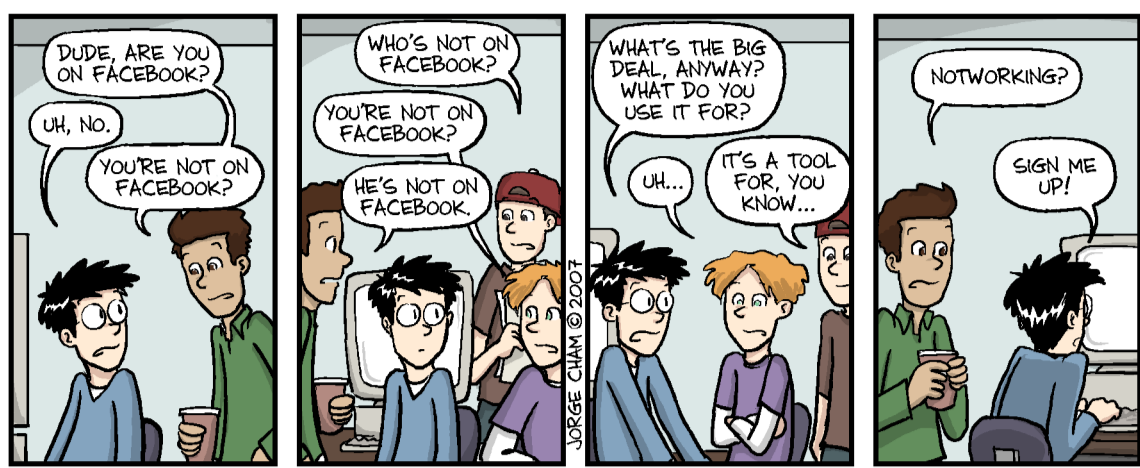


Contents

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Hi all,

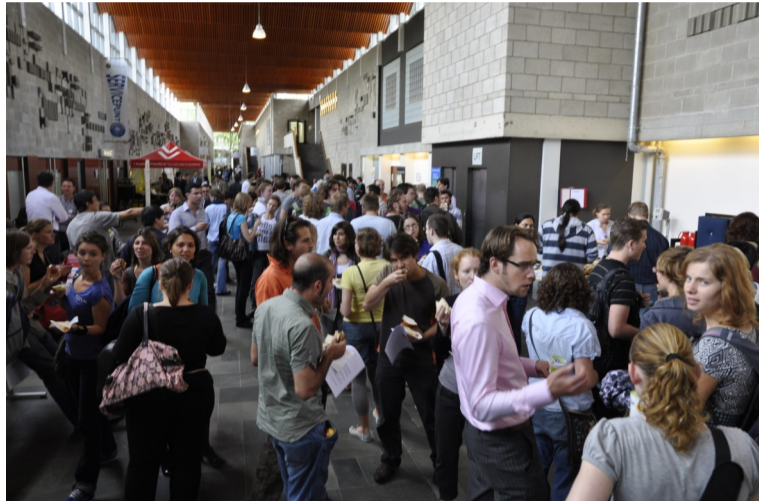
We've been busy lately, so it's time to update you again on our recent and upcoming activities! Most important of all, the **2010 PhD Day: JUNE 16th** from 13:00 onwards (more info down below!). Further in this newsletter: did you attend the PrOut lecture by Prof. dr Herman Philipse (if not, you really missed something!), a brief mortgage inventory, an interesting research-to-business competition,... and much more. Remember, if you have any ideas about topics we should cover or activities we could organize, please contact your faculty representative. We're always open to good suggestions!

Enjoy your read!

Events

PrOut PhD Day 2010: 16 June

Mark your agendas! PrOut is happy to inform you that this year's PhD Day will take place on June 16th! This day is free of charge and open to all PhD Candidates of Utrecht University. The PhD Day is intended to provide PhD Candidates with relevant information on their PhD project, improve skills and meet other colleagues.



When: 16 June, 13.00-18.00h

Where: Uithof (Minnaert, Buys Ballot and Earth Sciences buildings)

What to expect:

- Lectures: career prospects, thesis printing, labour unions
- Keynote lecture by Prof. Vincent Icke, Professor in Astrophysics and Cosmology, writer and artist, also a famous guest in TV programmes: *do not miss him!*
- Workshops: here you can catch up on your skills in interviewing, acquiring funding, scientific writing, presenting, teaching and more.
- Information market: the place to be when you want to be informed about printing companies, labour unions and other organizations relevant for PhD candidates.

The entire programme is free of charge. Registration is not needed.

As an extra, this year the official programme will be followed by a **free BBQ** for participants of the PhD Day!

More information will follow soon. In the meantime, see www.prout.nl/phdday for more details.

We hope to see you all at the PrOut PhD Day 2010!

3rd PrOut lecture: a report

On March 24th, PrOut organized a lecture by Prof. Herman Philipse, a well-known Dutch philosopher. Appealing to PhD Candidates from all faculties, he spoke about the unification of sciences: can all sciences be reduced to one, or do fundamental differences exist? The answer? Well, let's say it's open to debate (we really had an interesting discussion there!). Rather than being provided with a clear-cut solution, the audience was invited to think about 'their own' science and to form an opinion on where it stands relative to others. A good thing we had drinks afterwards to allow for more discussion (or networking.., or just chatting..). Altogether, a great success!

We value your input

Poll on laymen's talk: results

Thank you all for responding to our poll! In our last newsletter we asked whether you were in favour of giving a 'laymen's talk' (lekenpraatje) prior to the defence ceremony, and if so, whether it should be on an obligatory or voluntary basis. Obviously a popular topic, we received many votes on the poll that was posted on our website. Almost all voters (95%) were enthusiastic about the idea of a laymen's talk and a majority (59%) thought it should be on a voluntary basis.

Although at the moment, PhD Candidates already have the opportunity to organize a laymen's talk themselves, the defence protocol currently limits PhD Candidates in easily organizing the talk. Therefore, PrOut has the intention to think about ways to improve the conditions and possibilities in accordance with the University board.

Mortgage inventory

It came to our attention that PhD Candidates regularly run into difficulties when trying to get a mortgage. The University appears not to have a consistent policy regarding the provision of so-called declarations of intent ('verklaring van geen bezwaar'). Mortgage suppliers demand such a piece of paper, which states that the University declares to have the intention to offer you a job after your contract ends. In the past, a number of PhD Candidates have been able to obtain a declaration of intent, whereas others haven't. To get a better picture of the issue we're dealing with, we would like to make an inventory of your experiences. So: for all of you who have had experience with mortgages, please fill out our short questionnaire [here](#).

Wanted: ICT Board Member

Do you value your PhD community? Do you think it is important that PhD's interests are properly represented and that useful and social events are being organised? Now you have the opportunity to contribute!

PrOut is looking for an ICT board member. As a board member, you attend regular monthly meetings to talk about current topics. As an ICT person, you make sure that our website is regularly updated, our mailing lists are up to date and our newsletter is sent to all PhD Candidates of Utrecht University.

So, if you're not afraid of computers and you think that representing PhD Candidates is an important thing, then do not hesitate and send an e-mail to info@prout.nl!

Other information

Career Development

Do you want to reflect on your career or to increase your job opportunities? Topselect, a UU institution, offers you several services, including a **free** Career Consult trajectory. What's more, if your contract will nearly finish, Work2Work (also part of UU) will help you to find a new job. Follow these links for more information:

- Topselect: www.topselectgroep.nl (Dutch)
- Work2Work: www.uu.nl (Dutch)

UtrechtInc

Still waiting for text.

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).



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