

# nekst>>

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## >> Column

Peter Kort: How  
One Became an  
Econometrician

## >> Special

Human Rights Data  
Analysis Group

## >> Report

European  
Championship  
Student Bridge



## NewYear, New Nekst

Autumn is already in full swing this year. Not a warm late summer or long evenings relaxing in the evening sun. No, plenty of Dutch weather: cold and rainy days. On the other hand, that is the perfect weather to read the first edition of this year's Nekst on the couch, under a blanket, with a bowl of 'pepernoten' next to it. With a new and large team we have enthusiastically started writing this first edition. Who are part of this brilliant team can be read in Meet the Crew.

In addition to a new section, Life After Graduating, also the popular classics Committee Profile and Special can be found. Besides these, there will be a golden oldie: Let's Talk. The new feature introduced last year, Familiar Faces, can also be found in this brand new Nekst. I am also proud to introduce the new columnists to you, Peter Kort and Pepijn Wissing. If the latter rings a bell, that could well be the case: Pepijn is our former editor-in-chief and of course we can imagine he could not say goodbye to Nekst yet.

For me, working on Nekst is also a new challenge and opportunity that I seized with both hands. This does not make everything any less exciting, so this first Preface is written with trembling hands. After a summer break and therefore a long Nekst-less period, a new edition is finally here, so I wish you a lot of reading pleasure!

Yours sincerely,

**Emma Segers**  
Editor-in-Chief

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# Dear Members,

While writing this article, I am glancing back at the events that have already passed since our new board was announced. Remembering the events that I have joined since the start of my Astrics life makes me smile and I am proud to be a part of this association. Several weeks have passed in which we have become more familiar with our new lives. After getting acquainted with our new tasks and colorful agendas, we are more than ready to turn this academic year into a success.

Not very surprisingly, many of you do not know me, since I have joined Asset | Econometrics only recently. Therefore I would like to introduce myself to all of you, my dearest members. My name is Denise Jacobs and I am 22 years old. After starting my Bachelor's degree in International Business Administration, I noticed that I missed some challenging mathematical courses. While looking for a bit more excitement, I ended up at Asset | International Business & Management where I did my first committee. However, even though I liked being a part of the Asset community, I was still missing analytical challenges in my Bachelor. Eventually, after visiting various open days and asking everyone around me what I should do, I decided to start with my premaster towards Business Analytics and Operations Research. I immediately noticed that this was the right decision and that I wanted to continue in Econometrics. Hence, in order to get to know my fellow econometricians, I wanted to join Asset | Econometrics. After being rejected for a committee in the first semester, I started in the Econometrics in Practice Day Committee in the second semester. Being a part of this committee and getting to know more and more members during the events, made me fall in love with our association. And hence,

when I was announced as the new chairman, I was filled with excitement. But of course I am not doing this board year alone, but with four other lovely boardies with whom you are very familiar. Together with Marieke Derks, Bastiaan Schutte, Ricardo van Belzen and Britte Kragten, respectively the new Secretary, Treasurer, External Affairs and Internal Affairs, I want to make the most out of our board year together with you.

As you are reading the 28th volume of Nekst, your summer tan has already faded and you are getting more familiar with assignments and group projects, while wearing warm sweaters. More importantly, we hope that you have passed your exams, if you had any, and are fully up to date to conquer the courses of your next semester. This, however, will be much easier to handle if you are in a nice environment which we, as the new board, will do our best to provide. Hence always keep in mind that our doors will be open for you if you want to have a little chat with us, ask some questions or just have a cup of coffee or tea.

Together with all of you, we want to make this year as great as we can. We hope to see you at our activities and I hope you are looking forward to this year as much as we are!

On behalf of the board,

**Denise Jacobs**

*Chairman Asset | Econometrics 2019-2020*

# Meet the Crew!

Nekst Committee 2019-2020

Written by **Janne Vos**



## Emma Segers

First of all, we would like to introduce you to our editor-in-chief: Emma. She is 23-year-old and was born and raised in Tilburg. She is in her third Bachelor year and has already been in several committees, namely Education, Introduction Activity, Drinks & Activities and the Econometrics in Practice Day. Becoming the new editor-in-chief was not always her intention. If she would have to write a biography, she would title it "The Accidental Editor-in-Chief: Well, That Escalated Quickly!". The cooperation between this year's editor-in-chief and design-officer should be a very uncomplicated one, since Emma would name herself Geer and would name Bob Goor if she had to change names. If Emma had one wish, she would wish for a Bachelor in EOR without the Statistics course. The best present she ever gave to someone was a picture of her own head on a pillow sheet.

## Bob Suijkerbuijk

The Goor in our iconic Geer & Goor duo is the design-officer of this year: the 23-year-old Bob. He is from Oudenbosch and is currently in his third year of the Bachelor. This committee is his fourth committee at Asset | Econometrics. Next to being active in our committees, he is also very dedicated to the other activities and takes every opportunity to drink some beers with his fellow Astrics members. For instance, he attended the TUC 2019 which he would describe as the best party he ever went to. If he was a smurf, he would be fuifsmurf for obvious reasons. When Bob was asked on whom he has a crush, he instantly replied Jax, Emma's dog. Therefore, if he could switch lives with someone for one day, he would change with Emma, just to be closer to Jax.



## Dirk Baltussen

Dirk is 19 years old and he is in his second year of his Bachelor. When he started his studies, he decided to leave Wanroij and move to Tilburg. Last year, he was in the Drinks & Activities committee. When Dirk was asked which talent he would like to have, he replied that he would like to be capable to be on time for meetings and attend more meetings than last year, since he only attended half of the meetings. His favorite catchphrase is "I'll do it later", which sounds very promising. To the question which smurf he would like to be, he replied that sleepsmurf seemed a good match. If Dirk would have to write a biography, he would title it "Mission impossible: Bachelor EOR in three years". Since he is now in his second year, this hopefully means that Dirk will be around in our association for a few more years and we can all enjoy his company.

## Jeffrey Buijk

Jeffrey is 22 years old and is in his second year of his Master. He is originally from Roosendaal but has been living in Tilburg for a while now. Before he became a member of the Nekst committee, he was in the Education and the Strategy Tour committee. If Jeffrey could make one wish, he would wish that he could control time. This way he could pause his life when he needs more time, reverse in case he wants to do something over or want to experience something nice again and could forward time in case he wants to skip something. The person whom Jeffrey would like to switch lives with for one day, is his boss. The reason behind this is that this means that he could accidentally give himself a new contract with a quite significant salary raise. In the future he would like to have two or three kids.







## Janne Vos

Janne is 19 years old and currently in the second year of her Bachelor. After she started studying in Tilburg last year, she moved from Maarheeze to Tilburg. Last year she was, along with a few others from the current Nekst committee, in the Drinks & Activities committee. If she could make one wish, she would wish to be able to move to any place she wants when she snaps her fingers. Being able to go home whenever she doesn't like the place where she is or to go to some beach to relax, seems like an ideal skill. If she would be a smurf, she would be clumsy smurf, since no breakable object is safe when she is around. Of course unintended but somehow stuff always seems to break or get lost. The thing she misses most about being a kid is having sleepovers with her best friends and trying to stay up all night. During these sleepovers, they were always doing classic pillow fights, putting on face masks and chat, laugh and giggle all night long.

## Stephan Sparreboom

Stephan is responsible for Nekst-Online this year. He is 22 years old and in his fourth year of the Bachelor. He was raised in Koudekerk aan den Rijn, where he spent his childhood. The thing that he misses most about this period in his life is being the best in his class at mathematics. If he could make one wish, he would wish for everyone in the world to be happy. This is a little cliché, nevertheless a very sweet thing to say. Probably this is also the reason why he decided to bless one of his housemates with a garbage can for his birthday, since indeed Stephan wants everyone in the world to be happy. The talent that he would like to have is to follow more than three weeks of Statistics lectures. Combining this with the fact that his motto in life is to "do something good or don't do it at all", this might be an explanation for Stephan's absence in the Statistics lectures from week four onwards.



## Wenxin Lin

Wenxin is 21 years old, from Venlo and is in the last year of her Bachelor. After her board year at Asset | Econometrics and all the experiences she had there, we are very glad that she is a member of our committee this year. If Wenxin could switch lives for one day with someone, she would choose one of those famous 'Instagram travelers'. So, in the unlikely scenario that Econometrics will not work out after all, Wenxin can always be approached for a job as a social media influencer to travel around the world. Her best purchase ever under the € 30,00 were her walking shoes from Lidl, which indeed would come in handy when pursuing her new career. Besides traveling, she loves animals. She has a huge crush on her boyfriend's dog (and on him) and the best present she ever gave someone was a trip to the zoo. The thing she misses most about being a kid is feeding her neighbor's fish and receiving a cookie in return.





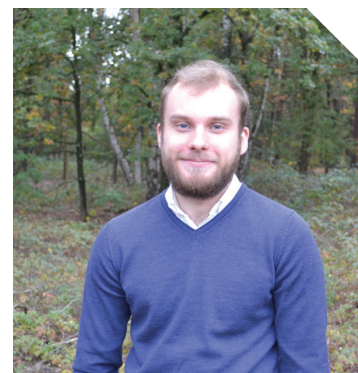


## Marieke Derks

Marieke is this year's secretary of Asset | Econometrics. She is 21 years old and from Eindhoven. She was in the Lustrum Trip committee, and like many others from this year's Nekst committee, she was in the Drinks & Activities committee. A talent that Marieke would like to have, is to have parallel parking skills. It would save a lot of time to be able to just park wherever you want to, instead of driving around and searching for a spot where no parallel parking is required. In the future, Marieke would like to have three kids, of which two are twins. She would love the twins to be a boy and a girl. The best party Marieke ever went to was the wedding party of her uncle and aunt when she was six. She stayed up partying until 01:00 hours, which was the end of the party, and then asked her parents very disappointed why the party had come to an end.

## Jevgeni Medvedev

Jevgeni is 19 years old and in the first year of his Bachelor. He is from Estonia and moved to Tilburg this year for his studies. If he could make one wish, he would wish to drive in a Formula 1 car. The best purchase he ever made under € 30,00 was linked to cars too, being 23 litres of petrol. The reason why he was so satisfied with this purchase was because he was somewhere in the countryside without having a clue of where exactly he was and the level of petrol of the car was close to zero for a long time. Therefore, he was very happy to find a petrol station in this rural zone, spent € 30,00 on petrol and this was enabling himself to drive home. The secret talent that he would like to have is to be able to read people's minds. The best party he ever went to was his high school graduation party.



## Jelle Sieben

After his board year of last year, Jelle is now part of the Nekst committee. He is 20 years old and is from Roermond. He is in the fourth year of his Bachelor now. He already did the AMW committee, Europe Trip committee and of course all the committees and activities in his board year. If Jelle was a smurf, he would be money smurf. This is in line with the fact that he was the treasurer last year and certainly knows how to deal with money. The best purchase he ever made that was under € 30,00, was every 'Reactoonz'-deposit he ever made. His motto in life is "a day not played Trackmania, is a day wasted." If he could make one wish, he would wish to automatically pass Statistics. If Jelle had to change his name, he would change it into Jeff, since that is what everyone calls him at home.

## Rick Greeber

Rick is 21 years old and is from Nijmegen. He is in the fourth year of his Bachelor. Before this committee, he was in the Drinks & Activities committee, Quantitative Investment Group and Connection Day committee. If Rick could make one wish, he would wish for his student loan debt to disappear. The talent that he would like to have, is to be less chaotic. However, his chaotic lifestyle is probably not causing him too much trouble or stress, since his motto in life is that "it will all be alright". The best present he ever gave someone for their birthday was a box full of youth memories. The thing Rick misses most about being a kid, is to go to the birthday parties of other children and to be brought home with a filled stomach. Rick would like to have 2 or 3 kids in the future.







