

# THE JESTER

a professional joker or 'fool' at a medieval court, typically wearing a cap with bells on it and carrying a mock sceptre.



een professionele grappenmaker of 'dwaas' aan een middeleeuws hof, meestal met een pet met belletjes erop en een nepscepter.



# editorial

Hey, you. Do you want to read content written by a bunch of students observing what is going on in our little town? Well you're in the right place. Jester's have been keeping an eye on Wageningen and WUR to collect all of the dodgy deals, poster problems, and napping knowledge we could find. Read me now or take me to the toilet later. I'll be sure not to disappoint.

## info

The Jester is a periodical student paper published 4 times a year. We write about everything and anything related to what goes on at our university and little town.

jester

**noun**

1. a professional joker or 'fool' at a medieval court, typically wearing a cap with bells on it and carrying a mock sceptre

## colophon

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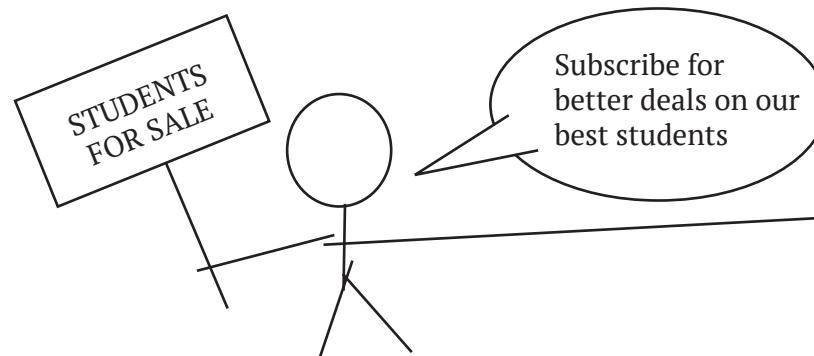
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The Jester is made by a team of amateur students that are striving to make a funny, critical and interesting magazine. We are always looking for your contributions.

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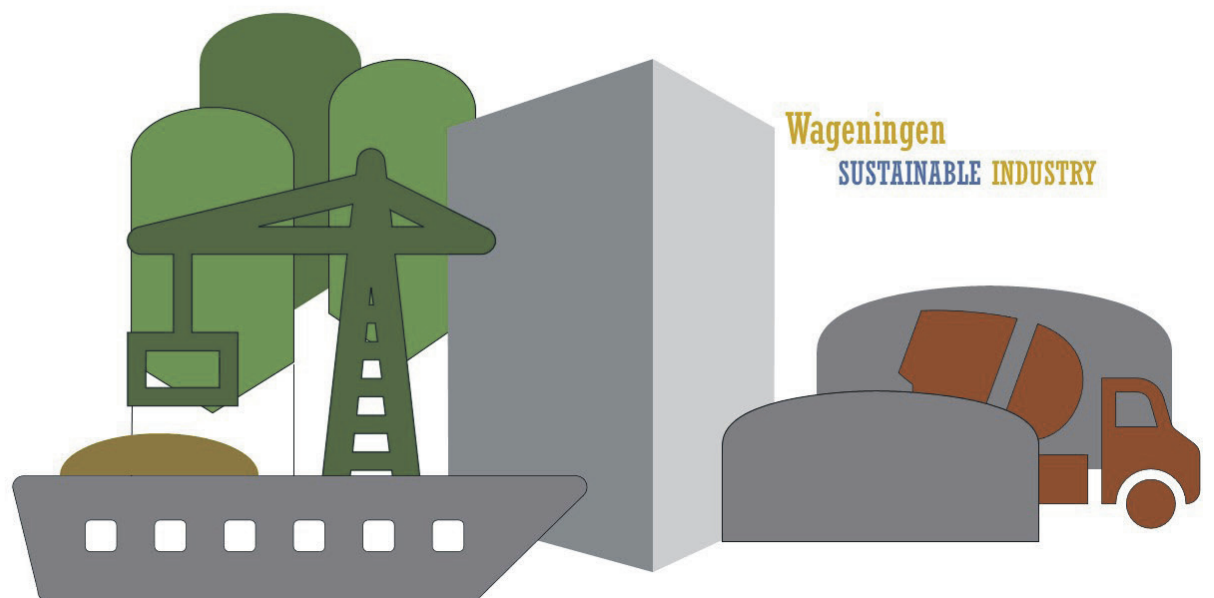
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# Wrapping up Louise Fresco's bicycle saga

Before summer, former president of WUR's executive board, Louise Fresco, decided to display her generosity to the WUR community and ensure that her legacy lives on by donating the bicycle that she once road on our very campus grounds. What more, she decided that a contest would be held: the bike would be given to one valiant student who submitted a picture that showed why they needed the presidential bicycle. Astonished by the absurdity of this contest, a few sneaky jesters decided to use this opportunity to win Fresco's bike and make a statement out of it. What came to be was an art installation called "Louise's illusion: a failed reduction of a system to its parts".

