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	<p>Netherlands Ecological Research Network</p> <p>NERN Messages</p> <p>October 2017</p>
	
	

HIGHLIGHTS

Current Themes in Ecology 2017 – Innovation in Conservation

(Wednesday 29 November 2017)

Loss of our natural surroundings - and the biodiversity it harbours - has become such an issue that we are currently in the first era of mass extinction caused by man. For many years now, scientists have studied trends of degradation and biodiversity loss, providing essential insight the consequences of these trends ecosystem functioning. Yet, how much of this fundamental scientific insight has directly led to innovations approaches in conserving our natural surroundings and the biodiversity within? This edition of Current Themes in Ecology addresses the role of fundamental science in contributing to the sustainable conservation of nature. We aim to address how innovation in conservation can occur and present examples of how such innovative insights have changed the way individual species or even complete ecosystems are being conserved. More information and registration at www.nern.nl/CT2017.

Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018 – Call for Registration

(Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 February 2018)

This year will be the 11th edition of the Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting (NAEM). As always, the meeting will be held at Conference Centre "De Werelt" in Lunteren. At this stage, the four plenary speakers have been confirmed. You are cordially invited to register your participation and to spread this announcement in your network! More information and registration at www.nern.nl/NAEM2018

Netherlands Annual Ecology Meeting 2018 – Call for parallel session proposals

(Deadline: Wednesday 25 October 2017, 12 NOON)

The call for submissions of parallel session proposals for NAEM 2018 is now open! You can submit your proposal for a parallel session at www.nern.nl/NAEM2018-ps. You can find more details about the general set-up of the programme and about the deadlines for submission of contributions to the 2018 NAM meeting on the [NAEM website](http://www.nern.nl/NAEM).

1. Workshops / Meetings / Symposia

- **WIAS-mini-seminar: Evolutionary Ecology – Biodiversity from genes to species communities** (23 October 2017) @ Zodiac, Wageningen University, the Netherlands.
- **NWO Talent Scheme Information Meeting (Veni, Vidi, Vici)** (3 November 2017) @ The Hague, the Netherlands.
- **Biodiversity and global change in the Tropics** (17 November 2017) @ Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- **Symposium 'Future of aquatic carbon: impacts, feedbacks and mitigation'** (17 November 2017) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands.
- **Zoology 2017: 'Genotype-phenotype map: from model systems to ecosystems'** (23 November 2017) @ Wageningen, the Netherlands.
- **Joint Annual Meeting; Ecology Across Borders** (11-14 December 2017) @ Ghent, Belgium.
- **Student Conference on Conservation Science** (27-29 March 2018) @ University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- **6th Plant Genomics and Gene Editing Congress Europe** (14-15 May 2018) @ Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- **ECSA 57: Changing estuaries, coasts and shelf systems – diverse threats and opportunities** (3-6 September 2018) @ Perth, Australia.

2. Courses

- **Introduction to R for Statistical Analysis** (23-24 October 2017)
The aim of this course is to provide an introduction to R, a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. Focus of the course will be on getting familiar with the R environment, to use R for manipulation and exploration of data, and to perform simple statistical analyses.
- **Generalized Linear Models for Evolutionary Ecologists** (20-24 November 2017)
The staple of data in evolutionary ecology consist of counts, proportions and durations. Fitness, a crucial quantity in evolutionary biology, is either estimated by counting offspring or involves population dynamical modelling depending on estimates obtained with generalized linear models (GLM) and mixed models (LMM and GLMM).
- **Molecular Methods in Ecology and Evolution** (27 November 2017 – 27 January 2018)
Molecular methods are now widely used in ecological and evolutionary studies, to answer questions ranging from the evolutionary history of populations to patterns in community ecology. How can we use these molecular tools to enhance our knowledge of population genetics, phylogeny, molecular and adaptive variation, and community structure? The objective of this course is to introduce students to a range of molecular techniques (DNA, RNA and protein- based) that are applied in ecological and evolutionary research. We will teach 'how' these techniques are properly applied, as well as their potential and limitations.
- **Basic Statistics** (11, 12, 13, 18, 19 December 2017)
This is a refresher course (so it goes into category 2A of the PE&RC TSP). The level is that of a second course in Statistics. We will refresh basic knowledge of Probability, Statistical Inference (Estimation and Testing), t-tests, simple cases of Regression and ANOVA, Experimental Design, Non-parametric Tests, and Chi-square Tests. Some time is reserved to discuss statistical problems of the participants.
- **Statistical Uncertainty Analysis of Dynamic Models** (11-15 December 2017)
The purpose of this course is to make the participants familiar with general statistical concepts describing uncertainty, and methods to compute prediction uncertainty coming from uncertain parameter values. We introduce dynamic input-state-output systems and methods to write your model in this format.
- **Design of Experiments** (20-22 December 2017)
The design and analysis of experiments, using plants, animals, or humans, are an important part of the scientific process. Proper design of an experiment, apart from its

proper analysis and interpretation, is important to convince a researcher that your results are valid and that your conclusions are meaningful.

- **Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists (8 January – 3 February 2018)**
Practical Bioinformatics for Biologists (PBfB) introduces students to use general computational tools to work more effectively on a daily basis. It pulls together a broad range of free powerful, and flexible tools that are applicable to geneticists, molecular biologists, ecologists, oceanographers, physiologists, and anyone interested or in need of bioinformatics in their research. It features practical use of bioinformatic techniques to solve real analysis problems.
- **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.
- **Tropical Biodiversity and Field Methods (South East Asia) (5 February – 2 March 2018)**
The course will provide a broad overview of tropical ecology, flora and fauna, with a focus on Southeast Asia and Borneo. Students will learn about practical aspects of doing field research in tropical ecosystems, experimental design, data analysis methods, theory of biodiversity data, and the application of biodiversity data in conservation. In addition, students will receive basic taxonomic overviews for taxa that are particularly relevant in tropical ecosystems, and practice their identification based on reference collections and own collections to be made during fieldwork.
- **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.
- **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.

3. Calls & Jobs

- **For an overview of open calls and current job openings, check [our website](#).**

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.