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	<p>Netherlands Ecological Research Network</p> <h1>NERN Messages</h1> <p>January 2018</p>

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018

**Tuesday 13 & Wednesday 14 February 2018**

The call for submitting abstracts for a presentation in one of the parallel sessions is now closed and the full programme of NAEM 2018 will appear online in the course of the next few days. If you have not yet registered your participation for NAEM 2018, please remember to do so on or before Tuesday 23 January if you want to qualify for the early-bird fee. All information and a registration form is available at [www.nern.nl/NAEM2018](http://www.nern.nl/NAEM2018).

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#### 1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- [European Conference of Tropical Ecology \(26-29 March 2018\)](#) @ Paris, France
- [ECSA 57: Changing estuaries, coasts and shelf systems – diverse threats and opportunities \(3-6 September 2018\)](#) @ Perth, Australia

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#### 2. Courses

- [Structural Equation Modelling \(22-26 January 2018\)](#)  
*While much of statistics focusses on associations between variables and making predictions, the aim of structural equation modelling is to establish causal relationships between variables. The focus will be on classical structural equation models with a small number of (latent) variables, but we will also give an introduction to recent developments on methodology for high-dimensional data.*
- [Introduction to Zero Inflated Models with R | Frequentist and Bayesian approaches \(29 January - 2 February 2018\)](#)  
*During the course several case studies are presented, in which the statistical theory for zero inflated models is integrated with applied analyses in a clear and understandable manner. Zero inflated models consist of two integrated GLMs and therefore we will start with a revision of GLM. Zero inflated GLMMs for nested data (repeated measurements, short time series, clustered data, etc.) are discussed in the second part of the course. We will focus on zero inflated count data, and zero inflated continuous data.*
- [Geostatistics \(5-9 February 2018\)](#)  
*Geostatistics is concerned with the analysis and modelling of spatial variability. It also addresses how quantified spatial variability can be used in optimal spatial interpolation and spatial stochastic simulation. Fields of application include hydrology, soil science, ecology, geology, agriculture, and forestry.*

- **Survival Analysis (22-23 February 2018)**  
*In this short course, the concept of survival analysis will be introduced and it will be shown how to apply the methods to biological data. Main topics are how to handle censored data, estimation of Kaplan-Meier survivor curves, the Log-Rank test, and Cox' regression models for estimating and testing effects of covariates.*
- **Course Practical Modelling for Biologists (26 February – 16 March 2018)**  
*The course Practical Modelling for Biologists gives hands-on experience in modelling, focussing on simulation techniques, slightly rooted in marine systems but for a large part just general modelling topic (with a slight bias to ecology). It is open to MSc and PhD students who want to take their first steps into modelling.*
- **Grasping Sustainability (12-16 March 2018)**  
*This on-site course will enable you to think about the 'bigger picture', grasp sustainability and to apply concepts and approaches to your own research, in a collaborative learning environment, away from 'office'. To ensure that the content of the course is aligned to your own research, the content of the course will also be determined by the research topics of the participants.*
- **Aquatic Ecology | Robustness of aquatic ecosystems in the face of global change (18-23 March 2018)**  
*Aquatic ecosystems play a crucial role in human health and well-being as a source of drinking water and food (irrigation, fisheries, and aquaculture), recreation, and tourism. Aquatic systems also provide diverse habitats, support high levels of biodiversity and vital ecosystems services and play a vital role in the global carbon cycle and in various nutrient cycles. In this 5-day course we will provide a multifaceted overview of the science on aquatic ecosystems in the Anthropocene.*
- **Mathematical Models in Ecology and Evolution (19 March – 30 June 2018)**  
*The aims of the course are to teach why mathematics is so useful in ecology and evolution, to acquire the ability to read and interpret equations, and to master the art of constructing and analyzing new models.*
- **Frontiers in Microbial Ecology (8-13 April 2018)**  
*This course will examine our current understanding of the eco-evolutionary dynamics controlling host-microbiome interactions, by focusing on questions such as how and why microbial-host associations are formed, how they are maintained, and what the relevance is of these associations for host survival and adaptation to a changing world.*
- **Modelling population dynamics with Physiologically Structured Population Models (PSPM) (29 April – 4 May 2018)**  
*Physiologically structured population models (PSPMs) constitute a subset of structured models in which both the life histories of individuals and the emerging population dynamics unfold in continuous time, and individual states may be continuous or discrete. PSPMs have been very successful in describing and explaining the mechanisms that drive dynamics of natural populations and communities. Moreover, PSPMs form a powerful tool for understanding how population and community dynamics emerge from individual life histories, and equally important, how population and community processes feed back to shape the life histories of individuals.*

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### 3. Position Announcements

- **For job openings, check [our website](#).**

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### 4. Other News

- **Heineken Young Scientists Awards (Deadline: 1 February 2018)**  
*The Heineken Young Scientists Awards are intended to give the next generation of talented researchers extra encouragement. They are presented simultaneously with the international Heineken Prizes to promising young researchers whose outstanding work sets an example for other young scientists and scholars.*
- **Academy Colloquia (Deadline: 1 March 2018)**  
*The Heineken Young Scientists Awards are intended to give the next generation of talented researchers extra encouragement. They are presented simultaneously with the international Heineken Prizes to promising young researchers whose outstanding work sets an example for other young scientists and scholars.*
- **NWO Visitor's Travel Grants (Continuous application)**  
*Researchers in the Netherlands can apply for a visitor's grant for highly qualified senior researchers from abroad who hold a PhD. With this grant these researchers can stay in the Netherlands for a maximum of four months.*

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*If you have information that you would like to have included in the NERN messages or on the NERN website, please send this information to [Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl](mailto:Claudius.vandeVijver@wur.nl).*