## Juliëtte Tillie

Juliëtte is a 21-year-old from Roermond and is in the second year of her Bachelor. Before this committee, she was in the Lustrum Trip committee and in the Introduction Activity committee. Besides being a member of the Nekst committee, she is also this year's chairman of the Asset Ski Trip committee. If Juliëtte could switch lives with someone for one day, she would choose a famous actor. If she is going to switch lives with somebody, then it should be with someone who lives a completely different life. Also who isn't curious of what it is like to be insanely famous? She would name her own biography "Blondes have more fun, as long as they don't have Statistics finals", since, like many others, she is not having the easiest time. Her motto is "Perfectly on time to be late." The thing she misses most about being a kid is staying in bed watching television shows for hours on Saturday morning.

## Constantijn Wessel

Constantijn is 21 years old and is starting his Master in February. He was part of the Econometrics Business Diner committee in the past. He was born and raised in Arnhem. The best present he ever gave someone for his birthday was a beautiful picture of Arnhem. However, even though he clearly loves Arnhem, he decided to move to Tilburg for his studies. If he could make one wish, he would wish that whatever code he wrote would work and not give any errors. If he had to give himself a new name, he is not exactly sure what it should be. One thing he knows is that he wants it to be something that is shorter than his current name. He would like to have two children in the future, one boy and one girl. A talent that he would like to have is to be able to speak a lot of languages.



## Marco Lorusso-Favia

Marco is 19 years old and in the first year of his Bachelor. This committee is his first committee at Asset | Econometrics. His parents are from South Italy and decided to move in the nineties to San Francisco, where Marco was born. When he was four, he and his parents moved to Belgium. There he finished his high school and decided to start studying EOR in Tilburg. The best purchase he ever made that was under the € 30,00 was a cool tie with unicorns that he found on a vintage market once. If he was a smurf, he would, as he stated himself, be nanny smurf. He somehow really identifies himself with this female smurf who loves knitting. The best party he ever went to was a party in Italy, where he has some relatively vague memories of. The thing he misses most about being a kid is eating lots of candy even though his stomach couldn't handle this.

**Last but not least, we are all very excited to bring you this year's editions of Nekst. We will do our very best to make it a memorable year with interesting articles, interviews, columns and whatnot more. If you have any suggestions or original ideas for later editions, do not hesitate to contact us!**



# Analyzing Data to Diminish the Violation of Human Rights Around the World

written by **Jeffrey Buijk**

**O**ver the world there have always been conflicts between different countries or groups and this has not changed in the past few years. There are still many wars ongoing in the world at the current time, in which many innocent victims are involved. To make sure that the human rights of innocent citizens that live in war areas are respected as much as possible, many organizations are concerned with these wars. The Human Rights Data Analysis Group (HRDAG) is one of them and is using data analysis to monitor this.

## Working with incomplete data

The notion of Big Data has gained popularity in a number of business and industry applications in the past years. This could be used to successfully predict customer behavior, but could also be used to improve the circumstances of citizens that live in an area that is dominated by war. One big

difference between these two issues is the amount of available information. In human rights, and more specifically in studies of conflict violence, there is rarely access to complete data. Since it is too dangerous most of the time to enter these areas, the data has to come from public killings posted on social media, stories covered in the local or international press, victims' testimonies recorded by non-governmental human rights organizations and other similar sources. This means that a lot of data is not recorded.

Basing policy decisions on these kind of partial datasets that are biased can lead to misleading conclusions. Killings in urban areas may be almost always reported, while killings in rural areas are rarely documented. This could lead to the wrong conclusions, as a result from the data analysis

could be that violence is primarily urban, while this result is caused by selection bias. In order to derive the correct results, methods to estimate the bias of these observations are needed. An example of a conflict where HRDAG has developed techniques to estimate this bias is the Syrian Civil War, where HRDAG has analyzed data in the period 2011-2014.

## Syrian Civil War

On March 15, 2011 a civil war started in Syria. The Syrian population was not satisfied with the current government and demanded better human rights. In this conflict a lot of different parties and countries were involved, which led to the death of many government soldiers, militia members, police officers and armed insurgents, but it also led to the death of countless innocent citizens. Because human rights were being violated during the Syrian Civil War, many human rights



organizations came into action, of which HRDAG was one of them.

When analyzing the data that became available for HRDAG about the deaths during the civil war in Syria, there are a few main questions that HRDAG tries to answer from this analysis. First of all an important question is whether more people are being killed in a certain year than in the year before that. It is important to know if the trend is increasing or decreasing in order to know if times are getting better or if the war is getting worse. Another question asked by HRDAG is in which region of Syria the majority of violence is occurring. In order to improve the situation, it is important to know where most help is needed and therefore how the help should be organized. A final important question will be if violence increases or decreases as control over a territory changes hands between different conflict parties. These questions can drive policy decisions, resource allocations and eventually transitional justice.

The data that is available for HRDAG has 318,910 reported killings and is derived from five different datasets. Because the data comes from five different datasets, this number of reported killings includes many duplicated observations, which should be removed. But after the removal of

these duplications the dataset will still be incomplete. Many observations are missing, because of unknown deaths of many persons. Although it is impossible to get these observations, it should be possible to derive an estimation of the amount of deaths during the civil war using the five different datasets and the two-system Lincoln-Petersen estimator. This estimator works as follows: assume we have two datasets, dataset 1 and 2, where dataset 1 has A observations and dataset 2 has B observations. Let's call the overlapping observations between the two datasets M. Now, let's say that the total amount of deaths caused by the Syrian Civil War is N. This means that with probability A/N a reported killing is in the first dataset, with probability B/N a reported killing is in the second dataset and, assuming that both datasets are independent, with probability A/N \* B/N a reported killing is in both datasets. But this should be the same as M/N, since M is the intersection of A and B. By rewriting this as shown in Figure 1, we could ultimately get the Lincoln-Petersen estimator:  $N = AB/M$ . This way, it is possible to estimate the amount of killings, given the datasets that are available, which makes the answers to the questions that have been posed above more feasible.

When trying to answer the question whether the amount of killings has increased or decreased over time, the usage of the Lincoln-Petersen estimator is crucial to answer this question correctly. If we compare the amount of deaths in Hama and Homs (which are two areas in Syria) in the period December 2012 up to March 2013, we could see that the amount of unreported killings is pretty high in some periods. As we could see in Figure 2 (where lighter colors correspond to a higher amount of datasets in which the corresponding death was included), in January 2013 there were many killings that were not reported, which are represented by the dark figure in this picture. In this period the Syrian army and rebel groups were fighting for the control over Hama, which caused that not all killings could be reported by every data set. By only looking at the data of the datasets that we have, it looks like the amount of deaths decreased in January 2013. But the estimation of the amount of killing gives us a totally different conclusion.

What we could observe from the data is that Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs are the areas with the highest amount of deaths. Since these are the three largest cities in Syria, it is quite clear that the size of a city has a high impact on the amount of killings in the area. As HRDAG has done over time, it is also possible to have a look at the amount of undocumented killings

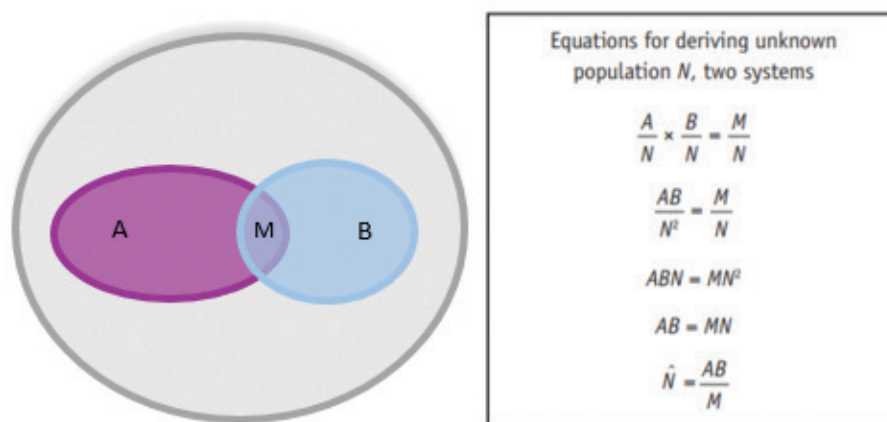


Figure 1

for each region. Looking at this data, it is possible to see that the estimated percentage of killings that are undocumented is alternating a lot for every region over time. Most likely this implies that heavy fights between the Syrian army and rebel groups were changing between regions over time, in which it is more difficult to enter the area and observe the amount of deaths.

When looking at the results in 2013 and 2014, it is clear that the amount of killings remains approximately the same over time, with the exception of huge increases in some months. These increases consist mainly of unreported data and are caused by increasing conflicts in that period of time.

#### Analysis in other countries

Of course there are many more countries and areas in the world where citizens live in constant danger and where human rights are violated. Another example is the Iraq war, where many violent deaths have been reported since the Allied Invasion in March 2003. Different data sources were available and could be compared with each other. When comparing two datasets, the results showed that a lot of events where many people have died were represented by both datasets (94.1% of events with more than 20 deaths) and few where less people have died were represented by both datasets. The fact that events with a higher amount of victims are more likely to be recorded into the data, could be explained by the fact that the media do care more about these larger events, than about the events where 'only' one or two people have died. From this result we could observe that many smaller incidents have been omitted from the research and although it seems from the data that most events had many victims, most likely the opposite is true.

These are only two examples of wars where many people have died and human rights were violated. HRDAG does research in many more different wars, where data has to be analyzed carefully, such that the right results could be drawn. This way the right decisions could be made to guarantee that human rights will be respected as much as possible in times of war. ●

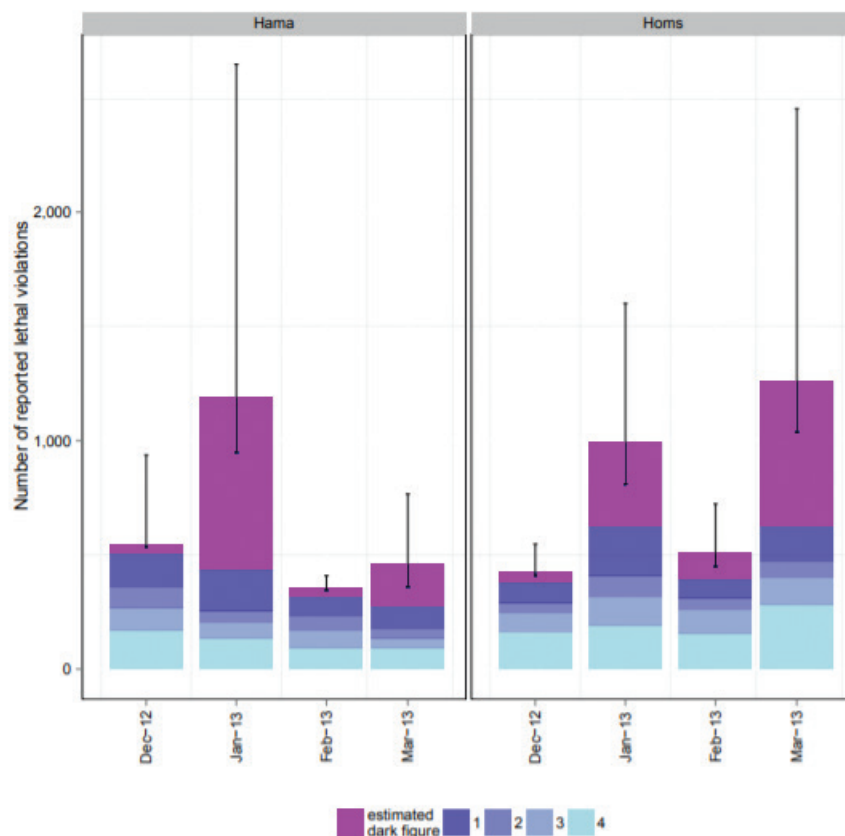


Figure 2

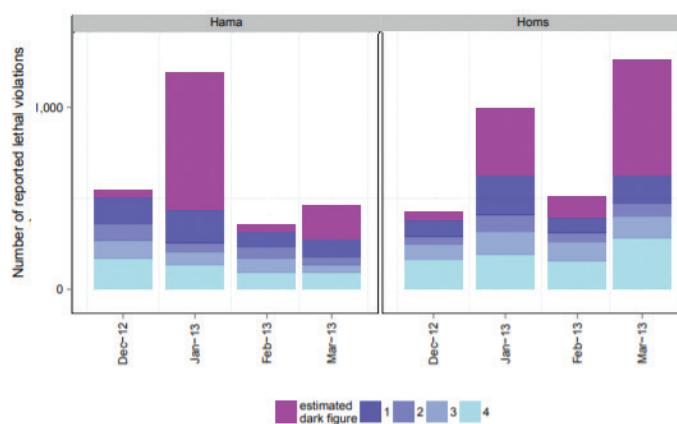


Figure 3

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# Beach Sports On a Sunny September Day

**T**he new academic year was just starting and everybody was doing their best to make sure that this time they really were keeping up with the lectures. Since studying is not the only important thing in a student life, the sport committee was already busy preparing their first activity of this year. Eventually, it is our task to keep all summer bodies in shape, so a sportive activity was required early in the new semester. How can this be better achieved than with a beach soccer and beach volleyball tournament?