Our intentions were two: the first was to point out how WUR as an organisation seems to address the climate crisis as a set of challenges or wicked problems that can and should be solved independently; in other words, reductionism. The second intention was to expose the unnecessary and ridiculousness of the bike giveaway which fell to some extent into a cult of personality. The installation was set up outside Forum during a sunny lunch break. It received some but limited attention by passers-by until campus security showed up and told us to remove it. 15 minutes of activism completed... A success? Looking back, as the safety manager pointed out, we could have made use of the institutional aspects of WUR and placed the art installation with permission so it would have stayed for longer and maybe more people would have approached it. But, of course, as students, we tend to ask for forgiveness rather than permission. Besides, the art installation would most likely not have been accepted in the first place.

The next day, Resource published an article about the bike and two days later it was next to the foreword in their printed issue. At the same time, we received an email from Louise's team, demanding the bike back, which we very politely declined. Instead, we told them, we would give the bike to the refugee centre in Wageningen, and we did. Why didn't Louise just do that? Why was there a need to make a whole show of this tiny good action? Is this how we want to act with regard to the environment too? Making a whole event just to show that we separate our trash or donate our non-used objects? This should be self-evident.



## NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

**GRASSROOTS BASS COLLECTIVE**  
are bringing some vibrations to Wageningen.

- **SOUNDSYSTEM**
- 200% more vibrations
- 100% less techno

Follow on insta **FREE OF CHARGE**  
@grassroots\_bass\_collective

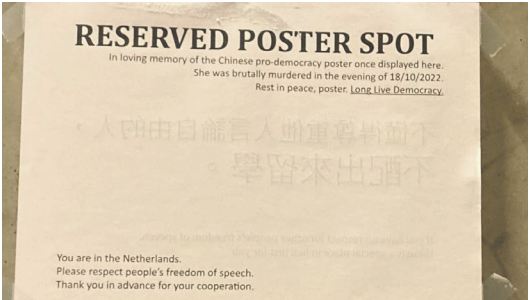
**THE JESTER IS  
LOOKING FOR NEW  
COORDINATORS**



Send an email to  
thejester.wageningen@gmail.com

**POSTER SPOTTED**  
in Orion. Kudos to the real life jester who put it there!

*Read p. 7 for context*



**THE JESTER ART EXPO** is promoting local artists every month with a new art exhibition space at the booksharing spot in Aurora. Check out last months artists Lucla Moreno @l\_m\_spiegelberg and Jacob Kaptein @jacobkaptein



Lucia Moreno



"Heaven's Flowers"  
by Jacob Kaptein

More info about upcoming exhibitions on our social media  
@thejester.wageningen

## POLITICAL COMPASS MEME who are you in groupwork?





# How does the Student Career Services influence your job options?

On 19 October, the “biggest WUR career day yet” was held. Over 100 companies were invited and were reportedly “all searching for you!”. At this event, companies set up booths in Orion and Forum, conducted one on one interviews with students, and some lucky students could even have lunch with potential employers. As Astrid van Noordenburg, Manager of the Student Career Services (SCS), so energetically put it on Instagram in August, this is “exciting right?!”. This event sparked my interest in the SCS, and Hanna and I interviewed Astrid and Vincent Koperdraat, WUR’s press officer, to find out more about the inner workings of the SCS.

## The purpose of the SCS

Established only 5 years ago, the SCS is WUR’s career office and aims to support students in their orientation on the labour market and transition from study to career. The SCS offers a broad range of services, from coaching students for interviews and CV checks to organising career events.

By guiding students in their applications and through career events, the SCS influences the career choices of a growing number of students. Companies approach the SCS to have their positions promoted through their online job platform JobTeaser. Astrid van Noordenburg from the SCS then screens these companies through email or by meeting the representatives in person or online and checking that the position offered is relevant for students at WUR and that the company’s values align with those of WUR. If Astrid questions whether the company fits these criteria, she will discuss them with the press officer to decide whether the position can be promoted. Astrid assures us that “[the SCS is] not a recruitment agency but is here for the students.” So, if there is no match between the organisation and WUR’s study programmes, the employer will not be allowed to share its vacancy.

