

# nekst>>

vol. 31 no. 3 | spring 2023 | [nekst-online.nl](http://nekst-online.nl)



## Interview

Denktank: Biodiversity



## Event: LED

We Are the LED



## Special

Your Descendants Might Be  
Crabs





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## The Nekst Train

As the last unit has begun, we are taking our last road to our last destination of the year, the end of the semester. Will you be finishing your Bachelor's or Master's after this? Will it be the final time you can call yourself a student? This road can sometimes feel like a high-speed train going 200km/h, where you try to keep up with everything. You want to do too many things in too little time, and it can all feel a little too overwhelming. But see this as a reminder, that when this train is going too fast, to just look around you, and appreciate where you are in life. What did you achieve? What can you be very proud of? Also do not forget to enjoy the little things in life. One of those little things for me is beginning my day with a small cup of espresso, in the sunlight, and enjoying the peace and quiet of the morning.

The train of the Nekst has already arrived at the third destination and it is going so fast! But as it goes so fast, I enjoy every single bit of it. In this edition of the Nekst, we have also chosen a theme that will come back through several articles. This theme is Biodiversity. That is also why we interviewed Wenxin Lin of the Denktank about biodiversity, and Deloitte about their project with WWF, so be sure to read those articles! There was also an article written about the LED from the point of view of the committee, but also from a participant. Lastly, we also introduced the Lustrum Committee to you as next year will be Asset | Econometrics' 45th birthday!

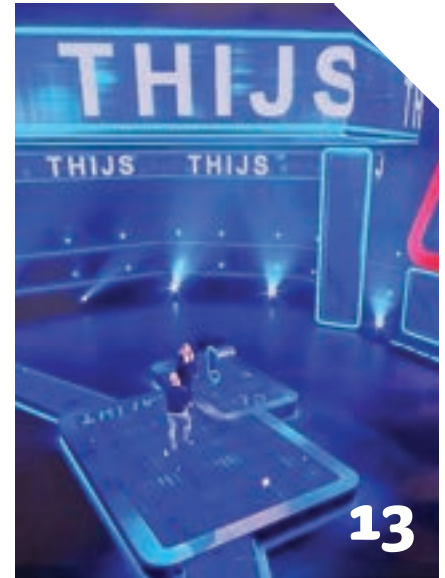
So also take your time reading this Nekst, and I will see you again at our last destination!

Yours sincerely,

**Laurentien Diepenhorst**  
Editor-in-Chief



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### COLOPHON

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Event: LED

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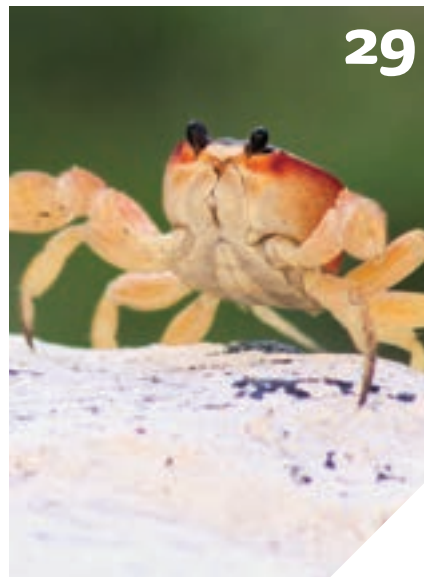
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Special: Your Descendants Might Be Crabs

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# Dear Members,

As the third edition of the Nekst is currently in your hands, the sun is coming out again, the flowers are starting to bloom and there are a multitude of other clichés I will spare you. Spring, however, does also bring a lot of joy to my fellow board members and me and we hope to convey this to all of you. Together with all committees, we are working hard to ensure you are able to enjoy the most professional career events as well as the most enjoyable parties and activities. And with the beautiful weather that is making its entrance again, this will only become easier. So, I hope you will read this edition of Nekst in a lovely place somewhere in the spring sun and enjoy all the articles that our members have put a lot of effort into!

But before placing all our attention on the great things that are ahead of us, I would like to take a little of your time to reflect on some of the events that have been organized over the past months. I would like to highlight one of the big recruitment events that we are very proud of: the Econometrics Consultancy Tour. This year, we visited four companies in Amsterdam related to our Master's programs BAOR and EME. During this tour, all transportation, food, drinks, and hotel stay were taken care of by the committee, who have done a great job in making the event as enjoyable as it was. Next to this, we have organized several trainings in LaTeX, RStudio and we have the Python training coming up. Additionally, we

have had a stress training where our members had the opportunity to learn how to manage stress more effectively. This is of course handy as a pre-relationship with the exams is slowly building up again.

Of course, we also offer a lot of less formal activities where you get to blow off some steam while enjoying some drinks with fellow econometricians. We have seen this in different ways, for example a squash tournament, but also the Date Dinner for our older students. It is incredibly enjoyable to notice our association to be one of symbiosis. It has been great to see all of you at our events and we hope to see everyone even more now that spring is here ;).

But there is more! By the time you are reading this our Active Members Weekend will also have passed and our Europe Trip, which is headed to Lisbon this year, is around the corner. We hope to enthuse you with these trips and are looking forward to creating more memories during the last months of this semester.

I would like to wish you all the best for the coming months and would like to welcome you to join us at the rooms for a chat and a snack from our candy store!

On behalf of the board,

**Luc Geurts**

*Chairman Asset | Econometrics 2022-2023*



# The Latest

In this edition of the Nekst, The Latest is about the investment in projects to curb climate change.

written by Hedser van der Wel

## COP27 pledges investments in resilient infrastructure and biodiversity to curb climate change

At the end of 2022 the United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP27, was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. More than 92 heads of state and 35,000 representatives and delegates from 190 countries were present. The climate change conferences are used by governments to shape policies limiting the global temperature rises and to overcome the impacts caused by climate change. This conference led to the first loss and damage fund being established.

The agreement concluded that the problems caused by climate change often require financial compensation and that the solutions should reflect that fact. For every infrastructure, conservation, and clean-energy project, a financial solution is now in place. As aforementioned, the attending parties also agreed on constructing a loss and damage fund to provide financing for developing countries. The UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) has defined loss and damage to include harm resulting from abrupt events like climate disasters as well as steady processes such as sea level rise. Loss and damage can occur in human systems as well as natural systems. Climate reparations are compensation to hold countries accountable for loss and damage resulting from emissions. The underlying idea of the fund being that developing countries are, in general, not the major greenhouse gas-emitters, they are however the places that most likely suffer from the impacts of climate change

What follows now is identifying additional financial solutions to generate the necessary capital to support an effective course of action. The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has developed a variety of solutions to produce clean energy and finance biodiversity at scale. One of those solutions is the Climate Insurance Linked Resilient Infrastructure Financing (CILRIF), an initiative by the UNCDF. It is a long-term (10 to 20 years) affordable insurance solution that incentivizes municipalities to invest in reliable and durable infrastructure. The CILRIF will utilize a climate-risk and an infrastructure finance facility. Participating municipalities will have reduced financing costs induced by their resilience investments. If a municipality implements the prescribed measures, their premium will decrease to reflect the managed risk and improved financial resilience.

A need for financial aid in the case of biodiversity was emphasized as well. For example, the coral reefs. The Global Fund for Coral Reefs is the first to utilize a mix of development finance and philanthropic funds to close the coral reef funding gap with an approximate funding of \$625 million spread over the next decade. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) committed \$15 million to the fund for the reefs in the Egyptian Red Sea. Another example is the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin is one of the few regions that is carbon negative. The forest absorbs nearly 1.5 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere per year, which amounts to around four percent of global emissions. The CFI and &Green committed \$120 million to the Congo Basin Pledge. The Congo Basin Pledge is an ambitious five-year commitment to protect the rainforest in central Africa. The funding aims to make a long-term impact in the region by increasing agro-industrial development, local food production, and social inclusion while ensuring not to endanger the Congo Basin.

COP27 has ended the debate on the necessity of financial solutions to control the climate crisis. But this has led to a new debate on how resources should be allocated to stop the imminent threat from climate change and in which areas this is most pertinent and pressing. The UNCDF strives to collectively, efficiently, and promptly turn the tide with the help of finance.



# Using Econometrics to Study Credit Access in Thailand

**I**n the last two issues I wrote about some of my work on illegal markets. This time I will describe one of my papers on a very different context: rural access to bank branches following the 1997 Thai financial crisis.

A large number of research papers have documented that the further away you live from your nearest bank branch, the less likely you are to have access to loans. This has even been found in developed countries in the modern day, despite the prevalence of digital banking. But this effect is even more pronounced in rural areas of developing economies. After the 1997 financial crisis in Thailand, banks started to close down branches in many rural areas, leaving many communities unbanked. These banks often did not re-open branches in these locations even after the economy recovered.

Together with Marc Rysman of BU and Robert Townsend of MIT, we studied the impact of the 1997 crisis on local credit access. To do this we used data on the geographic coordinates and open/close dates of every bank branch in the country to estimate a dynamic oligopolistic model of branch location choice. In the model, a bank will open a branch in a location if the expected present discounted value of future profits exceeds the cost of opening it, given their beliefs of rivals' branching strategies.

We do not observe the profits of each individual branch, so we model it as a function of measures of surrounding competition and local demand. We cluster nearby branch locations into local markets and assume branches compete with own and rival branches in the same market. Because we do not have access to local-level data on demand in Thailand, we measure local demand in a market using satellite imagery. We assume local demand is proportional to how bright a market is at night as seen from space.

After we estimate the parameters of the model using the observed branching decisions, we use it to simulate alternative scenarios to understand how the crisis impacted branching behavior. We first consider what access to local branches would have been if the crisis did not occur. We find that there would have been 18.5% more branches and 9.3% more locations served with at least one branch.

We then consider what subsidy we would need to have given banks in vulnerable markets to avoid them closing their branches during the crisis. These subsidies are similar to the ones firms received during the corona lockdowns. We find that an annual subsidy of about \$700k for 190 vulnerable branches would have kept local access the same. Although this is not cheap, these branches deliver important benefits to these communities.

Finally, we use our model to answer the following question: if banks found it optimal to open a branch in a rural area before the crisis, why did they not re-open it when the local economy recovered? Our model can rationalize this through the observed drop in GDP growth after the crisis. In the ten years before the crisis, GDP growth was on average 9% per year. Because banks are forward-looking in our model, it was optimal to open these branches at the time. But when local demand recovered after the crisis but with a lower growth rate, it was no longer optimal to pay the large cost of opening one again. Although if the branch was still active, it would have been optimal to keep it open. This further motivates subsidizing these branches throughout the crisis. ●

If you are interested in reading the paper, you can find it on my website at [walshc.github.io](https://walshc.github.io).

## Christoph Walsh

*"I am an assistant professor in the econometrics group of the EOR department. I am originally from a small seaside town called Tramore in County Waterford on the Southeast coast of Ireland. Tramore literally means "Big Beach" in the Irish language. I then did my Bachelor in Trinity College Dublin and then my PhD at Boston University, USA before moving to Tilburg in 2018."*



# Meet the Crew!

Nekst committee 2023



## Lina van Ampting

Hii, I am Lina! I am 21 years old and I am in my second year of Econometrics. This is the first edition of the Nekst I have worked on and my second committee for Asset | Econometrics. Working on the yearbook for 2021/2022 proved to me that writing/editing is something I really enjoy, so I am really excited to be a part of this committee and I hope that I will learn a lot from being a part of it. When I am not busy with my studies, I play volleyball at Gepidae in Tilburg, work at the Jumbo back home, hang out with friends, attend concerts or binge-watch a tv show. Now I can add working on the Nekst to the list. It was scary to work on my first edition, but also really exciting and I look forward to showing everyone the finished product! Have fun reading!