The annual Sports Tournament was already planned in May. Because of a hot summer day with temperatures reaching above 30 degrees, the tournament was cancelled. Instead we decided to go to Stappegoor for some refreshment. Swimming and relaxing on the fields of Stappegoor was a much better "activity" than running around on a sports field that day.

Still we wanted to organize the annual Sports Tournament, so we gave it another try Friday September 13. Although it was on half way September, we made the optimistic decision to organize a beach soccer and beach volleyball tournament. That optimistic mindset was rewarded. Where the

day started a bit grey, it turned into a warm summer day. Together with enthusiastic econometricians this was the perfect combination for a successful tournament. After the organization put the goals in place, hung up the volleyball net, filled the balls with air and handed out the goodie bags, the tournament was ready to start.

The excited participants were arriving at the beach fields. One by one they joined the warming-up, which was nothing more than testing the goalkeeping skills of Hugo. Also the beach volleyball nets were tested. Due to a few 'Sjaak afhaaks' the teams had to be mixed up, which ended in a 'Board & Co' team and a 'Woeshoems' team with just one original Woeshoem present. Together with the Sports committee and FC Brakselona they completed the tournament.

With these four teams the first matches were played at 14:00 hours at the beach fields of the university. Each team played one beach soccer and one beach volleyball match against every other team. A match consisted of two halves of ten minutes with a small break in between. Very soon two things became clear. Firstly, playing beach soccer is very exhausting in the loose sand, in particular the second and the third game. And secondly, if you play beach volleyball



**Luuk Sommers**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 21

against team Board & Co and Patrick is serving, you will probably concede more than five points in a row. This led to some pretty exciting beach volleyball matches.

After two games we got a small break, where everybody could chat with each other while enjoying a refreshing Capri-Sun. The music waved over the beach fields and so did the relaxing vibes. Slowly, all econometricians got up to resume the remaining four rounds of the tournament. The further we got in the tournament, the more enthusiastic everybody got. All teams wanted to score the last possible points to get as high in the table as possible. After a few hours all matches were played and the winner was known. The Woeshoems were the winners and runners-up FC Brakselona and Board & Co had to settle for second and third place respectively. Some might notice that the Sport Committee did not make it into the top 3. Goodwill is the only reasonable answer for that. We do want to congratulate the Woeshoems with their first place!

Afterwards there was time to take a quick shower. We met at the Sports Café where we ended the day with some fries, snacks and some well-deserved beers. Although we did not have that many participants that day, it was a very successful sports tournament. We want to thank everybody that participated for their great enthusiasm and the sportive effort! ●



# MAK: Our MAKkers

**Many of us already know MAK (Mentoraat Activiteiten Commissie) because at one point in time we must pass the infamous course Statistics for Econometrics and MAK organizes a great tutoring course. But what are the other activities that MAK organizes that keeps the relative young board busy and who exactly are the members of the MAK board? We decided to find out. We sat down with the board on a Tuesday afternoon and asked them questions about their experiences as board members.**

written by **Constantijn Wessel, Marco Lorusso-Favia** and **Jevgeni Medvedev**

**What are the Activities that the MAK organizes? You might not know it but during your whole study process MAK is not only present when you need tutoring. MAK helps prospective students by organizing 'student for a day' events. When you have decided that you're going to study at Tilburg University, MAK supports you with the introduction days and they also organize the first day of the TOP-week. It's not all formal since the informal activities such as the MAK-beercantus and the lunches of the pass-mentoring program are organized by them. Nevertheless, the organization is undoubtedly most known for their organization of Crash Courses and Tutorships.**

**Why did you choose to do a board year at the MAK?**

**Eveline:** "I started by doing the first years committee and now I'm already active at MAK for nearly three years. It hasn't felt like I have been active for 3 years though! After being a member of MAK for three years it nearly felt natural to transition to a board position".

**Joël:** "After finishing my Pre-Master and Master I wanted to become active. When I saw an announcement on BlackBoard I thought this would be a great opportunity since I already liked to help students with their study path."

**Rick:** "I joined MAK as an external board member. This because I was really fond of doing a board year and noticed that MAK was a close group of friends. So I was happy to take the board position when the opportunity presented itself."

**What does the average day of a MAK board member look like?**

**Together:** "It starts by opening the rooms at 09:00 hours, at least one board member is present for this and the others join around 09:30 hours. In the morning we either have a board meeting or work with committees. Around 12:30 hours we have lunch at the rooms together with other 'MAKkers'. After finishing lunch, some people will do board member specific tasks such as meetings with committees or other departments. The board leaves the rooms at 18:30 hours. However, the day is not yet over for some... If we do not have the MAK-borrel on Thursday in the Philip the evening is filled with dinner with committees or other boards and will end most of the times with drinks. These can go on till quite late depending on how hungover we are willing to be the next day - since it all starts over at 09:00 hours."

**What have you learned so far during your board year?**

**Eveline:** "For me planning and setting priorities has been important. I have been so busy that I can't even remember what I did yesterday so making sure everything is planned is - as you can imagine - very important. Also learning how to approach and motivate other people properly is something that I have learned a lot about. For example: how are you going to motivate someone when he isn't motivated?"

**Rick:** "I have two committees and so far I have learned the most trying to coordinate them. Personally I think the biggest take-

away from my relatively short board year - since we have only been a board for two months - is letting people in the committee their thoughts be heard. Help them with the creative progress as that is sometimes needed in the committee. This can be hard because you want to give your own inputs and ideas but the input of others can also be very valuable."

**Joël:** "The most important thing I have learned so far is definitely: 'Delegeren kun je leren'. Which roughly translates to learn how to delegate. It is important as a board member to make sure you also let other people work and such that you don't have to do all the work but also because that is what these people are there for and want to do."

**What's the most fun part of your board year so far?**

**Together:** "Getting to know all sorts of people and participating in activities with them - such as cantusses and drinks - is probably the most attractive part of our board year. This is because of people being motivated and enthusiastic about the things they do. Once you get to know people it's easier to talk to them and have a good time together when you see each other again. We look forward to all the parties we get to attend and organize. The cherry on top of the icing is being the lustrum board of MAK. Getting to





From left to right: Rick (treasurer), Eveline (chairman) and Joël (educational affairs).

know other boards and have a few good laughs with them was also enjoyable. And last but not least: building your own board-culture with our own board having our own inside jokes and such is delightful."

**Since you're the MAK board you have seen your fair share of tutoring. What has been the worst/craziest experience tutoring or what is the worst/craziest type of student to tutor?**

**Joël:** "As educational affairs I am mainly responsible for the tutoring and I have to ask Rick about the refunds when people stop tutoring program. Sometimes students already call after two weeks telling me that they are quitting their study and thus they also auto-

matically quit their tutorship program. It is disappointing for me that they already gave up so quickly. We also once received a question whether we do tutoring for non-student such as VWO or HAVO school students."

**Rick:** "The craziest thing I have experienced is that someone called and told me that she had to stop because the University told her that she was not allowed to continue studying. I think the exam committee ruled that she wasn't allowed to continue. The worst type of student is the student that calls with very obvious questions while all the answers are available on the website. Someone once called with 20 different questions at 21:00 hours, by chance we still were in the room, whilst all the answer where on the website. "

**Eveline:** "The craziest thing I experienced is definitely mothers who call with questions regarding tutoring for the premaster for their presumably 20 year old sons or daughters. The student has already finished a Bachelor and then you still let your mother call, I found this shocking when it happened to me for the first time."

**What's the craziest thing you have learned about the other boardies of MAK?**

**Eveline:** "Joël doesn't drink alcohol but nevertheless he can still be hungover! Or that is at least what he tells us - probably has something to do with a sleep deficit though."

**Joël:** "Rick is very exuberant. I don't know many people who are as exuberant as Rick."

**Eveline:** "Agreed! I'm sitting opposite him and there isn't a moment in the day where he isn't moving around, it constantly distracts me." ●

**We also asked them some quick-fire questions. Here are the answers!**

	Eveline	Joël	Rick
<b>Favorite drink</b>	Wine	Coca Cola	Special beers
<b>Favorite food</b>	Nachos	Sandwich kroket with mustard	Stewed pears and salom
<b>Favorite restaurant</b>	Taphuys	Anvers	EVE
<b>Favorite club</b>	Boekanier	Polly	Polly or Boekanier
<b>Hobby</b>	Cooking	Photographing	Wine with Netflix
<b>Favorite co-board</b>	SBIT	SBIT	Marketing
<b>Favorite 50 cent candy shop?</b>	Lion	Coca Cola	Coca Cola and Snickers
<b>Favorite promotional item?</b>	MAK tattoo (MAKToo)	MAK phone cover	Social media board
<b>Board year in one word?</b>	Chaos	Hectic	Busy

# A Week to Never Forget

**T**he Tilburg Orientation Program (TOP) was a great way to meet a lot of my fellow students in an informal way. On Monday August 19 we had to register ourselves at the Olympia Sports building. Despite there being a very long queue, we did not have to wait long. After the registration we met up with our fellow group members and our TOP-mentors, who were dressed as kings. All of the members in your TOP-group are also in your workgroup, which is very nice and it makes your first week in a new environment much easier.

After we met each other, we all went to the university, where there was a short introduction by the MAK. After the introduction, which took close to two hours, we went to the Warande to play some games. There were some fun games, but unfortunately it rained, which made it not as fun as it could be. After this, everyone went to their room or the room of the group member where they were sleeping. Then everyone was happy, since we ate with our whole group at Spoorzone. Unfortunately, there was no more satay sauce when it was our turn to get food, so we had to enjoy our dry nasi. After everybody had eaten there was a party organized by the TOP-committee, which was a lot of fun. When the party was over we got to know the Tilburg nightlife for a little and had our first experience with "de Boekanier". We did not go home too late because the next morning there was a brunch organized by our TOP-daddies, as I'd like to call them.

On Tuesday, we had a beer cantus at the Boekanier, which was really fun. After the cantus we had a pub tour through the city center, which is not a very wise but surely fun combination. Wednesday morning

proved that it was not the best plan, since everyone had a hard time waking up. That day we even had another cantus! The start of the cantus was a bit dull but after the third beer it was really fun. This was until the song "Per Spoor" when everyone started to sit on the benches and pretended to row. We were so enthusiastic that our table could not keep up and collapsed. When the cantus was finished, everybody had drunk more than enough, so we had to plan a break for an hour. After the break we ordered some food, started drinking again and played some games. At the beginning of the night everyone had a bit of an after dinner- (and after-cantus-) dip. After a couple of drinks, the mood had returned and we played a lot of fun games. Around midnight we went to the 'Boekanier'. This time we made it until closing time, just like the rest of the week.

On Thursday we went to Vidar, the student rowing association of Tilburg. Here we got a little tour. When the tour was finished we could do some games that were associated



**Dahli Koskamp**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 19

with rowing, like going on an ergo-meter or actually rowing on the lake. We also could get some food, which was very delicious! Around 21:00 hours we got back to the city and enjoyed the nightlife again.