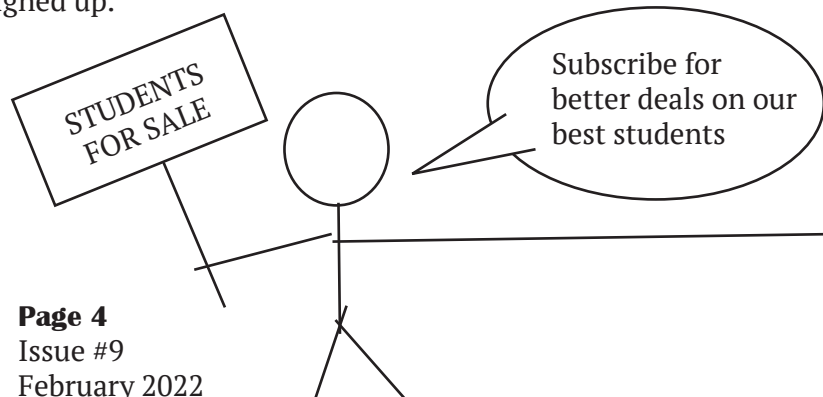
What is deemed ethical is subjective. Some students may argue that the business model of fossil fuel companies, which relies on the exploitation of people and nature, is not compatible with a sustainable future. But, when asked whether fossil fuel companies could recruit from WUR, Astrid said that there are positions in these companies which could be relevant for WUR students -- so they are not ruled out pre-emptively. Since an objective description of the screening process is not in place, this leaves room for subjectivity, and thus discussion.

## How the SCS facilitates companies’ recruitment of WUR students

The SCS aims to “[enable] students and employers to get more easily into contact with each other”. One such way is through facilitating companies to post their job vacancies for free on the SCS’s Jobteaser website.

Another way is through partnership agreements that companies have with the SCS. There are two levels: Plus and Premium partnerships (see image). Companies pay different fees for each type of partnership and receive benefits such as a “highlighted company profile on WUR Career Platform”, their logo on the SCS website, and “employer branding” at Wageningen Campus. All partners also receive access to a “CV Talent Bank” during events they participate in and can purchase additional “tailor-made events”, such as an excursion to the company, which are developed in collaboration with the SCS. For some extra money they can even get advertisement space in Resource’s hardcopy and on their website.

The fees for the partnerships cover the rent for facilities and catering costs, and the SCS does not make a profit from these partnerships. Companies that have signed a contract for the Premium Partnership currently include Limagrain, McCain, MSD, Rijk Zwaan, Ter Beke, Viterro BV, Bunge Lodders Crockland, and BestMix. Plus partnerships seem less desirable, with only Econsultancy, Royal Agrifirm Group, and Seed Valley having signed up.



## Your 12-month partnership with WUR Student Career Services

Wageningen University & Research has excellent students in the domain of life sciences. With a Partnership, Student Career Services offers you the opportunity to meet our talented students and recent graduates for recruitment purposes and to boost your Employer Brand. With a Partnership, there are different options to choose from. You can choose a Plus or Premium Partnership, all with fixed fees. The Basic options are for free. The fee is for a period of 12 months and you will receive a contract which includes your wishes. Alternatively, you can make a tailor-made Partnership agreement, where you can choose your preferred activities. The fee for this is calculated based on which activities you select.

		Basic	Plus	Premium
Activity/Service	Price (excl. VAT)	Free	€500	€2000
Publishing vacancies and internships		UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED	UNLIMITED
Company Profile on WUR Career Platform		✓	✓	✓
Highlighted company profile on WUR Career Platform			✓	✓
Logo on website Student Career Services			✓	✓
Employer branding at Wageningen Campus			✓	✓
Company (event) promotion on WUR social media and website, WUR Career Platform and at Wageningen campus				✓
Career event (1): <i>guaranteed spot with Plus &amp; Premium</i>	One large career Day with booth	+ €500+	+ €500+	✓
	Lunch with selected students	+ €150	+ €150	✓
Career event (2): <i>either Talk &amp; Toast or small Career Day</i>	One Talk&Toast	+ €500	+ €500	✓
	One small Career Day with booth	+ €400+	+ €400+	✓
Career event (3):	Network drink with students during Career Week	+ €250	+ €250	✓
	Four advertisements in WUR magazine 'Resource' hardcopy 1/8 page	+ €580	+ €580	+ €580
	Online banner on <a href="http://www.resource-online.nl">www.resource-online.nl</a> for two weeks <i>only in combination with advertisement in hardcopy Resource magazine</i>	+ €50	+ €50	+ €50

