

# Notes on WTMC



Dear WTMC Members,

In these Notes on WTMC (3), you'll find news on:

- *The WTMC Supervisors' Day (April 27, 2006): information on registration!*
- The WTMC Research Committee
- *Some things we would like to know from you: your publications 2005, future WTMC PhD students, and your successful grant applications*

## **A VICI for Philip Brey**

Philip Brey (UT) has been awarded with a VICI-grant for the project 'Evaluating the Cultural Quality of New Media'. Congratulations!

## **Rachel Carson Prize for Nelly Oudshoorn**

Most of our members know it by now, but we have not announced it in the Notes on WTMC yet: Nelly Oudshoorn (UT) has been awarded with the Rachel Carson Prize for *The Male Pill: a Biography of a Technology in the Making* (Duke University Press, 2003). Congratulations!

## **WTMC Research Committee**

We are very pleased to announce that Ruud Smits and Tsjalling Swierstra have joined the WTMC Research Committee. This committee has three members: the leaders of the sub programs in the WTMC Research. Ruud Smits coordinates the first sub program: *Diagnosis of the Modern Research System*. Tsjalling Swierstra leads the third sub program: *Cultural Roles of Science, Technology and Rationality*. Wiebe Bijker was and is the coordinator of second sub program: *Technological Development and Societal Regulation*. For the last few years, Loet Leydesdorff has done an excellent job in leading the first sub program, and Hans Achterhuis in leading the third. Many thanks!

## **Your publications 2005**

One of the things the Research Committee will do in the upcoming years is to suggest themes for new WTMC workshops. WTMC has an annual budget for workshops of 10,000 euro, but this can be spent more vigorously than we have done so far. The Research Committee will suggest these themes on the basis of an annual analysis of recent WTMC publications. ***In order to enable the Research Committee to do so, we kindly ask you to send in your list of peer-reviewed and scholarly publications (so no professional publications) in 2005, before March 6 to Hannie Spronck: [hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl](mailto:hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl)*** Subsequently, the research committee will invite WTMC members to organize particular workshops (and subsidize these).

### **How many PhD students will be enrolled in the WTMC Training Program in the near future?**

In the next few weeks, we aim to make a long-range budget (2006-2010) that is as precise as possible. To be able to do this, we need to estimate the number of PhD students that will be enrolled in the WTMC Training Program in the next few years. *For those of you who already know that they will have PhD students enrolled in WTMC in the near future: please let us know as soon as possible: [hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl](mailto:hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl)*

### **Successful grant applications on the WTMC website**

One of our members has suggested that we should have members' successful grant applications put on the WTMC website, so that all of us can learn from these applications. The WTMC Board considers this an excellent plan. Yet we need, of course, your help and consent. *In case you endorse the idea, please send us your successful grant applications (in pdf-format), to [hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl](mailto:hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl).*

### **January Workshop & PRIME**

Our most recent workshop for PhD students focused on the theme of research communities. On the basis of the evaluation forms received so far, we are pleased to say that this workshop has been very well-received by the PhD students. Three foreign PhD students attended the workshop, two from Spain, one from Portugal. Their attendance has been subsidized by the PRIME Network of Excellence. The international panel that evaluated the WTMC Training Program last year, advised to (re)-internationalize the participation to the workshops and schools, and this is a first step.

### **Upcoming workshops and schools**

The annual Winter School has been replaced by two Dissertation Days per year. Senior PhD students now have two chances per year to present their chapters. On March 9, we'll have our first Dissertation Day. Another upcoming event is the May Workshop (May, 17-19) on 'User-producer relations in technology'. We'll have our Summer School in the week of 4-8 September. We are pleased to announce that Susan Leigh Star will be our anchor teacher. For details, see the WTMC website (<http://www.wtmc.net>)

### **S&TS outside the West**

Nelly Oudshoorn, Wiebe Bijker and Trevor Pinch have recently advised colleagues abroad on establishing and expanding S&TS departments and research programs. They have visited Taiwan (Nelly, Trevor, and Wiebe) and Hyderabad, India (Wiebe), and are impressed by the quality of the S&TS activities they have learned about there.

### **Looking Back upon the Shapin & Schaffer Events**

For a nice photo of the reception following the award of the Erasmus Prize to Steven Shapin & Simon Schaffer, have a look at the web site of the *Huizinga Instituut* at <http://cf.hum.uva.nl/~huizinga> under news (scroll down).

## WTMC Supervisors' Day

- **April 27, 2006, 10.00-17:00, No Fee Involved**
- **West Western Amrath Hotel, Vredenburg 14, Utrecht, 030-2331 232 (see map)**
- **Registration: Send an email with your address to Hannie Spronck (hannie.spronck@fdcw.unimaas.nl)**

WTMC invites everyone supervising or expecting to supervise WTMC PhD to come to the Supervisors' Day on April 27, 2006. The language of the day will be English, unless all persons attending are able to understand Dutch. In that case, we'll largely speak Dutch.

