

Dear WTMC Members,

In these Notes on WTMC (5), you'll find news on:

- ***The WTMC Annual Meeting 2007 (Maastricht, November 15-16): Full program and information on registration! Registration deadline: September 15, 2007. Scroll down to read about the program***
- Upcoming WTMC-sponsored Workshops
- Opportunities for new PhD students to do courses in STS Research Masters
- ***A new WTMC Core Literature List***
- Dissertation Days
- Supervisors' Days
- Summer School 2007
- Funding for international collaboration between research graduate schools
- Call for notifying us about books, book series, prizes, appointments and vacancies
- WTMC Annual Meeting 2008

## **Upcoming WTMC-sponsored Workshops**

In the previous newsletter, we explained how you can submit proposals for WTMC-sponsored workshops. For those of you who aim to refresh their knowledge of the procedure: see the website. Through our electronic mailing list, we have already provided you with information about the following two workshops, but just to get an idea about what is going on:

- ***Bargaining Norms—Arguing Standards: Negotiating Technical Standards*** (Utrecht, 28-29 June 2007). Contact person: Judith Schueler [Schueler@stt.nl](mailto:Schueler@stt.nl)
- ***Engaging the neighbours: science, technology and innovation studies in Amsterdam ... and beyond*** (Amsterdam, 2-3 July, 2007) Contact person: Willem Halffman [AmsterdamSTS@gmail.com](mailto:AmsterdamSTS@gmail.com)

## **WTMC and STS (Research) Masters**

From the academic year 2007-08 onwards, new PhD students enrolled in the WTMC program (and the ones who are in their first year at this moment) will be offered the opportunity to attend courses in one of the Science, Technology and Innovation Studies (Research) Masters based at universities which participate in WTMC. This will enable the students to meet particular deficiencies in their basic knowledge of STIS. Each student is allowed to do one course at the MA level, without doing a formal exam.

Moreover, several programs have a maximum number of WTMC students that can join in at one particular moment in time. The four MA programs involved are:

- The MSc PSTS: Philosophy of Science, Technology and Society (Twente University)
- The Research MA SIM: Science and Innovation Studies (Utrecht University)
- The Research Mphil CAST: Cultures of Arts, Science and Technology (Maastricht University)
- The MA ESST: European Program in Society, Science and Technology (Maastricht University)

Before the end of June, WTMC will concisely introduce these STIS programs to its PhD students (and other students interested) on its website, providing links to individual websites of the programs, and giving details about contact persons. The contact persons can provide additional information about the length, schedules, syllabi, and literature of the courses, as well as the rules for subscription.

The collaboration between WTMC and the (Research) Masters does not only enlarge the training options for PhD students, but also enables WTMC and the STS Masters to present the field of Science, Technology and Innovation Studies in the Netherlands together, and to an international audience.

### **A new WTMC Core Literature List**

The teaching committee has created a new WTMC Core Literature List, which we will make available through our website. The new Core List distinguishes between Classics (such as Kuhn's *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*), Introductions, and Research Clusters. For each Research Cluster, the list mentions a few significant books. The list also provides annotations on the content and 'position' of the classics in the fields of study relevant to WTMC. This will help PhD students and their supervisors to make a reading plan that is both a good introduction to the field, and is tailored to the particular research topic of the PhD student. The teaching committee has really done a fantastic job in drawing up this list: many thanks!

### **Dissertation Days**

Last year, WTMC started with an experiment. It scheduled two Dissertation Days instead of one two-day's Winter School per year. The Dissertation Days enable 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD students to have their dissertation chapters or articles discussed by senior staff members (from the Netherlands or abroad). The idea was to offer the students more opportunities a year, and in a manner that is less time-consuming for them than a Winter School. The WTMC Board has discussed the experiment on the basis of the evaluation forms of the PhD students. Since it was crystal clear that PhD students valued the new approach, the experiment is, from now on, part and parcel of the WTMC program.

### **Supervisors' Days**

In 2006, we also started with organizing a Supervisor's Day. Its recommendations have been published in one of our previous Notes on WTMC. Since staff members appreciated the initiative, the WTMC Board has decided to make the Supervisors' Day a recurring event.