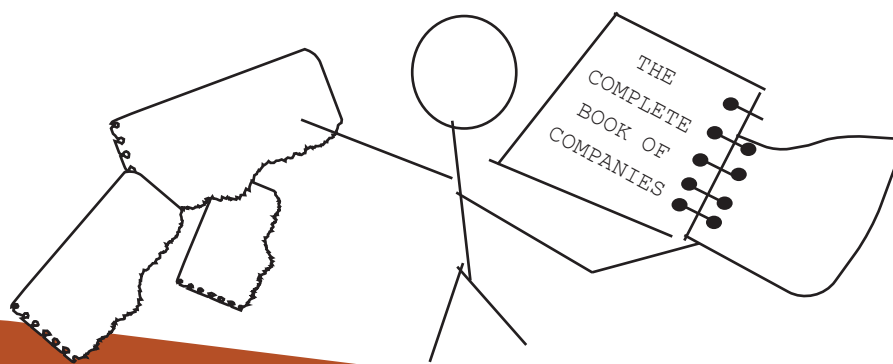
> Access to a CV Talent Bank during an event in which you participate  
> Tailor-made events are also possible, price to be determined.

If you are interested in a Partnership and you share our values and ambitions, please contact us and we will discuss what best meets your criteria.



## The Career Day in October

The companies represented at the Career Day in October can be split broadly into two groups: agri-businesses/agri-food (such as Agristo, Euro Patisserie, Hudson River Biotechnology), and consultancy companies (such as Econsultancy, Advipro, AT Osborne). Included among the agri-businesses are some companies that stand out for their notoriously poor environmental and social practices.



**Mars, Mondelez and Unilever** can be found on a list that Greenpeace compiled of the top 10 companies worldwide which contribute to plastic pollution. Although Unilever publicly claims that they have a goal to reduce plastic packaging, investigative journalists at Reuters found that Unilever had in fact made efforts to block action on reducing plastic packaging, for example in Sri Lanka. Apart from plastic pollution, Unilever is also notorious for human rights violations in its supply chains. A recent report found that Unilever was among the multinationals profiting from violations of Indigenous peoples and communities living on palm oil plantations.

**BASF** is a chemicals production company. It was listed on Carbon Underground Top 200's list of the world's biggest carbon-emitting companies in 2015. Their slogan is "we create chemistry" and one of BASF's industries is oilfield chemicals along with "sustainable mining".

**Viterra** is a Canadian grain-handling business that is now headquartered in Rotterdam and operates in 37 countries. In 2012, Viterra was acquired by Glencore Agriculture, a subsidiary of Glencore. Glencore is a trading and mining company, and claims to be "one of the world's largest producers and exporters of seaborne traded thermal and coking coal."

**Bayer Crop Science** is a controversial agrochemical and plant breeding company. They are most well known for their use of neonicotinoid insecticides, a major driver of insect population declines globally. Despite the wealth of evidence for the damage done by these insecticides on ecosystems and human health, Bayer lobbied to overturn a ban on these chemicals in the EU. On the SCS's JobTeaser, Bayer claims they "invent the solutions that will create a sustainable future for our planet". In an introduction video with happy children, scientists writing equations on glass, and young backpackers admiring a waterfall, a narrator says that at Bayer, "[they] look at our world and imagine how to make it better", by "redefining what's possible" and that finding the solution is "not impossible, it's progress".

The attendance of these companies at the Career Day is even more shocking given the lack of civil society groups, non-profits, political parties, and NGOs. With WUR professing to be "pioneering for a better world", it is disappointing that so few organisations concerned with environmental and social justice are present at this Career Day - especially since so many companies with questionable environmental and social records have been allowed to come. Astrid explained that this is a problem that the SCS are aware of, and they are working on expanding the range of companies at Careers Days. While the costs of stands are kept low with that aim, even the €400 for the smallest stand can be prohibitively expensive for small companies and NGOs. Also, these organisations may not continuously have vacancies to offer, which for them can be the main incentive to come to a careers event. A possible solution to this could be to have for-profit companies pay a higher price to cover the costs for smaller companies and NGOs.