## Anne Verbeek

Hi! My name is Anne and I am taking over Sara's role as designer for this and the upcoming Nekst! I am 21 years old and I am in my third year of the bachelor of Econometrics. I have always had an interest in design, so this was a good opportunity to expand my skills. Last edition I got to know the ins and outs of the process of making the Nekst and this edition I have been left on my own. I am also in the Europe Trip committee with whom I am very excited to go to Lisbon with in May. Besides study related responsibilities I work in home care and go to the gym every now and then. If I have some free time left I like to do something creative and learn new techniques. So now I can crochet plant hangers, paint on glass and I am currently learning how to embroider. Hope you enjoy this edition of the Nekst!



## Hedser van der Wel

Hey! My name is Hedser. I am nineteen years old and a second year bachelor student. I was raised in Middelburg, the capital city of Zeeland, it would surprise you how many people are not aware of that fact. However, this year I finally found a place to live in Tilburg, saving me the trip back and forth every day. I enjoy having a drink with my friends and you will be able to find me at most of the Asset | Econometrics' events. During the weekend I like to spend time with my family and play some board games. Besides hanging out with my friends and family I also work as a mathematics tutor for high schoolers.



# Bees' Vitality? What Does the Future Hold?

written by **Martin Kubiček**

**B**ees play a vital role in pollinating crops and plants that are essential for food production. However, the global bee population is declining due to various factors, including pesticide use and habitat loss. If bees become extinct, it would have a devastating impact on the ecosystem and food supply. To prevent this, researchers are working on bee vaccination and artificial pollination methods to ensure the survival of these important pollinators. This article will discuss the latest research progress in both fields.

## Bee Vaccination

The pressing issue in the beekeeping community is the growing number of hives infested by the American foulbrood, a disease spread by the Bacteria *Paenibacillus*. In the worst affected parts of the US, the disease which is weakening hives and killing bee larvae can be found in a quarter of all hives. Up until now, there was no better method than burning the infected colonies and administering antibiotics to mitigate the spread of the deadly disease.

But that changes as the US Department of Agriculture has granted a conditional license for a vaccine that should protect bees of commercial beekeepers as of this year. Interestingly enough, the vaccination process using Dalan Animal Health's vaccine is easier than one could expect. Essentially, the substance which contains some of the bacteria is fed to the queen by the worker bees. After ingestion, the vaccine targets the queen's ovaries to increase the immunity of the future developing larvae, hence massively improving their chance of survival.

The reason why this innovation is so enormous is because it has multiple layers. Firstly, the American foulbrood disease is severely harming the US bee industry. But since the disease's occurrence, it has already spread to Europe and other parts of the world, where it slightly mutated. Therefore, carefully tailored vaccine variants should tremendously benefit beekeepers all over the globe, and we can only expect that this proof of concept will potentially help eradicate other pressing diseases, such as the Varroa mite.

## Artificial Pollination

Preserving bees and insects is particularly important for human food security and health. Losing the vital species that are under the environmental pressures of habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change-driven biodiversity concerns, would not only harm humans but potentially destabilize whole ecosystems. Therefore, the second and more technocentric innovative field that I intend to mention is researching alternative solutions in case grim scenarios come true.

Artificial pollination is another research area that has gained traction, particularly as a backup plan in case of bee extinction. The newest and most promising discovery was in Finland at Tampere University, where the project FAIRY (Flying Aero-robots based on Light Responsive Materials Assembly) introduced small dandelion seed-like structures that can fly by the wind. These tiny flying robots are equipped with soft bristles, which can open and close upon visible light excitation. Essentially, the FAIRY needs as little light as can be produced by a commercially available LED for an assisted flight, resulting in successful pollination.



Therefore, the 1.2mg of structure that has been in development for less than two years proves that microrobots can even fly, which for a long time was not believed to be possible. On the other hand, the research is still far from being done as there are multiple challenges. To truly solve the possibly irreversible loss of pollinators, the FAIRYs must be able to precisely control their landing spot. Moreover, they would have to be made of biodegradable materials. The research is financed until the year 2026, and the researchers believe that they will be able to integrate into the structures even small micro-electronic devices such as GPS and other sensors.

Whether you think that we await apocalypse or live in futuristic sci-fi, the world is here, and we are part of it. Bee vaccination and artificial pollination are promising developments in ensuring the survival of bees and maintaining food production. However, no alternative methods can replace the natural pollination provided by bees, and it is important to address the root causes of bee decline, such as pesticide use and habitat loss. By working towards a sustainable and bee-friendly environment, we can ensure the survival of bees and the ecosystem biodiversity they support, even without seeking technocentric solutions. ●



# The Approach of the Denktank

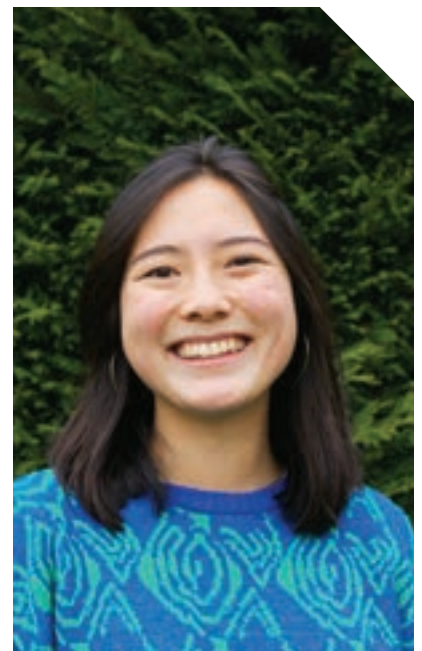
written by **Laurentien Diepenhorst** and **Timo Klabbers**

A few months ago Wenxin Lin (some of you might still know her and if not you should look at the board pictures of 2018-2019) asked the Nekst Committee, whether we were interested in interviewing her for the National DenkTank about the research she did last year. Of course we were interested and thus on the morning of March 9, we stepped on the train to take us to our capital city, Amsterdam. After a few hours on public transport we arrived at the front door of Metabolica, which is situated in an old school building. We headed towards the gym and ended up in an informal setting on a kind of stage with a hammock, nice chairs and a table. There we interviewed Wenxin Lin about Nationale DenkTank, biodiversity and her work at Metabolic. What does an econometrician do in a project on biodiversity? How does biodiversity affect our lives? And what are the solutions that the DenkTank has been thinking about for months?

The National DenkTank is a foundation which was founded seventeen years ago. The idea behind the DenkTank is that there are many problems in our

modern-day society and many companies already do research about it, but those studies are never combined. The purpose is to not only create an analysis of the problem but also to deliver solutions for it that we can implement. The power of the DenkTank is that they have twenty young people with different points of views, who do different studies, with different cultural backgrounds, thinking about the same problem. The people who are chosen for their projects are mostly people who are not very opinionated and do not know a lot about the topic yet but do have an interest in it. The DenkTank wants to make an impact on society by researching these problems and every year a different topic is chosen. The DenkTank is also an independent foundation with no conflicts of interest so they can be purely objective in their research. The topic of 2022 was biodiversity.

For four months, they investigated the core of the problem and came up with solutions for this problem. They split the four months into two blocks. In the first two months, they researched, and talked to experts, people from the field and scientists. They did a literature search and at the end came up with a report. In the second part of the two months, they worked to come up with



**Wenxin Lin**

**Master BAOR**

Age: 25

solutions and started designing them. When the project was over, a final report was presented with ten solutions for the various problems. The nice thing about the DenkTank is that they also get the opportunity to get those solutions off the ground.

## The challenges

First the DenkTankers did two months of research in which they interview experts and read a lot of articles to gather knowledge about the problem and eventually look for the bottlenecks of the problem. They started from the main research question: 'How do we turn the tide in

## Bert & Ernie Questions

Led Committee or Board Year

The Number pi or the Number of Euler

Speeding Ticket or Parking Ticket

Statistics or Algebra

Sushi or Pizza

Morning Bird or Night Owl

**Board Year**

**the number pi**

**I do not drive**

**Algebra**

**Pizza**

**Morning Bird**



the biodiversity crisis?’ and split up into four groups to research it from different points of view namely, citizens, government, food production chain, and construction industry.

Let us first determine what biodiversity means and why it is a problem for our society. We hear a lot about sustainability and why it is important, but not so much about biodiversity. Biodiversity is the diversity of organisms in ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity. This is the definition the Denktank used for their research. The biodiversity in the Netherlands is severely declining which causes serious problems. If entire species disappear an ecosystem could get out of balance and collapse entirely. These ecosystems are important for the air we breathe and the food we eat.

An important subject in the Netherlands, and certainly in North Brabant, is nitrogen. Nitrogen is food for plants, and is found in (artificial) manure, for example. Due to a surplus of nitrogen, biodiversity decreases, especially plants that are adapted to little nutrition (such as heather plants) are displaced by plants that need a lot of nutrition, such as nettles or blackberries. It is great that so much attention is now being paid to nitrogen, but according to Wenxin, this view of the problem is too limited. “Nitrogen is the result of a system that has been this way for a long time. If we only solve the nitrogen problem, there will be a new crisis soon.”



### The solutions

After all the research, it was time to produce solutions. This was done in a brainstorm week where they used all different kinds of brainstorm methods to come up with solutions. The Denktankers thought of around 250 solutions (!) during these sessions and later on this was reduced to 50 solutions. These 50 solutions have been tested for a few weeks. The Denktank has asked the field whether they see the solutions working. After those discussions,

ten solutions were eventually chosen. Ultimately, the solutions that were selected are a mix of policy proposals, concrete initiatives, and campaigns. In all the solutions it is important that the Denktankers themselves can make a contribution, because a start is made with all solutions.

Wenxin herself is busy with Het Kiemcollectief. This solution ensures that biodiversity on agricultural land is increased. At the moment, almost all farmers buy their seeds from a seed supplier. They can only use those seeds for one year and all seeds are genetically the same. Monoculture makes agricultural land vulnerable. In addition, biodiversity is very low. Farmers who join Het Kiemcollectief can exchange their own seeds with each other. As a result, they are no longer tied to the seed suppliers and biodiversity increases: varieties with seeds have more genetic variation. At the moment, Het Kiemcollectief has started on a small scale with a number of organic farmers, but they hope to reach more farmers in the future.

Another solution that works well is Plantje Boom. This card game helps people think about biodiversity at the kitchen table. In the game, the players must create a healthy soil system to



grow as many trees as possible. The aim of the game is that people eventually start to see the problem of biodiversity around them. This initiative has received funding to make their solution a reality.

In addition, Wenxin notices that after the DenkTank there is still a lot of demand for what they have done. "We are asked as speakers at all kinds of events" For example, Volt Utrecht has written a political report in which they use solutions when they are elected, and another example, this report includes a solution in which the government makes ecologists available for companies and projects that would otherwise could not hire an ecologist.

### Econometrics and Sustainability

When you think of biodiversity, Econometrics is not the first discipline that comes to mind. The strength of de DenkTank is that you come into contact with all kinds of different backgrounds. While Wenxin only worked with econometricians during her studies, things were different now. The team of de DenkTank 2022 included participants with a background in: Climate Studies, Biology and Agriculture. But there were also participants with a background in a completely different field, such as: Mathematics, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Film Studies.



What Wenxin encountered during her internships and studies was that many jobs are driven by money, while she has a great interest in sustainability. She was able to get started with sustainability at consultant Metabolic. As a data analyst and sustainability consultant, she "basically does something you can do with other consultants, but with numbers about sustainability." Wenxin is part of a team that advises organizations on how to become more sustainable, such as hospitals, factories, and festivals.

The message Wenxin wants to pass on to current students also has to do with what she is doing now. "Even with our background you can mean a lot to society. I find nature and sustainability very interesting, but I have discovered that you can also find work in that. I would like to say that: do work that interests you. Do not let that stop you because you only see financial institutions on business days. There is much more."

You can view the entire report of the Nationale DenkTank and the ten solutions on [ndt22.nl](https://ndt22.nl) (Dutch).