On Friday, the last day of the TOP-week, TOP had organized Swim & Chill at swimming pool Stappegoor but almost nobody of our group went, maybe alcohol related or just because they were tired. The weather was very nice so that couldn't be the reason. Eventually there were only four people of our group present, the rest was still sleeping or chilling at home. Probably because that evening we had the TOP-off party which started at 21:00 hours and afterwards there would be a party at Vidar that lasted until 06:00 hours. In other words, the TOP-week was a great week to informally get to know people from your study and make new friends! ●





**Pepijn Wissing**

*is currently a PhD student at the department of Econometrics & Operations Research in Tilburg. From 2012 to 2018, he studied at Tilburg University, finishing the Bachelor Econometrics & Operations Research and the Research Master in Business. His research interests include Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Algebra.*



# The Teacher's Perspective

**H**aving finished my Master's degree in 2018, the memory of my own student life is still quite fresh. One of the things I can vividly remember is how often I would find a certain situation, exam question, assignment, lecture or tutorial outrageously unfair and ridiculous. To my surprise, this sensation did not fade when I joined the EOR department, to start my PhD. Rather, the object of my frustration changed when I switched sides. Students, who seemingly just get annoyed when you try to challenge them into becoming a better (at least, more studied) version of themselves, are at least as tough to swallow. With this column, I am going to try to clear up some of this supposed misunderstanding, by offering a glimpse on our perspective.

Let us first consider a classic cause for student outrage: a difficult assignment. The most obvious thing to keep in mind when this happens is that your teacher is typically not trying to make you fail. Quite the opposite: any hard assignment or question is designed to make the student think about the course material and learn. Consider, for instance, the Computer Programming assignments that Ernst Roos and I designed when we were involved with the course. There were always two, and while the first one was significantly easier, it was always considered the harder of the two. Why? Because it was simply the first time that the average student was confronted with a programming assignment with many moving parts. This, in turn, meant that it took most students much more time than was realistically warranted by the small percentage of their grade the assignment determined... and meant that most students could not appreciate it all that much.

Now, let us fast forward to the part of the semester that the same students had just handed in their second (equally lengthy) assignment and were heading into their exams. For most students who put in the effort

to get through the assignments, two things were true: their grade so far was good and their skills had developed to the point that they would barely have to study for their exam. By suffering through the assignments, almost all students had engaged in a bunch of conversations about the material, written (and deleted) several hundred lines of code, visited online forums, and in doing so: learned. The point to take away from all of this is, in my opinion, that it is better (from a didactic point of view) to ask a difficult question and grade it leniently, than to ask an easy question.

The same principle holds for most difficult assignments; the teacher expects you to develop yourself in a way that makes your effort worth it. In a similar vein, the tendency to stop providing answers to homework exercises is seriously taking hold. This is not, as some students tend to believe, meant to annoy students, or because the teacher is too lazy to make the exercises himself. Instead, it is meant to boost tutorial attendance, and to encourage students to engage in some problem solving of their own, rather than looking at the solution too quickly. It may sound strange when a teacher tells you "have you googled your problem yet?", but puzzling your way to a solution using whatever resources are available is a very good way to develop your understanding of course materials, as well as brushing up on your basics.

So the next time you feel like your teacher is asking you for something totally unreasonable, just relax, breathe, stop throwing darts at his/her picture, and remember that it was at the very least intended to be there for the benefit of the student. Whether or not these intentions were realised, is of course another matter entirely. ●

## When 22.00 hours suddenly turns into a lovely bedtime

**H**ave you ever imagined how life is going to be after graduating, or wondered if there even is a life? You are probably not looking forward to work full-time. To be honest, I was not two years ago. Maybe I can reassure you it is not that bad at all, or is it? In this article I will tell you about my journey from a student to an employee.

First, let us go back in time a couple of years: to the beginning of my Master in September 2017. I was living the typical student life like most of you are living right now. Lots of parties, unorganized and the occasional exhausting 24/7 exam struggles. Also enjoying the everlasting freedom to stay in bed instead of going to a really important lecture. I probably did that too often in retrospect. At this point in time I knew it was my last year of the real student life, which depressed me then. So during this year I felt the urge to make the most of all the student privileges I experienced. But unexpectedly things changed, I noticed a kind of transition. The nights out were getting more and more of the same instead of exciting and new. At the same time, just studying for exams and ECTs without a true purpose became more and more tedious, I felt like I wanted to add value, to make a difference. These thoughts made me looking forward to the next step towards: "het burgerleven".

But first things first, after accomplishing all my Master courses quite untroublesome, I had to look for an internship. Because of this, I was pretty happy when I heard I was able to do my internship at Building Blocks in Tilburg. On the other hand, despite the fact that I wanted to stir things up, I was a little scared of working full-time. It took me a little while to get used to the new full-time working cadence, but my new colleagues and Building Blocks' epic culture helped a lot with that. I felt home really

quick. The thesis itself I was writing went with ups and downs but in general progress was good, thanks to all the emotional and practical support. However, such a long project which you basically do on your own is not my cup of tea. I enjoy fast paced team projects way more. This is why I enjoyed all the other cool projects I could do within Building Blocks more compared to my thesis, because they made real business impact. So when my thesis was finished after six months I was pretty happy.

Now a rather hectic period began. After finishing my thesis, which was already quite a task, I still had to defend it, which takes more time to prepare than one would expect. Next, I had to finish up all stuff at Building Blocks I was involved in and in the meantime, I was moving into an apartment which was pretty tiresome as you can imagine. On top of that, I was also preparing my holiday for after graduation. While figuring out all these activities I also got an offer to stay at Building Blocks after my travels. This really excited me because I enjoyed the like minded people, flexible culture and of course innovative and cool projects we do.

I will save you all my travel stories and fast forward two months. I returned to Building Blocks. This time not to write a thesis, but as a full-time data scientist. So now the answer you have all been wait-



**Tom Scholtze**

**Graduated in 2019**

Age: 25

ing for, how is life after graduating? To be honest, life after graduation is quite enjoyable: it is actually more flexible than student life. During student life you are captive by the structure, assignments and exams of the study. When you are graduated you can take matters into your own hands and do what you like. I had definitely not expected that two years ago, but it is a pleasant surprise. This freedom however, comes with a responsibility, namely you need to find a new purpose. For the last years your goal was to graduate and find a job maybe, but what after that? More practically, getting up early is not a problem, and it is nice to have no exams anymore. Lastly, it is relaxing that weekends are really weekends right now. It sounds cliché, but I think it is important that you like what you do, therefore I am happy where I am right now. In conclusion, life after graduating is way better than expected, I actually dare to say it is pretty good! ●

**“ To be honest, life after graduation is quite enjoyable: it is actually more flexible than student life. ”**



# How One Became an Econometrician

**I am very honored that I was asked to write a column in all issues of Nekst that will be produced this year. My plan is to tell you more about my background and from that perspective my motivation to do the things that I am doing within my profession**

To describe my background I like to start with my parents. They both were raised in Rotterdam and moved to the province of Zeeland after my father was asked to take a position as a mathematics teacher in Zierikzee. They married in April 1960 and nine months later, January 21, 1961, I was born.

Already from the first moment that I more or less knew how to read, I became obsessed by the rankings of several football leagues exposed in the daily newspaper. It for sure also helped that my all-time hero Johan Crujff started his glory days. This was also the time of the Olympic Games in Mexico 1968 during which I closely followed the development of the ranking of the medals that were won by the different countries. In the winter there were the all-round speed skating championships broadcasted on TV, where the final ranking was made based on a weighted average of individual achievements on the four different speed skating distances. And of course 1968 was the year that the first Dutch guy, Jan Janssen, won the Tour de France, and every evening I was sitting in front of the TV closely following how Jan Janssen moved more and more closer to first place, which he finally conquered on the last day.

To make a long story short, I was, and still am, very interested in everything that had to do with rankings consisting of numbers, and sports of course, but that is a different issue. Furthermore, already during my primary school days it turned out I was exceptional in doing calculus, while at the

same time I was clumsy (I still am, unfortunately!) and not interested at all in all kinds of technical issues. So, when during my high school years I was tested to find out which academic study I should choose, it was no surprise that the word "Econometrics" came up. At that time however, I never had heard of it before.

Although my father was kind of disappointed I did not move to Delft to study Mathematics, in 1979 I moved to Rotterdam to study Econometrics and my parents have supported me ever since. I still remember how shocked I was after the first day of following lectures. From my high school experience I thought I would understand quite soon everything about mathematics, but on the first day at university the speed during the mathematics courses was so enormous and the notation so overwhelming, that I really doubted whether I was able to do this study. I was not the only one thinking that because during the first day about half of the students in Econometrics moved to Economics. However, I did not give up and after some time I became used to my new environment in all respects. So, after one year propaedeutic, one year candidate, and three years doctoral I graduated in 1984.

During the year of 1984 I applied for several positions and ultimately Tilburg University, which at that time was called Katholieke Hogeschool Tilburg, decided I could work for them. At November 1, 1984, I had my first working day in an office on the fourth floor of what now is called the Koopmans building. Now it is 35 years later, and I am still working in an office on the fourth floor of the Koopmans building. In these 35 years I taught several courses, got my PhD, wrote more than one hundred scientific articles, supervised more than a dozen PhD students, of which several also became full professor already, and supervised many bachelor and master theses. All of this work gives me a lot of pleasure! ●

## Peter Kort

*is professor of dynamic optimization in economics and operations research. His main research topics are dynamics of the firm, investment under uncertainty and industrial organization. In particular, he is interested in how competition, dynamics and uncertainty affect the firm's investment and innovative behavior.*



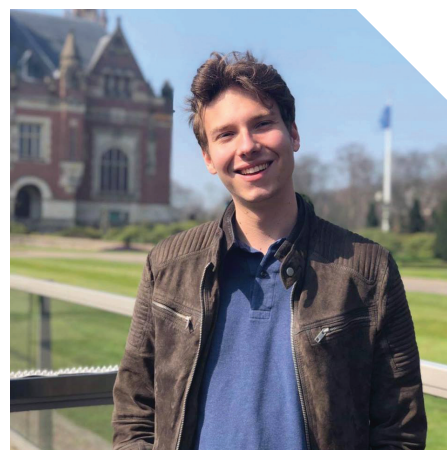
# Meet and Meat

**W**ednesday September 18, the day we, as a committee, had all been waiting for. It is of course very nice that the event you have worked towards with the entire committee has gone well and smoothly. The event itself was phenomenal with a great ambiance. The drinks went off without a hitch and you could hear the laughter all night long.

The day started with the committee gathering at Hofstede de Blaak, where we finished the last preparations. Ironically, we were all already hungry. Luckily, the bartender arrived with some delightful sandwiches to fill our bellies. That way we could give it our full 100% again. So after the preparations we started to greet our first guests. They came in with quite a tempo because we could not keep up. Once everyone was inside, I gave my speech to officially start the event. It was not a speech anymore actually, because the committee stripped half of the text. I was lucky to not end up with only the words "Welcome everyone.... thank you for your attention". After I welcomed everyone I gave the floor to Nathan from BearingPoint. After this presentation, the remaining company presentations were held. The presentations were very interesting. All companies had another aspect in which they separated themselves from all other firms. BearingPoint using their strategy consulting part, Celonis with Data mining, Vantage AI with artificial intelligence, Veneficus practicing data analytics and RTL of course as a media firm. As a committee, we were very proud of the various and fascinating companies that were present. They all gave their value to this epic business dinner. Even though these are all data science companies, they were all specialized in just another aspect which made them unique.

During these presentations, the companies had the opportunity to promote themselves. This was ideal together with the exclusive snacks the bartenders gave us. The snacks were not little fried snacks like fries and "bit-terballen" but food for the more bourgeoisie class. I do certainly not know the names of all these snacks anymore but they were certainly "special".

After this presentation round we could start with the dinner rounds. I had the opportunity to sit with BearingPoint, Vantage AI and RTL. Here we had a nice chat and enjoyed the very chic meals of Hofstede de Blaak where I certainly recommend you to have a meal. The dishes were astonishing. Everything went very smoothly and after all these rounds we could end the event quietly. At least that's what we thought. Almost everyone stayed until late to have a nice chat, even after the dinner. From this moment on we were just one hundred percent sure that this was a successful edition. At 23:00 hours I told everyone that they should go home



**Job Hoven**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 20

because there was almost no free beer left. I lied. There was plenty of beer and we made a deal where we would calculate the numbers of drinks afterwards. We spent some alone time with the committee and some other die-hard legends to have a pleasant end of this evening.

