer** (UM) will retire from this position – coordinators are appointed for a two-year term that can be extended twice. WTMC is grateful for Bernike’s strong engagement, with her special combination of intellectual curiosity, emotion, rigour, humour and guidance for young researchers.



At the postponed Spring Workshop (June 2020, see below) the PhDs thanked “Mama WTMC” Bernike in their very own way (pics posted by @DaniShanley <https://twitter.com/DaniShanley/status/1275735499324502017?s=20>).

WTMC Board and Director will offer a “Farewell” to Bernike around the very end of her current term.

Coordinator [Dr. Anne Beaulieu](#) (RUG), coordinator since 2018, has accepted the our invitation to serve for another two-year term. Many thanks, Anne!



As from September 2020, [Dr. Andreas Weber](#) (UT) will work as new coordinator, next to Anne Beaulieu. Andreas is an Assistant Professor studying the relationship between Science, Technology and Culture from a long-term and global perspective. This includes research into how computational technologies can be used to contextualize and provide access to valuable digitized scientific collections, such as biodiversity heritage archives and collections. Welcome at WTMC, Andreas!

Spring Workshop 2020 “Care”

On 22-24 June 2020 (re-scheduled) the PhD Workshop “Care as Concept, Method, Ethic” took place as physical event in Soeterbeek. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions only a limited number of participants could attend. Contributors, physical or virtual, were Maria Puig de la Bellacasa (Barcelona), [Iris Wallenburg](#) (EUR), [Christian Ernten](#) (UM), and [Esha Shah](#) (WUR).





Participants enjoyed the atmosphere of this face-to-face encounter at summerly Soeterbeek a lot.

(see https://twitter.com/wtmc_net/status/1275149134484439040?s=20)

Winter School 2021

Since the Summer School 2020 had to be cancelled WTMC will run a **Winter School January 10-14, 2021** at Soeterbeek, as a physical or hybrid event, depending on circumstances. We are very happy that [Pierre-Benoit Joly](#) has accepted to act as **anchor teacher**. Pierre-Benoit is an economist and sociologist. He is Director of research at the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) in France and works at LISIS (Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations Sociétés). Since 1996, his research activities are focused on the governance of collective risks, socio-technical controversies, the use of scientific advice in public decision making and the forms of public participation in scientific activities. Joly is (co-)author of works like “[Lost in Translation? The Need for ‘Upstream Engagement’ with Nanotechnology on Trial](#)” or “[Disentrenching Experiment: The Construction of GM—Crop Field Trials As a Social Problem](#)”. Pierre-Benoit is a member of WTMC’s International Advisory Board.

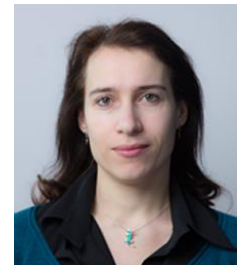


Summer Schools 2021 and 2022



Anchor teacher for the **Summer School 2021** will be [Sergio Sismondo](#). Sergio works at Queens University, Toronto. He does research in STS at intersections of philosophy and sociology of science. Recently he has been studying the nature and distribution of pharmaceutical research, seeing this as a project in the political economy of knowledge. Sergio is a member of WTMC’s International Advisory Board.

At the **Summer School 2022** we will work with [Sabina Leonelli](#) as anchor teacher. Sabina works at University of Exeter. Her research spans the philosophy, history and sociology of data-intensive science, especially the impact of Big and Open Data on research and wider society; the scientific and social implications of implementing Open Science policies and procedures; the philosophy and history of organisms as research models, with a focus on experimental organisms; the history and epistemology of the plant sciences.



WTMC Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting will take place on **December 11, 2020 in Amsterdam at De Balie** – as a hybrid event, physical and online; De Balie is well equipped for such formats (see recent [example](#)). As a lead theme we will deliberate on “**Methods**”, an increasingly pressing issue for STS in two perspectives:

- Most importantly, which methods should STS apply and develop as an accepted interdisciplinary field of academic research?
- Also, how to understand the ontologies and performativity of currently fast expanding research methods applied in academia, industrial research and by tech giants (such as big data; metascience).

We will share the programme and details for registration for physical or online participation in October.

Congratulations

See also overview at [WTMC website](#).

- PhD defended: **Marith Dieker**. *Talking You Through. The Shifting Socio-Technical Practices of Radio Traffic News, 1950s-now*. Maastricht University. 16 January 2020 (supervisors: Karin Bijsterveld, Wiebe Bijker)
- PhD defended: **Serge Horbach**. *To Spill, Filter and Clean: On problematic research articles, the peer review system and organizational integrity procedures*. Radboud University Nijmegen. 13 February 2020 (supervisors: Hub Zwart, Willem Halffman)
- PhD defended: **Leen Dresen**. *Op weg naar nationale natuur: natuurjournalistiek in Nederland, 1850-1910*. Universiteit van Amsterdam. 13 maart 2020 (supervisors: John Grin, Chunglin Kwa)
- PhD defended: **Linnea Semmerling**. *Listening on Display: Exhibiting Sounding Artworks 1960s-now*. Maastricht University. 30 April 2020 (supervisors: Karin Bijsterveld, Peter Peters)
- PhD defended: **Tessa Cramer**. *Becoming Futurists, reluctant professionals searching for common ground*. Maastricht University. 14 May 2020 (supervisors: Marjolein van Asselt, Harro van Lente)
- PhD defended: **Tineke van der Schoor**. *Strategies for Energy Reconfigurations – Obduracy, values and scripts*. Maastricht University. 28 May 2020 (supervisors: Harro van Lente, Alexander Peine).

WTMC brochure and LinkedIn group

The [WTMC brochure](#) has been updated. There is also a WTMC Information Package available for new participants.

For many years already there has been a [WTMC alumni group at LinkedIn](#). We should use it more actively: PhDs who have successfully completed their WTMC training, or have defended their PhD thesis, and of course also senior WTMC people. You are invited to this LinkedIn group!

Stefan Kuhlmann, June 2020