

# Notes on WTMC



April 2011

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Hello from your new director Sally Wyatt

Some say (most usually those who have done the job) that being coordinator of WTMC is the best job in the Netherlands. There is certainly some truth in that. You get to hang out with interesting, smart younger scholars and you have the opportunity to keep up with a broad range of literature in the field. I can now reliably inform you that being director is also pretty good. I don't have to do all the work associated with making a reader, but I get a copy of the reader, and have an excuse to spend the occasional day in Ravenstein with the coordinators, some guest speakers and a new cohort of smart PhDs. I also have an excuse to visit the many old and new institutional members. I've started to do that and it's great to meet everyone and hear more about what's happening. When I've completed this grand tour, I'll share some more observations

I recently received an email, as director of WTMC, from a VPRO journalist, which said:

*I have heard that there are also anthropologists/sociologists who do research on the way scientists work (in the laboratory usually I suppose) and I thought it would be rather fascinating to find those for our television program too, and perhaps interview them on their findings.*

If a journalist contacts you soon, you'll know who to blame, or thank (depending on how you feel about journalists).

Meeting with ECOS, 1 April 2011

On 1 April (we hope the committee wasn't trying to tell us something with the choice of date), several of us met with the accreditation committee of ECOS to discuss the submission. The committee wanted to meet one post-doc (Erik Aarden) and three PhDs (Alexandra Supper, Sabrina

Sauer and Jan van Baren) as well as three or four people responsible for the organisation (me as Director, Nelly Oudshoorn, Chair of the Board, Harro van Lente, Chair of the Teaching Committee and Teun Zuiderent-Jerak, one of the training coordinators). As you saw in the last 'notes on WTMC', Karin Bijsterveld prepared a mountain of documentation to substantiate our claims. All of the formal signatures came in on time in January. We hope we convinced the committee with our commitment and enthusiasm to WTMC. We'll hear the outcome on 1 July.

Changes in teaching committee:

At the beginning of this year, Alexandra Supper (Maastricht) stepped down from the teaching committee. She was replaced by Koen Beuners (also Maastricht) who joins Steven Dorrestein (Twente) in representing the PhDs on the committee. Many thanks to them all for their contributions.

Completed dissertations:

It might be a record – four WTMC 'promoties' within seven days, and three on 21 April. Congratulations to the following, and to their supervisors.

- Sjoerd Bakker, on 15 April, Universiteit Utrecht, *Competing Expectations: The Case of the Hydrogen Car* (supervisors – Harro van Lente & E. Worrell)
- Martin Ruivenkamp, on 21 April, Universiteit Twente, *Circulating Images of Nanotechnology* (supervisor – Arie Rip)
- Haico te Kulve, on 21 April, Universiteit Twente, *Anticipatory Interventions and the Co-Evolution of Nanotechnology and Society* (supervisor – Arie Rip)
- Julia Quartz, on 21 April, Maastricht University, *Constructing Agrarian Alternatives* (supervisors – Wiebe Bijker & Anique Hommels)

In addition, Nora Engel, an occasional participant at WTMC events, defended her PhD on 20 April in Maastricht. *Tuberculosis in India. A Case of Innovation & Control*. (supervisors – Wiebe Bijker, Harro van Lente & Ragna Zeiss)

There are more 'promoties' scheduled for later this year. I would like to encourage those involved to send around an announcement to the WTMC list in good time.

Workshop funding

In order to foster research activities within WTMC and the organization of WTMC workshops, WTMC offers funding of workshops. The maximum amount of funding available per workshop is 5,000 euro. The total amount of funding annually available for WTMC-sponsored workshops is 15,000 euro.

How to apply for a workshop grant? These are the requirements for applying:

- WTMC has a maximum of 5,000 euro available for each workshop
- The theme of the workshop needs to combine the interests of at least two of the three research clusters of WTMC in order to sustain the integration of the WTMC members' research and in order to make the workshop attractive for as many WTMC members as possible

- The workshop should be open to WTMC members, with no or seriously reduced fees for these members
- WTMC members applying should send a signed letter to the academic director of WTMC with:
  - the full program and invited speakers
  - a detailed budget (with information about additional grants, etc.)
- The letter with the grant application should be sent to the academic director of WTMC three months prior to the workshop, and calls for proposals or announcements about the workshop should be sent to the WTMC community at least two months prior to the event
- In case WTMC subsidizes the workshop, WTMC should be mentioned as (one of the) sponsor(s) on the announcements, calls and publications about the workshop.
- After the event, a 1-2 page report about the workshop needs to be sent to WTMC, including a financial report.

### Annual Meeting 2011

The WTMC Annual Meeting 2011 will take place on 8 and 9 December 2011 in Amsterdam. The meeting will be held at Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht. Further information in next 'Notes on WTMC'.