### What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of plants, animals, and organisms in a given area. What it is exactly is not clear-cut. Every project, research, or company defines it a little differently. Nationale DenkTank used the following definition: "Biodiversity is the diversity of life in terms of ecosystem, species and genetic variety." Irrespective of the definition, scientists agree that biodiversity is declining rapidly and that this cannot continue.

### Bio Wenxin Lin

Wenxin Lin participated in de Nationale Denktank in 2022. She currently works at Metabolic as a data analyst and sustainability consultant. In 2018-2019, Wenxin was Secretary of Asset | Econometrics. She completed the Master BAOR in 2021. ●





# Meet the Lustrum Committee

written by [Laurentien Diepenhorst](#)

**O**n March 15 our dear beloved Asset | Econometrics is already turning 45 (we are getting old!), which means it is time for our ninth lustrum! With that comes of course the Lustrum committees: the Almanac and the Lustrum. I will join the latter one. For the next year, we are responsible for organizing our lustrum week, which will be held from March 4 until March 9, 2024. During this week there will be fun (still unknown) activities every day. I can, however, tell you there will be a gala in the lustrum week. This week will be for (active) members, former members, alumni, and other parties to celebrate. The lustrum will also have a theme that will come back in every activity we organize and Asset | Econometrics will have a new logo for the entire year. The theme will be announced during a party together with Asset | Accounting & Finance and Asset | Economics on November 30, 2023 (which you may mark in your agendas). During this week the Almanac, a book that looks back on the past five years, will also be presented.

To join the Lustrum committee, we first had to write a motivational letter to explain why we would want to join the committee. As I do not like to write those letters, I postponed it until six hours before the deadline. In addition, I had to write quickly because I had a birthday to go to. The evening after the Landelijke Econometristen Dag I got a call from our Internal Affairs Sara, to tell me that I am the new secretary of the Lustrum committee! When she called, I just thought she wanted to have a chat and I was not the most awake at that time, so it took me a few seconds to comprehend what she was talking about. Then she told me that a few days later the internal announcement was taking place so we would get to know the entire committee. I had absolutely no clue who would be in the committee, so I was very excited to get to know the people I was going to organize the lustrum with.

However, before the internal announcement took place, I already knew about three people who would be in on the committee. The internal announcement took place at my house, and everyone got a prominent message from Matthijs (one of our coordinators) with the invitation. At first, I was a bit startled by this prominent message, but then I saw there were a lot of errors in

his message, and I pointed this out to him. He then wrote back that he had luckily only sent it to me and Emma. So, I already knew one committee member's name, but I did not yet know which Emma because apparently, we have several. A little while later I got a message from my friend Stijn asking what my address was again because he thought his roommate passed by my house recently. I knew that was utter nonsense because I already figured out he was on the committee. The invitation also said that we should dress appropriately and that we should know what appropriate would mean. Well, I can tell you I did not know what that would mean. Did they want me to dress business formal or did they want me to be in full Asset | Econometrics merchandise? I had absolutely no clue. I decided with Stijn to dress business casual with something Asset | Econometrics' blue. Later it turned out everybody was equally confused because Rein showed up in a full suit.

Meike (our other coordinator) already came to my place before the rest to do some groceries as we would be eating and drinking together. One by one my new committee members walked into my house, but before we got to know who would be on the committee, we had to try and guess. First came Marieke our chairman, then our external affairs officers Rein and Mylène, Stijn our day coordinator, and lastly Emma our treasurer came, who was a bit late because she got lost and her phone had died. We had pizza and already talked about ideas for

the lustrum week and the theme. After the announcement, it was of utmost importance to keep it a secret from everyone else until the external announcement. I failed at that the same evening when I was all excited and told Eva about the committee, but luckily, she promised to be quiet. The external announcement was supposed to be the week after, but because we had no time to take a picture together, it took much longer. It was quite difficult to keep my mouth shut as everyone was talking about the new committee that had begun and I was just very excited to tell everyone.

The first meeting we had was with the Lustrum committee and Almanac committee together. This is because we must choose the theme together. We brainstormed the entire meeting about ideas. We thought about a theme with the number nine in it because it is our ninth lustrum or a word or sentence that describes the past five years. Sadly, I cannot tell you anything about the chosen theme, and that is partly because when I am writing this, we have not decided yet what our theme will be.

In the Lustrum committee, I am responsible for the promotion, the lustrum website, and more. I am very excited to embark on this journey and I am curious about what is to come. I am absolutely sure that we will do everything we can to make it a spectacular week with amazing activities. I hope to see you during this week to celebrate our lustrum with us! ●



# How a Board Year Can Lead to New Insights

written by **Joep Adriaanse** and **Hedser van der Wel**

**A** quick gaze through the window quickly leads to the conclusion that it is still too early for a summer jacket. There is only a slight drizzle passing over Tilburg, but by the time the trip to The Rooms has been completed, the choice for a winter jacket has been confirmed to be the right one. Soaked, is what we are. Not just that, though. Excited is another adjective that describes the situation very well. We are about to talk to Thijs Kramer, a familiar face, former board member, and current member of the Advisory Board of Asset | Econometrics. Thijs has spent a lot of time with the association and is still linked to us today.

Talking to a former boardie is always an exciting event to have reserved a spot for in your agenda. How does Thijs look back at his time here? What keeps him busy from day to day right now? Would he have done some things differently, with the extra knowledge that hindsight entails? We are about to find out. As we call Thijs, he sends us a message instructing us to hold off for five more minutes. A little later, our phone rings and we pick up to kick off our interview. We get engaged in a very interesting and fun conversation very quickly. We notice from the way Thijs tells his stories that he is happy to work with us for this article.

## Being a boardie

2015/2016 marks a significant academic year for Thijs. Not due to academic achievements though, but because he lived through one of his most fun years as chairman of Asset | Econometrics. Looking back on his time there he says he found it to be really enjoyable. He still keeps in touch

with the other four board members. Yes, back then the board was made up of just five people. It was a special group that year, as many were a part of the same group of friends. All of them individually tried out for the board positions. He decided to apply mainly because it sounded like a lot of fun. He always attended the activities organized by the association and spent a lot of time at the rooms. It almost felt like a natural next step to him. He felt that he could bear the responsibility and with the added perk of a board year adorning one's resume, he was completely convinced. He notes that this should not be your only reason to take on the challenge, though. According to him, those who did so were not able to finish it due to a lack of proper motivation. Thijs himself also wanted a break from studying for a year, perceiving it as a nice change of scenery.

He is 100% sure that doing a board year taught him the most and was one of the most fun years as well. He had to let go of his own way of working sometimes, wanting it one way, but having to compromise to make it work for everyone and get results. Things you just do not quite learn from school assignments. However tough it may be, you are in it together and have to come up with a solution. One of the board members was actually his roommate, too. In this way, he learned to separate board life and private life, as he felt it was unhealthy to take the tough tasks home all the time.

As mentioned, there were five board members, with a high work rate. Starting each morning from nine, spending the day working up until going out to the bar in the evening. Some sacrifices had to be made to stay on schedule. Almost no sports or



**Thijs  
Kramer**

**Master Strategic Management**

Age: 27

working out, as there was simply a lack of time. The board collectively decided to see their friends a little less than before because there were just not enough hours in a day. However, they were almost always free on the weekends and quit working already slightly before 17.00 hours on Friday, which is no different from his job now. Taking it easy, just ending the week.

## Finishing studies

After his board year the course statistics and his thesis were the last two hurdles on the way to a Bachelor's diploma. Statistics was already an infamous course back then and might have popped up in some of Thijs' nightmares. It took him six tries before he finally passed. He started the Master's Strategic Management in December 2017, which surprisingly is not an Econometrics Master. Strategic Management is one of the Business Economics Master's. Some people found it rather odd that he set out his path in this direction, especially after having gone through all the trouble with the statistics course. Even though he heard the Master's program was easier than the Bachelor's, it did not sound much fun to him to be programming all day. He still loves some of the

## Bert & Ernie Questions

Brandpunt or Boekanier?

Watching sports or playing sports?

Pubquiz or cantus?

Olympics or FIFA World Cup?

Eindhoven or Tilburg?

**Boekanier**

**Watching sports**

**Pubquiz**

**Olympics**

**Tilburg**



optimization driven aspects, but especially so if he does not have to do the work behind it. He was required to follow some first year courses to get up to speed and be able to join the program, but this was a cakewalk according to him. He went on to write his thesis at the university, which was the easy and quick option as opposed to doing an internship at a company. He appreciated the respective qualitative and quantitative aspects of the Strategic Management Master's and Econometrics Bachelor's.

### Learning and earning

At the end of his Master's Thijs, really looked forward to working, earning money, going on vacation and really being able to work on something bigger. Nowadays he works as a business controller for Ahold Delhaize, a Dutch multinational retail and wholesale holding company. He is specifically tied to the Albert Heijn department in a finance position, which he found through an in-house day from Integrand, a professional student network. He started working at the company in a supermarket in an HR and finance traineeship, starting off as a stock clerk and working his way up to manager. It is in Zaandam, which is quite far away from Waalwijk where he lives now. Now he holds a very diverse job at the Appie involving financial analysis. As an example, he mentions a part of the online business-like delivering groceries to people's homes and analyzing how efficiently it runs. He tests how well the business processes go and if they are profitable, with the ability to change it if necessary. Comparing and contrasting, trying to explain the differences, clustering customers, creating regression models, working at the data science department. All summed up, this sounds rather close to econometrics. His job, consisting to a large extent of numbers and finance, involving no guesswork and having to be based on facts, sounds like something someone with a Master's degree in the econometrics department would do. But, according to him, it does not quite hold up to the mathematical models associated with econometrics. He understands the work quicker than most,



having developed a high level of analytical thinking during his Bachelor. This sometimes gives him more insight. An argument that the three Bachelor years were a waste of time will not stand, we believe.

He has to go into work three times a week and works from home on Mondays. On Fridays he studies a Master's in Finance and Control at the TIAS School for Business and Society, which is a business school offering economics and management courses on the campus of Tilburg University. He decided to go back because he feels like he lacks some theoretical knowledge in finance as he was not traditionally educated in this field. Taking this Master's is common at Ahold Delhaize, which sounds attractive as you can widen your understanding of the topic while the company takes care of the financial burden. According to him it is a good combination between learning and earning. When asked if he would work anywhere else, he answers that at this moment he does not have any reason to leave. Next to his current Master's he is still involved with Tilburg University in other ways as he is part of the advice committee supervisory board at Asset | Econometrics as well.

### Sports and drinks

When he is not at work, Thijs is not the type of person to only sit back and relax.

He enjoys camping in the summers and watching sports events. Combining the two sounds like an absolute sweet spot for him, which is why he was happy to visit events like the Olympics in Korea in 2018, the World Ice Skating Championships, and both men's and women's football championships, on European as well as global levels. He also plays football himself in his spare time in his hometown, where fun is a more important factor than prestige. He even is chairman of this football club, forming a parallel between now and eight years ago at Asset | Econometrics. He seems to be tailor-made for this role.

Thijs is a real quiz fanatic as well. He has been taking part in pub quizzes since his student time. The team is formed by a part of a larger friend group of 24 friends who were all active members at our association. He often sees (part of) the group even now, on occasions like birthdays and such. They used to take part in quizzes organized by Café Bakker and Polly Maggoo, sometimes even twice a week, but later changed it to ones located in Eindhoven as five of the members live there. However, they sometimes still play at Brandpunt, which organizes a quiz every week on Monday. Victory is not uncommon in their team, having won 52 times since 2017, an impressive achievement. His strongest categories are sports and Dutch television series. As a testament to his knowledge, he participated in the ninth of April episode of the television program Beat the Champions.

