

Dear WTMC Members,

In these Notes on WTMC (8):

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- **WTMC Future 2011-2016**
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- **Full program and Registration Form WTMC Annual Meeting 2009 (November 12-13, Amsterdam). Please register before September 20, 2009**
- **Preliminary Plans for WTMC Annual Meeting 2010 at Maastricht on food-related issues. Have a look! Suggestions for invited speakers are highly welcome!**

Recent steep increase in WTMC PhD students

WTMC researchers happen to be remarkably successful in acquiring grants from NWO, WOTRO, EU and other funding agencies. Recently, for instance, several of our researchers have been successful in applying for the NWO-*Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Innoveren* program. Moreover, the Institute for Science, Innovation & Society of Radboud University (which encompasses the Department of Philosophy & Science Studies, and the Centre of Society and Genomics), directed by Prof. Hub Swart increasingly sends us PhD students. This may lead to an institutional membership of STIS in the near future.

The effect, however, has been that the number of PhD students in the training program has nearly reached the maximum capacity of the WTMC courses in the first two years of the training program, and that we have over 60 PhD students in the program at large. With every workshop and school, several PhD students will finish the training program. We carefully track this and expect to have sufficient capacity to admit all new PhD students from institutions officially participating in WTMC. At times, however, we may have to ask them to start a few months later with following the training program than they start in their PhD positions.

Yet for those institutions that do not officially participate, we expect to have to establish a waiting list. Moreover, we will have less space for international students, at least temporarily. Since this is not what we aim at, the WTMC board studies options for extending the capacity of the training program, for instance by organizing one workshop and one summerschool extra per two years, beyond the normal program, perhaps in collaboration with other (inter)national organizations for PhD training. If we go for that option, we will probably hire extra staff for organizing this. We will keep you posted on this.

WTMC Future 2011-2016

WTMC 's re-accreditation will end in the midst of 2011. Before the end of 2010, the WTMC *penvoerder* has to submit a new application for accreditation to the ECOS (the KNAW committee deciding on the re-accreditation of national graduate research schools).

At the moment, this re-accreditation procedure is contested. Many university boards establish local graduate schools that, in their view, compete with the national graduate research schools. Moreover, they consider the ECOS procedure time-consuming and expensive. Minister Plasterk, however, considers accreditation a necessary prerequisite for schools applying for NWO block grants for PhD students. In the fall, a committee established by the KNAW, VSNU, and NWO will publish a report about the future of the national graduate research schools. Moreover, Maastricht University is among the universities that is still endorsing re-accreditation, as became recently clear.

The WTMC Board has thus decided to keep preparing for an ECOS procedure, and only stop doing this if the institutional backing would drop below the level we consider necessary for applying. We have therefore asked you to send in information on your publications 2005-09, which, in fact, most of you have done already. Thanks! Again, we will keep you posted on this. If we proceed, we will have an international panel evaluation in the late spring of 2010. Next fall, we will talk with all participating institutes about how they want to be involved in WTMC in the years 2011-2016, and decide about which university should be *penvoerder* of WTMC.

Please note that WTMC's training program will also survive in case the national research schools would not be allowed to go for an official re-accreditation! Only its institutional and organizational embedding would change.

Professor Trudy Dehue one of the VPRO "Summer Guests"

This summer, on Sunday August 9, Prof. Trudy Dehue will be one of the guests in prestigious VPRO television series "Zomergasten". As far as we know, she is the first WTMC member featuring in this program. In "Zomergasten", guests are interviewed about their life and work for a full evening, and are allowed to present and comment upon their favorite samples from films and television programs.

Full program WTMC Annual Meeting 2009 (November 12-13, Amsterdam)

See next page

WTMC Annual Meeting 2009, November 12-13 **Felix Meritis, Teekenzaal, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam (020-6262321)**

Final Program

Theme: WTMC Outside-In

WTMC's Annual Meeting 2009 will be devoted to the view of relevant outsiders on the research done by WTMC members. In the near future, our WTMC research and training will be re-evaluated by academic peers. Yet how do representatives of Dutch institutions dealing with issues related to science, technology and innovation think of us? If they had the opportunity to send us a wish-list, what kind of research would they like us to do? These questions will be dealt with on the second day of the WTMC annual meeting 2009.