## Protest at the Career Day

In response to the narrow representation of companies at the Career Day, students in Extinction Rebellion (XR) Wageningen protested in Orion and Forum by walking through the fair with an XR flag and banners with slogans such as "Bayer/buyers" and "Why are you here?". Although their protest was quiet and hardly disruptive, the students were told to leave in both Orion and Forum as university staff told them the demonstration was "not suitable" for the Career Day. Astrid added that she disagreed with the protest because she did not understand the point of the demonstration: "Bayer does not work with GMOs anymore in Europe, so what is the problem?". Vincent explained that protests need to be announced to WUR at least one week in advance of the event, including the purpose of the protest. Then, WUR can decide whether to approve or prohibit the protest (as the campus is privately owned by WUR and is thus not a public space). Since the Career Day protest was last-minute, it was not approved, and students were told to leave. He reassured us, however, that "the right for WUR students to protest is very important, and that critical minds are welcome at the university".

## Transparency of the SCS

A barrier to understanding the choices the SCS makes is the lack of transparency on its website. For example, it is very difficult to find information about the screening process that the SCS does when deciding whether to allow a company to be promoted by the SCS. The SCS never responded to an earlier request by the Jester to elaborate on the screening process and past partnerships. Frustrated, we requested an interview with the SCS, and only through this interview were we able to find much of the information reported here. Although the SCS were open to answering our questions in the interview, their transparency to the public is currently too low: the screening process procedure should be more objective and easily accessible for all students making use of the SCS's services.

## Conclusion

Through partnerships and recruitment events like the Career Day, the SCS selectively promotes certain companies over others. Students have the freedom to apply to positions at any company they wish to work for, but because of its intervening role, the SCS has a responsibility to represent a variety of options to students and not just those companies who are willing to pay. The SCS needs greater transparency, WUR students deserve to have an SCS that is honest about the decisions that may decide on their career paths and one which is open to criticism. As Vincent so aptly put it "we need friction for a university to thrive", this is a mindset that we need for challenging the SCS through journalism and protests.

 Brigitte Wear



# Wageningen's (un)sustainable industries

At first glance, Wageningen seems to be quite a sustainable little city. All around the urban area are self-harvest vegetable gardens, organic veg box scheme producers and food forests. Inside town are a zero-waste shop, a local producers' market, multiple second-hand clothing stores and initiatives to swap house plants. Everybody cycles, some folks even walk barefooted, roadsides are being planted with flower bulbs, and entire neighbourhoods are disconnected from the gas pipeline. On the municipality's website, you're referred to [wageningenduurzaam.nl](https://www.wageningenduurzaam.nl) ('wageningensustainable') for all information on sustainability in Wageningen. Here you will find headers like: "Wageningen lives sustainable", "Wageningen works sustainable", "Wageningen eats sustainable", "Wageningen drives sustainable", and "Wageningen sustainable green". But what about "Wageningen sustainable industries"?

Industry? Does Wageningen have industry? I hear you ask. Well, it's almost like no one wants to acknowledge it, but Wageningen has some pretty nasty industries. Three of the larger ones are clustered around the Rhine harbour; Bruil Beton & Mix, AgruniekRijnvallei, and Varo Energy Terminal. These companies work in construction, agricultural supplies, and energy, respectively – all sectors in the top 10 most polluting industries.

Bruil Beton & Mix



AgruniekRijnvallei



Varo Energy Terminal



In 2009, Bruil stopped producing asphalt in Wageningen due to pressure from residents, complaining about the stench, dust, and noise nuisance. Bruil had been making asphalt since the 70s and produced about 5 million tonnes of it before they stopped in Wageningen and moved to another place. The local municipality and province paid over 10 million euros to make this relocation possible. In recent years, Bruil's expansion plans for the concrete plant were met with similar resistance. However, Wageningen municipality has still provided concept permission for the yearly production of 440.000 tonnes of concrete, while Bruil is currently limited to 150.000 tonnes per year.