We really enjoyed talking to Thijs. He had a lot of fun stories to share with us, which gave us plenty to write about for this edition of the Nekst. As Asset | Econometrics we are very happy with his role in the AdCo as well, but that goes without saying. We would like to thank Thijs for freeing up time in his busy schedule, filled to the brim with work, sports, and quizzes, to talk to us. We are sure the association will not lose sight of him any time soon. ●



# We Are The LED

## Committee perspective



**Mylan Tran**

**Master EME & BAOR**

Age: 22

**L**ED, Landelijke Econometristendag, the largest recruitment event for Econometricians, organized by Econometricians. Each year one of the six study associations for Econometrics gets the chance to organize this event. For LED 2023, it was Asset | Econometrics' turn. After all the meetings and discussions, but most of all, a lot of fun(!), we now look back at a great year. I will take you on our journey from the beginning up until the LED 2023 itself.

Hi Nekst! Great to see you again. Where to begin with my story? Let us just start at the beginning: the LED information session. This session was held in the Vrienden van Tilburg at the end of September 2021 and most of us (future LED 2023 board) were there. The atmosphere was extremely relaxed and even the coordinators of the LED, Wout, and Joris, had never been to an actual physical LED yet. For this reason, we prepared our applications for the LED board quite casually and we did not think it would be very serious. However, the opposite turned out to be true. For my interview, both members of the Asset | Econometrics board were dressed in a suit, and they were very serious (read: very serious). I wore a simple sweater, so you

can understand that I felt a little intimidated and underdressed. Nevertheless, everything turned out alright and I became the Secretary and Marketing Officer of the LED board. Together with Chairman Emma Segers, Treasurer Ferdy Baltussen, Day Coordinator Koen van Dijk, External Affairs Job Hoven & Luuk Sommers, we organized the LED 2023. The day before our internal announcement, most of us already knew who would join the LED board. This was supposed to be a secret, but we could not contain our excitement. Nevertheless, there was still a huge surprise on November 4, 2021, when we met each other at Joris' house for the first time. Luuk was still in Mexico! Like us, Luuk had quite an interesting board interview, even on the other side of the world.

In good spirits, we started our board year with a nice get-together organized by Emma. She hosted a fun pub quiz which would be the start of our monthly 'getaways'. After this, we started our weekly Friday meetings. Maybe, you have seen us working hard on Friday, in the afternoons when you visited the study association's rooms. These meetings could even last three or more hours since there was a lot to discuss. To keep us motivated, we came up with a list of challenges: get 50 companies, sell out the registrations, fix a location, etc. Each challenge resulted in a fun activity when it was accomplished. Job took us to Belgium once, Luuk hosted a bowling and karaoke night, and I took us to a swimming pool in Den Bosch. This was also the day that we decided to host the LED 2023 at the NBC Congrescentrum in Nieuwegein and we were really happy that we signed the agreement. During our bus ride

in Den Bosch, we were talking about event locations. Luuk then said: "Brabanthallen, that's in Rotterdam, right?". This was ridiculous of course, but in hindsight, I should not have underestimated him as he kind of predicted our future (to be continued...).

During summer, our externals were very busy with acquiring companies for the LED. We also went to Krakau as a board trip and we switched coordinators: Wout and Joris left, and Luc and Matthijs joined. We thought it was smooth sailing from that moment on. But you can already feel disaster coming, do you? When we were singing songs during the Tilburg University Cantus in September (also, coincidentally, my birthday), the NBC Congrescentrum burned down due to a devastating fire. I am really proud of our Day Coordinator Koen who then visited all event locations in the Netherlands to find us a new LED location within a month. We did not give up and this catastrophe motivated us to work together and to support each other wherever we could. Eventually, I suggested visiting the 1931 Congrescentrum and, you guessed it, the Brabanthallen in 's-Hertogenbosch! Koen secured this location, and we moved our initial date of the LED from February 9 to February 6.

In the fall of 2022, I worked hard on our information booklet, the profiler. Also, I organized our subscriptions that sold out in twelve minutes on December 1. Ferdy took care of our budget and sending out invoices to companies (the LED budget is very extensive, so I will not bother you with the actual amount of money). Emma supervised us and made sure we all did our





tasks. In January 2023, the month before the LED, our board year became a full-time job. We worked hard to make sure students and companies would enjoy their day. I will try to mention some of our tasks: on-site registration, laptops, banners and posters, food and drinks, communication with students and companies, balloons, and personal programs of students. We even had some of the most hard-working volunteers the world has ever seen, second-year students from Asset | Econometrics, to help us during the day. As if there were not enough obstacles,

the Dutch regional transportation decided to go on strike on February 6, the day of the LED. Luckily, we communicated this with the students in time and most of them were still able to come.

In the end, over 750 students and 75(!) companies participated in the LED 2023. It was a wonderful day, since we got to see how all our hard work finally turned out. We loved talking to the companies and enthusiastic students. We ended the day with a LED-gendary afterparty in Utrecht which started

at 23.00 hours and ended at 4.00 hours in the morning. We even made sure that everybody could get a free snack at Falafel City at the end of the party. Finally, I would like to thank my board members for an amazing day, but an even more amazing year. This year, I learned many skills when doing my own tasks, but also when working together with my board members, and a lot about myself too. I would recommend doing the LED board to everyone. So, I hope there will be many excited students from Tilburg in 5 years that want to organize the LED.



**The Landelijke Econometris-tendag (LED) is a highly anticipated event for all Econometrics students across the Netherlands. LED 2023 was my first time attending, and for me it was an incredible experience that left me feeling inspired.**

As I was a 'LED Rookie' this edition, I had no clue what to expect. When I arrived at this year's location, Congrescentrum 1931, I felt a little nervous, but excited for what was to come. After registration, the day started with an opening speech by Björn Kuipers, a renowned Dutch referee and entrepreneur. His speech focused on the importance of teamwork, communication, and decision-making. He shared his experiences and how they relate to the working field. His speech was inspiring, and it set the tone for the rest of the day.

I spent the rest of the morning hours participating in an interesting business case. It allowed me to learn both about the structure of the company and their daily challenges. The case was not that complex, but nice and engaging. It allowed me to apply my econometric knowledge to real-world situations. The case provided me with a better understanding of the company and how they operate, which was incredibly informative.

To break up the day, we had an extensive lunch, which was a great opportunity to

connect with other attendees and share our experiences. The time could also be used as a chance to network with professionals and other students in general.

In the afternoon, I attended the company fair that was followed by multiple speeddate sessions. The company fair provided me with the opportunity to connect with companies in the econometrics department and to learn more about their work. Before, I was not very familiar with the industry, but the company fair was the perfect place to have short and efficient, yet informative talks. During the short talks with the representative of a certain company, I learned about their work culture, their job- and internship opportunities, and what they look for in potential candidates. I liked that the conversations were open-ended.

For me, the speeddate sessions were a more formal version of the company fair. In the various rounds, I sat around the table with three different companies. I was again able to speak to representatives from several companies and gain insight into their work. Personally, these conversations were harder for me, as the conversations were more position and company specific. A positive note to the speeddate sessions is that I really learned some new things with respect to the career path of one of my predecessors. Overall, the afternoon was a fantastic opportunity for me as a student, as I am still exploring my options in the field of econometrics. As the day came to an end, Andries Tunru, a famous Dutch comedian and improviser, entertained us with his hilarious and spontaneous performance. His ability to improvise and interact with the audience was truly impressive. His performance was a great way to conclude the day, and it left us all feeling positive and energized.

To fill our stomachs, we concluded the day with a delicious three-course recruitment dinner. It was an excellent opportunity to network and connect with professionals and other attendees in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. The dinner was well-or-

ganized, and the food was outstanding. The only downside was the loud music, which made it difficult to hear each other at times - but I suppose that is just part of the experience. I am positive they just wanted to slowly warm up our voices for the afterparty in Utrecht.

Overall, my experience at the LED was incredibly positive, and I would highly recommend it to other students in the field of econometrics. The event was well organized, and the range of activities provided something for everyone. It was a perfect mix of formality and Informal. I left the event feeling inspired and energized, and I am excited to see what the future holds in my career in econometrics.

The LED is a fantastic opportunity for students to connect with professionals, learn about the latest developments in the field, and network with other students. It was a great experience, and I am looking forward to attending it again in the future. ●



**Jelte Hoevenaars**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 20

# Optimizing Passions, Never Going Halfway

written by **Huub Hoven** and **Floris van der Moosdijk**



**Dr. Joris Wagenaar**

**F**or this edition of the Nekst, we had the pleasure to interview dr. Joris Wagenaar. You might know him from Inventory and Production Management, which he teaches as a third-year EOR course. Next to that, he is the Bachelor's Thesis coordinator for EOR, so you might already have been in contact with him in that way. Another busy EOR related occupation is supervising many students with their thesis, typically Master's students. Besides his time teaching and guiding Econometrics students in Tilburg, there are also other courses dr. Wagenaar teaches students from other study programs, such as Linear Algebra to Data Science students.

That is as far as teaching goes. As a researcher, dr. Wagenaar is part of Tilburg University's Zero Hunger Lab, where he does research to reduce hunger worldwide. One of his active projects is about using mathematical models to reduce food waste from,

among others, consumers, supermarkets, and restaurants. Moreover, he is involved in projects like the optimal location for water well placement in Africa, which he does in collaboration with a PhD student, and optimally restoring infrastructure after the event of an earthquake. What he likes about researching for Zero Hunger Lab is that even though you do very theoretical research, your findings can make a direct difference through collaboration with partners that use the models to help people worldwide. For him personally, that is the most satisfying type of research there is.

Dr. Wagenaar looks back at his study years with much enjoyment. He studied Econometrics and Operations Research in Rotterdam. Back in his student days, he was active at the study association of Econometrics of Rotterdam, now called FAECTOR. Notably, he was in the committee for Estimator, which is the counterpart of the Nekst over at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He also did a board year in his third year, becoming the secretary of the association. During these years, dr. Wagenaar worked as a student teacher. Since he became an academic teacher later in his career, this turned out to be a useful experience. At the point of graduation in 2012, he was not sure what direction he should go in. The choice was between a career in academics or in business. He told us he was hesitant to go for academics as he was afraid that in academics you sit in a small room, you do some research, and then your work gets published in a paper to never be used for anything. That did not sound appealing to him, as he wanted to do research that could concretely be applied. Eventually, he found something

that suited his wishes to do directly applicable research. He started working on a PhD in collaboration with NS. After his PhD, he started working as Assistant Professor here at Tilburg University.

When asked about hobbies and sports, dr. Wagenaar tells us that besides work he invests much of his time playing squash at a high level. He plays in the Squash Eredivisie, being one of the top players in the Netherlands. He also plays in other European countries like Belgium, Denmark, Germany, and sometimes France. After work, he trains daily. If the winner of Asset | Econometrics' Squash Tournament dares, he or she should feel free to challenge dr. Wagenaar for a match. Being competitive in sports started at a young age. Until he was 13 years, he played Tennis and was pretty good at it. However, it was hard breaking through to the national youth teams. Being frustrated about not quite being able to become a top player, he decided to quit tennis and started playing squash. It seems like the concept of optimization entered his mind from an early age. The young Joris Wagenaar was very competitive and simply wanted to be really good at the things he did. That still translates to today, if he does something he wants to do it well and not halfway. However, he is not as extremely competitive as he once was. Another one of his hobbies is playing board games together with his wife and his board game group of friends. This group consists only of Econometricians, so the theory that Econometricians like board games gets supported once again. As dr. Wagenaar sees it, board games are essentially like a big puzzle, which is something Econometricians generally like, and he is no different. ●

## Bert & Ernie Questions

Lake or Swimming Pool

Hotel or Camping

Brussels Waffles or Liège

Tennis on Grass or Tennis on Gravel

Padel or Tennis

Swimming Pool

Hotel

Brussels Waffles

Tennis on Grass

Tennis



# Long talent groeit door tot Managing Director bij Aegon Nederland

**C**ollega Frank van Wessel werkt sinds 2018 bij Aegon en hij is continu in beweging om zich te ontwikkelen. En dat wordt beloond. Dit jaar nomineerde Aegon hem voor de Young Captain Award. Frank deelt met ons zijn ervaringen. Over het programma, en ook over zijn carrièrepad, van studententijd tot de positie waarin hij zich nu bevindt: Managing Director van Aegon Non-Life.

