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Agenda and upcoming events

- 29 october
Workshop ESCAPE & DATAPLUS
- 7 november
Day of the international student
- 13 november
14.00-17.00 General Board meeting
- 21 november
ABVAKABO networking day
- 18 december
10.00-13.00 General Board meeting
- 18 december
14.00-17.00 General Members Meeting

PNN News

New board members

Since September the board of PNN has three new members. **Frank Harbers** (University of Groningen), **Marieke Hendriksen** (University of Leiden), and **Sylvia Kuijpers** (Utrecht University) will dedicate time and energy to maintain national research schools, to fight for all PhD candidates to be employees instead of bursary students, for the quality of the PhD trajectory, and more! **Nora de Vries** has left PNN since the last GMM. We thank her for all her work for PNN and her legal advice!

We are looking for new boardmembers! Are you a PhD candidate and interested in higher education– and sciencepolicies? Do you have a feel for political and managerial environments? If this sounds interesting, have a look at www.hetpnn.nl for more info!

Bursaries

The most important development recently regarding the bursary system has been the lawsuit filed by the Labour Union in collaboration with PNN to prove that PhD students are in fact carrying out labour and are not studying. This was indeed decided as such by the judge. This verdict and the objections of the government have caused other universities to postpone the introduction of such a system. The collaboration of universities (VSNU) is currently lobbying with the minister to change the legislation to enable the legal appointment of bursaries. Currently, some universities have 'partly' introduced the bursary system, that is, they have appointed foreign bursaries. However, since some bursary students, who were involved in the lawsuit, were foreign bursaries it remains to be seen whether or not this is legible now. The exact consequences of this verdict are as yet unclear and will be monitored closely by PNN. The University of Groningen has already indicated to appeal. PNN will keep you up to date on the developments in this lawsuit and other important matters regarding the bursary system. Should you encounter a situation, which may seem as if your university is flirting with the bursary system or another form of degrading the PhD trajectory, please keep us informed!

National research schools

PNN is receiving signals from PhD candidates being discouraged or even explicitly forbidden to take part in national research schools. Although recrediting of national research schools has been postponed, funding of national research schools will not be withdrawn awaiting a quality report by the Van der Vliet committee due in January 2010. However, it seems some local graduate schools jump to conclusions prematurely. PNN has had a lot of positive feedback on the national research schools' programs and calls on local graduate schools and deans to await the report before taking decisions regarding funding on national research schools. Moreover, PNN is working with SODOLA (<http://www.schoolofhumanrights.org/index.php?id=59>) to raise political awareness. Eventually, we aim for well-functioning national research schools and for stimulating interaction between national research schools and local graduate schools. We invite everyone to share their personal experiences on both national research and local graduate school, either positive or negative. This will help us to make our lobby as effective and persuasive as possible.

PNN Activities

- * The complete PNN board had an introductory meeting with the VSNU. The meeting was generally pleasant, and although our opinions differ on some matters, joined forces can also be established, such as increasing the knowledge of Dutch society regarding the skills and capacities of a PhD. The VSNU and PNN have agreed to keep each other up to date on those matters.
- * PNN is working together with SODOLA (Structureel Overleg Directeuren Onderzoekscholen met Landelijke Accreditatie) to join forces in the discussion concerning the national research schools. These useful discussions on the PhD trajectory will continue to take place in the future.
- * PNN has contacted several political parties to express our concern on the quality of the PhD trajectory, including a discussion on the national research schools and shortening of the PhD trajectory at several universities.
- * PNN has been in contact with the national inspection for education to explore the possibilities for a quality control. This is still in a very early stage, so no specific actions have been undertaken to set up such a system. Ideas are very welcome!
- * We are happy to announce the new deal between PNN and JWL Boekproducties concerning a new sponsor contract.

External parties and activities

Struggling for new, original research ideas? The "Communicatiekaravan" helps you to look at your field from different angles, enabling you to get new ideas and insights. An interview and the application of various creative techniques will provide information on how to help you creating original research ideas to increase your chances on funding. For enrolment in such an enlightening experience, email info@decommunicatiekaravan.nl (free of charge, duration 1,5 to 2 hrs).

The Digital Topschool: For Goodness' Sake. The Digital Topschool offers bright, talented pupils (the best 10 percent) extra, stimulating courses on-line with the help of students as on-line teachers. PhD candidates are invited to create a problem, which can really be solved, for gifted primary school pupils (grade 7 to 8), while using the central theme of your dissertation. You will receive a voucher as an expression of their gratitude. If you are interested, contact them at info@toptoets.nl or through www.dedigitaletopschool.nl.

Modern scientific communication. On October 29, two SURFFoundation project teams – ESCAPE and DATAPLUS – will present a workshop on data and information sharing. The main goal of the workshop is the organisation of a broad discussion in which scholars, scientists, information specialists and programmers will share their views on modern scientific communication and their practical application. For registration, please use the SURF registration system at <http://surf.eccoo.rug.nl/sis/du/798/registration>.

Day of the International Student (DIS). On November 7, DIS 2009 will organize a meeting for international students and PhD-candidates in the World Forum in the Hague. Throughout the day you can meet students, PhD-candidates and alumni from all over the world at the DISPlaza. There will be workshops, lectures, a special meeting point for researchers, followed by drinks, dinner and a party (www.dis2009.nl).

ABVAKABO FNV Networking Day. On November 21, trade union ABVAKABO FNV organizes a theme day titled 'Unique selling points, how do you raise your voice?' to increase the network capabilities of minority groups. The focus is on how to optimize your unique selling points in order to maximize your position in the dominant culture of your work and within your union. Both ABVAKABO FNV members and non-members are cordially invited to join in. The spoken language is Dutch. More information and registration: www.abvakabo.nl/netwerkdag2009.

ADVERTENTIE

