



WTMC

*Netherlands Graduate Research School
of Science, Technology and Modern Culture*

Annual Report, 2023

About WTMC

The **Netherlands Research School of Science, Technology and Modern Culture (WTMC)** is a collective effort of scholars based in the Netherlands who study **relations between science, technology, policy, and society from an interdisciplinary perspective**. It is internationally regarded as the best of its kind and, for that reason, received the [4S Infrastructure Award](#) in 2016. WTMC members come from diverse backgrounds including the history, sociology and philosophy of science and technology, policy studies, innovation studies, gender studies and cultural studies. WTMC is pluralistic and includes diverse schools of thought, objects of study, and methods and approaches. WTMC provides **high quality, advanced training for PhD candidates** who work on research topics that fit with the domain of WTMC. In so doing, it creates new generations of scholars with a solid background in this interdisciplinary field. In addition, **WTMC supports high quality research and contributes to societal debates.**

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1 2023 in a nutshell

2023 was a year with several highlights, including a full schedule of training activities (see chapter 2) including a Spring Workshop, a Summer School, both in person in Soeterbeeck, an online Autumn Workshop, and two Writeshops. WTMC also organized an annual meeting on 24 February. The negotiations of the new regulations were completed in 2023. They are currently in process of being signed, after which they will fully come into effect.

2 WTMC Training activities in 2023

WTMC organised 5 training events: two Workshops (one online and one in person), one Summer School (in person) and 2 Writeshops.

On March 9 and 11 October, two **Writeshops** were held in the Social Impact Factory in Utrecht. The Writeshop of 9 March had 3 participants and included Lotte Krabbenborg (Radboud University) as senior discussant. The Writeshop of 11 October had 5 participants and included Roland Bal (Erasmus University) as senior discussant.



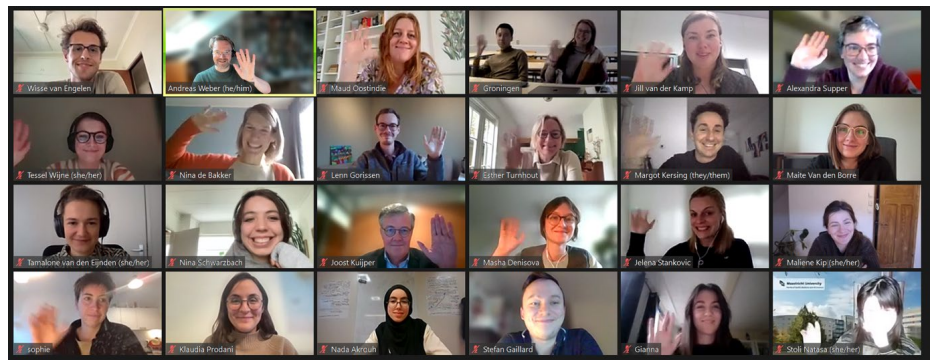
This year's **Spring Workshop** focused on the topic "[STS at work: Perspectives on Labour](#)" and took place as an in-person event, with 32 participants at Soeterbeeck from April 24, 2023 until April 26, 2023. Through many interesting presentations, discussions and activities, the workshop participants explored different strands of scholarship that draw attention to the labour dimension of science and technology, and also reflected on the labour involved in our own (institutional) practices as WTMC researchers. The workshop featured presentations by Stefan de Jong (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Guus Dix (University of Twente), Koen Beumer (Utrecht University) and Darian Meacham (Maastricht University), and an online Q&A with Rida Qadri (Google, Ethical Team).

This year's **Summer School** featured Tarleton Gillespie as the anchor teacher and it focused on the theme '[Algorithmic](#)'. The Summer School had 33 participants who were joined by the following guest speakers: João Vieira Magalhães, Stefania Milan, Anne Helmond, Jess Bier, and Paul Dourish. The Summer School discussed the ethics, politics and societal implications of algorithms, including in relation to labor, the power of platforms, and political representation.





On 6-8 November, the **Autumn Workshop** entitled 'Archiving' took place. The workshop focused on the multiple meanings, imaginaries, and uses of archives, both historically and in the present. The workshop



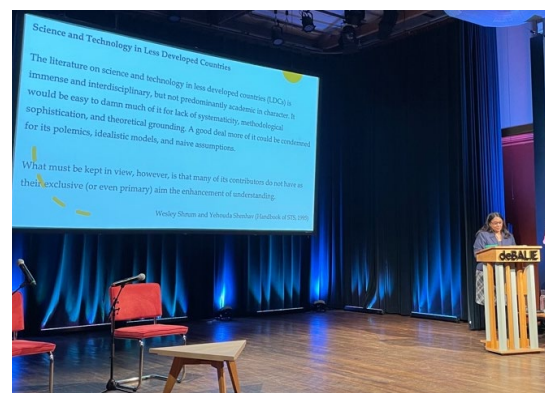
was held as an online event and included 22 students. Together with guest lecturers Charles Jeurgens, Hannah Turner, Jorijn van Duin, and Andrea Scharnhorst, the participants discussed a wide diversity of archiving practices in museums, corporations, government, and science.

3 Annual meeting

On 24 February 2023, WTMC organized its first in person Annual Meeting since a long time. We had a full audience and a diverse [program](#) that included topics such as STS and activism and Decolonizing STS and a celebration of the intellectual legacies of Bruno Latour and Arie Rip.