## Je carrièrepad uitstippelen, daar is geen handleiding voor

Hoe verliep jouw pad na je studie? "Er is geen handleiding voor. Wat ik leuk vind, is dat er in iedere organisatie waar ik werkte veel aandacht was voor groei en ontwikkeling. Ik begon ooit met een traineeship. Dat betekende dat ik 70% van mijn tijd besteedde in de praktijk, en 30% kon besteden aan opleidingen, training, coaching en interviews. Een traineeship is een mooie manier om je carrière een kickstart te geven. Ik ben een voorbeeld van iemand die daar veel profijt van heeft gehad, dat gun ik iedereen. Ik kijk met een glimlach terug op wat ik bereikt heb en ben dankbaar voor alle kansen die ik heb gekregen en mensen die me hebben geholpen. En zo kijk ik ook naar Aegon."

## Young Captain Award

Begin 2022 werd Frank genomineerd voor de Young Captain Award. Dat is een jaarlijks programma waarbij CEO's van toonaangevende bedrijven in Nederland worden gevraagd een leider voor te dragen met de potentie om door te groeien naar bestuurder. Hoe het was om door Aegon genomineerd te worden? "Ik voelde me gewaardeerd en vereerd. Ik vind het niet alleen leuk dat er zo over mij wordt gedacht, maar ook dat er wordt nagedacht over 'hoe kunnen we, in dit geval mij, onderdeel maken van iets groters?'"

Het sociale aspect was een waardevol onderdeel. "Het was al geslaagd toen de groep elkaar ontmoette. Wat heel leuk is, iedereen

zit daar met verschillende functies vanuit hun eigen bedrijf, van KLM tot ING. Het kan ook zijn dat je net een andere achtergrond hebt. Sommige hebben biomedische scheikunde gestudeerd, anderen economie of natuurkunde. Hoe divers de achtergrond ook is qua studie, functie en bedrijf, je hebt allemaal dezelfde ontwikkelvragen. En even los van dat we veel oefeningen hebben gedaan, heb je tijdens de lunch, bootcamp om 7 uur 's ochtends of tijdens de borrel op het einde van de dag heel veel leuke interacties met elkaar."

## Leren dienstbaar te leiden

Hoe zag het programma eruit? "Omdat je door je eigen organisatie genomineerd bent, krijg je toegang tot een selecte groep medekandidaten en onderga je een trainings- en opleidingsprogramma. Twee dagen lang kregen we een bestuursprogramma verzorgd door Nyenrode, waarbij je leert bestuurder te zijn. We gingen in op complexe vragen als: Heb je een sterke visie? Ben je bewust van de bedrijfsreputatie? Hoe ga je om met aandeelhouders? Wat zijn de meest belangrijke stakeholders en heb je nagedacht over politiek, tot vakbonden en de OR en hoe je daarin acteert en je je tot verhoudt?"

Welke lering blijft je het meest bij? "Een van de kernpunten was het belang van het relationele component en het vertrouwen van mensen om je heen. Dan gaat het niet altijd om 'wat heb je bereikt en welke impact kun je maken?', maar ook 'krijg je ook het vertrouwen van de mensen dat je dit mag doen?' Dat is meer dienend of dienstbaar leiderschap. Stel dat we een stemming doen van alle medewerkers bij Aegon, zou er dan op mijn worden gestemd? Dat speelt daarin een belangrijke rol."

## Volg je hart

Frank is altijd een goede student geweest en zijn carrière loopt in een vloeiende lijn omhoog. Maar, zoals iedere jonge knakker, moet ook Frank wel eens onzeker zijn geweest, toch? "Kijk, studeren, dat kan ik wel. Nu ook als ik iets nieuws moet leren ga ik daar best onbevangen in. Ik vind het sociale component vaak spannender. Dat is niet omdat ik het niet kan, maar omdat ik altijd een beetje op zoek ben naar hoe ik een relatie start. Toch heb ik, door op mijn persoonlijke manier contacten te leggen, wel altijd een warme groep om me heen gehad."



## Wie is Frank van Wessel?

Frank van Wessel is 38 jaar oud en Managing Director bij het Schadebedrijf van Aegon. Wat houdt dat in? Dat betekent dat hij dagelijks leiding geeft aan het Schadebedrijf, waaronder Schade Particulier, Inkomen, Finance, IT, Legal, Risk en HR. Samen met het Management Team vertalen we grote ambitie naar concrete plannen en monitoren of het resultaat ook wordt bereikt.

Frank had de ambitie om zich in te zetten voor een maatschappelijk doel. Het werd een keuze tussen arts worden of econoom. Uiteindelijk werd het Economie in Tilburg. Hoe maakte hij die keuze? Frank is een man die altijd al het belang inzag van luisteren naar zijn gevoel en hoe hij zijn studiekeuze maakte illustreert dat maar al te goed. "Ik weet nog dat ik op een feestje stond, terugkwam van drankjes halen en ineens tegen mijn moeder zei: 'Ik weet het, ik word econoom!'. Toen vroeg ze 'maar wat is er dan net gebeurd dat je nu ineens die keuze hebt gemaakt?'. Toen zei ik 'Ja, gewoon, dat lijkt me leuk'. En dat is misschien wel de beste motivatie die je kunt hebben."

Wat zou je met de kennis van nu, zeggen tegen andere ambitieuze jonge talenten? "Maak je niet te druk, volg je hart, dan komt het wel goed. Ik bekeek laatst een inspiratiefilmpje van Steve Jobs. Hij zei: *Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary*"

Heb jij ook grote ambities? En wil jij jouw carrière kickstarten bij een van de grootste financiële dienstverleners van Nederland? Ontdek Aegon en lees meer over de startersfuncties en development programs die Aegon biedt! Ga naar [werkenbij.aegon.nl/starter](https://werkenbij.aegon.nl/starter).







In this wild world (Tilburg) you might encounter these so-called “Econometrics students”. These peculiar specimens might seem like all the same bunch, but upon closer inspection you will find a wondrous and diverse set of different kinds. Each specialized in their own niche, but together they form a powerful ecosystem. In this sea of students it is sometimes hard to know what type you are looking at. Luckily they are easily categorized if you know how to answer these questions.







Does it pass most  
of their exams?

NO

An inactive

YES

Is it observed to  
be happy?

YES

The nonexistent

NO

Does it  
mysteriously  
disappear?

YES

The diligent

Did it disappear  
around february?

YES

A fallen soldier

NO

Will it ever  
graduate?

NO

A phantom

NO

The forever student

YES

The student™

# Getting to Know Selina's Past

Fun facts  
 \* Eric made a Senseo machine as an intern at his study, but the company got to sell it.  
 \* Selina had a fashion runway party as a kid



## The Beginnings

To get to know Selina, you first need to get to know her parents. Rebinah and Eric are the parents of Selina. Rebinah in short is a very social, accommodating lovely lady who would do anything for her children (and her guests, she even bought a cake for us). Eric is a hard-working, smart father who runs his company, which he acquired from his dad. They met in Maurik while they were both busy at the MEAO (administrative skills) and MTS (technology). Eric saw Rebinah walking in the hallway and knew he wanted to ask her out. Rebinah did not notice at first since she was mostly busy with her hair at the time. After some weeks, at the school year-end party, Rebinah wanted to go home, but could not get her

helmet on. Then Eric told her he would help her after he got a kiss. Eric's determination to persuade Rebinah, is something Selina is very good at as well as she is currently one of the External Affairs officer of Asset |Econometrics. When Rebinah and Eric were young they used to go to the local disco. They often went three times a week. Apparently, it was the place to be. On the weekends, you could find them at the Beldert, which was a lake nearby where Eric used to go windsurfing. Nowadays the disco has been torn down and the lake is a 'Wipe-Out' location, so sadly the children have not had the same nightlife at home. But luckily, Selina has explored the "Boekanier" and "Polly" more than enough, so she cannot complain.

## About Selina

When the parents are asked about Selina, Rebinah immediately says: "Creative, enterprising, determined, social, good ideas, convincing...". It is immediately clear both parents are very happy and proud of their daughter. But of course, it gets more interesting when they are telling us some anecdotes and funny stories.

When Selina was young, she used to think she had her own mini restaurant. She made up a menu and printed that out. She

let her sister wait. But luckily, nowadays she also actually cooks.

Some may and some may not know, but Selina first did another study in Nijmegen. She eventually stopped studying there. But



## Quiztime: Who knows Selina best?

| What's Selina's...   | Mother   | Father     | Selina   |
|----------------------|----------|------------|--|
| ... favorite spot?   | Italy?   | Ibiza      | Italy  |
| ... favorite drink?  | Spoom    | White wine | Espresso Martini but spoom is a good second                        |
| ... celebrity crush? | Harry!   | --         | Harry, he's so handsome  |
| ... favorite food?   | Pastaaa! | Pastaaa!   | Nooo, sushi?, but apparently, she likes everything her mother says |

when she stopped, she helped her father at the company. Her parents were quite proud of that, but what came up, while we were having the conversation, is that Selina bumped the truck once. The truck's fuel was nearly empty, so Selina was quite stressed and there was some stupid post, not her fault of course.

## Deep Dive

When asked if looking back at their life if they would have done something different; Eric would have loved to go into the army. When he was young, he already worked for his father and had no choice. They are both happy Selina has that choice and can study something she likes. ●



# From the Farm to Tilburg

written by **Guus van der Velden** and **Floris Somers**

**W**e also had the pleasure of interviewing Sara's parents, Elke Smulders and Hermjan Darwinkel. As they live in France it was expected that we would zoom to do this interview, but coincidentally they were actually visiting Sara after returning from a family weekend in Drenthe. They came over with Sara's siblings all the way from their farm in Ecorpain.

Both Elke and Hermjan went to study at the agricultural university in Groningen, where Elke studied animal management and Hermjan got a degree in animal husbandry. In Groningen, they also joined the same student association, where they met each other. However, to do this, both of them had to move away from their respective hometowns, Elke from Haarlem and Hermjan from Lelystad. During his time as a student, Hermjan did a boardyear as a treasurer, and chairman, where he lived in between the rooms of his student association and their pub. Afterwards his board year got extended to one and a half years when he had to lead the association while they underwent a fusion between three colleges in Groningen and Leeuwarden.

Sara has, just like Selina, no plans to follow in her parents' footsteps when it comes to her career. After finishing their studies at the agricultural college, Hermjan first moved to



## Quiztime: Who knows Sara best?

| What's Sara's...                   | Mother                                    | Father                                    | Sara                                      |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| ... favorite vacation destination? | Kenya                                     | Mountains                                 | Anywhere with mountains                   |
| ... favorite drink?                | Champagne                                 | Beer                                      | Gin tonic, champagne, beer                |
| ... celebrity crush?               | No one                                    | No one                                    | No one                                    |
| ... favorite song?                 | I am picky                                | No idea                                   | I am picky                                |
| ... second study of choice?        | Double Bachelor Mathematics and Economics | Double Bachelor Mathematics and Economics | Double Bachelor Mathematics and Economics |
| ... favorite dish?                 | --  | Three-course meal                         | A three-course meal                       |

France to work on a farm in the Calvados for 6 months. Afterwards, Elke moved as well, and they started managing a farming company in Bretagne with a humble 35 ha and 50 cows with just the two of them. There, they first learned to properly work together and to adapt to the farmers' life. Since they went from living in the city with everything within a stone's cast along with all their friends and family living nearby. To having no one but themselves, being 1000 kilometers away from anyone they knew, and having nothing but a landline for communication. However, moving away like this to France does present an excellent opportunity to learn the French language since it is kind of a requirement for living in France. Especially with the slight tendency of the French to refuse to speak any language other than their own. In Bretagne, they also got married with an amazing but small ceremony. After two years they moved again to their current farm, where they mainly produce milk thanks to their 250 cows. Since their start they have grown quite big, having a small staff of ten employees. Elke has even managed to end up on their milk cartons in a supermarket chain throughout France. With their move from the big city to the countryside, Sara has done the exact oppo-

site. She went from some hole in the middle of nowhere, having to commute 45 minutes by bus to get to the nearest school, to the big city (as far as Tilburg is a big city), where she only has to bike a couple of minutes.

