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 groningen



Winter Schools

Elevate your academic career this winter.

About our winter schools

Participating in a University of Groningen winter school is a great opportunity to broaden your knowledge on relevant topics in your field, develop new skills, and expand your network by engaging with peers and experts from across the globe. Our winter schools are research-driven, international, and many of them are multidisciplinary, offering a wide range of perspectives.

You will be taught by our academics in interactive small groups during the intensive, week-long course. We invite all students and staff to look beyond the obvious, to be involved, purposeful and creative, and to engage in scientific and social debates on both local and global issues.



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Promoting Sustainable Health Systems in Africa

27 - 31 January 2025, Arusha, Tanzania

For BA/MA/PhDs, Postdocs and Practitioners

The African continent faces various challenges and opportunities for improving the sustainability of health systems, as well overall public health through measures of health prevention. How can better law and governance address new and existing health challenges and improve long-term sustainability of health systems?

This school is taught jointly by interdisciplinary experts from the Groningen Center of Health Law of the University of Groningen and Mzumbe's School of Public Administration and Management and Faculty of Law. It focuses on sustainability of health systems and on preventive approaches rather than mere treatment of disease, and include a strong focus on the right to health.



Over the course of five days, participants will be introduced to key challenges in African health systems, the role of the WHO, international guidelines and right to health – and their translation into local contexts and resource constraint settings; the need for interdisciplinary approaches to health governance. Through interactive lectures and hands-on group assignments, participants will delve deeper into the topics.



Application deadline
20 January 2025

Contact email
GlobalHealthSchoolTanzania@rug.nl



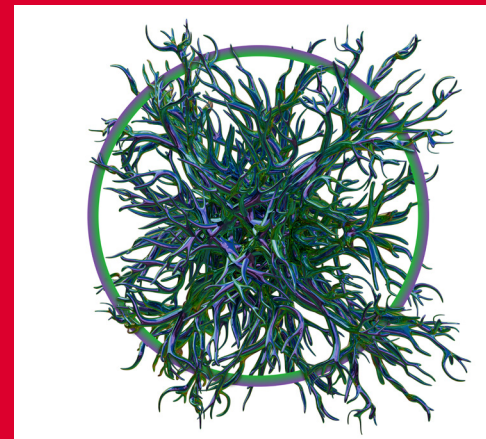
Narrative and the Mind

20 – 24 January 2025, Groningen, Netherlands

For MA/PhDs, early-career researchers and Practitioners

Narratives are not only products of human minds, but also constitutive to them. Stories help to integrate information about events, agents, motivations, experiences, and their interconnections, and as such, are a key tool for understanding the world, others and ourselves. This edition of the Netherlands Winter School on Narrative focuses on the interplay between narrative and the mind.

Stories have been described as an ideal vessel for communicating knowledge, conveying experience, forming identities, training empathy and perspective-taking, or negotiating values. However, narrative thinking has also been associated with simplification, anthropocentrism, affective biases and other cognitive shortcuts that can hamper the understanding of complex realities. While human minds are predisposed to narrative thinking, they are not limited to it.



The contemporary ubiquity of stories as tools for thinking and communicating thus asks for scrutiny and reflection. During the course, lectures and workshops will examine how cognition is informed by narrativity, and how narratives are shaped by our cognitive engagement. The school is strongly interdisciplinary, combining various perspectives on narrative including psychology, literary and cultural studies, and cognitive science.

Application deadline

15 November 2024

Contact email

narrative.winterschool@rug.nl



Discourses of Sustainability Transitions

19 - 24 January 2025, Stellenbosch, South Africa

For MA, PhD, Postdoc and Practitioners

Over the course of this winter/summer school, participants will study the relationship between discourse, worldview, ontology and ethics, particularly in regard to questions of just sustainability transitions. How are arguments for more sustainable ways to live on this planet being mediated to audiences? Who is doing the mediating, and how does the message change, depending on the speaker and audience?

The goal of this week is to learn the impact that discourse has on material culture and then put this into practice by working with societal stakeholders to develop powerful communicative platforms using rhetoric that is effective and aligns with their underlying values. For example, how can an organic farmer, committed to decolonial ecological values, win agricultural grants from the government without resorting to capitalistic rhetoric?



We will introduce the practice of agile design thinking, which participants will use with their community partners as they conceptualise and execute their projects. This course is designed for emerging researchers interested in environmental sustainability and justice, and who are interested in bridging theoretical knowledge with praxis. Applicants from all disciplines are welcome to join us in Stellenbosch University.



Application deadline
15 November 2024

Contact email
DiscoursesofSustainabilitySchool@rug.nl



Climate Change and the Long-Term Future

9 – 10 January 2025, Online

For BA and MA students

The Faculty of Philosophy will host its yearly Winter School on the theme of Climate Change and the Long-Term Future, aimed primarily at advanced undergraduate students and early-stage graduate students. It will consist of 6 lecture tutorials where topics related to the theme will be discussed from different disciplinary viewpoints: Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE).

The winter school starts with fundamental normative questions, such as: What are our moral obligations to future people? Do they extend to all future people and, if so, does this imply that our longtermist moral duties trump any short-term concerns? Climate change mitigation is typically seen as a collective action problem and calls for an institutional solution that facilitates widespread cooperation among individuals and countries. What exactly makes



for successful and sustainable institutions? What explains people's attitudes and actions towards the environment and future generations and how can those be improved? How can democracies respond to wide disagreement around climate impacts and appropriate mitigation measures? And, finally, what are effective solutions to securing a sustainable energy supply?



Application deadline
29 December 2024

Contact email
a.t.schmidt@rug.nl



Intercultural Competence for Professionals

20 - 24 January 2025, Groningen, the Netherlands

For practitioners involved with intercultural competence

If you have the responsibility to develop intercultural competence in others, the winter school is for you. The programme is intended for professionals in the fields of intercultural competence development and internationalisation. It offers a comprehensive overview of intercultural training design with an emphasis on using developmental approaches to enhance cultural learning.

It addresses questions such as: How do I structure effective training? What kinds of participants can I encounter and how do I tailor my training to their needs? How do I deal with various kinds of resistance in a group? There is a saying that “curiosity killed the cat.” But conceivably, in intercultural relations, a lack of curiosity is more of a problem.



So, if you are curious and wish to develop your ability to foster intercultural sensitivity in others, apply to the winter school! With an emphasis on using developmental approaches to decrease learner resistance, the offered programme will cover everything from communication and thinking styles to intercultural training methods and resources. Unleash the creative and innovative potential of cultural diversity!

Application deadline
6 January 2025

Contact email
ic@rug.nl



Commensality (eating together) and Cultural Heritage in the Middle East and Its Diasporas

20 - 24 January 2025, Groningen, the Netherlands

For PhD students, Postdocs and practitioners

In this Winter School, we propose to explore the theme of commensality through an interdisciplinary lens. We will consider how we can approach the study of cultural heritage among Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle East and in associated diasporas through foodways, that is, customs regarding the preparation and consumption of food.

Commensality means being at the same table and eating together, with literal and metaphorical implications for respecting differences among those who share a meal. As a field of growing research in the arena of public health, scholars now connect commensality and sociability to individual and communal well-being. Food holds an important



position in our everyday lives and our values, including in communities that identify along religious, national, or ethno-linguistic lines. In the Middle East and Middle Eastern diasporic communities, food is also a source of pride. People value foodways as part of their cultural heritage and are aware of illustrious culinary traditions that go back centuries or millennia, starting with ancient innovations in agriculture that benefitted human societies at large.

Application deadline
12 December 2024

Contact email
Foodways.winterschool@rug.nl