### **Summer School 2007**

WTMC proudly announces that its 2007 Summer School Anchor Teacher is Steven Yearley. For more information about the Summer School program: consult the WTMC website.

### **Funding for international collaboration between research graduate schools**

NWO has a fund fostering collaboration between German *Gradueirtenkollegs* and Dutch Graduate Research schools. The Research School has to submit the grant proposal, but anyone with interesting research contacts in Germany, and interested in organizing an additional workshop for WTMC PhD Students can contact the WTMC academic director. For information about the funding scheme:

[http://www.nwo.nl/subsidiewijzer.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_5VVK7W?Opendocument](http://www.nwo.nl/subsidiewijzer.nsf/pages/NWOP_5VVK7W?Opendocument)

### **Call for notifying us about books, book series, prizes, appointments and vacancies**

Please keep us posted about your recently published books, new book series, awarded prizes, new appointments and vacancies. Most of the news will be distributed through the WTMC mailing list, but the Notes on WTMC provide for a second opportunity.

Vacancies at institutes participating in WTMC will also be published on our website.

### **WTMC Annual Meeting 2008**

It seems rather early, but we are already preparing for the WTMC Annual Meeting 2008, which we will combine with the 4S/EASST conference 2008, August 20-23, in Rotterdam. Our preliminary plans for this meeting focus on organizing a panel that presents WTMC research, offering a workshop to PhD Students which is typical of the training the WTMC program provides, and/or organizing a panel that internationally compares and discusses STS PhD programs.

### **WTMC Annual Meeting 2007**

Yet let's focus on our upcoming Annual Meeting, in Maastricht, November 15-16, 2007. We will combine our meeting with a short film festival on science and technology at Lumière Cinema Maastricht. We will also have a public evening that does not only feature a film, but also a public lecture by Wiebe Bijker. The evening's theme will be *If Nothing Works Anymore: Technology and Disruption*. Other theme's are: *The Technological Sublime*, *Films as Academic Output*, *The Research & Industry Love Affair*, and *Science Future, Science Fiction*. In addition, we will discuss Trudy Dehue's soon-to-be-published book on the Depression Epidemic. There is even more: read the program below, and you'll know. There are a few things that need to be decided yet, but most of the program is known and scheduled. We have booked three lovely hotels for you, and a good restaurant. We look forward to seeing you in Maastricht

**WTMC Annual Meeting 2007, November 15-16, 2007**  
**Lumière Cinema, Bogaardenstraat 40b, Maastricht (043-3214080)**



**Thursday, November 15**

**11:00-11:15 Coffee & Publication Market (Lobby Lumière)**

**11:15-11:30 Opening by Karin Bijsterveld**

**11:30-12:30 Films as Academic Output Part I: Example (Green Room Lumière)**

11:30-12:30 A Country Auction (Robert Aibel et al., 1984, USA)

**12:30-13:45 Lunch (Lobby Lumière)**

**13:45-15:00 Films as Academic Output Part II: The Societal Quality of Research (Green Room Lumière)**

13:45-14:15 Jack Spaapen (KNAW)

14:15-14:30 Ton van Raan (CWTS Leiden)

14:30-15:00 Discussion

**15:00-15:30 Coffee/Tea (Lobby Lumière)**

**15:30-16:30 The Technological Sublime (Green Room Lumière)**

15:30-15:45 Introduction by Renée van der Vall (UM)

15:45-16:15 Industrial Films

16:15-16:30 Discussion

**16:30-17:15 The Final Phase of Writing (Green Room Lumière)**

16:30-17:15 Two PhD students (among whom is Bart Penders (UM)) elicit experiences and lessons by interviewing senior staff

**17:15-17:45 Drinks (Lobby Lumière), and a short walk to Molo**

**18:00-19:45 Dinner at Molo**

**20:00-23:00 Public Evening: If Nothing Works Anymore: Technology and Disruption (Green Room Lumière)**

20:00-20:30 Public Lecture by Wiebe Bijker (UM)

20:30-22:30 When the Levies Broke (Spike Lee, US, 2007)

## Friday, November 15

**09:00-09:30 Coffee & Publication Market (Lobby Lumière)**

**09:30-10:45 The Research & Industry Love Affair Part I: Discussion of Trudy Dehue, *De depressie-epidemie. Over de plicht het lot in eigen hand te nemen*. Uitgeverij Augustus, Due September 2007 (Green Room Lumière)**

