



## **In these Notes on WTMC, June 2017:**

- **Save the dates – 31 October** for a Supervisors' Day, and **24 November** for the WTMC Annual Meeting, and Jenny Slatman's inaugural lecture (see below)
- **New home & director for WTMC from 1 January 2018**
- **Evaluation of WTMC - results**
- **Annual Meeting & reminder of competition about WTMC publications**
- **Supervisors' Day**
- **Funds from WTMC to support workshops**
- **Completed dissertations**
- **Congratulations to....**

## **New home & director for WTMC**

From 1 January 2018, the University of Twente will take over from Maastricht University as 'penvoerder', to have both the formal and financial responsibility of WTMC for the coming years. The WTMC Board is very pleased with this move, and with the fact that [Professor Stefan Kuhlmann](#) will become WTMC Director on 1 January. Professor Kuhlmann is well-known to many WTMC members for his work in innovation policy, and responsible innovation. He originally studied political science and history, and worked at Utrecht University before joining the Department of Science, Technology and Policy Studies at the University of Twente. He is also an editor of the journal *Research Policy*. The symbolic transfer of power will take place during the annual meeting.

## **Evaluation of WTMC – results**

On 22-23 March, an international committee came to Utrecht to evaluate the work of WTMC for the period 2011-2016. The committee consisted of Alan Irwin, Martina Merz and Pierre-Benoît Joly. While here, they met with the current and future directors, current and past coordinators, chair & members of the board, past & present PhD members, and a few PhD supervisors. Very interesting discussions took place, and the committee has now finished its report. The key conclusion reads as follows:

*In the opinion of the International Peer Review Panel, WTMC is one of the few most influential graduate schools in the world within the field of science, technology and innovation studies (STIS). We furthermore conclude that WTMC makes an outstanding contribution to society. WTMC builds upon an excellent research foundation within its field and is therefore excellently*

*equipped in terms of future research capacity. On that basis, we assess WTMC as being of world-leading quality with regard to its doctoral training activities.*

The full report will shortly be sent to the 'colleges van bestuur' of the participating universities. The conclusions and recommendations will be discussed by the WTMC Board, the teaching committee, and will form part of the research evaluation of the 'penvoerder' faculty, according to the new rules for accrediting research schools.

### **WTMC Annual Meeting – 24 November**

The 2017 annual meeting will feature [Sergio Sismondo](#), editor of *Social Studies of Science* (SSS), and professor of philosophy at Queen's University in Canada. He will reflect further on his recent editorial in SSS about 'post truth' (add publication details). Two recent books by WTMC members are on the programme: *Bruno Latour* (Polity) by Gerard de Vries, and *Mapping Israel, Mapping Palestine* (MIT Press) by Jess Bier. We will also reflect on the challenges facing PhDs, and the prospects for WTMC graduates outside of academia.

#### **REMINDER OF CONTEST**

As part of the self-evaluation, an extensive and fascinating list of the publications of senior WTMC members, 2011-2016, was produced, running to about 40 pages. This list provides a fantastic overview of the kind of work done by members of WTMC. This can now be found on the WTMC website, and was sent to the mailing list a while ago.

It is simply a list - so the challenge for (some of) you now is to think of an alternative representation. This could be in any format - a visualization, poem, song, an alternative list. A prize for the best representation will be awarded at the annual meeting (24 November in Amsterdam - more details to be announced soon). Deadline for submissions is 1 November (to be sent to Sally Wyatt – [sally.wyatt@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:sally.wyatt@maastrichtuniversity.nl))

The winner will be announced during the annual meeting.

### **Supervisors' Day, Utrecht – 31 October**

An invitation has been sent to people currently supervising PhD members of WTMC, to participate in a Supervisors' Day. The purpose of the meeting is two-fold – to share experiences about supervising PhDs, and to think about the future role of WTMC in the process, following the evaluation. If you did not receive the invitation but would like to attend, please contact Hannie Spronck ([hannie.spronck@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:hannie.spronck@maastrichtuniversity.nl)) who will send you further details.

## Completed dissertations

Congratulations to Simone and Hans, the ‘young doctors’, who both followed the full WTMC training programme:

- Simone Schleper. *Life On Earth: Controversies on the Science and Politics of Global Nature Conservation, 1960–1980*, Maastricht University. 26 April 2017 (supervisors: Ernst Homburg & Raf de Bont)
- Hans Schouwenburg. *Strategies to Save the Earth. Nature Conservation Experts and Sustainable Development, 1980-2000*. Maastricht University. 10 May 2017 (supervisors: Ernst Homburg & Raf de Bont)

**Congratulations** are also due to the following for recent achievements:

**Jenny Slatman**, Professor of Medical Humanities at Tilburg University, will give her inaugural lecture on 24 November, at 16.15

**Sonja Jerak-Zuiderent** was shortlisted for the *Sociological Review* Prize for Outstanding Scholarship, for her article ‘Keeping Open by Re-imagining Laughter and Fear’, based on work she did while working on her PhD and being part of WTMC. More details [here](#).

**Antoinette de Bont** has been appointed as ‘special professor’ in the Sociology of Innovations in Care, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam.

**Karin Bijsterveld** has been appointed as a member of the KNAW Council for the Humanities (Raad voor de Geesteswetenschappen), for a period of three years. The Council promotes research and knowledge transfer in the humanities, and gives advice on the position of the humanities more broadly.

**Jeannette Pols & Amade M’Charek** are the project leaders for ‘Achieving good science. A cross disciplinary study’, funded by the ZonMW research programme called ‘Stimulation of Responsible Research Practices’.