I am very proud of what we have established and it certainly was a successful evening. The food was (again) delicious and I could not recommend Hofstede de Blaak more for a next edition of the EOR Business dinner, but that would be up to the next committee. ●





# Dating at the speed of light

**O**n Wednesday September 4, all freshmen were invited to join the Introduction Activity. This was for some during their tutorials and as you all know those are the most important ones. Still there were around 40 freshmen motivated to get to know one another and to make this a fun afternoon.

Whilst walking to the door of the main room we were told to go to our already assigned team and to get ourselves ready for the quiz by grabbing a beer. After I arrived it took some time for everyone to be present. That was a good thing, because then I could get to know the first eight new people of that afternoon, my team.

After learning the names of all my group members the quiz started. The quiz was made up of different parts with different topics. There were simple questions: 'Which famous people were born in Tilburg?' There were ridiculous questions: 'How many times does Famke Louise say "Vroom" in her song?' And there were unanswerable questions: 'What is the routine of random unknown tribe?' Luckily Jaron led the quiz and you could score bonus points if you could figure out how Jaron's mind worked. My team did, but still ended last somehow.

Next up were games and speed dating. There was this really weird 'bitterbal' game. You learned more about the other players, what was the purpose of the afternoon I think, but there weren't actually rules. Because there was a lot of realistic fake food, a bitterbal is a Dutch snack, I got hungry. Then the organizing members reminded us of the unlimited fries and snacks after the speed dating.

We walked back to the common room, which was lit by candles and where a relaxing song could be heard. I am sure I could have found the love of my life there. If only they matched me with a girl. All the gents I met were nice and it was fun to meet them, but none of them was my dream woman. The seniors did really do their best to help us get to know each other. They even made a list with questions that you could use if you didn't have inspiration yourself anymore. Speed dating was entertaining, but talking on an empty stomach is never good, so luckily food was ready to be served.

When people say the word 'unlimited' I am always sceptical. Like if you ever been to one of those places where they have unlimited free beer, the beer is almost never unlimited. But here there were unlimited fries and unlimited snacks. I had five snacks and several portions of fries and I wasn't the only one



**Wim van Duuren**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 18

who ate that much. Here everyone talked with everyone. People who you just met and people who you already knew. Because what's a better way to socialize then over unlimited fries and snacks?

Afterwards the activity officially ended, but about half of the people stayed to play more games and drink more beer. Here you could meet the people your friends met and play games altogether. A quote from one of the organizing members is: 'You are with half the people of last year, but you drank twice the amount of beer.' For some it was a bit too much beer, but most of us just had a really good time. Ever played drunk twister? The Introduction Activity was a successful one. Freshmen got to know each other. We drank a lot of beer, ate a lot of fries and played some wonderful games. Applause to everyone who organized and everyone who participated in the first Freshmen Activity. ●





ASSET



Econometrics



f.l.t.r: Britte Kragten (Internal Affairs), Bastiaan Schutte (Treasurer), Denise Jacobs (Chairman), Marieke Derks (Secretary), Ricardo van Belzen (External Affairs)



# Board 2019-2020





# Onboard with the Board!

At the time we were announced as the new board, the board of 2018-2019 was still called the current board, abbreviated as HB in Dutch and we, the board of 2019-2020, were called candidate board, KB in Dutch. Every time, we were subtly reminded of the fact that we were not the actual board yet. Luckily, we have been installed on September 10 and we could not be happier to finally become the current board, HB. At the same time, the current board became the old board. They have all returned to their studies now, but they have learned quite a lot the past year and we were very curious about how they have experienced their board year. So it was time to ask the former board some questions.

written by **Marieke Derks**

**Let's begin with the begin and look back at this year with each other. Was your board year as you expected it to be?**

**Jelle:** "Exactly as I expected, actually. However I really did not expect to be in a serious relationship, with Femke."

**Wenxin:** "Yes, the same holds for me."

**Nina:** "I actually did not really expect it to be this much work. I expected more time to chill."

**Joris:** "It took me more energy than I would have thought before."

**Wenxin:** "I agree!"

**Jelle:** "I thought I would spend more money. I did better than expected!"

**Quirien:** "I had expected to have more time to initiate new ideas or make a change, in addition to just keeping the association up and running."

**Who or what surprised you the most in your board year?**

**Jelle:** "That Quirien has such a hot sister, haha."

**Joris:** "Jelle's 'burgerlijkheid' and Quirien's very big passion for elephants."

**Wenxin:** "Oh, I thought of something! My surprise party!"

**Joris:** "The speed of the computers at the rooms."

**Nina:** "How hyperactive Quirien is. Everything goes crazy when Quirien enters a room."

**Can you describe your Board year in one word?**

**Nina:** "Nope."

**\*Silence\***

"Let's make a sentence together..."

**Wenxin:** "It..."

**Joris:** "was..."

**Nina:** "a..."

**Quirien:** "busy..."

**Nina:** "Why would you say that! You could have said 'amazing' or

something like that."

**Jelle:** "...year."

**You can also choose five words together?**

**Nina:** "Fun, busy, lustrum, cozy."

**Joris:** "Oh, now I know a word: Time. Everyone can interpret this for him or herself."

**You had to be almost 24/7 with four other new people. What are typical characteristics of every board member?**

**Nina:** "Jelle always had to play some music."

**Wenxin:** "Joris says a lot of 'uhhh' and Jelle eats a lot of noodles. Nina her Limburgish background can be seen in a lot of different (weird) ways."

**Jelle:** "Sometimes, you can just tell a whole story to Wenxin and then it turns out she was just staring at the wall and not



listening at all, very frustrating!"

**Wenxin:** "I found out how moody I can become because of a slow computer."

**Joris:** "I have worked on my own laptop for a month because the computers were that slow."

#### What did you really not expect other board members to do?

**Nina:** "Joris and Quirien have stayed overnight at the rooms."

**Quirien:** "That Jelle would tear out of his suit!"

**Joris:** "Quirien was laying on the ground while wearing his suit."

**Nina:** "Quirien did not gain as much weight as we all had expected!"

#### What is the most important thing you learned during your board year?

**Joris:** "To collaborate."

**Jelle:** "I have learned that I like to have a neat desk. My room is always a mess but I do actually like a neat working place."

**Everyone:** "Hahaha your working place has never been neat!"

**Joris:** "It is important to also have a lot of fun."

**Jelle:** "I have learned that you also have to work..."

**Wenxin:** "I learned to really appreciate my spare time."

**Nina:** "I do not like to play games for a complete afternoon."

**Quirien:** "There are a lot of nice people within Asset who are not from Astrics. I really liked all the other Asset boardies."

#### What is the thing you are most proud of?

**Joris:** "Hackathon Tilburg and everything that came with it. It was a complete new event. And of course the Lustrum!"

**Wenxin:** "IBT 2018, the IBT committee and the Nekst editions of last year!"

**Nina:** "Not one thing in particular, but we have made it an amazing year and I think we did a great job! But of course also the entire Lustrum week!"

**Jelle:** "That we have set up a new committee, the Econometricians for Society committee! I have also learned to drink wine, which I am very proud of."

**Quirien:** "The long term policy"

#### Which event did you like the most?

**Nina:** "AMW and the Lustrum Gala."

**Joris:** "Also the Lustrum Gala, actually that whole Lustrum week."

**Quirien:** "The IBT!"

**Wenxin:** "I agree with Quirien, because of the amazing group of participants and I loved the city, Seoul."



**Quirien** is the whirlwind of the board. When he enters the room, he turns everything upside down.

**Joris** is the gust of wind that should not be underestimated.



**Wenxin** is the dreamy cloud who is very focused when she is working on stuff.

**Nina** is the strong summer storm whose warm presence did not go unnoticed.



**Jelle** is the playful and friendly breeze of air who kept everyone together.

**Of course your board year was a little more special because of the Lustrum. What do you think was different for you because of this?**

**Quirien:** "For a year, you work towards that special week, everything is characterized by this moment, forty years of amazingness."

**Wenxin:** "It was a lot of extra work, but totally worth it. It was extra special because we could look back at forty years Asset | Econometrics and all the Lustrum celebrations."

**If you had a time machine, what would you have done different this year?**

**Wenxin:** "I would have started earlier with writing the minutes of the DMM."

**Nina:** "I would not do anything different during the year, but I would have done it during my Bachelor instead of after. Now I really have to get used to following courses again, while I already have to do a lot of projects."

**Now we are talking about time traveling, where do you see the rest of your board in 10 years?**

**Nina:** "We will not see Quirien anymore,

he is just working all the time."

**Quirien:** "No, after ten years I am already retired! My policy is to work for only nine years and then retire."

**Nina:** "I am going to live together with my boyfriend!"

**Wenxin:** "I think Joris is working full time by a bank and he has gotten his first kid with Anouk."

**Nina:** "Jelle has still not finished his study..."

**Joris:** "No, Jelle has started a PhD!"

**Nina:** "No, sports instructor!"

**Wenxin:** "I do think it will be something totally different!"

**Nina:** "For myself, I could see myself working at a kindergarten."

**Joris:** "Haha, and Wenxin went back to China!"

**Nina:** "No, I think she has just everything worked out for her. Including a full time job."

**Jelle:** "Maybe doing some yogaaa? Oh by the way, Quirien is completely bald within two years!"

**What was your typical eating habit at the rooms?**

**Jelle:** "Pringles and Bueno for breakfast and noodles for lunch (which was often my breakfast as well)."

**Joris:** "Pringles and Ice Tea Green."

**Wenxin:** "When I was hungover I often bought Dubbelfris. Oh, and I always hoped that someone would be too late and had to treat us "kroketten"!"

**Quirien:** "My eating habit was eating nothing, I just forgot to."

**Joris:** "A triangular bun with chicken samba spread





and snack tomatoes! Oh and cucumbers! Everyone always ate cucumbers."

**Nina:** "Buns with avocado, pepper and salt and tomato."

#### **What is your favorite Quatsch of the year?**

**Wenxin:** "Without Jelle, the debit card is useless and without the debit card, Jelle is useless. Joris said this haha! Jelle said: 'name a famous lawyer' (Advocaat in Dutch) and Nina said: Dick Advocaat (which is a famous soccer coach)."

**Nina:** "I never say stupid things... but Quirien once said: 'the capital of Belgium is Antwerp, right?'"

**Jelle:** "Nina said: 'It is not that bad to sit in and smell your own poop'"

#### **What is your favourite Astrics promo item?**

**Jelle:** "My favorite is the jacket I won during the KOALA weekend. That jacket is really old."

**Joris:** "Mine is the Astrics bathrobe!"

**Nina:** "I really liked the Astrics cotton bags during the year, but now I do not use them anymore."

**Quirien:** "The Astrics gloves."

**Wenxin:** "The Astrics towel!"

#### **What is the most fun object you stole from another department?**

**Nina:** "I have never done that, I thought it was a very stupid thing."

**Jelle:** "Femke."

**Everyone:** "Aww cute."

**Joris and Quirien:** "The cup-a-soup mill! But Jelle stole that."

**Quirien:** "Tux!"

**Joris:** "The A&F flag during the CE, just before I started my board year. I took off my shirt so I would not be noticed hahaha. An Astrics blue shirt would stand out too much of course."

**Jelle:** "I have set the S&L flag on fire."

#### **Describe your worst hangover at the rooms.**

**Quirien:** "Oh that one I remember! The day after the announcement of the new board of S&L."

**Nina:** "I think the day that Wenxin tickled us both, Jelle."

**Wenxin:** "My worst was after the male/female activity. I was at the rooms at 13.00 hours."

**Joris:** "The day after the ASMA (Asset Secret Male Activity). But I managed to be at the rooms at 9.00 hours and got on the train at 10.30 hours!"

**Jelle:** "Yes, the 'tickling day' was my worst as well. It was the day after the Christmas Dinner."

#### **What is your favourite candy shop snack?**

**Wenxin:** "I already thought about this, the Dove caramel sweets, they were always gone!"

**Joris:** "Ice Tea Green."

**Nina:** "Bueno."

**Jelle:** "Paprika pringles, Bueno, Dove caramel, Fristi and Ice Tea Green."

**Quirien:** "Pringles! And white Snickers."

#### **Now you are finally done with the board year.**

##### **What are your plans for the upcoming year?**

**Wenxin:** "I am going on exchange to Seoul!"

**Jelle:** "Finish my Bachelor EOR and play tennis."

**Quirien:** "Finish my Master! Also joining some committees, at Asset | SBIT and Asset | Accounting & Finance. After that, the real working life will start."

