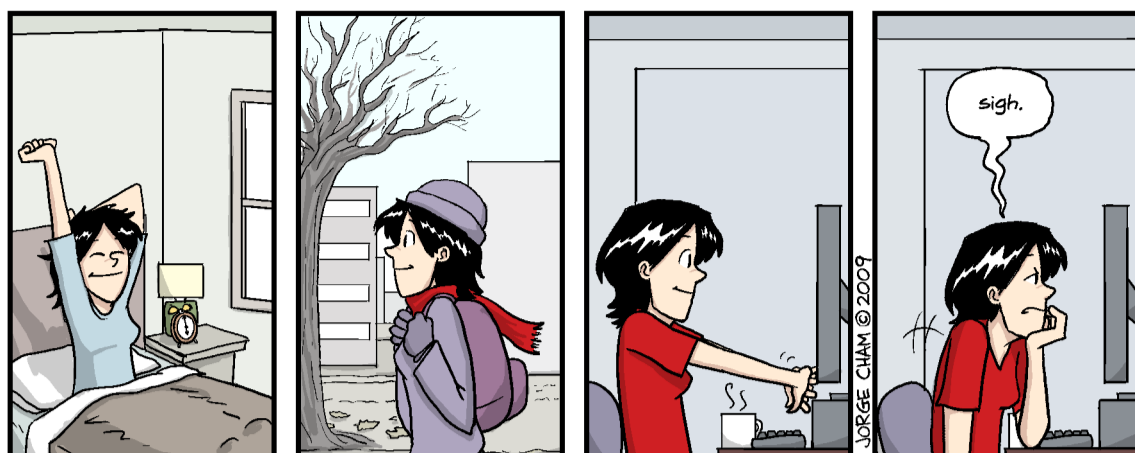


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Hi all,

With the academic year 2009-2010 already halfway passed, it is time to send you our second newsletter of this year. A lot has been done recently, but the best is yet to come! In two weeks time, Herman Philipse will give the second PrOUt lecture of this academic year and the preparations for PrOUt's annual PhD day look very promising... In this newsletter you can read all about the oncoming activities, our meeting with the rector magnificus and we ask for your opinion on a 'laymen's talk' during your PhD defence ceremony. Inspired by the ongoing reorganizations of work- and office-spaces, PrOUt wrote a short charter on the legal demands for an office workspace, to inform you about what may and may not be asked from you considering cutting back on your workspace. Enjoy your read!

Lennart de Groot

Chair of PrOUt 2009-2010

Events

PrOUt Lecture March 24th

Mark your agendas! The next PrOUt lecture will be on March 24th at 7pm at the University Hall (Academiegebouw). After the [successful lecture in October 2009](#), we are again very excited about our speaker: prof. dr. Herman Philipse. Professor Philipse is a well-known Dutch philosopher. He has also written many commentaries for Dutch newspapers (most frequently as a regular contributor to the NRC Handelsblad) and current events television programs (for example Buitenhof). The



lecture is titled 'Unification in science: Ontology, theory, method' and will address the question whether all sciences are in fact reducible to one underlying basic science and whether all sciences in essence all use the same method of doing research. So if you are a physicist and want to find out if lawyers actually do the exact same thing, or if you wonder if doing veterinary research is in essence no different from building computer architectures, then please come by! There will be plenty of time for discussion at the end of the lecture. And, of course, we will have (free) drinks and some small snacks afterwards!

Programme:

- 7pm - 8.15: Lecture (Room: Maskeradezaal)
- 8.15 onwards: Drinks (Room: Kanunnikenzaal)

PhD Day

Following up on [last year's success](#), we are already busy organizing the next PhD Day! We are planning to invite some very interesting speakers (we keep it a secret for a while though!), and a number of companies have already announced to be present at our information market. In addition, we noticed last year that the free workshops were very popular! We'll make sure to have a nice selection of workshops on offer for you this time. This year's PhD Day will take place in June. Keep an eye open for further announcements, because you don't want to miss this!

Other information

Meeting with Rector Magnificus

Our chair (Lennart) and secretary (Hetty) had a meeting with the rector magnificus, prof. dr. Hans Stoof. The rector was very interested in what we had to say, and we were able to discuss important issues such as the development of graduate schools, and communication issues with international PhD candidates. Also, we were happy to hear that the rector confirmed that, as long as it is not legally allowed, Utrecht University is not planning to hire bursary PhD students (from EU-countries). Last, the rector expressed his appreciation of our organization of the PhD day last year, and said he was definitely determined to be present again this year.

Poll

PrOUt would like to know your opinion! In the past, 'good old days', PhD Candidates at Utrecht University typically presented a 'laymen's talk' (in Dutch: lekenpraatje) just right before the defence ceremony started. This way, the PhD candidate had an opportunity to explain to friends and family in common language what he/she had actually been doing the past 4 years. This tradition was put on hold due to financial reasons and high time-pressure on the use of the defence room. Some of you may be sad about this, some may think it's OK. Should the university offer the opportunity for a laymen's talk again, and what scenario would have your preference?

We would like to know your opinion about this matter, and therefore we designed a real POLL :). Please click on [this link](#) to fill it out!

Work2Work

PrOUt was recently approached by Work2Work, which is an organization that helps people whose contracts end within 4 months to find a new job outside academics. They are specifically interested in PhD candidates as a potential target group for their services. An advisory committee including PrOUt members and recently finished PhDs will be put together to make an inventory about PhD candidates' needs and wished.

Office space

Office space is an important issue in many faculties where finances or building capacities demand a highly efficient use of rooms. With a number of reconstructions and moving plans coming up, we thought it was a good moment to figure out the official regulations regarding working space as stipulated by the Dutch 'ARBO'. Every employee is entitled to a certain minimum square meters of office space. For the most important regulations, take a look at [this document](#) at our website.

Help Us Improve!

If you have any remarks, tips or ideas concerning PrOUt, the newsletter, and/or the website, please let us know (e-mail: info@prout.nl)! If you are interested to join PrOUt as a representative of your faculty, please contact our [chair](#).

If you have any issues or questions concerning your PhD (work, social benefits etc.), please feel free to contact your faculty PhD council. If it is a main Utrecht matter, or you don't think you can find your faculty PhD council, you can also contact PrOUt (info@prout.nl or www.prout.nl).

The DO's AND DON'Ts of SCHMOOZING WITH YOUR PROFESSOR

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