It came as no surprise that Sara is now doing a board year. Hermjan has done a board year and Elke was also an active member of the student association. For example, the intro committee, and she would have liked to do even more, so doing a board year is kind of in the family. It was however a surprise that Sara came all the way to the Netherlands for her studies since she would have to completely rebuild her life here.

We also asked them which charity they would donate a million euros to, and Elke was very clear in this regard. Elke would invest in communicating about circular dairy farming, showing the farm life, their relationship with cows, the relations between cows, and the healthy gifts like milk and meat they give us. Furthermore, Elke would invest in a project like "kitchen on wheels" in which we cook low-budget healthy meals together with people and children to educate them about healthy diets and lifestyles. Hermjan would give the money to food banks. ●

*Sara*

# We Are Going to Lisbon!

The story behind a gender reveal, some slip-ups, and how everyone thought we were going to Barcelona.

**The preparation for the Europe trip is always covered in a veil of mystery, or at the very least that is what we try to maintain. The location, of course, must be kept as quiet as possible in order to have the biggest surprise effect during the reveal. However, as you might imagine, that is pretty difficult from time to time.**

For all of you who were just as oblivious as I was, being part of the Europe Trip Committee gives you precisely zero influence on the location of the trip. That pleasure is purely for the former board, who choose where and when we are going. So, during our first meeting, Matthijs started off with a wonderful spinning wheel, which told us: Lisbon it is! Luckily, that was still a surprise to us, as Matthijs nearly uploaded the signature yellow tram as our group chat picture.

It marked the start of a period of watching every word you said about the Europe Trip, not being able to do committee work in public places and carefully placing laptops away from windows during all those meetings. Of course, that already went south in one of the first weeks, as some people were crushed under the pressure of this enormous secret. So, we decided on naming everything Istanbul, in the hopes of making the slip-ups even more confusing. Even to this day our group chat still depicts Istanbul's most famous palace – maybe it is time for a change...

In the meantime, we were preparing for our reveal after the Male-Female activity, and

what suited better with that theme than a gender reveal. So, we bought a Portuguese flag – of which Matthijs nearly forgot to clear the wrapper that said in massive letters 'flag of Portugal', decorated some boxes with the absolute worst of the puns that we could think of and Stijn offered, completely voluntarily, to dress up as a pregnant lady.

But we had to change tactics again since some hints about the whereabouts of the location were spreading around quickly. Suddenly everyone knew we were going someplace warm, that was not in eastern Europe and apparently, everybody said that Robin had been there already. Well thanks, everyone for spreading because that really leaves a lot of options, does it not? Therefore, we took Barcelona as our cover and the challenge arose to convince as many people as possible. The LED turned out to be the perfect opportunity and then, especially the afterparty. Acting a little more intoxicated than I really was, I just introduced myself as 'Bas, the chairman of the Barce-, oh the Europe Trip Committee.' Well oops...Sorry guys, my apologies, but all comments of the next day saying: 'Oh the chairman of the Europe Trip really blew the entire secret' were just so worth it.

Then the big day arrived, February 13, the day of the Male-Female activity and of course, our gender reveal. But on the way to the activity, both Laurens and I nearly completely ruined everything. In quite a crowded train, Matthijs set us up by asking us if we would drive to the location since



**Bas Meima**

**Premaster BAOR**

Age: 23

last year some people had to drive all the way to Prague. To which Laurens responded that Lisbon would just be a bit too far, which I agreed upon by yelling 'Yeah, Lisbon is pretty far'. Luckily for us, no one caught on and the secret remained just that.

We ended up at the Nachtwacht, where earlier that day I placed our huge mystery box for the gender reveal. Which, by the way, was an immense pain in the ass just for getting that box there. Walking for about twenty minutes with the stupid thing was not just a challenge for my physical strength, but also for my dignity. One person on the street even commented on the box, saying: 'Well, you're doing great for valentines tomorrow'. If only that would have been the case.

The reveal was, as to be expected, one big circus act. With a box in a box in a box, Stijn wearing the most beautiful wig and the PowerPoint that of course did not work. But I just loved everyone's reaction to it and all the hard work from the committee. So, thanks everyone for that and enjoy with us the so-called 'voorpret'. On to Lisbon, we go! ●





# Asset | Econometrics: Building a Strong Community and Career Preparation for Econometrics Students at Tilburg University

**A**sset | Econometrics is a study association for econometrics students at Tilburg University. The organization plays a vital role in building a solid community among econometrics students and in preparing them for their future careers.

Asset | Econometrics offers a wide range of activities and services to its members, including academic support, career events, and social activities. The organization's objective is to promote the study of econometrics and to provide students with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in this field.

One of the main focuses of Asset | Econometrics is to provide academic support to its members. The organization offers exam training sessions, study groups, and other academic support services to help students succeed in their studies. These services are especially important for econometrics students, as econometrics is a challenging field that requires a solid understanding of mathematics, statistics, and economics.

In addition to academic support, Asset | Econometrics also provides its members with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in econometrics through various events and activities. The organization organizes guest lectures, workshops, and study trips to help students gain a deeper understanding of econometric theory and its applications.

For example, the organization recently organized a study trip to London, where members had the opportunity to visit

several financial institutions and learn more about the application of econometrics in the real world. Such events help students gain practical insights into the field of econometrics, and they also provide valuable networking opportunities with potential employers.

Asset | Econometrics also plays a vital role in preparing students for their future careers in econometrics. The organization organizes career events, such as company visits and recruitment events, to help students network with potential employers and learn more about the job market in the field of econometrics.

These events provide students with an opportunity to connect with alumni and other professionals working in the field, to learn about their experiences, and to gain insight into the skills and knowledge required for a successful career in econometrics.

Moreover, Asset | Econometrics also offers workshops and training sessions on various skills such as programming and data analysis, which are highly relevant in today's job market.

One of the key advantages of being a member of Asset | Econometrics is the opportunity to build a strong community with other econometrics students. The organization hosts various social activities, such as drinks, parties, and sports events, to help students connect with each other and to build lasting friendships.

These activities provide students with a chance to relax and have fun, and they also

help to build a sense of belonging within the econometrics community. Moreover, they offer opportunities for students to develop skills such as teamwork and leadership, which are highly valued by employers.

In addition to providing its members with academic support, career events, and social activities, Asset | Econometrics also works closely with the Tilburg School of Economics and Management to represent the interests of econometrics students.

The organization is involved in various committees, such as the Education Committee and the Examination Committee, to provide feedback and suggestions on the econometrics curriculum and to advocate for the interests of econometrics students.

Overall, Asset | Econometrics plays an essential role in the econometrics community at Tilburg University. It provides its members with a range of activities and services to help them succeed in their studies and prepare for their future careers.

The organization's focus on academic support, career events, and social activities helps to create a strong sense of community among econometrics students, which is essential for success in this challenging field. By providing students with opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge in econometrics and to build connections with potential employers and other professionals in the field, Asset | Econometrics helps its members to achieve their goals and reach their full potential. ●

Did you notice something different while reading this article? This article was, namely, not written by one of our editors, but by none other than the famous ChatGPT. ChatGPT is capable of generating an article if only asked to. However, you should watch out for what it writes about because not everything it writes is correct.

# ... Hong Kong!

**D**ear Astrics cuties, greetings from Hong Kong! Now that I am writing this, I am already in Hong Kong for 1.5 months. There is still so much that feels new, but also so much that feels so familiar here already. Also, it feels like I have only been here for two weeks now, but at the same time, it feels like a lifetime already because of all the things I have seen and explored already. On top of that, I only have three months left here, which sounds very short, but I am sure that I will get to see and discover so much more in this time.

I am really enjoying it here, but I miss home somewhat extra this weekend because of Carnaval, and I have a lot of FOMO (fear of missing out). Fortunately, I receive many videos and photos of all the parties and my family keeps me up to date about the Carnaval association which I have always been part of.

## About my life here

Then about my adventure here, the beginning did not go as smoothly as hoped. I already had some difficulties during the preparations for my trip. The first problem was that the semester here already started before I even finished my regular exams for

the first semester in Tilburg. This resulted in missing the introduction week and the first week of classes here. After that, I had some trouble finding the right courses to follow here. The university does not really know an econometrics major, as far as I understand they only know it in the Netherlands and some exceptional countries, so I just mixed & matched some business courses with a mathematics course and a philosophical course. There were many courses that got accepted as free electives, but not as econometrics courses. Luckily a few course requests later, I finally managed to find some courses that were valid replacements for cluster A courses, and it all worked out.

When I finally completed all my exams in Tilburg, I only had one more day in the Netherlands. This day I already followed one online class from Hong Kong, I packed all my stuff, and I prepared the last things for my departure. Then, on January 13, I said goodbye to my family, and I stepped on my flight. However, this also did not go without some holes in the road. I do not have a return flight yet because I am not sure on which day and from which place, I will go home. The people from the airline did not like this, so they just thought "well let us give Manon something extra to stress about." After ten minutes suddenly everything was fine because of my visa. I want to thank the airline very much for that, that was really unnecessary.

My flight itself went very smoothly, except that I could not sleep on the airplane, and because of the time I flew, I skipped a whole night. You could imagine that I was very tired when I finally arrived in Hong Kong. Then the next problem came on my way... I planned to take the metro to my wayroom since this is way cheaper than taking a taxi. However, this was a bad choice, I was already exhausted from the flight and skipping a whole night, so dragging my two heavy suitcases across the whole metro station was not a good idea, and when I finally arrived at the nearest metro station and I asked a local woman for the route (because I was so stupid to not figure this out beforehand myself), she told me that it was another twenty minutes walking uphill. So, eventually, I still took a taxi for the last part. Fortunately, the first evening made everything better. The girl from Tilburg I am on exchange with took me to the city to eat something together and showed me some parts of the city center, which was so impressive to realize that I was on the other side of the world now.



## Building a new life

Let us fast-forward to this moment in time. I have settled down in the meantime, even when it still feels like I am on a vacation here while I am studying full-time in a foreign city. During my second week in Hong Kong, I already had a break from school because of the Chinese new year. Because of this, I was able to discover a bit more about Hong Kong and get to know more people. Now I have found a bit of a steady group of friends with whom I regularly do fun things, such as going to the horse races every Wednesday (this is a big happening here, it is amazing because of the vibe and because there are so many exchange students together) and go to the beach or go out for dinner together. As a matter of fact, going out for dinner is very normal here, almost nobody cooks by him-/herself as an exchange student. This is because most of us do not have a proper kitchen and you will have to buy all your cooking pans and other utensils, and because it is equally as expensive as going out for dinner (as long as you do not go to a fancy restaurant every time of course). Luckily, it is no punishment to go out for dinner every day, because the food here is delicious and there is so much to choose from. I do have to admit that I still eat bread (with cheese ;) ) for almost every breakfast and lunch, as the pure Dutchie that I am.

For me, it is such an amazing experience already. I really recommend going on an exchange for everyone who likes to travel!

If you are planning on going on an exchange or doubting, you can always contact me! When you have questions about anything, just send me a message, even when I do not know you at all, I would love to help you out. (If you do not know how to contact me, just ask the board for my contact details. ●



**Manon de Groot**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 21





## Koppel jouw toekomst aan Deloitte

Risico's zijn binnen organisaties een constante realiteit. Binnen Risk Advisory zien we risico's als potentie om te groeien en bedrijfsprestaties beter te maken. Van het helpen verantwoord om te gaan met risico's, adviseren over cyber risico's tot het verantwoord beheren van risico's door data, analyses en technologie, binnen Risk Advisory zijn er verschillende onderdelen om jouw skills te laten zien!