**Joris:** "Master, working for 'de Kleine Consultant' and my job."

**Nina:** "Studying (Master), working and sleeping! However, sleeping is still not really going strong."

##### **Is there any advice you would give to the new board?**

**Nina:** "Enjoy it guys. And really talk with each other!"

**Joris:** "Work hard, but not too hard."

**Jelle:** "Don't be afraid to try out new things. Do your own things. Do not copy everything from last year even though we have a lot of traditions."

**Wenxin:** "Make sure to separate what is actually important from what is less important. Sometimes you will worry too much about something that only a few people will notice in the end. Make time for your personal life, even though it may not look like it will fit your busy agenda. And open up to new people during events, as you might be the one making the difference for them."

**Quirien:** "Make sure you believe in the things you do." ●

## Started from the Bottom, Now We're Here

**T**he board of 2018-2019 came with the idea of introducing a new committee due to the increase of active members. The idea of this committee was to help the community. I immediately said yes, when Nina called me with the question if I would join this committee. Unfortunately, as the chairman of this new committee, I was unable to attend the first meeting. But in this first meeting this committee got his name, the Econometricians for Society. I could not wish for a better name.

We knew that we needed our members to collect some money, to give back to the society. The question we had to ask ourselves was: "In which way would we maximize our utility?". Since you can find every econometrician at least once a week in front of 'het radje' at 'De Boekanier', we knew that introducing 'het radje van Efs' would be a great hit! Of course we had to make a list of all our prizes. We, as the committee, contacted all kinds of businesses with some great results. Voltage sponsored some vouchers worth of € 50,00 (!), Cafe Bolle sponsored some beers and Happy Italy sponsored some free meals and many more! For just € 5,00, you could spin the wheel and win these great prizes.

"Selling food!", is what we thought next during a meeting. Everybody loves food, so this shouldn't be a problem. That is why we sold more than 80 of our famous "broodje knakworst" during one of our monthly drinks. Since this was a great success, we decided to sell more stuff (next to our 'radje'). Because AMW (Active Members Weekend) was just in a few weeks, we asked the committee if we could use their event to contribute to society. During this weekend it would be hard to use our 'radje', that is why we sold some boxes of Flugel during AMW. With a simple dash system people could buy these delicious treats. I liked these little duck

drinks so much, I ended up buying almost half of them. All of this resulted in a great weekend.

One of the next iconic events of Asset | Econometrics was the Beer Games Drink. During this monthly drink, teams compete with each other to be the best at drinking their beers in one go. These teams have to follow a ladder competition, so every team can lose at every time. That's why we made a Toto. Here, you could bet on a team, with your corresponding expected payoff. Some members placed a bet on their team, or especially on another team since they didn't have confidence in their own team.

After all these successful events, we had the opportunity to organise an event ourselves. That is why we contacted the Kievitshorst, a retirement home in Tilburg. We wanted to organise an event together with them. This resulted in a lovely walk with the elderly living there, with more than 20 Econometricians, through the Warande. We stopped at the petting zoo, where we had the choice of various pastries with a cup of tea or coffee. Seeing all



Pierre Verhulst

Master BAOR

Age: 22

these elderly smile, that is why we do this. During our year, we also made plans for the future, that's why we contacted "Sint in Tilburg". So the committee of this year has the opportunity to organize an event even in the first semester! We already discussed some lovely ideas, but it's up to the next committee what to organize.

All in all, I want to thank the entire committee for last year. We have achieved some very nice results, which we made from scratch. In addition, we have given the next committee a good foundation for the upcoming academic year. Because of this, we are very curious to see what the committee will manage to achieve in this upcoming year. ●





# A Better World in 12 Hours

**A** couple of weeks prior to the event I first doubted whether I should register myself for the event as I was relatively busy that period with a lot of deadlines, but at some point I was convinced as I definitely wanted to be present at the first edition of the Hackathon Tilburg and I would not regret this at all!

Finally the Hackathon Tilburg was there. Tuesday October 1, it was time for the first Hackathon Tilburg. An event in which you have to solve a business case within 12 hours offered by the participating companies.

The day started early in the morning on a rainy day. After having a cup of coffee to warm ourselves we gathered at the theatre of Loft where the introduction of the day began. At first we received an introduction by the main partner from the day, ABN AMRO, where they presented their case and how sustainability plays an enormous role in their corporate strategy. They told us about how they use data science to create more sustainable houses. Secondly, we received

a talk by Alliander, the other participating company that day. They also presented their sustainable solutions to their energy business.

Subsequent to the introduction of the day we dived deeper into the cases and I participated in the business case of ABN Amro. We received an extended introduction to the case and afterwards we could really start working on the case in a groups of four people. Usually you are working with four Econometrics students on such kind of problems, but at this day students from all different backgrounds were present. To start we had to choose our favourite programming language in which we would solve the problem. Since we were all more experienced with R, the choice was relatively obvious. After downloading the data (which took longer than we hoped unfortunately) we first tried to get more insight into the data, which took us quite some time. Once this was done we performed several methods to find the best results. The aim was to provide predictions about a house renovation based on data from many bank account owners. Halfway the day we had time for a nice



**Joris Piree**

**Master EOR**

Age: 22

lunch, at least, if we took time for it. Because the longer we took for the lunch, the less time we had for working on our case. Therefore we ate as fast as we could to quickly return to our laptops and start solving the problem again.

By the end of the afternoon we had to start working towards our final results and presentations as they had to be finished by 19:00 hours. Meanwhile, we also had to opportunity to eat our dinner, but obviously we did not take a lot of time for that, as we wanted to win the competition. Unfortunately, by the time we had to hand in our results, the laptop with all the programs stopped working and we were not able to present our best results. Luckily, we could see a lot of other nice outcomes generated by the other groups and the solution they gave to the case were truly remarkable. At the end of the day we had a drink with all people present at the day and the winners of the two cases were announced, which received a price.

In conclusion, it was a very successful first edition of the Hackathon Tilburg in my opinion and for me it was also very special, as I was part of this committee from the start during my board year and I am very proud of the committee to see what they have set up. ●



# From Liberal Arts and Sciences to Econometrics and Operations Research

written by **Dirk Baltussen** and **Wenxin Lin**

**O**n October 15, we had the pleasure to interview dr. Jochem de Bresser, assistant professor at the Department of Econometrics and Operations Research. He was born in Utrecht, but he spent most of his youth in Handel, a village close to Eindhoven. Before he started working at Tilburg University he worked at the University of Groningen. You may know him from the Master course 'Empirical Finance', but he also teaches the course 'Statistics for Pre-master' and supervises Master theses.

After high school, he really did not know what he wanted to become, so he went looking for a study with many possibilities afterwards and ended up with 'Liberal Arts and Sciences'. Because he was too late to sign up for the Bachelor in Utrecht, he chose to do the Bachelor at Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg. He chose to do eight economics courses and a minor in statistics and mathematics. This helped him to start with the Master Economics and later also the Research Master, both at Tilburg University.

The year de Bresser started at Roosevelt Academy was the first year of the University in Middelburg. He started with 110 other students, who all lived in the same street on the campus. He lived with a total of ten persons in a house and because everybody lived on the campus, they already had a really nice group since the start of the year. After his Bachelor he went to Tilburg to start with a Master. There was a big difference between Tilburg and Middelburg. In Middelburg the school tried to occupy the students 60 hours per week. When he went

to Tilburg he immediately noticed that he had to study far less in comparison with Middelburg. In Tilburg he also moved into a student house. As a student you obviously want to go out sometimes and for them 'de Lamme Goedzak', Le Clochard or Philip was the place to be on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

During his student life, de Bresser did not join a study association, such as Asset, or a student association. In Middelburg there were almost no associations like this, because the school was so new. In Tilburg he decided not to join an association because he would only be there for a year. However, if he had the chance to go back in time he would probably choose to join a student association during his time in Tilburg. Especially after hearing stories from his younger sisters, who enjoyed student life in Utrecht and Maastricht. In his spare time he mostly enjoyed sporting, either individually at the gym or with friends, something he still enjoys to do these days.

Throughout the summer holidays he often had side jobs like working in the catering or helping on a garbage truck. The most exciting job during his study time was helping at a yearly congress for haematology. A friend of de Bresser was involved in the organization of these congresses, which gave him the opportunity to work here. Every year the congress would take place in a different city in Europe, meaning that he could travel to cities like Copenhagen and Paris for his work. During these weeks he often had time during the day to explore the city, which made his job the perfect mini-vacation.

When he was younger and when he lived in Middelburg he was skating a lot. He still really loves the sport, but nowadays it has changed from active skating to passive skating. He doesn't skate anymore, but still goes to tournaments to watch the sport. When he started in Tilburg he moved from skating to fitness and boxing. Now, ten years later he is still boxing and together with his wife, he started with a new sport: bouldering.

He and his wife met during his time as a student at the Roosevelt Academy in Mid-





delburg. They really like to travel together and especially to mountain regions, since here they can hike and next time maybe even boulder together, which they love to do. She is from Romania and her family still lives there, which means they go there for a visit every year as well. They would love to make a camper roundtrip in the United States someday. Next to travelling, de Bresser and his wife enjoy going to the art house cinema and visiting the yearly Jazz Festival in Den Bosch. Their movie and TV preferences go out to documentaries, non-Hollywood movies and Netflix series like The Crown and Narcos. And of course, being an econometrician, playing board games is one of his favorite things to do as well.

Around Christmas de Bresser and his wife organize every year a dinner together with a group of friends and every year another couple gets to be the host. He and his wife enjoy cooking, so for their birthday in November they received a luxurious cooking workshop from their friends. But what they didn't know was that their friends were expecting the courses they had learned to cook to be served during the Christmas dinner. They spent three whole days preparing the food, since cooking for twelve people takes a lot longer than they initially thought it would. Next time, they probably wouldn't put this much effort in again, but luckily the dishes turned out to be very delicious.

A typical working day starts with preparing all education related matters, since these tasks need to be finished before the lectures. Usually de Bresser works on two projects and alternates between these. A large part of his day consists of working on his laptop and doing research. One of the things that makes the job very exciting for him is going to international congresses and talking with people from all over the world about their working field. He really likes the fact that new projects constantly come to light and he is able to get creative with these.

After finishing your study Econometrics and Operations Research, he believes there are many different sectors in which you

can work because of the broad range of content of our study. He personally thinks it is very interesting to use a combination of statistics and economics to explain or predict human behavior. One of the most important developments in his working field is the large availability of data nowadays. Data is automatically being generated by services like Spotify and webshops and we are able to scrape data from the internet ourselves. This large amount of data offers a lot more opportunities for research.

When we asked de Bresser what profession he would choose if he had to choose another career path, he had to think for a bit. It is difficult to come up with a similar profession that carries the same amount of freedom as he currently has. De Dutch Central Bank could maybe be a good possibility, but working there on the research department does have a lot in common with working at Tilburg University. You would get some of the topics for your research from the government, but you would also be able to decide many of your research topics yourself. A whole different thing de Bresser would like to do is to coach children with all kinds of problems by doing sports. In his opinion, the direct impact you have on somebody can make you feel really happy. This will probably be more a dream than reality in the future, because in many cases you will have to be educated to do this work.

When we arrive at the final question of this interview: "What advice would you give Econometrics students in Tilburg based on your own experiences?" his answer is to have fun next to your study. After hearing that other students have to do more extracurricular activities next to their study nowadays and get stressed out because of this, he believes that econometricians probably do not have to worry about these kind of things. Econometricians almost always end up successfully, so make sure to enjoy your time as a student as much as possible. ●



**dr. Jochem de Bresser**

## **Bert & Ernie Questions**

**Computer/Pencil and paper**  
**Listening/Speaking**  
**Cinema/Theater**  
**Beer/Wine**  
**Middelburg/Tilburg**  
**Calculator/Mental calculation**

# The European Championship of Bridge for Students

written by **Manon Belterman**

“My grandma plays that game every week...” and “bridge is only for old people...” are quotes that we as young bridge players hear quite often. Why is bridge only associated with retirement and considered to be boring? Almost all econometricians love playing games, especially card games, and all econometricians like statistics. Bridge is the best thinkable combination of these two aspects. The card game involves many statistical aspects and will always be a challenging mind game.

