



WTMC FIELD NOTES, WINTER 2012

25 years of WTMC

We have marked the collective achievement of 25 years of WTMC. At the Copenhagen meeting of EASST and 4S in October, WTMC hosted a lunch to which we invited all of the former anchor teachers, plus Steve Epstein who will be our 2013 anchor teacher. All responded with congratulations and good wishes for WTMC's future, and sixteen attended our lunch. A few colleagues from our sister organisations in Italy, Belgium and Taiwan as well as the President and student representative of EASST all shared their thoughts about what WTMC and the SCOT book meant for them. We shared the celebration with the new edition of Bijker, Hughes and Pinch (eds) *Social Construction of Technological Systems* – first published 25 years ago, and one of the best-selling books MIT Press has ever published. That volume contains chapters (co)-authored by other past and present WTMC members (Henk van den Belt, Arie Rip, Henk Bodewitz, Henk Buurma & Gerard de Vries) and many of the anchor teachers. Many former members of WTMC who now live and work outside the Netherlands also joined us for lunch. The room was full, and people enjoyed the occasion. Pictures can be found on our new website...see next item.

We also celebrated 25 years at the annual meeting held in Amsterdam last week. The 'founding fathers' (Arie Rip, Gerard de Vries, Rob Hagendijk and Wiebe Bijker) paired up with younger members (respectively Bart Walhout, Steven Dorrestijn, Erwin van Rijswoud and Jess Bier) to give us some memorable accounts of WTMC's past and some indications of its promising future. Thanks to Willem Halffman and his crew, we had a fabulous party. Pictures will be on the website soon... read on.

New website & logo

WTMC has moved into the second decade of the 21st century with a new website, officially launched at the annual meeting last week. Check it out at the old address www.wtmc.net And if you just type in 'WTMC' into a search engine, we will appear at the top of the page.

There are different ways of engaging with the website. Very special people are administrators, a few more are editors (Sally Wyatt, Hannie Spronck, Willem Halffman and Teun Zuiderent-Jerak, plus some of the AIOs for the PhD corner which will go live early next year). We still need to experiment with the roles of authors (authors can upload and publish material themselves and edit or delete their publications) and contributors (who can submit material which has to be approved and published by an editor or an administrator). In the new year, we will start experimenting with those roles. In the meantime, any of you with Twitter accounts can become subscribers in order to keep up-to-date with what is happening on the WTMC site. You can also subscribe to the website's RSS feed using whatever tools you are using for that. Please do not hesitate to share the new website on Facebook, LinkedIn or any other social media website.

The website remains a work-in-progress. We've done our best, but there may be mistakes, omissions – please be patient, and if you spot anything wrong please point it out with courtesy and grace.

We took the opportunity of working with [Nikolai Zauber](#) to freshen up the logo – see top of page and website.

Completed dissertations

Congratulations to the 'new doctors' who successfully defended their PhDs in recent months:

- Alexandra Supper. *Lobbying for the Ear. The Public Fascination with and Academic Legitimacy of the Sonification of Scientific Data*, 6 June 2012, Maastricht University, Supervisors: Karin Bijsterveld & Jo Wachelder (awarded *cum laude*)
- Federica Lucivero. *Too good to be true? Appraising Expectations for Ethical Technology Assessment*, 19 July 2012, University of Twente. Supervisors: Philip Brey, Marianne Boenink & Tsjalling Swierstra
- Steven Dorrestijn. *The design of our own lives. Technical mediation and subjectivation after Foucault*, October 2012, University of Twente. Supervisors: Hans Achterhuis & Peter-Paul Verbeek
- Iris Wallenburg. *The Modern Doctor. Unraveling the Practices of Residency Training Reform*, 31 October 2012, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Supervisors: Pauline Meurs, Fedde Scheele & Antoinette de Bont
- Johanna Höffken. *Power to the people? Civic engagement with small-scale hydroelectric plants in India*. 12 December 2012, Maastricht University. Supervisors: Wiebe Bijker & Thomas Conzelmann

And without wishing to jinx the occasion, congratulations also to the following who are defending their PhDs this week:

- Marieke Hendriksen. *Aesthesis in Anatomy: Materiality and Elegance in the Eighteenth-Century Leiden Anatomical Collections*, 18 December 2012, Leiden. Supervisor: Rob Zwijnenberg
- Jenny Boulboulé. *In touch with life. Investigating epistemic practices in the life sciences from a hands-on perspective*, 20 December 2012, Maastricht University. Supervisor: Rob Zwijnenberg
- Matthijs Kouw. *Pragmatic constructions. Simulation and the vulnerability of technological cultures*, 20 December 2012, Maastricht University. Supervisors: Wiebe Bijker & Sally Wyatt

Supervisors' workshop on 6 February

We are organizing a workshop for supervisors on 6 February in Utrecht. If you have not received the details, but are interested in attending, please contact [Hannie Spronck](#).

International attention for WTMC PhD workshop

We know that the workshops organized by our talented coordinators are excellent (all the evaluations we do confirm this). But the 'Public Understanding of Science' workshop organized by Willem Halffman and guest coordinator Maud Radstake earlier this year, was picked up with great enthusiasm in the [blogosphere](#).

This will be the last edition of the Field Notes. From now on, we will use the mailing list and the website to communicate, with the intention of moving more and more to the website.

With best wishes for 2013, and the 26th year of WTMC,

Sally Wyatt, Academic Director, 18 December 2012.