The afternoon of the first day is for an "outside" that simply presses itself upon us: the economic crisis. Donald MacKenzie will present his research into the world of finance, and we'll discuss what else STS-ers can contribute to the reflection on stock markets, A-ratings and the history of the economic sciences.

We will open the first day with a discussion about the new MIT book by Wiebe Bijker, Roland Bal and Ruud Hendriks about the Health Council, one such institution that might benefit from STS-research, and from which STS might derive ideas for future research.

In the subsequent session, WTMC PhD students will interview WTMC graduates with jobs and free-lance activities outside the university walls about their post-WTMC career, and the role WTMC research has played in their work.

We'll bridge the first and second day with help of Urban Explorers and their pictures of abandoned buildings, often sites with former industrial, medical and academic functions.

Finally, we'll close the second day with a discussion of Sietse van der Hoek's and Toine Pieters' recently published book *Supergenen en Turbosporters* (Nieuw Amsterdam, 2009) about the effects of the genetic revolution in the world of sports.



From: <http://www.xerbutri.nl>

Thursday, November 12

10:30-11:00 Coffee & Publication Market (Teekenzaal)

11:00-11:15 Opening by Karin Bijsterveld

11:15-12:30 Discussion of Wiebe Bijker, Roland Bal & Ruud Hendriks (forthcoming 2009): *Paradox of Scientific Authority: The Role of Scientific Advice in Democracies*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press

11:15-11:30 Comments by Klasien Horstman (UM)

11:30-11:45 Comments by Marli Huijter (EUR/HHS)

11:45-12:00 Response by Wiebe Bijker (UM), Roland Bal (EUR) and Ruud Hendriks (UM)

12:00-12:30 Discussion with WTMC Audience

12:30-13:45 Lunch (Felix Meritis)

13:45-15:00 WTMC Graduates: Beyond the Academy

13:45-14:00 Karin Bijsterveld: Update “Waar zijn ze gebleven”

14:00-14:15 Interview Jenny Boulboulé (UL) with Stine Jensen (Writer)

14:15-14:30 Discussion with WTMC Audience

14:30-14:45 Interview Frank v.d. Most (UT) with Andres Zelman (UPC)

14:45-15:00 Discussion with WTMC Audience

15:00-15:30 Tea/Coffee & Publication Market (Teekenzaal)

15:30-16:45 STS and the Economic Crisis

15:30-16:00 Donald MacKenzie: Lecture

16:00-16:15 Harro Maas: Response to MacKenzie’s Lecture

16:15-16:45 Discussion with WTMC Audience

16:45-17:00 Some announcements and discussion about WTMC 2011-2016

17:00-18:00 Drinks (at Felix Meritis)

18:00-20:00 WTMC Dinner (at Felix Meritis)

20:30-21:30 Evening Program (at Felix Mertis)

20:30-21:15 Urban Explorers Dia Show, by Helmer den Dekker (Xerbutri)

21:15-21:30 Discussion with WTMC Audience

Friday, November 13

10:30-11:00 Coffee & Publication Market (Teekenzaal)

11:00 An Outsiders' Wishlist for STS-Research I

11:00-11:30 Arthur Petersen (Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving)

11:30-11:45 Discussion with WTMC Audience

11:45-12:15 Huub Dijkstra (Rathenau Instituut, Technology Assessment)

12:15-12:30 Discussion with WTMC Audience

12:30-13:45 Lunch (Felix Meritis)

13:45-15:00 An Outsiders' Wishlist for STS-Research II

13:45-14:15 Jessika van Kammen (Amsterdam Medisch Centrum)

14:15-14:30 Discussion with WTMC Audience

14:30-15:00 Peter Baggen (VSNU)

15:00-15:15 Discussion with WTMC Audience

15:00-15:30 Tea/Coffee & Publication Market (Teekenzaal)