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# Your Descendants Might Be Crabs

written by **Huub Hoven**

**I**t has been a long time for most who will read this article since they have had their last biology lesson. Still, most will vaguely remember how evolution works. Luckily, you do not need to know the ins and outs of evolution to understand the wonders of what is referred to as “convergent evolution”. Concisely put, it is the evolution towards a similar concept from a common ancestor that has not yet evolved towards this.

Trees do not exist, at least, phylogenetically. Hold up, what does phylogenetically mean? Phylogenetics is the study of evolutionary history and the traits of different organisms. Or in (too) simple words, finding the common ancestors of organisms. Back to the outrageous statement, why do trees not exist then? Well, there is not one tree-like organism that is the ancestor of all trees. It is actually a complete mess if you look at the evolutionary tree. For example, apple trees are more closely related to strawberries than to most other trees like oak, papaya, and even fig trees. But maybe that is not as crazy as it sounds. Scientists have been able to make non-tree plants grow tree-like branches. Wood is made up of the same structural elements as all other plant parts are made off. Change up the environment in which a plant grows and change some genes and, poof, it grows a wood-like stem. But as you dive deeper into the topic of convergent evolution, you will find stranger and

more curious instance of it.

Take carnivorous organisms, there are carnivorous mammals, fish, birds, and even plants to name a few. Each evolved to take nutrients from killing animals. Is it not wondrous that something like a plant, which can photosynthesize, evolves, for whatever reason, into a carnivore? These carnivorous plants do not have a common carnivorous ancestor either, something that notably Charles Darwin concluded. Yes, not only did some particular plants evolve into carnivores, it happened on several occasions. These plants tended to grow in the soil with little nitrogen, so they evolved to take it from a different source. Students need to count themselves lucky that evolution takes many generations to take effect, or else all those neglected houseplants might already have taken revenge. For the readers that just got reminded to water their plants, that plant might evolve into a predator of your descendants. It is beside the point but, did you know that pineapples have an enzyme called bromelain, which can break down the proteins that make up our body?

The arguably most humorous example of convergence is something that got its own word for it, namely carcinization. This convergent evolution concerns crustaceans where their abdomen gets reduced while their cephalothorax is broadened. This is Biologists’ mumbo jumbo for crustaceans

evolving into crab-like organisms. This might seem like just a random example of evolutionary convergence, but it is one of the most peculiar examples of it. Well, at least it has spawned a plethora of internet memes about how we supposedly are all evolving into crabs. But it mainly humors people that it is crabs that seem to have a big evolutionary edge. Luckily for us, as mentioned already, this only concerns crustaceans, which we are not. So, the title is a typical case of Betteridge’s law. No, our descendants will probably not evolve into crabs.

But funny or peculiar instances of nature’s forces is not all. Take flight, and the many different ways evolution has achieved this. From big birds to tiny insects, a large variety of organisms have evolved into taking off to the skies. With a running joke that claims according to the known laws of aviation, a bee should not be able to fly. Popularized by the Bee movie as its opening exposition, even though it is completely wrong.

Nature knows what it is doing and often makes the same thing coming from different directions. Some strategies just seem to work well, so well that it is worth repeating. It is not so strange that engineers love to take inspiration from nature with biomimicry. The moral of the story is, if you see people walking sideways, they are just further ahead in evolution. ●



# Questions and Acrobatics

**A**fter waiting for a long whole year, it was finally time for the amazing Astrings Pub quiz organized by our own study association Asset | Econometrics! On Wednesday, January 25, the second edition of the Astrings Pub quiz took place in the pleasant Heuvel Gallery.

I subscribed with some of my friends, and we decided that we really wanted to win this edition. This Astrings Pub quiz is the best and only one of its kind. Our beloved Board organized this event and they thought of really difficult questions to not make it easy for us. You can now think of difficult questions like “what kind of phobia is this?” – questions, “Game of Thrones” – questions (shout out to our beloved Kroesen), “match this picture to a place” – questions, and many more questions on various subjects and objects. Luckily, almost all those really hard questions were multiple choice, but there were a few open questions that were also quite hard to answer. Answering many questions required us to guess the correct answers.

The Board had divided all of the questions into different categories, with five categories in total. First, the boardies would read the questions and after the categories

were finished, they would let us see what the answers were. The answers to each question surprised me every time. I can assure you that our boardies had a lot of creativity when considering these interesting questions.

During this event, we got a short break, such that the Board could count the interim score and we could let our hard-working brains rest for a few minutes. Emma decided to delight us with her funny jokes, and we all were very thankful for this. After hearing the interim score, my team was really surprised to hear that we did not do well at all. This required us to think outside the box and that is the reason why my team tried to earn more points during the Pubquiz by letting Laurentien show off her amazing acrobatics. We were stunned by seeing her pulling it off so well and we were very happy with her. The trick worked and our team got the bonus point!

Jeroen is apparently an excellent quizmaster, because every time I was finally ready with reading the full question, Jeroen had already answered the questions. But there was only one big problem and that is that he also had absolutely no idea of what he was talking about, so all the answers were completely wrong. And we did only



**Elise Hage**

**Bachelor EOR**

Age: 21

find out after finishing the whole Astrings Pub quiz. At the end, there was an award ceremony to announce the winners of this second edition of the amazing Astrings Pubquiz. We got to hear that, even with Laurentien’s proudly earned bonus point, we still did not win this edition of the Astrings Pub quiz. Congratulations to those people who can now announce to everyone that they are the smartest people of our whole study association, Asset | Econometrics, by winning this really hard and difficult competition!

It was a lovely and entertaining evening with an amazing and extraordinary event. It was the perfect evening to finally relax from all the hard work for the tough exams and the laborious resits for some of us. Furthermore, it was really nice, entertaining, and heart-warming to see everyone again after being away for so long. It was not only an amazing evening to see everyone you already know, but also a perfect opportunity to meet new people of different years. I really enjoyed this evening and I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did! ●



# Meet the Board

Board of Asset | Econometrics 2023



## External Affairs

Hi everyone!!! My name is Selina Bötzel and together with Meike I am the External Affairs of Asset | Econometrics. I was born 23 years ago in a very small village near Tiel, called Eck en Wiel. In the past two years I have had the opportunity to do several fun and informative committees at Asset | Econometrics. I started as a Freshman in the Freshmen Night committee, then I enjoyed being in the Promotion committee and until I became a board member, I was in the Econometrics Consultancy Tour committee and in the Nekst. When the weather is nice I love to windsurf. Besides that I also like to sponsor restaurants with my boyfriend and friends. If the weather is less nice I like to escape on a sunny vacation.

I am looking forward to the coming year and meeting you at the rooms!

## Internal Affairs

Hey there, I am Sara and I am the Internal Affairs officer of Asset | Econometrics. I lived my whole life in France, with my Dutch parents and siblings, until 2.5 years ago when I moved to Tilburg to study Econometrics. After Top-Week, I directly joined a committee of Astrics: the Active Members Week committee. We had a whole lot of online meetings due to Covid-19 but that did not stop us from having very long and fun discussions. After some postponed AMWs we made it to have an amazing weekend without too many Covid struggles. Then I joined the Nekst and also the Yearbook committee. In those committees there was a lot of space for all my design and creativity needs. Besides studying, or for now, besides being a boardie, I like to spend time with my friends. We often watch a movie together under a blanket or we tilt the other way and go out to sing and dance the night away.

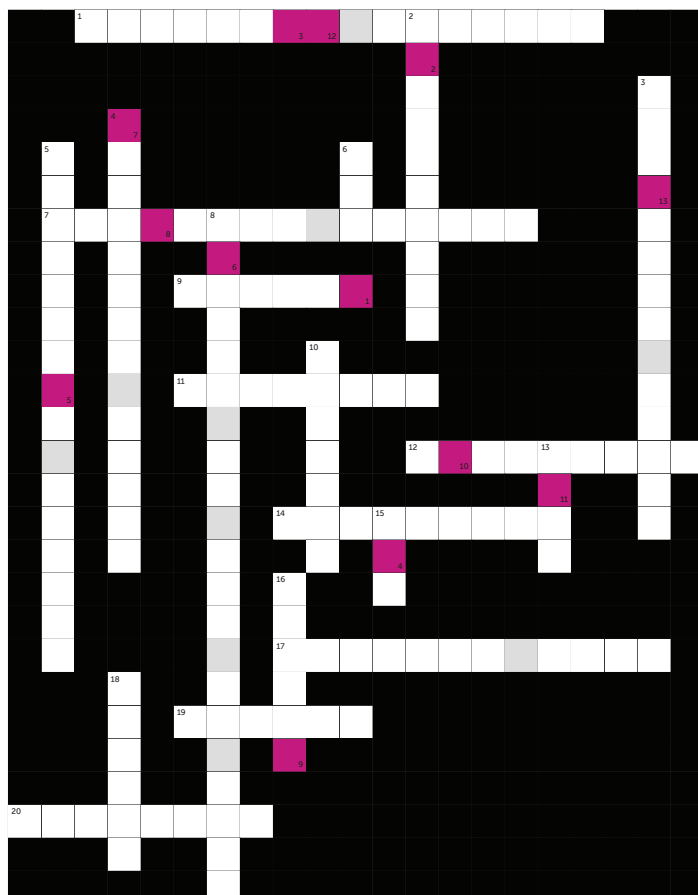
This year I hope to meet all of you during our events or your meetings at the rooms! And for myself, I hope to enjoy the fullest this year full of new experiences.





# Puzzle Time

written by **Timo Klabbers** and **Floris Somers**



## Vertical

- 2 The attraction in the Efteling about biodiversity.
- 3 From this kind of rhino there are only two left.
- 4 This species was removed from the endangered species list in 2020 thanks to conservation efforts.
- 5 This tool is used by WWF to predict deforestation.
- 6 Asset | Econometrics' partner who strives to safeguard the natural world.
- 8 This is the biggest driver of biodiversity loss.
- 10 The main characters of the movie Ice Age that has gone extinct.
- 13 United Nations program for biodiversity.
- 15 This color is given to endangered species.
- 16 The most biodivers country in the world.
- 18 This kingdom of species provides 60% of all the medicine.

## Horizontal

- 1 An introduced species that harms the biodiversity of an environment.
- 7 This ecosystem cover less than 10% of earth's surface, but contains about 90% of its species.
- 9 First man to use the term Biological Diversity.
- 11 This environment is lost three times faster in percentage than forest.
- 12 National Biodiversity centre in the Netherlands
- 14 When animals can no longer do this with eachother, they are a different species.
- 17 First animal to be close to extinction, but is saved.
- 19 The continent with the largest variety of animals.
- 20 Every year forest is lost about the size of this country.

## Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|

### Can you figure out the puzzle?

Please enter your solutions at [www.Nekst-Online.nl/Puzzle](http://www.Nekst-Online.nl/Puzzle). A goodiebag 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!

**Anne van Lieshout** is the winner of the previous puzzle. The solution can be found at [www.Nekst-Online.nl](http://www.Nekst-Online.nl).

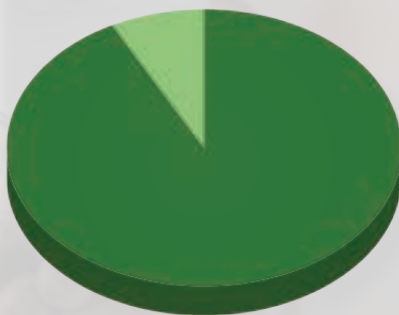
# Let's Talk!