09:30-09:45 Comments by Gerard de Vries (UvA)—to be confirmed

09:45-10:00 Comments by Nelly Oudshoorn (UT)

10:00-10:15 Response by Trudy Dehue (RUG)

10:15-10:45 Discussion

**10:45-11:15 Coffee Break (Lobby Lumière)**

**11:15-12:45 The Research & Industry Love Affair Part II: Films (Green Room Lumière)**

11:15-12:00 The Relaxed Wife (1957, USA)

12:00-12:45 Big Bucks, Big Pharma (2006, USA)

**12:45-13:45 Lunch**

**13:45-14:30 Science Future, Science Fiction Part I (Green Room Lumière)**

13:45-14:00 Tempbot (Neil Blomkamp, South-Africa, 2006)

14:00-14:15 Comments by Philip Brey (UT)

14:15-14:30 Discussion

**14:30-14:45 Tea Break (Lobby Lumière)**

**14:45-17:00 Science Future, Science Fiction Part II (Green Room Lumière)**

14:45-15:00 Introduction by Harro van Lente (UU)

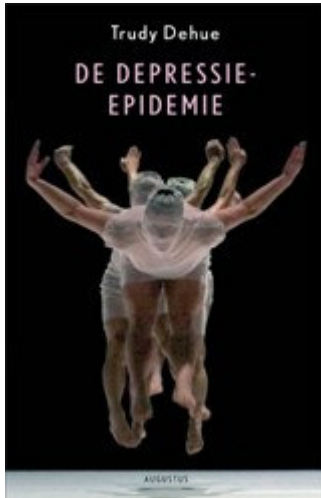
15:00-16:30 Somniac (Isidro Ortiz, Spain, 2005)

16:30-17:00 Discussion

**17:00-18:00 Drinks (Lobby Lumière)**

## Background information about program items

Trudy Dehue, *De depressie-epidemie. Over de plicht het lot in eigen hand te nemen* (Verschijnt september 2007)



Nederland hoort tot de meest welvarende, vrije en gelukkige landen. Dat constateren wetenschappelijk onderzoekers van het geluk. Maar tegelijk zijn anti-depressiva de meest geslikte medicijnen. Talloos zijn de andere therapieën, de zelfhulpboeken en de internetpagina's over depressiviteit. En deskundigen stellen dat depressie nog grotendeels onderbehandeld is.

Is depressie een biologisch bepaalde ziekte die nu pas goed herkend en behandeld wordt? Praten de hulpverlening en de farmaceutische industrie ons psychische stoornissen aan? Of bracht de verzorgingsstaat mentale kleinzerigheid op grote schaal?

Trudy Dehue bespreekt de geschiedenis van neerslachtigheid. Ze bestudeert de claims van de biopsychiatrie, analyseert de commercialisering van het psychiatrisch onderzoek en de inhoud van de anti-depressivareclames. Ze betoogt dat gangbare verklaringen voor de toename van depressie niet houdbaar of niet volledig zijn.

*De depressie-epidemie* belicht het proces waarin het ideaal van de maakbare samenleving werd ingeruild voor dat van het maakbare individu. Benadrukten we voorheen omstandigheden als oorzaak van ellende, tegenwoordig gaat de aandacht naar het individuele brein. Daarbij werden we zelf verantwoordelijk voor wat ons vroeger gewoon overkwam. Want nu succes een keuze is geworden, geldt dat voor mislukking evenzeer.

## **The Films**

### ***A Country Auction (Robert Aibel et al., 1984, USA)***

Documents an American rural tradition, the estate auction. Reveals the personal, social, and economic processes involved when a family in a rural Pennsylvania community dissolves its homestead, which in this case consisted of the last general store in town, the adjoining home, and the contents of both.

### ***Industrial Films***

To be announced

### ***When the Levies Broke (Spike Lee, US, 2007)***

Spike Lee commemorates the people of New Orleans with a four-hour epic documentary (of which we'll see two parts in two hours) that doesn't just recount the events of late August 2005 but asks why they unfolded the way they did in the first place. Weaving interviews with news footage and amateur video, Lee uses the film to give meaningful voice to the people who were left behind. With a detached unsentimental eye, he delivers a poignant account of a major moment in recent U.S. history.