My parents have played bridge every week since I was young. In my younger years I was not interested in learning the game, since I considered bridge to be too serious for me. I expected the game to be boring like all other youngsters do, but I did like other card games which turned out to be familiar to bridge. I did play the card game ‘rikken’ quite often in which obtaining tricks is one of the aspects. This principle is also important in bridge. A few years ago I became interested in bridge and I wanted to change my opinion of the image of the game. Bridge is a very social game in which partnership is very important. The game is played by four players. Two people playing as partners against the other two. Partners sit opposite to each other. I recognized many statistic features in the game which attracted my attention. When playing I really enjoyed the

game and I decided to write my bachelor thesis about bridge. I analysed the skill level of the game, whether it is a game of chance or a game of skill. It turned out that a high level of skill is involved in bridge. In addition I calculated the probabilities on possible hand patterns. Every player obtains thirteen cards from a standard 52-card deck. There are four suits: spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs. Every suit consists of thirteen cards. In 21.55% of all cases a hand with thirteen cards is 4-4-3-2 distributed. One example then is 4 spades, 4 hearts, 3 diamonds, and 2 clubs. Of course the suits can differ. This distribution pattern of 4-4-3-2 is the most frequently occurring hand pattern. The bridge game will never get boring, since it is almost impossible to get exactly the same hands twice in your life.

One year ago I told Anouk Casparie about the card game, but she reacted the same as most others: “my grandma plays it...” I convinced her that the game is really worth playing and the image that it has does not meet reality! It is way more fun than I expected in advance! I recommended the bridge course that is given by Ruud Hendrickx. He is not only a professor but also an advanced bridge player. During the course of seven weeks you will learn the basic principles of bridge and after these lessons you are able to play it yourself! Anouk attended these lessons from Ruud Hendrickx and she

really got infected by the bridge virus. We now play bridge at Theseus in Tilburg, which is very popular among students. There is a nice informal atmosphere, always nice music playing and you can have some drinks while playing. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday there will be played from 20:00 hours. Every last Friday of the month a special pop quiz is organized after playing the bridge games. Each month a special bridge training is organized for youngsters in Utrecht. Here we get lessons from the best bridge players of the Netherlands. At one of the trainings Anouk and I met Floris Tulner and Tim van den Essen, who are both studying in Eindhoven and also like to play bridge. Together we attended different bridge tournaments in the Netherlands. We went for example to Alkmaar to play the ‘Kaasstad’ tournament where we all won a typical Dutch cheese!

The four of us were elected to represent The Netherlands, more specifically Tilburg University, at the European Championship bridge for students. The EUSA mind sport games took place at the University of Physical Education in the city centre of Budapest from July 24 until July 28. We were honored to represent The Netherlands at an international bridge tournament while we only have few years of bridge experience.

We decided to visit the city of Budapest before the tournament started. This city is





really worth a visit! Of course we didn't want to go to Budapest only for the bridge tournament, of course we also did want to see the highlights of the city. We had a guided tour through the city by bike and climbed to the famous viewing point. In the evening we went to some typical ruin bars, where we had a lot of fun! The day before the tournament really began, we went to the Szechenyi Spa. This is one of the largest bathhouses in Budapest. Here we have had a full day of relaxing in order to be completely prepared to start the tournament.

We had four complete days of playing, which all started at 09:00 hours at the University of Physical Education. We played against students from universities in Belgium, Italy, Germany, Turkey, and many more European countries. Participating in this tournament was a wonderful experience! We played almost eight hours a day, which is quite a lot, but we really liked it! Since it was an official tournament, we needed to play with screens. This means that you couldn't see your partner and one of the opponents. Screens are used in order to prevent cheating. Otherwise partners could sign to each other which cards they have and which suit is the longest. Usually we don't play

with screens, so it felt a bit strange and uncomfortable. However, we got used to it! Anouk and I were kind to each other throughout the whole tournament, but it turned out that this is not always the case. One Italian guy was really mad at his partner and we felt lucky that we couldn't understand anything of their Italian conversation! This could also be something typically Italian... We have had a great time during the plays, but we also enjoyed our free time together with the other participants. We have had lots of fun in the evenings with the Belgian team! Next to the bridge competition, there was also a competition in chess at the same time. In our free time we had some exciting lessons from the world's best chess players from Armenia. They were willing to teach us the game which was quite cool. After the four days of playing bridge, the tournament ended with a luxury dinner for all participants and afterwards there was a great party at the university. It was fun to be together with all teams we played against. It is unbelievable to get the opportunity of playing at a European Championship! A few years ago I would have never believed that I joined the European Championship bridge for students in Budapest! ●



## BUDAPEST 2019

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES  
BRIDGE AND CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP



**Does the bridge game sound interesting to you? Or do you want to change your judgment of the card game? Don't hesitate to subscribe for the bridge course of Ruud Hendrickx! The course will start in February 2020. Please contact Anouk Casparie for more information!**



From left to right: Floris Tulner, Manon Belterman, Tim van den Essen, and Anouk Casparie.

# New Year, New Board, Old Habits

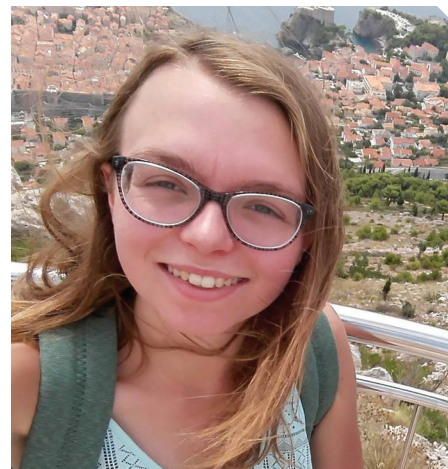
**A**s always, the Department Members Meeting (DMM) took place at the beginning of the year. For Asset | Econometrics, and in particular the old and new board members of Asset | Econometrics, it is the most influential day of their year. This year the DMM took place on September 10 and about 25 members were there to see the change of the board members. At the Constitution Drink, that took place after the DMM, the new board could receive a lot more congratulations.

The evening started with the evaluation of the past year. The board told us what goals they reached, what they have done in the past year and which ideas had not worked out. The treasurer presented the final realization of the year. For the members this was the chance to ask why everything went this year as it went, and why the board has chosen to do the things that it has done. Luckily, there were not many questions or critical comments. Also the board of advisors, represented by Björn Floor, and the financial board, represented by Stephan Sparreboom, had no further comments. So the board year of Quirien Raat, Wenxin Lin, Jelle Sieben, Nina Cuypers and Joris Piree has been closed successfully, for now, but we will come back on that later.

During the DMM all committees were thanked for their contributions to the association and organizing the various events throughout the past year. After this formal part, it was time for a break, and what is a break in the DMM without the famous 'kersenflappen' (Cherry turnovers). The new board decided to also get some 'appelflappen' (Apple turnovers). Breaking this DMM tradition led to some friction upon the econometricians, but after all they were happy that they got something to eat.

Now it was time for the most exciting part. All members could vote whether they want the candidate board to become the new board for 2019-2020. Luckily nobody voted against this candidate board and Denise Jacobs, Marieke Derks, Bastiaan Schutte, Britte Kragten, Ricardo van Belzen got installed as the new board. They presented their plans for the upcoming year and the treasurer explained their budget plan. There were some questions and suggestions given by the members, given the plans that the new board had just announced, but nobody had concerning complaints.

At the end of a DMM, the chairman always asks whether there are still questions. The old board replied with some nice advice and fun facts about the new board.



**Jasmijn Aartsen**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 21

They already wanted to take their revenge on what would happen in the evening. One by one the flaws and faults during the past month of the new board members were pointed out by the old board. When you have stayed for the rest of the evening you would understand why they "deserved" this.

Because of the fast DMM, we all were in time for the constitution drink afterwards. Unfortunately, the new board had to get ready first. So the thirsty members had to wait, while the free beer was handed out. After a few minutes, while drinking those free beers, the boards of other associations were entering the room to congratulate the new board and say goodbye to the old one. When the whole room was filled, the only part of the evening the old board wasn't enthusiastic about started.

One by one the old board members got roasted, by all the weird things they did during their board year. Supported by video evidence it was hilarious for us but maybe a bit embarrassing for the now former board. Luckily they could also laugh about it and now it was also deserved what they did to the new board at the end of the DMM.

Now the party had really started and the later it got, the more people left until only econometricians were left. We also left to go to the Boekanier, where we celebrated our new board until the early hours. Good luck and have lots of fun Board 2019-2020! ●







The National Econometricians Sport Tournament - Landelijke Econometristen Sport Toernooi (LEST) - is an annual event. Every year it is organized by a different Econometrics study association. This year it has been Scope | Vectum's turn. We would like to thank them for the well organized tournament.



# Let's Talk!

You may be reading this while enjoying a relaxing cup of tea. If you are drinking Pickwick tea, have a quick look at the label. It may contain a simple question. Short questions may tell a lot about a person. You may think of stories that you otherwise wouldn't have memorized. That is why I set off to talk to our fellow econometricians using Pickwick's tea topics as questions. This Let's Talk contains some of the questions I asked and the memorable, funny and maybe even slightly embarrassing answers that our members responded.

written by **Juliëtte Tillie**

## **What animal would you choose to be for a day?**

"A dolphin, they seem to have so much fun and be free, as long as they are not caught of course."

- Dahli, 19 years old

## **What is the longest time that you were awake?**

"That must have been 30 hours or so during the night shift of the Batavierenrace. It was so much fun, I would really recommend it, but it is tiring"

- Britte, 20 years old

## **What blunder does still haunt you in your dreams?**

"When I was in 5th grade of primary school we had to all craft paper fish bowls. The boy next to me had put all his effort in making guppies and laid them on a paper sheet. When I walked by I breathed so violently that all his guppies flew away onto the ground. He was quite pissed."

- Ikie, 19 years old

## **If you could tell the world one thing, what would you say?**

"Please, do not let religion cause so many wars. It is a bad thing that those religions that should be a positive influence actually lead to clashes."

## **What religion would you follow most easily do you think?**

"Well funny thing, I actually wanted to become a Christian priest when I was younger. I just found the Bible a cool book, like, to read. I had the child Bible so it contained pictures as well of course, but I read it for fun a lot. Also I was amazed by the priests house. We visited it once, it was immense and I thought it would be cool to live there."

## **Were you also raised religiously?**

"No, I wasn't even baptized. It wasn't until fourth grade that I was baptized and that was because I basically begged my parents for it because I thought the Bible was really cool!"

- Floris, 19 years old

## **Have you ever needed to go to first aid?**

"When I was 14 years old, there was a tumbling track in p.e. (gym). I decided to do a small contest against one of my classmates to see who could run to the other side the fastest. At some point I was going so fast that I ran into the wall, trying to slow down by pushing my hands forward. After that I had some pain in my wrist. This happened on a Friday. That weekend I played tennis but that did not go well. On Monday, I decided to go to the doctor who sent me to first aid. There they found out that my wrist was actually broken at two different places, resulting in two months of a cast around my wrist."

