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**Netherlands Ecological Research Network**

## **NERN Messages**

**September 2018**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Current Themes in Ecology 2018 – Bending the curve**

On **Thursday 15 November 2018**, the annual meeting of Current Themes in Ecology will be organized in Lunteren. The theme of this year's edition will be 'Bending the curve: New approaches to reduce the biodiversity decline'.

More information will become available soon, but you can already register your interest [here](#).

### **Linking Community and Ecosystem Dynamics**

**(21 - 26 October 2018)**

This course focuses on theoretical concepts, such as autocatalytic loops and positive and negative feedbacks between organisms in ecological networks. Also, the importance of non-trophic interactions by ecosystem engineers, and how these principles can be used to link communities to ecosystems to enable to understand how environmental change affect community and ecosystem dynamics.

### **Consumer-Resource Interactions**

**(2 - 6 December 2018)**

This one-week course will illustrate how adopting a consumer-resource approach can change our understanding of interactions, and how adaptive processes can be important in understanding both academic and applied problems in ecology. This edition of the course will focus on consumer-resource interactions in times of global environmental change at three levels of integration: the individual-population level, the community-ecosystem level and the socio-ecological level.

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## 1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **Symposium - Drought, plant hydraulic traits and vegetation modeling** (4 September 2018) @ Wageningen, The Netherlands
- **Sfecologie 2018 – International Conference on Ecological Sciences** (22 - 25 October 2018) @ Rennes, France
- **International Soil Modeling Consortium (ISMC) Conference - New perspectives on soil models** (5 - 7 November 2018) @ Wageningen, The Netherlands
- **Symposium Dier of Ding (in Dutch)** (24 November 2018) @ Utrecht, The Netherlands

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## 2. Courses

- **Principles of Ecological and Evolutionary Genomics** (26 – 28 September 2018)  
*Ecological genomics is a quite new scientific discipline, which studies ecological complexity, nutrient cycles, life-history patterns and responses of organisms to environmental stress at the genomic level. Analysis of environmental genomes will improve our understanding of ecosystem functions and biodiversity and may help to define and measure environmental quality.*
- **Matrix Approaches to Health Demography** (5 - 16 November 2018)  
*In this course, matrix methods will be used to analyze models based on prevalence and incidence data. The methods will go beyond the fixation on mean results and will incorporate variance and stochasticity. The class will introduce methods based on Markov chains, Markov chains with rewards, multistate matrix models, and matrix calculus. The new analyses will be compared, where possible, to traditional approaches.*
- **Uncertainty Propagation in Modelling** (10 - 14 December 2018)  
*The purpose of this course is to familiarize participants with statistical methods to analyse uncertainty propagation in spatial modelling, such that they can apply these methods to their own models and data. Both attribute and positional errors are considered. Attention is also given to the effects of spatial auto- and cross-correlations on the results of an uncertainty propagation analysis. Computer practicals make use of the R language for statistical computing.*
- **GIS in Practice** (10 - 22 December 2018)  
*GIS is commonly used as a tool to deal with spatial information. Although GIS packages are becoming increasingly user-friendly, the conceptual model behind the storage, analysis, and display is still essential to properly deal with these systems. This course aims to give an overview of this conceptual model, after which it will go in-depth in the use of ArcGIS using a number of practical cases.*

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## 3. Position Announcements

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

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## 4. Other News

- **NWO-FAPESP joint call 'Ecosystem restoration: the Brazilian Atlantic Forest as a case study'** (deadline: 13 September 2018)  
*The collaboration has been sought with the BIOTA program that has been supported by São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) since 1999. The program is a Virtual Biodiversity Institute bringing together more than 1200 scientists from leading universities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations in the state of São to participate in joint research projects.*
- **NWO call 'Refugees in Science'** (deadline: 13 September 2018)  
*This is a new pilot programme. The aim is to fund one-year appointments for academics who have fled their home country and wish to continue their scientific career in the Netherlands. Candidates must hold a master's degree or a doctorate and must have been granted refugee status in the Netherlands. The pilot was developed in consultation with the Young Academy, KNAW and the Foundation for Refugee Students (UAF).*

- **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).***