**15:30-16:45 Discussion of Sietse van der Hoek and Toine Pieters (2009).
Supergenen en Turbosporters (Amsterdam: Nieuw Amsterdam)**

15:30-15:45 Bernike Pasveer, UM/ ECDPM

15:45-16:00 Hans Harbers, RUG

16:00-16:15 Response by Sietse van der Hoek and Toine Pieters

16:15-16:45 Discussion with WTMC Audience

16:45 Drinks (at Felix Meritis)

W.E. Bijker, R. Bal, and R. Hendriks (2009), *Paradox of Scientific Authority: the Role of Scientific Advice in Democracies*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

This book draws on an ethnographic study of the practices of scientific advice in the Health Council of the Netherlands and seeks to develop a theory of scientific advice.

Its central question is formulated as a paradox of scientific authority. We live in a strange, paradoxical world (especially in US and Europe): everything around us is built on science and technology (households, work, social relations [mobile phones, face-book, etc.], security), but the authority of science has dramatically decreased. For example: one of the largest and most widely supported international groups of scientists produced scientific proof of the climate being changed by human actions, but the US needed presidential elections to start following that advice. This raises the following question: how is it possible that scientific advice can play a positive role at all in politics? How do bodies like the US National Academy of Sciences or the Health Council of the Netherlands manoeuvre in this paradoxical world?

The authors argue for the need to innovate democracies to govern our current techno-scientific societies. Two extreme solutions for coping with the paradox are unacceptable: (1) to give all power to the scientists and engineers; or (2) to have everything be voted on and decided by democratic institutions, including scientific evidence. The standard solution is currently to have scientific advisers to governments and parliaments (such as US National Academy of Sciences or the Health Council of the Netherlands), and leave it to politics to weigh scientific facts, add values, and take political decisions. A crucially new problem is scientific uncertainty: in some occasions science does give serious indications of risk, but no solid scientific knowledge. What to do then? This book argues for adopting a precautionary approach and a measured inclusion of stakeholders and citizens in such circumstances of scientific uncertainty. An innovation of democracy is needed: adding new forms of consultation to the regular democratic voting and the scientific advice.

Donald MacKenzie is Professor of Sociology (Personal Chair) at the University of Edinburgh. His books include *Inventing Accuracy* (1990), *Knowing Machines* (1996), and *Mechanizing Proof* (2001), all published by the MIT Press. Portions of *An Engine, not a Camera* won the Viviana A. Zelizer Prize in economic sociology from the American Sociological Association.

In An Engine, Not a Camera, Donald MacKenzie argues that the emergence of modern economic theories of finance affected financial markets in fundamental ways. These new, Nobel Prize-winning theories, based on elegant mathematical models of markets, were not simply external analyses but intrinsic parts of economic processes.

Paraphrasing Milton Friedman, MacKenzie says that economic models are an engine of inquiry rather than a camera to reproduce empirical facts. More than that, the emergence of an authoritative theory of financial markets altered those markets fundamentally. For example, in 1970, there was almost no trading in financial derivatives such as "futures." By June of 2004, derivatives contracts totaling \$273 trillion were outstanding worldwide. MacKenzie suggests that this growth could never have happened without the development of theories that gave derivatives legitimacy and explained their complexities.

MacKenzie examines the role played by finance theory in the two most serious crises to hit the world's financial markets in recent years: the stock market crash of 1987 and the market turmoil that engulfed the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management in 1998. He also looks at finance theory that is somewhat beyond the mainstream—chaos theorist Benoit Mandelbrot's model of "wild" randomness. MacKenzie's pioneering work in the social studies of finance will interest anyone who wants to understand how America's financial markets have grown into their current form.

Helmer den Dekker is one of the members of the Xerbutri urban exploring team that explores and takes photos of train tunnels, train bridges and abandoned buildings all over Europe. Presentations by urban explorers are exceptional, yet Helmer den Dekker is willing to introduce us to the activities of urban explorers, and will focus his slide show on buildings of specific interest to WTMC-ers like former hospitals, laboratories, factories and train settings.