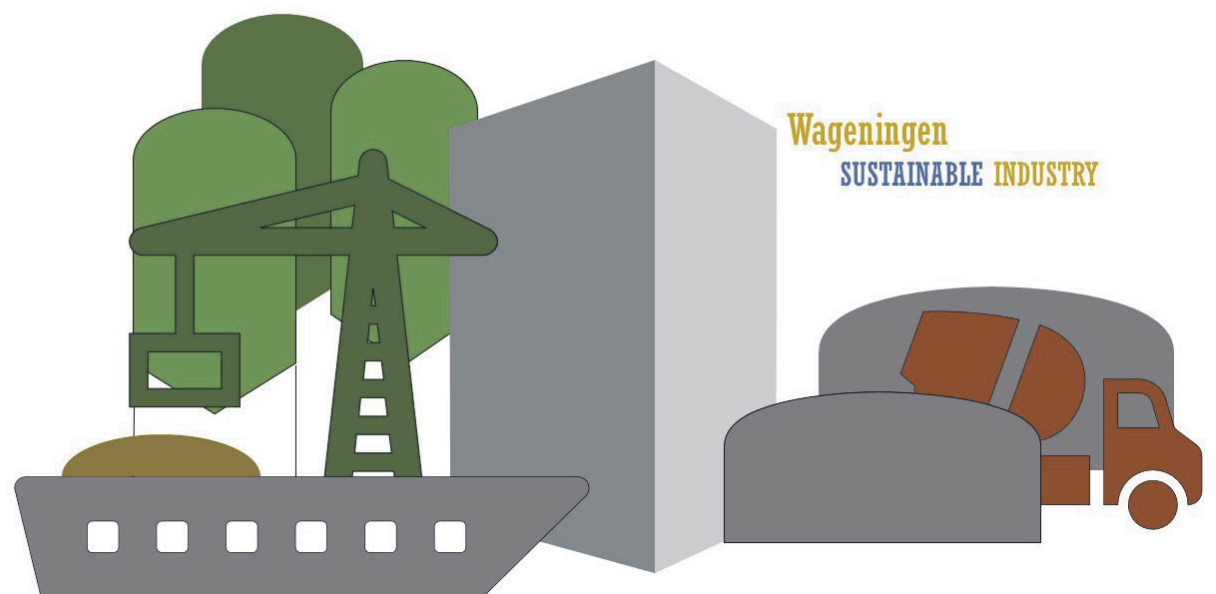
Have you ever wondered why it sometimes smells like a pet shop when the wind blows from a certain direction in Wageningen? That's because AgruniekRijnvallei produces animal fodder, and lots of it. Bulk cargo riverboats dock at the Rijnhaven regularly and deliver ingredients for animal feed, mainly grains, legumes, and minerals. Part of these ingredients originate in the Netherlands or elsewhere in the EU, however, a large share is transported around the globe. Brazil and the United States are the main producers of the soy used in Dutch animal fodder. The production of soy in Brazil is linked to the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest. Also, the transportation of these goods on large ocean-going ships relies on bunker fuel, the world's dirtiest diesel fuel – a toxic, tar-like sludge that usually contains 3,500 times more sulphur than the diesel used for cars.

Hidden in plain sight lies Varo Energy Terminal, which many Wageningen citizens only notice years after living here. Their large oil and gas storage units show no name or logo other than a small sign near one of the entrances that says Varo Energy. The fuel lorries that are driving back and forth belong to other companies, such as Texaco. Varo's website is as transparent as a dirty coffee mug and stinks of greenwashing. The first image on the main page is of trees, a lot of trees. Everything shouts "Net zero", "sustainable", and "CO2 neutral". It's almost as if the website builder wasn't told that the main products of Varo are petrol, diesel, and Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

It is only fair to mention that Varo Group (across 6 European countries) has cut their own greenhouse gas emissions from 990,890 tonnes in 2019 to 967,505 tonnes in 2021. However, the emissions of their sold products increased in those two years from 67,174,462 to 71,500,814 tonnes of CO2 equivalents, exceeding their own reductions by almost 200 times. Greta Thunberg won't be happy hearing that.

Wageningen municipality presents itself as a sustainable stronghold with examples of local food consumption and insulated homes plastered on its website. But seeing these highly polluting industries existing on the periphery, I am left with a questionable taste of greenwash in my mouth. Out of site is no longer out of mind.