On the basis of short presentations and concept-documents (to be sent in advance), we will discuss how to select good PhD students, how to introduce them to WTMC, and how to make sure that the quality of our assessment of their progress, of our supervision, and of the dissertations is both high and attainable.

Our aim is to end up with a set of new documents and recommendations that assist the WTMC staff in supervising PhD students.

You can find the schedule for the Supervisors' Day on the next page:

## Schedule

- 10:00-10:15 Coffee
- 10:15-10:20 Opening & Welcome – Karin Bijsterveld
- 10:20-11:00 Why Do We Have Good PhD Students? Some Thoughts about Selection and Beyond – A Short Introduction by Trudy Dehue & Discussion
- 11:00-11:25 Another Coffee
- 11:15-12:00 How to Introduce PhD students to WTMC – Presentation of the Draft Welcome Package (including a new *Opleidings- en Begeleidingsplan*) by Karin Bijsterveld & Discussion
- 12:00-12:30 How to Connect the National and Local Part of the WTMC Teaching Program – Presentation of the Draft WTMC Road Show by Erik Aarden & Wouter Boon (to be confirmed) & Discussion
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-14:15 How to Improve the Quality of the End-of-first-year-assessment of the PhD Students' Progress – A Short Introduction into the British Practice by SallyWyatt & Discussion
- 14:15-15:00 How to Keep PhD Students Going – A Short Introduction by Klasien Horstman & Discussion
- 15:00-15:15 Tea (or Yet Another Coffee)
- 15:15-16:00 How to Set Criteria for the Quality of the Dissertation – An Inventory of such Criteria for Books and Collections of Articles by Els Rommes
- 16:00-16:45 How to Stimulate Students' Skills of Enabling Good Supervision? Presentation of a Concept-Workshop by Karin Bijsterveld & Discussion
- 16:45-16:50 Wrapping Up – Karin Bijsterveld
- And then: Something to Drink, Something to Eat or Rushing for Trains

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# AMRÂTH HOTEL

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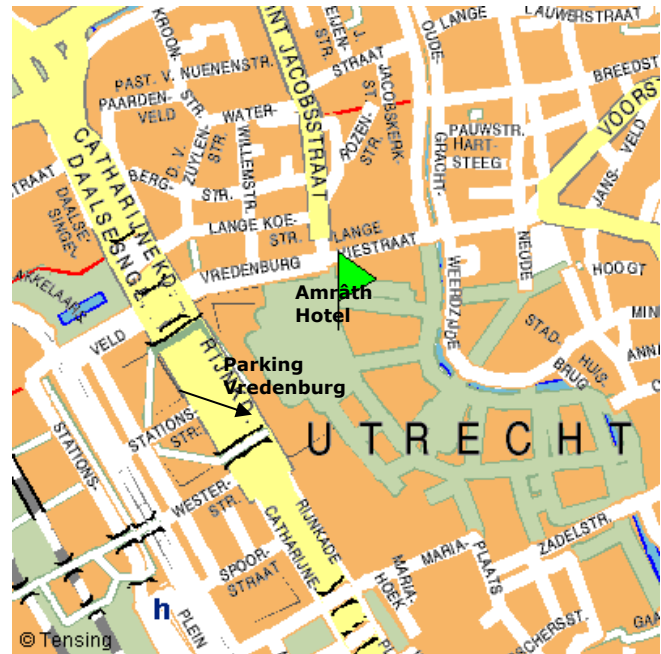
# UTRECHT

## Routebeschrijving

### Per auto

Vanuit het gehele land volgt u de borden Utrecht. Zodra u in de buurt van Utrecht komt volgt u de borden "Jaarbeurs". U wordt nu naar de Jaarbeurs geleid richting het centrum van de stad. Vanaf de "Jaarbeurs" volgt u de borden "Centrum" en "Parkeerroute Centrum". Deze route loopt langs de vele garages onder winkel centrum Hoog Catharijne.

Wij adviseren u uw auto te parkeren in parkeergarage VREDENBURG. Deze ligt onder het Vredenburg voor ons hotel. De entree is aan de Rijnkade. Deze bewaakte garage is 7 dagen per week, 24 uur per dag geopend en wij bieden u de mogelijkheid tot het kopen van uitrijkaarten aan onze receptie tegen een gereduceerde prijs.



### Per trein

Het hotel ligt op 5 minuten loopafstand vanaf het **Centraal Station Utrecht**. Volg de borden Uitgang Centrum en u kunt kiezen, een gezellige wandeling via Winkelcentrum Hoog Catharijne of een frisse wandeling door de buitenlucht langs de Catharijne Singel, over het Vredenburg.

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