### ***The Relaxed Wife (1957, USA)***

Remarkable, surreal industrial film promoting "Atarax," a tranquilizer, and asserting how "ataraxic medicines" can help us all to achieve the relaxed state we long for. Created by Coni Johnston, Mel London, Joseph Cole, Bert Spielvogel, Tracy Ward (a pseudonym for Virginia Bell) and by Rune Hagman, Delores Phox, Jeanne Sharp, Dick Brophy, M. Opelle, Herb Hagens.

### ***Big Bucks, Big Pharma (2006, USA)***

*Big Bucks, Big Pharma* pulls back the curtain on the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry to expose the insidious ways that illness is used, manipulated, and in some instances created, for capital gain. Focusing on the industry's marketing practices, media scholars and health professionals help viewers understand the ways in which direct-to-consumer (DTC) pharmaceutical advertising glamorizes and normalizes the use of prescription medication, and works in tandem with promotion to doctors. Combined, these industry practices shape how both patients and doctors understand and relate to disease and treatment. Ultimately, *Big Bucks, Big Pharma* challenges us to ask important questions about the consequences of relying on a for-profit industry for our health and well-being.

### ***Tempbot (Neil Blomkamp, South-Africa, 2006)***

Uitzendkracht TempBot komt terecht op een kantoor waar hij een heus sociaal leven uitbouwt. Zo scoort hij een afspraakje met de buurvrouw, wordt verliefd op de nieuwe bazin en gaat hij naar het café met collega's. Deze charmante korte film viel in de prijzen op het Creativity's No Spot Short Film Festival.

### ***Somniac (Isidro Ortiz, Spain, 2005)***

Andrea, een briljante neurochirurg, krijgt tragisch nieuws. Haar mentor, professor Maria, heeft zelfmoord gepleegd voordat ze een belangrijk experiment kon afmaken. Ze zocht een manier om informatie te versturen tussen computers en het menselijk brein tijdens de slaap. Andrea besluit terug te keren naar haar oude universiteit op het eiland Salerma om Maria's project tot een goed einde te brengen. Ze krijgt hulp van Gabriël, een computergenie en tevens een ex van Andrea, en van de excentrieke slaapspecialist Diego. Wanneer Andrea opnieuw met de experimenten start, begint ze te lijden aan slapeloosheid en wordt ze gekweld door angstwekkende visioenen. *Somniac* stelt de menselijke overmoed ter discussie. Wat als de wetenschap onze kennis en onze herinneringen zou kunnen manipuleren? Regisseur Ortiz viel met zijn films al vaak in de prijzen en wist een prachtcast te verzamelen voor *Somniac*. Hij kleurt het verhaal op een eigenzinnige manier in, en speelt op een ongeëvenaarde manier met licht en ruimte.

### **About The Final Phase of Writing**

Knowing when a text is finished can be a very difficult decision. Send it to colleagues, promoter, journal editors or publishers too soon and you risk rejection and looking foolish. Waiting until everything is perfect means you may miss opportunities for valuable feedback or even deadlines. Of course, what counts as 'finished' depends on both the author and the intended audience. How do we know for ourselves when a text is ready for others to read? How do we know when it is 'good enough'? This session is mainly intended to benefit those members of WTMC who are almost finished with their PhD dissertations. But it is something with which more experienced members of WTMC may also continue to struggle. Two PhD students will elicit experiences and lessons by asking questions to any and all of those present, so come prepared to share your own experiences—funny, nightmarish but certainly instructive—about the final stages of writing.

## Registration form WTMC Conference 2007

Location: Lumière Cinema, Bogaardenstraat 40b, 6211 SP Maastricht  
Date: November 15 and 16, 2006

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

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

**Deadline: September 15, 2007**

<b>Surname and first name or initials</b>	
<b>University / Organisation Department / Faculty</b>	
<b>Address</b> <i>PO Box or address Postal code and city</i>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Hotel room</b> <i>(Hotel Au Quartier, Hotel Botticelli, Hotel Les Charmes)</i>	<i>0 yes 0 no Arrival 15 November, departure 16 November</i>
<b>Address for invoice, if different from above</b>	
<b>Remarks</b>	

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