 Jesse Opdam





# How a poster revealed WUR's position on free speech

**In light of President Xi Jinping's norm-defying third term in China, dissidents have spoken out against the seemingly unhampered bounds of his power, leading to increased censorship of Chinese nationals at home and abroad. Even in sleepy Wageningen, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) possesses a quiet force that precludes students from engaging in meaningful discourse about China's increasingly repressive political landscape.**

In October, a man on a Beijing bridge carried out one of the most defying acts of political dissent in recent history, unfurling multiple banners, setting tires on fire, and chanting, "Go on strike at school and work, remove dictator and national traitor Xi Jinping! We want to eat, we want freedom, we want to vote!" In an instant, the unidentified protester—now known as "Bridge Man"—had elicited a flurry of attention on social media, as well as messages of solidarity from critics of the CCP globally. Although the Chinese government has been resolute in scrubbing the footage of Bridge Man's act of defiance from digital archives, he has undoubtedly drawn on the rising frustrations surrounding Xi's recent consolidation of power.

In response to Xi's elevated status in the CCP, there have been sparks of dissent against his increasingly authoritarian leadership, especially among overseas students. From London to Montreal to New York, dissident students have reluctantly begun to express disdain over Xi's rule despite threats of retaliation from the CCP itself – as well as from fellow students. Though many of these political actions have been relatively tame, taking the form of pro-democracy posters or messages of solidarity posted on social media, even such small-scale mobilization is not commonplace.

In Wageningen, anti-Xi posters were hung on Orion, Forum, and Gaia bulletin boards with slogans like "Dictator Xi Jinping Out! #Notmypresident". But within a day of their posting, they were mysteriously removed. According to a post on the dissident Instagram account @northern\_square, a pro-Xi student at WUR had threatened the person who put up the posters, promising that WUR's administration would hold them accountable for their "hateful behaviour", which "is seriously against the values of Wageningen University and also the value of Dutch government [sic]". This pro-Xi student also alleged to have spoken with a university administrator who, according to them, ordered a staff member to retrieve video footage of the poster and to swiftly remove the posters. The student maintained that if the posterer's identity is verified to be a PhD student or employee, the university would implement "more serious consequences."

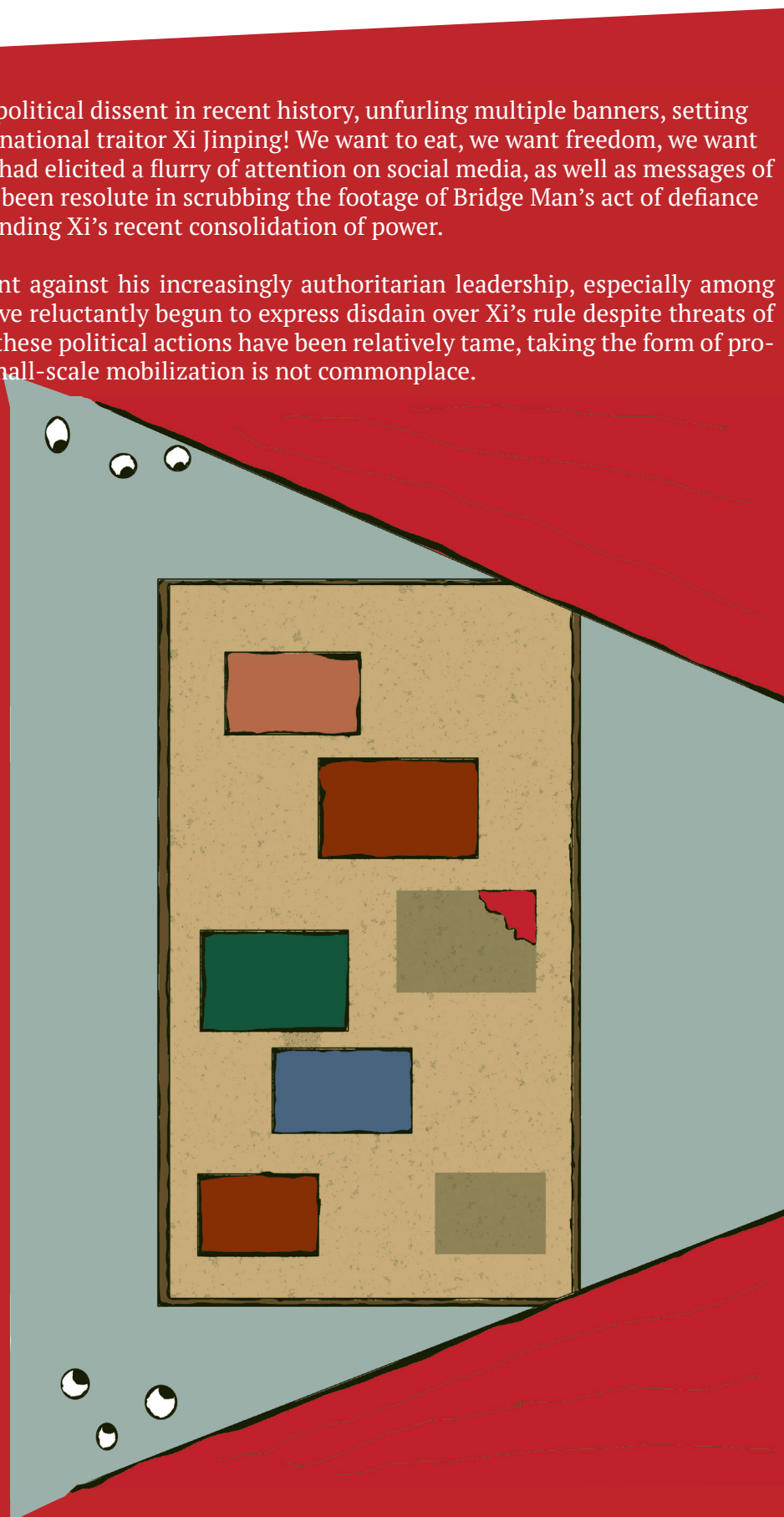
Vincent Koperdraat, Press Officer at WUR, quickly dismissed the false claims regarding the repression of Chinese pro-democracy campus speech. In a curt email, he wrote, simply, "The claims you mention are not true".