Sarah Rose Bieszczad on Activism



Esha Shah on Decolonizing STS

4 The new WTMC regulations

The preparation and negotiation of the new WTMC regulations were concluded in 2023. Currently, they are in the process of being signed by the participating universities, after which they will go into effect. First, WTMC will enable individual memberships. All individuals – including individuals affiliated with member institutions and individuals not affiliated with member institutions – working in the broad domain area of WTMC are invited to become individual member of WTMC. We will have different fee categories for individuals from and outside member institutions, and we will also have special fees for individuals with temporary contracts. Individual members will benefit from reduced fees among others for WTMC research activities. A second important change is that the WTMC board has also decided to allow more flexibility in the training program. It is now possible to receive the WTMC certificate after having followed 2 summer schools and 3 workshops. It also remains possible for WTMC PhDs to follow a fourth workshop as part of their WTMC program.

Annex 1 WTMC PhDs that completed the training program in 2023

Naam	Institution	Supervisors
Nina Schwarzbach	University of Groningen	Prof. Marieke Pijenburg
Margot Kersing	Erasmus University	Prof. Liesbeth van Zoonen
Carla Greubel	Utrecht University	Prof. dr. Ellen Moors
Florian Helfrich	University of Twente	Prof. Stefan Kuhlmann
Georgiana Kotsou	Maastricht University	Prof. Cyrus Mody
Irene Niet	Eindhoven University	Dr. Q.C. van Est
Jackie Ashkin	Leiden University	Prof. S. de Rijcke
Joost Kuijper	University of Twente	Prof. S. Kuhlmann
Lea Lösch	Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam	Prof. Aura Timen
Maria Denisova	Maastricht University	Prof. Klasien Horstman
Michiel Bron	Maastricht University	Prof. Cyrus Mody
Olga Temina	Maastricht University	Prof. Klasien Horstman

Annex 2: WTMC PhDs that started the program in 2023

Naam	Institution	Supervisor
Nina de Bakker	Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam	Prof. dr. J.E.W. Broerse Prof. dr. T. Zuiderent-Jerak
Jasper van Dijk	University of Eindhoven	A. Wieczorek J. Gevers M. Groenleer
Sophie van der Does	Radboud University	N. Aarts L. Krabbenborg
Wisse van Engelen	University of Twente	Prof. dr. E. Turnhout Prof. M. Bollig Dr. A. Weber
Jill van der Kamp	Radboud University	L. Krabbenborg Dr. A.F. de Winter
Gianna Marsman	Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam	Prof. dr. T. Zuiderent-Jerak Dr. T.J. Schuitmaker Dr. C. Pittens
Marije Miedema	University of Groningen	Prof. dr. S. Aasman Prof. dr. A. Bealieu Dr. S. Sauer
Iris Schuitemaker	University of Utrecht	E. Moors F. Van Laerhoven K. Beumer
Jelena Stankovic	Maastricht University	Prof. C. Mody Dr. J. Ward
Karin van Vuuren	Erasmus University	Prof. dr. R. Bal Dr. B. de Graaff R. Borst
Wisse van Engelen	University of Twente	Prof. E. Turnhout
Daniella Pauly Jensen	Maastricht University	Prof. dr. S. Wyatt

Annex 3: Organization of WTMC

Hosting university (penvoerder): University of Twente

Scientific Director: Esther Turnhout (UT)

Training coordinators Alexandra Supper (Maastricht University) (RUG); Andreas Weber (UT)

Board: Harro van Lente (Maastricht University, chair), Barbara Regeer (VU), Jarno Hoekman (UU), Agnes Meershoek (UM), Alexandria Poole (UT), Sarah de Rijcke (UL), Paul Diederer (Rathenau), Valerie Frissen (SIDN, UL; on behalf of civil society organizations), Willem Halffman (RUN), Florian Helfrich (UT) (until

November 2023), Mike Grijseeels (VU) (until November 2023). Florian Helfrich and Mike Grijseels were replaced by Marije Miedema and Efe Cengiz in November 2023.

Education Committee: Koen Beumer (UU, chair), Kornelia Konrad (UT), Harro Maat (WUR), Thed van Leeuwen (UL), Wytske Hepkema (RU), Ying Ying Han (RU), Nina Schwarzbach (RUG)

WTMC has a **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 served in 2023 on this committee, together with the Academic Director.

WTMC has also an **International Advisory Board**. Members of the IAB are Pierre-Benoit Joly, Barbara Prainsack, Sergio Sismondo, Lucy Suchman. The IAB works as a sounding board for the WTMC Board and the Director, for instance when an evaluation of WTMC has to be prepared, when novel thematic directions have to be identified or when inspiring teachers have to be found.

During 2023 the website attracted 2627 active visitors who visited the website 8620 times. Most visitors found the website by using a search engine 39,9%, 19% visited the website via a referral (most visits via uu.nl and nica-institute.com). Most visitors came from the Netherlands (32,7%) and USA (12,69%), followed by China (8,13%), Germany (4,75%) and UK (3,59%). The homepage is visited best, second best is the [PhD Research page](#) followed by [WTMC Graduate program](#) page.

Annex 4: Financial results 2023

A summary of the **2023 financial results is attached**. In 2023, WTMC realized a positive result mostly due to lower personnel costs than budgeted and higher income from the participating institutions. The financial reserve is around 100% of the budget for a full year.

Opmerkingen
6 uur per week
12 uur per week may 01-04-2022 8 uur extra
2*9 uur per week:
Aankom web-site, interne-kassa, bestuursvergadering extra € 5.000
Aankom aan anchor teacher + other teachers Winter school
Bijdrage STSS-workshop 2023 door KITAS georganist.
Inclusief 3 PhD ad € 6.000
Annual meeting Extra OW-inkomen onvoorzen

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