



WTMC

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

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Changes in WTMC organization

There have been a number of key changes in the people holding formal positions within the organization of WTMC. Paul Wouters (Leiden) took up the chairmanship of the Board on 1 January 2014. This, together with some other moves, opened up two places on the Board. Koen Frenken was already a member, but now represents Utrecht, since he moved there from Eindhoven. That meant we had two places – one for Eindhoven, and one for the smaller participating groups (which had previously been represented by Paul Wouters). We are very pleased to announce the following two new members of the Board: Barend van der Meulen, Head of the Science System Assessment Group at the Rathenau Institute, and Geert Verbong from Eindhoven University of Technology.

Stefan Kuhlmann (Twente) has kindly agreed to take on the role of chairing the Research Committee, and also to be responsible for the first strand of WTMC research, namely ‘diagnosis of the modern research system’.

We also welcome two new coordinators who will officially begin in the summer. Bernike Pasveer and Govert Valkenburg (Maastricht) will be taking over from Teun Zuiderent-Jerak (Linköping) and Geert Somsen (soon to be visiting Columbia University, New York) after the summer school.

It remains a great team, and we should all be very grateful for the work that all of the past and present coordinators, members of the Board, and members of the research and teaching committees have done and continue to do for WTMC.

Annual meeting, 20-21 November – note the date. Further details about the programme will follow. The meeting will be held at De Balie in Amsterdam, as sadly Felix Meritis has had to declare bankruptcy.

Completed dissertations. Congratulations to the ‘new doctors’ who successfully defended their dissertations in the past months:

- Annelies Jacobs. *Het geluid van gisteren. Waarom Amsterdam vroeger ook niet stil was.* Maastricht University. 15 January 2014. Supervisors: Karin Bijsterveld (Maastricht) and Andreas Fickers (Luxembourg).
- Jess Bier. *Mapping Israel, Mapping Palestine. How Segregated Landscapes Shape Scientific Knowledge.* Maastricht University. 3 April 2014. Supervisors: Sally Wyatt (Maastricht) and Bas van Heur (VUB).
- Lucie Dalibert. *Posthumanism and Somatechnologies: Exploring the Intimate Relations between Humans and Technologies.* University of Twente. 10 April 2014. Supervisors: Peter-Paul Verbeek (Twente) and Ciano Aydin (Twente/Delft).

Congratulations are also due to various WTMC members who have received prizes and major grants

Ernst Homburg (Maastricht) has been awarded the American Chemical Society’s Historical Division Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry for 2014. The event to honour Ernst’s contributions to the history of chemistry will take place on 12 August 2014 at the American Chemical Society’s annual meeting in San Francisco.

Amade M’charek (UvA) has been awarded a five-year Consolidator Grant by the European Research Council, in order to develop her work on race in forensic practice. She will examine how identification technologies shape ‘race’, focusing on so-called ‘face-making’ in forensic identification: the reconstruction of unknown people’s faces. This research project will go beyond the social constructivist paradigm and unravel the ways in which ‘race’ is constructed as a set of relations between the biological, the social and the technical.

Peter-Paul Verbeek (Twente) has received an NWO Vici award, for a project called ‘The complex relationship between people and technology’ (SW translation). In the project, he will develop a theory of ‘technological mediation’ in order to understand the role of technology in three key philosophical areas, namely knowledge, morality and metaphysics.

Wytske Versteeg (Twente) won the BNG New Literature Prize for her novel *Boy*. The prize is awarded annually for a writer who is not yet 40 and who is still establishing him/herself as a writer. Wytske has one other published novel. She is also a member of WTMC, and working on a PhD at the University of Twente, about how expertise is constituted in interaction, both online and offline.

The first issue of the [Journal of Responsible Innovation](#) is now online. All articles are open access.

