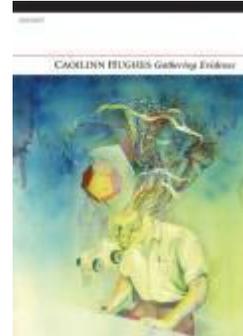




In these Notes on WTMC (December 2014):

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Annual meeting, 20-21 November

Gravity had been newly named, so he willed himself to see

the hail as being drawn, not thrown forcefully from the Heavens.

The orbs burst on the ground like meteors or fleshy white melons.

from Caoilinn Hughes, *Gathering Evidence*

We had a packed programme and a packed room for the first-ever WTMC annual meeting held at De Balie in Amsterdam. We also enjoyed the first-ever poetry reading on Thursday evening. Caoilinn Hughes read from her recently published collection called [Gathering Evidence](#). Many of her poems are inspired by science and scientists, past and present, and they certainly resonated with those who attended.

Other sessions dealt with more traditional topics, and in more traditional formats. That does not mean, of course, that the presentations and discussions were not exciting and challenging. The session about the pursuit of an 'excellent university' in the Netherlands prompted lively discussion between Willem Halffman, Barend van der Meulen, Paul Wouters, Sally Wyatt and the audience. A commentary and links to the contributions will soon be available on the [CWTS blog](#).



Sally Wyatt (WTMC Director) & Caoilinn Hughes (poet).

Photo credit: Govert Valkenburg

Johanna Höffken and Eleftheria Vasileiadou focused on the role of STS research within climate change, both methodologically and normatively. They each made presentations about their own work – respectively ethnographic & bibliometric – to show how both approaches could contribute to our understanding of climate change. They also challenged the audience to address the proposition that, “STS has not engaged critically enough with regard to climate change science and technology!” Many of those present questioned the terms of the proposition – what does it mean to be ‘engaged critically’, what is ‘enough’? But the important point regarding the role of STS research, in this field and others, was well made.

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

- Inge Mutsaers. *Immunisation and its discontents. An analysis of the use and usefulness of immunological models in political philosophy.* Radboud University Nijmegen. 17 June 2014 (supervisor: Hub Zwart)
- Fabian de Kloe. *Constructing worlds with words. Science and international language in the early 20th century.* Maastricht University. 18 June 2014 (supervisors: Wiebe Bijker & Geert Somsen)
- Marlous Arentshorst. *Future visions of medical neuroimaging. The challenge of realising responsible research and innovation.* VU University. 1 October 2014. (supervisors: Tjard de Cock Buning & Jacqueline Broerse)

- Sanne van der Hout. *It's Alive! Ecological genomics and the promise of a new relationship with nature*. 6 October 2014, Radboud University Nijmegen (supervisors: Hub Zwart & Maarten Drenthen)
- Felix Schirmann, *The Good, the Bad, and the Brain: Theory and History of the Neuroscience of Morality*. 9 October 2014. Groningen University. (supervisors: Trudy Dehue & Stephan Schleim)

Congratulations are also due to various (past & present) WTMC members who have recently received prizes, acknowledging their work and contributions.

Simone van der Burg (Scientific Institute for Quality of Healthcare, RadboudUMC) received one of the two prizes awarded by the Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme. These prizes are awarded to top researchers in the life sciences, to support their work and to provide them with a sabbatical opportunity. The prize includes an award of €25,000 to support the winner's research, and a sabbatical at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study (NIAS) in Wassenaar. This is the third year that the prizes have been awarded. Read more in this [Dutch-language press release](#).

Johan Schot (formerly at Eindhoven, now at SPRU in Brighton) received the Freeman Award for 'a publication which is a significant collective contribution to the interaction of science and technology studies with the study of innovation'. The award was presented at the EASST conference in Torun, Poland in September. The award was for [Making Europe – Technology and Transformations 1850 – 2000](#) (Palgrave Macmillan) a book series launched in 2013, and edited by Johan Schot & Phil Scranton. Books in the series include contributions from, a.o., Ruth Oldenziel and Andreas Fickers.

Congratulations also to Geert Verbong, member of the WTMC Board, who gave his inaugural lecture at the Eindhoven University of Technology on 5 September. The title of his lecture was '[Past and Future Energy Transitions](#)'.

Forthcoming events:

As well as the usual workshops and summer schools aimed at PhD members, WTMC is supporting two other events in 2015.

- WTMC members, Anne Beaulieu (RUG), Sarah de Rijcke (Leiden) & Paul Wouters (Leiden), together with others are organizing a week-long workshop from 23-26 February at the Lorentz Center in Leiden on the theme of 'authorship in transition'. Two parts of the programme are open to a wider public, including an evening debate about authorship in open science. More details [here](#).
- Huub Dijkstra (UvA) is organizing a workshop about 'border surveillance and counter-surveillance' on 28-29 May in Amsterdam.

Two other dates to note in your diaries:

- Karin Bijsterveld (Maastricht University) and her colleagues on the NWO-funded Sonic Skills project are organizing a [Sonic Science Festival](#), from 23-28 January in Maastricht. There will be a full series of lectures, workshops, demonstrations, and even a concert, all exploring the role of sound and listening in science.
- Nelly Oudshoorn (Twente) retires in 2015. To mark this important transition, there will be a workshop on the afternoon of 28 May at Universiteit Twente, called 'How users still matter. Reflections on user-technology relations'.

More details about the Sonic Science festival are already on the WTMC website, and details about the other events are sure to be circulated to the WTMC mailing list in due course.