Sietse van der Hoek and Toine Pieters (2009). *Supergenen en Turbosporters* (Amsterdam: Nieuw Amsterdam)

Topsporters kunnen slikken en prikken wat ze willen. Zolang ze de dopingdans weten te ontspringen, worden ze als goden aanbeden in het internationale sportcircus. Maar eenmaal betrapt, zijn pek en veren hun deel. Dan worden ze als criminelen afgevoerd. In de dagen van Ard en Keessie was een vitamine-B-prik in de bil al heel wat. De sporter dacht er werkelijk harder van te gaan schaatsen. Tegenwoordig zijn we in staat om via gentechnologie het atletisch vermogen zo te vergroten dat een 100 meter in minder dan 9 seconden toch binnen bereik komt. En waarom ook niet de linkerarm van een tennisser net zo sterk maken als de rechterarm? Het lijkt slechts een kwestie van tijd.

Hoewel sommige deskundigen ervan overtuigd zijn dat bepaalde vormen van gendoping niet traceerbaar zullen zijn, is het zeker dat de genetische revolutie in wetenschap en gezondheidszorg de betekenis en toepassing van doping in de sport fundamenteel zal veranderen. De moderne technologie stelt niet alleen de effectiviteit van de War on Doping ter discussie, ook de zin en rechtvaardigheid ervan. Grote vragen over menselijke integriteit en zelfbeschikking krijgen hierdoor een nieuwe actualiteit. In *Supergenen en turbosporters* spreken (oud-)atleten als Ard Schenk, Jessica Gal, Carl Verheijen, Maarten Ducrot en Simon Vroemen, artsen, begeleiders, dopingjagers, dopingonderzoekers en een keur aan wetenschappers over deze nieuwe biologische wapenwedloop tussen topsporters en controleurs. Het boek biedt een oplossing voor het dilemma van een nog meedogenlozer dopingjacht tegenover een riskante vrijheid voor iedereen.

Sietse van der Hoek (1943) is a journalist and writer of *De man van Trinidad* (2008), *Droge voeten* (2005), *Vredenhof* (2003), *Meneer Aart* (2002), *Het platteland* (2002), *Elfstedentocht* (1997).

Registration form WTMC Conference 2009

Location: Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam

Date: Thursday November 12 and Friday November 13, 2009

Fee without hotel but including lunches and dinner: € 25,--

Fee including hotel, lunches and dinner: € 45,--

Deadline: September 20, 2009

Surname and first name or initials	
University / Organization Department / Faculty	
Address <i>PO Box or address</i> <i>Postal code and city</i>	
E-mail	
Phone	
Hotel room Albus Grand Hotel Vijzelstraat 49 Amsterdam	<i>0 yes 0 no</i> <i>Arrival 12 November, departure 13 November</i> <i>2009</i>
Address for invoice, if different from above	
Remarks	

Please send this registration form to Hannie Spronck by e-mail:
hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl or by fax 043-3884917

Preliminary Plans WTMC Annual Meeting 2010

Location

Maastricht, Maastricht University

Dates

Friday September 24 and Saturday September 25, 2010

In Collaboration With

- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik (DGGMNT, see www.dggmnt.de) (President: Andreas Fickers, Maastricht University, and member of WTMC)
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte (GTG) (President: Martina Hessler)

Theme

Eating, Drinking and Food

Preliminary Schedule

- Friday, September 24 2010(morning and afternoon): WTMC Only
- Friday September 24 2010 (evening) : Start of Collaborative Part
 - Reception at Town Hall Maastricht
 - Plenary Lecture: Jakob Tanner (Cultural History) from Zürich
- Saturday: Plenary Lectures & Sessions
 - WTMC has a budget for inviting speakers. Suggestions are highly welcome—see for relevant subthemes below

Potential STS Themes for Sessions (related to food):

Sustainable production and innovation in the food industry

Genetically modified crops

Synthetic additives

Conserving (also of food-related art)

Cooling technologies (the fridge) and transport

Standardization practices related to food

Quality control of food

Slow food practices

History of diets

Development studies: indigenous knowledge about crops

Vulnerability of food supply during disasters