- Bram, 20 years old



**If you set up your own business, what would you sell?**

"I would sell beer. Set up my own brewery and try to make good special beer and eventually get into all the shops. I would then call it Bassie's Beer Palace!"  
- Bastiaan, 20 years old

**Where would you go if you were a pilot for a day?**

"I would visit New Zealand. Ever since I was a little girl I was very drawn to it. Also, my parents married at New Year's Eve in the Dutch province Zeeland, so now every year we visit it for a week. I guess I just liked that the name was New-Zealand."  
- Ikie, 19 years old

**Who have you called most recently?**

"Jochem, to ask if he still wants to work together on the Risk Theory assignment."  
\*laughing\*

**Why is that so funny?**

"I decided that I am not following this course because I just found out that we have an assignment deadline tomorrow! I am not going to make it anyway and tonight I want to go out."  
-Jaron, 20 years old

**Have you ever needed to go to first aid?**

"Yes, I had broken my jaw. It was the day before my vacation. What happened was, my friend, her family and I were at a rather empty ice skate park. My father was bringing my brothers home at that moment. Well, because it was so quiet we could try out some cool stunts and it seemed like a good idea to get into the neck of my friends' uncle. That uncle ended up tripping, so I fell off his neck and he fell onto me. Of course I had to go to first aid and they found out that I had broken my jaw!"  
- Britte, 20 years old

**What story would your friends tell about you?**

"The story of the EBT. I had had a drink and all I remember is getting my jacket and then I remember waking up. In the meantime I had fallen off my bike, drove it down a staircase and ruined my suit. Also I had hyped up everybody to go out. I went home to get changed and apparently fell asleep. I woke up to find my clothes perfectly placed in the laundry basket and some angry texts of friends whom I had promised to go out with. Oops."  
- Quirien, 25 years old

# Quatsch!



## Quatsch?

Over the past few months, the editorial staff of Nekst received many quotes that relate to the study of Econometrics and to the activities organized by Asset | Econometrics. Hereby, we present to you a selection of some striking and funny quotes! Please mail all remarkable quotes you have heard to [Nekst@Asset-Econometrics.nl](mailto:Nekst@Asset-Econometrics.nl)!

**Emma Segers** (over Tjum en Hugo)  
“(...) Hum en Tjugo”

**Patrick Floor**  
\*kijkt naar de afstreeplijst van de Candyshop\*  
“Wie is ALG?”

**Joyce Hendriks**  
“Jongens zijn stom en ze stinken!”

**Job Hoven**  
“(...) economisten”

**Martijn Oerlemans** (over waterstofzuigen)  
“Huh, zuig je dan water op met een stofzuiger?”

**Bob Suijkerbuijk**  
“Huh, is 48 deelbaar door 4?!”

“(...) in welke provincie ligt Maastricht ook alweer?”  
**Floor van Helsdingen**  
“Leerdam!”





# Puzzle



Ricardo, our dear board member who loves children, would like to know more about the children in Tilburg, regarding the future and the student growth of Tilburg University. He does this in a very efficient way by going by the doors himself. When he arrives at the first door, he explains that he is on the board of Asset | Econometrics and asks the following question: "How many children do you have and how old are they?" The gentleman who opens the door wants to trick him and test how good Ricardo's knowledge really is, so he answers the following: "I have 3 children and when you multiply the ages you end up at 36. Ricardo says that this information is not enough for him, so he asks for another hint. He says: "If you add up the ages, you'll find the house number of the neighbors." Ricardo looks at the house number of the neighbours and says that he still does not know how old the children are. The man laughs and says: "Then I have just one more hint for you. My youngest child will later become a math wonder". Ricardo thanks the man for this, because now he can continue his research.

## How old are his children?

### *Can you figure out the puzzle?*

Please enter your solutions at [www.Nekst-Online.nl/Puzzle](http://www.Nekst-Online.nl/Puzzle). A crate of beer or a delicious pie, whichever the winner prefers, will be waiting for whoever has sent the best (partial) solutions. Please note that, as before, every recipient of this magazine is eligible to send in their solutions, so members of the department are invited to participate as well. Good luck!

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**Caspar Croonen** is the winner of the previous puzzle. As a reward, he can come and pick up a crate of beer or a pie at room E1.10. The solution can be found at [www.nekst-online.nl](http://www.nekst-online.nl).



# Asset | Econometrics congratulates...

Name **Ana Arrabal Ortiz**

Title Time spent working and body weight in the elderly population: An analysis of the effects and mechanisms

MSc EME

Supervisors Dr. T. Kantarci, Dr. O. Boldea

Name **Taylor Vink**

Title How to enhance Warehouse Quality inspection performance of ASML's third party logistics warehouses

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Prof.dr. K.J.M. Huisman, Prof.dr.ir. H.A. Fleuren

Name **Christien Visser**

Title Analyzing And Improving A Matching Tool Between Companies

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Prof.dr. G. Kant, Dr. R.C.M. Brekelmans

Name **Dafni Vlachou**

Title Recommendation System for Different Crop Varieties in Zimbabwe

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Dr. J.C. Vera-Lizcano, Prof.dr.ir. H.A. Fleuren

Name **Rik Noij**

Title On Solution Concepts of Radicalization Games

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Prof.dr. P.E.M. Borm, Prof.dr. H.J.M. Hamers

Name **Joost Berkers**

Title Development of a quantitative commercial decision making model for Habesha breweries

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Prof.dr. K.J.M. Huisman, Prof.dr. P.M. Kort

Name **Niek Baltussen**

Title Application and Neural Network Analysis of an Oil Term Structure Model

MSc QFAS

Supervisors Dr. P. Cizek, Dr. N.F.F. Schweizer

Name **Vince Dentener**

Title Cryptocurrencies in Investor Portfolios: Asset Allocation and Bubble Prediction

MSc QFAS

Supervisors Dr. N.F.F. Schweizer, Dr. P. Cizek

Name **Romans Karpenko**

Title LSMC vs Replicating Portfolio in Solvency Risk Calculations

MSc QFAS

Supervisors Dr. N.F.F. Schweizer, Prof.dr. B. Melenberg

Name **Laura Almanyte**

Title Analysing the Impact of Nutrition on Cognition and Health: Evidence from an Experimental Intervention among Pre-School Children in Egypt

MSc EME

Supervisors Dr. B.M. Siflinger, Dr. M. Salm

Name **Jamie van den Meijdenberg**

Title Scheduling and Routing of Automated Guided Vehicles: Towards a Coupled Approach

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Dr.ir.ing. M.J.P. Peeters, Prof.dr. G. Kant

Name **Koen van Zon**

Title Solving Dynamic Employee Scheduling Problems Using Local Search Heuristics and Robust Optimisation Techniques

MSc BAOR

Supervisors Dr. C. Dobre, Dr. J.C. Vera-Lizcano



**Name** **Pepijn van den Brink**  
**Title** Semi-Supervised Self-Training on Transaction Classification  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Dr. J.C. Vera-Lizcano, Dr. C. Dobre

**Name** **Luuk van Gasteren**  
**Title** Detecting Potential Beneficiaries for the Dutch Food Banks  
**MSc** EME  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr. B. Melenberg, Prof.dr.ir. D. den Hertog

**Name** **Emiro Goossens**  
**Title** Multivariate Time Series Sales Forecasting Using Mixed Frequency Modeling  
**MSc** EME  
**Supervisors** Dr. M. Rothfelder, Dr. N.F.F. Schweizer

**Name** **Jelle de Rooij**  
**Title** Horizontal Collaboration in the logistic sector  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Dr. R.C.M. Brekelmans, Prof.dr. G. Kant

**Name** **Martijn Ketelaars**  
**Title** The optimal R&D investment decision: timing and size  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr. P.M. Kort, Prof.dr. K.J.M. Huisman

**Name** **Meike Reusken**  
**Title** Forecasting Intermittent Demand with Tree-based Machine Learning Methods  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Dr. R.C.M. Brekelmans, Dr. Y. Merzifonluoglu

**Name** **Robin Buijs**  
**Title** Designing the supply chain for vehicles in humanitarian organizations to deal with urgent and non-urgent demand  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr.ir. H.A. Fleuren, Prof.dr. J.S.H. van Leeuwen

**Name** **Mauro van Pinxteren**  
**Title** Solving very large-scale vehicle routing problems with time-windows A study of different methods and techniques  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr.ir. H.A. Fleuren, Dr.ir.ing. M.J.P. Peeters

**Name** **Jeffrey Verberne**  
**Title** Calendar Effects in the Chinese Stock Market  
**MSc** QFAS  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr. B.J.M. Werker, Prof.dr. B. Melenberg

**Name** **Tingyu Ma**  
**Title** Risk Averse Newsvendor Models With Option Contracts And Supplier Disruption  
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**Supervisors** Dr. Y. Merzifonluoglu, Dr. J.C. Wagenaar

**Name** **Roel Stillekens**  
**Title** How Organizational Learning Affects Machine Performance  
**MSc** EME  
**Supervisors** Dr. J.R. de Bresser, Dr. B.M. Siflinger

**Name** **Ryan Knox**  
**Title** Improving Sales Forecasting Using Data Mining and Machine Learning Techniques  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr.ir. H.A.M. Daniels, Dr. R.C.M. Brekelmans

**Name** **Lennart van Ham**  
**Title** The Application of Deep Reinforcement Learning to the Hybrid Flow-Shop Scheduling Problem  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Prof.dr.ir. H.A.M. Daniels, Dr. J.C. Vera-Lizcano

**Name** **Cyril Crutzen**  
**Title** A Study of Latent Dirichlet Allocation: Evaluating Quality Metrics and Sentence Structures  
**MSc** BAOR  
**Supervisors** Dr. P. Cizek, Dr. C.B.T. Walsh

...on obtaining their  
**Master's degree**

# Summer Photo Contest Winner

We have a winner for the photo contest from last summer's edition of Nekst! We want to congratulate **Bart Rutten** for winning. He can come pick up a crate of beer or pie at room E1.10 as price!





# Agenda

**THU Freshmen Activity**  
**07** Get to know your fellow freshmen better during the  
 NOV first Freshmen Activity! The activity will be a surprise,  
 stay tuned!

**FRI SINCERIUS M&A Analyst Dinghy Event**  
**08** Do you have affinity with data analysis, consultancy  
 NOV and financial figures? Come to the SINCERIUS M&A  
 Analyst Dinghy Event to learn more about SINCERIUS.  
 This event will take place in Amsterdam.

**TUE Olden Goldies Activity**  
**12** The new Olden Goldies Committee is organizing their  
 NOV first events. All members who are fourth year or older  
 are invited to this new event! Stay tuned.

**WED Finance Expedition**  
**13** A three-day event during which you can visit several  
 NOV different pillars of Finance. Each particular day is dedi-  
 cated to on pillar. Every day, 24 students will visit two  
 FRI companies within that specified field. During this day,  
 - **15** the companies will provide a company presentation,  
 NOV case and a lunch/dinner.

**TUE Cycling Dinner & Monthly Drink**  
**19** Do you like to have nice food and meet new people?  
 NOV Then you should definitely take part in the Cycling  
 Dinner! After, there will be the second monthly drink  
 of the year in De Nachtwacht.

**FRI Active Member's Day**  
**22** On Friday November 22 the Active Member's Day is  
 NOV organized to thank all members who are active in one  
 of the committees at Asset | Econometrics for their  
 efforts. The activity will be a surprise!

**TUE Econometrics in Practice Day**  
**26** Gain insight into the practical side of Econometrics  
 NOV during the Econometrics in Practice Day! During the  
 day you can meet several employees from companies  
 and explore your future career opportunities

**THU ASSET CODE**  
**28** Join this year's first COdE with all active members of  
 NOV all ASSET departments. As always, it's going to be a  
 great night!

**SAT (A)FAM Dinner**  
**30** On Saturday November 30, we will organize a dinner  
 NOV for all (Aspirant) Former Active Members. Here they  
 can catch up with each other and retrieve good  
 memories together. Save the date!


**WED St. Nicholas Drink**  
**04** Somehow, our D&A committee managed to convince  
 DEC the one and only St. Nicholas to spend some time  
 with a bunch of econometricians during our monthly  
 drink in De Nachtwacht. Do not miss this promising  
 evening!

**WED Study Break**  
**12** It's time to come out of the library for a change and  
 DEC take a break from studying for your exams. Come to  
 our Study Break to catch up with fellow econometri-  
 cians and order food together. This will take place at  
 the rooms of Asset | Econometrics.

**WED Christmas Dinner**  
**19** Before going home over the holidays, let's first cel-  
 DEC ebrate Christmas with your fellow econometricians  
 during Asset | Econometrics' last event of 2019! Stay  
 tuned for more information.

*Register and find more information  
 about our events at  
[www.Asset-Econometrics.nl/events](http://www.Asset-Econometrics.nl/events)*





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