



Interim Notes January 2018

These Interim Notes are sent on the occasion of the transition of WTMC from Maastricht University to the University of Twente (UT) as hosting organisation for our graduate school and network. As reported in Sally Wyatt's last '[Notes on WTMC](#)' (December 2017), at the turn of the year Stefan Kuhlmann (author of these Notes) took over the role of Academic Director.

I am happy to assume this responsibility for WTMC, for institutional and personal reasons.

Institutional: The UT is a founding member of WTMC (with Arie Rip and others) and was many years hosting and leading the School. After 13 successful years of leadership by colleagues at Maastricht University WTMC has now returned to Twente. At the UT the network has currently two main customers, the dept. Science, Technology, and Policy Studies (STePS) and the dept. Philosophy of Science and Technology. As for STePS, you will find more information in the December edition of the [EASST Review](#). Both groups are located in UT's Faculty Behavioural, Management and Social Sciences (BMS). BMS is aiming to concentrate their research and education on "Science and Technology in Society", so here are options for broadening the basis of WTMC at UT.

Personal: Many of us have found their way into the community of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (STIS) along quite diverse, winding paths. I myself have a background in history and political science (University of Marburg, Germany). For more than 30 years I have concentrated my research and teaching on the governance of and by technology and innovation, starting in 1980s at University of Kassel, during the 1990s and early 2000s at the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (Karlsruhe), since 2001 in parallel also at Utrecht University. In 2006 I joined the University of Twente as professor of Science, Technology and Society. Since my arrival in the Netherlands I have been experiencing WTMC as an inspiring intellectual environment to learn from and to contribute to. The network's interdisciplinary understanding and shaping of science, technology and modern culture, from a constructivist perspective, is more important than ever. Helping to nurture next generations of experts and scholars in the field will be a pleasure.

Sally Wyatt has left “big shoes” to step in, as Paul Wouters, Chairman of WTMC’s Board put it at the Annual Meeting 2017. She acted as a creative, constructive and productive leader of WTMC, always with a strong sense of humour. Together with highly engaged coordinators she took care of attractive workshops and Summer School programmes and prepared vibrant WTMC Annual Meetings; she represented the network successfully at national and international levels; and an attractive WTMC website was created. All this helped WTMC to win the 2016 4S Infrastructural Award and to receive an excellent assessment by an International Peer Review Panel in Spring 2017. Many thanks to Sally! I am sure she will stay in close contact with the network.

Let me also thank the Board and the members of WTMC for the trust in the UT as a host and in me as Academic Director. I am looking forward to help shaping WTMC events in the next few years, together with the coordinators Bernike Pasveer and Govert Valkenburg, and with Elize Schiweck, taking over the secretariat from Hannie Spronck (many thanks, Hannie!). Please feel free to contact us: WTMC@utwente.nl

It will be quite a task to maintain the network’s excellent performance as an intellectual capability builder, we need to ensure this position for the next decade. Issues to be addressed soon include a partly changing membership; the growing internationalisation of PhD students and their/our integration in international networks; the relation of WTMC as a national school vis-à-vis local graduate schools.

More to follow ...

Look out for the [WTMC Spring Workshop 2018!](#)