Every day we are faced with many choices, we consciously and subconsciously make. It is said that the amount of choices we make per day is 35,000. It starts in the morning with the choice of whether to snooze one more time, what to eat for breakfast, or whether you should go for that morning run. Some choices are more difficult than others and you need to think about them for hours or even days. Other choices you make in a split second. So, in this edition of Let's Talk, I asked our fellow econometricians some dilemmas to see what they would answer.

written by [Laurentien Diepenhorst](#)

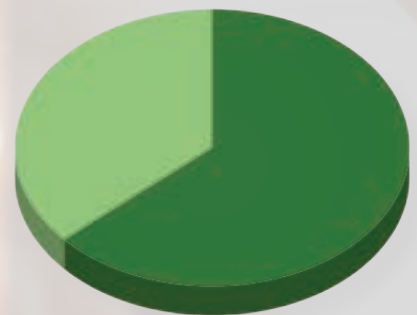
## Would you rather...

... sneeze every time you say hi or have the urge to pee every time you ask a question?



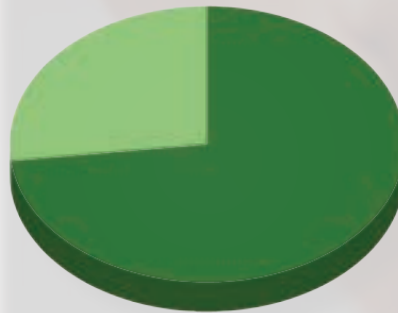
■ Sneeze  
■ Pee

... wear jeans one size too small or shoes two sizes too big?



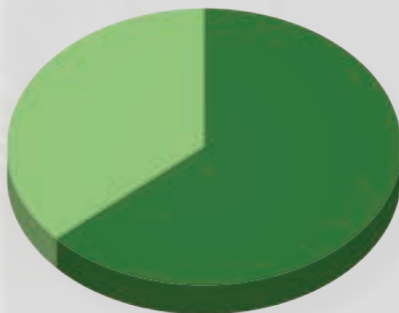
■ Too small  
■ Too big

... have "Baby Shark" stuck in your head forever or the jingle from your least favorite commercial?



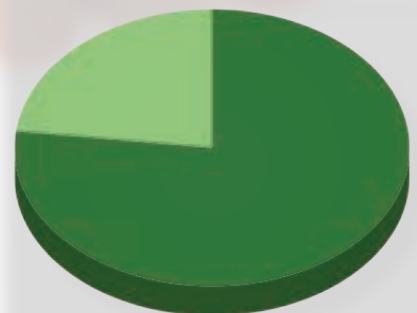
■ Baby Shark  
■ Commerical

... lose the ability to use GPS for the rest of your life or lose the ability to use a credit card



■ GPS  
■ Credit Card

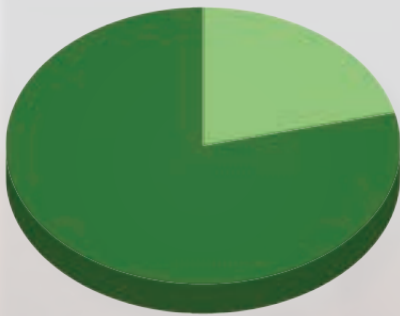
... be forced to sing along to every song you hear or be forced to dance along to every song you hear?



■ Sing  
■ Dance

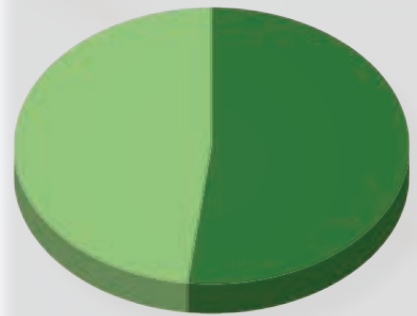


... **always** say what you're thinking or **never** be able to speak again?



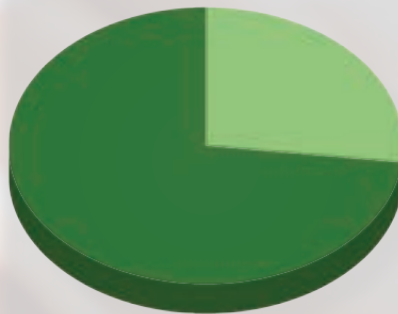
Never  
Always

... glow bright pink every time you're **attracted** to someone or glow bright red every time someone **annoys** you?



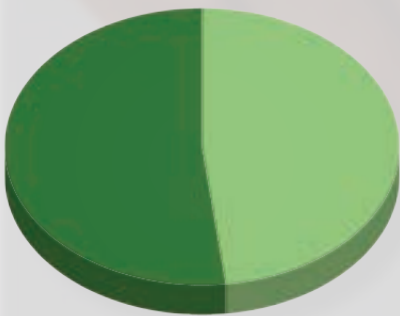
Red when annoyed  
Pink when attracted

... own a car with a horn that plays "YMCA" every time you touch it or own a car with your **kid's favorite cartoon** painted on the side?



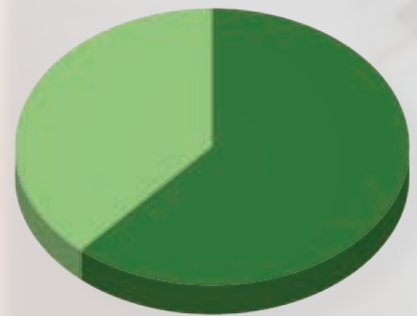
YMCA horn  
Kid's favorite cartoon

... **burp soap bubbles** when you're drunk or have your **hair turn green** when you're drunk?



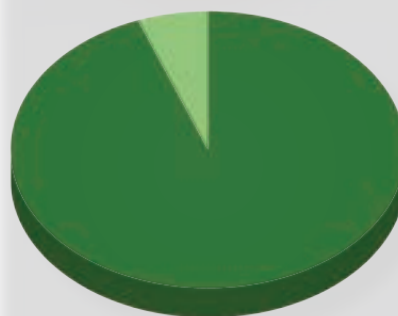
Soap bubbles  
Green hair

... **speak** only in a baby voice for a day or only be **spoken to** in a baby voice for a day?



Speak  
Spoken to

... make decent money doing what you **love** or get rich from a job that you **hate**?



Job you hate  
Job you love

# 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 send in your quotes at:

[www.Asset-Econometrics.nl/more/nekst/Quatsch](http://www.Asset-Econometrics.nl/more/nekst/Quatsch)

**Laurentien**

"Wacht! Ik ben vegetarisch! Ik mag helemaal geen fuet!"

**Matthijs**

"Drink geen alcohol! Drink Wijn!"

**Matthijs**

"Waar ligt Bourgondië eigenlijk?"

**Ralph** (die het woord Bourgondië uitlegt)

"Je hebt zelf bourgondische tuinen."

**Tillie**

"Zijn jullie hem kwijt?"

**Wout**

"Nee, we weten niet waar hij is."

**Stijn** (Bezig met filosofie)

"Wat is dit nou weer voor moeilijke term, wat is generosity?"

**Selina** (in the metro)

"Oh huh, heeft Nederland metro's?"

**Meike**

"Ja, je zit er nu in een"

**Nienke**

"Heb je nog een paasei gevonden?"

**Selina**

"Nee, maar huh... Nee dit is geen metro, deze rijdt bovengronds."

**Siebe**

"Ja, ik heb deze zelf verstop"





# Asset | Econometrics congratulates...

*Name* **Cascha van Wanrooij**

*Title* Experiments and Considerations in the Use of  
Machine Learning to Predict Food Insecurity

*MSc* EME

*Supervisors* Prof.dr. B. Melenberg, Dr. F.C.A.M. Cuijssen

*Name* **Fuad Paramasivam**

*Title* Structural Breaks in the European Union Emis-  
sion Trading System: An empirical approach

*MSc* EME

*Supervisors* Dr. A. Theloudis, Dr. O. Boldea

*Name* **Lieke Derison**

*Title* Critical Mass Games: The Transition to  
Zero-Emission Transportation

*MSc* BAOR

*Supervisors* Dr. F.C.A.M. Cuijssen, Prof.dr. P.E.M. Borm

*Name* **Sander van Eekelen**

*Title* Sustainability of the Dutch State Pension

*MSc* EME

*Supervisors* Dr.ir. E. Charlier, Dr. T. Kantarci

# ...on obtaining their Master's degree





**WANT TO TRADE IN GLOBAL  
FINANCIAL MARKETS?  
OR ARE YOU MORE INTERESTED  
IN THE LIVE MARKET DATA?**

**APPLY TO OPTIVER'S  
STUDENT JOBS AND INTERNSHIPS**







# Agenda



## MON Traders Tour

**01**  
MAY

Interested in working in the field of traders? During this tour we will visit the amazing Da Vinci and Optiver to learn all about it! Dress up in your business casual attire and join us on this trip!

## WED Europe Trip

**03**  
MAY  
**08**  
MAY

We are going to... Lisbon! During this informal trip the group will learn about the day- and nightlife in this Portuguese city. It has everything; from beautiful buildings to beaches, and from cozy shopping streets to nightclubs. The Europe Trip is guaranteed to be a lot of fun.



## WED Connection Day

**10**  
MAY

The Connection Day returns this year to a different location, Willem II Stadium! Learn more about how daily work at two of the six participating companies looks like. There is also a two-course lunch and we will close with a drink. You do not want to miss this!

## FRI Active Members Day

**12**  
MAY

We love our active members! And therefore the Active Members Committee has organized their ideal afternoon in Nijmegen. After having dinner on the 'Pancake Boat', we will play a special game in the center of Nijmegen. Active members: we hope to see you there!

## TUE Econometricians for Society

**16**  
MAY

In May it is time to have our last event already... and the Econometricians for Society has cooked up a great one! Interested in helping others out while also having fun? Check out our website for the latest information on this event.

## Astrics Beer Cantus

It is that time of year again... Gather your Astrics friends, grab a beer, and come sing with us during the one and only Astrics Beer Cantus! And what is so great about it this year? You will be free the day after due to ascension day, so time enough to sleep away that hangover.

## TUE Monthly Afternoon

**23**  
MAY

Come join your fellow econometricians at 'the rooms' during the monthly afternoon! More information about the specifics of this edition will be communicated as the event approaches.

## THU Lecturer of the Year Awards (LotYa)

**25**  
MAY

Clear slides, helpful tips or just good jokes. What do you think a good lecturer needs? Let us know by voting for your lecturer of the year! And curious to find out who won? Or just up for a fun afternoon? Then come join the event of the LotYA!

## THU Sports Activity

**15**  
JUN

In between all the studying, it is important to think about your physical health as well. And of course, we promise a lot of fun... during the Sports Activity in June!



## Board Announcement

After the Sports Activity, we will have the special Board Announcement where the summer boardies of 2023 - 2024 are announced! After keeping it a secret, they are happy to finally share it with all of you. Be sure to be there!

## THU Asset Champions League

**29**  
JUN

Football fanatics: pay attention! The Asset Champions League is back. Compete for Astrics and bring the blue team to the top during this competition. And do not forget to join the third half afterwards of course, to celebrate our successes.

## FRI Summer Activity

**30**  
JUN

The last informal activity of the year... we are going out by a bang! Maybe you will have had your last exams, and are in the mood to party; or maybe you still have some exams to go and are in need of a break. Check our socials to find out exactly what we will do and to sign up.



## FRI Boat Tour with Dataction x Flow

**07**  
JUL

Our first collaboration with Flow is a fact: we will have an informal activity with company Dataction on July 7! You do not want to miss this so block it in your agendas. Check out Dataction online and subscribe via our website in time.

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

# NOTHING BEATS TRADING

**GRADUATE TRADER**

**SUMMER TRADING INTERN**

We are looking for talented individuals with excellent mathematical and analytical skills combined with an interest in global financial markets.

Our Traders manage and optimize our daily positions, formulate innovative trading strategies whilst also developing tools. As a Summer Intern you will learn about our trading strategies, trading system and experience life as a Trader at Flow.

**Reach out to us at:**

[careers.europe@flowtraders.com](mailto:careers.europe@flowtraders.com)  
[flowtraders.com/careers](https://flowtraders.com/careers)

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**F L O W ■ T R A D E R S**