Despite what ultimately turned out to be false allegations, the screenshots from @northern\_square should give us pause, especially as China ramps up its efforts to surveil dissidents here in the Netherlands. At the very least, WUR should make efforts to cultivate and protect free expression, and specifically, they should publicly falsify these claims and do their best to ensure that threats like these do not circulate on social media again, especially regarding issues that very directly affect the lives of so many of its community members. As innocuous as these posters may have appeared to some, they spoke out against human rights abuses for people living under the CCPs rule. Students at WUR have the right to free speech and the right to put up posters on designated billboards, and the removal of these posters threatens this freedom. Instead, Koperdraat's response illustrates an unabashed apathy towards the values that students hold dear and the speech that allows for their expression.

It is worth noting, however, that Koperdraat took no issue with expounding on his views further for Resource, in a comment that expressed sympathy for the security of students and concern over political polarization and free expression issues on campus. The disparity in thoughtfulness between his comments for Resource versus the student-run Jester suggests a difference in the accountability that WUR feels toward its reputation and its students.

In the same light, it is perhaps not a coincidence that WUR seems apathetic towards this poster event. According to its website, WUR has "close ties" with China, and has even had a Beijing office since 2009. WUR sees no problem in having such an intimate relationship with China, and chooses to primarily see it as a country with "astonishing transformation in its economic and geopolitical status" and one "from which developments we can learn a lot". Additionally, engaging with Chinese partners affiliated with the Chinese armed forces, facial recognition programmes, or human rights violations is not automatically ruled out for WUR, as Resource reported last year. Instead, "the China-Platform and the WUR executive board assess whether, and if so, in what form, the research can go ahead as planned."

We know now that WUR had no role in the removal of the posters and that allegations regarding the administration's policing of Chinese pro-democracy sentiment were falsified. Regardless, it is worrying that the posters were removed so quickly and that the threats made to dissident students were able to circulate widely on social media. The university's silence surrounding the threats – along with its nebulous policies regarding Chinese research partnerships – suggests that one voice is louder than another when it comes to debates on Chinese politics at WUR. The university's actions, or lack thereof, give rise to an environment of fear, censorship, and self-censorship that dampens critical political discourse regarding Chinese politics before they can begin.



Brigitte Wear & Viviane Eng





# The incomplete guide to on-campus napping

This guide is a gift from a devoted napper to all on-campus nappers out there. Maybe you didn't know, but there are many options available to you. You might be feeling unwell, have your period or have travelled for hours with public transport, but still have to spend the whole day in WUR without a bed in sight. Whatever it is, you desperately need to close your eyes, if only for a few sweet magical moments. If done right, the post-nap you can be more focused and concentrated. So read this guide, relax and take a nap - slaap lekker!



## Aurora *Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz*

Unfortunately, Aurora is lacking both a slide and comfy areas. The only decent place is located on the 1st floor with one sofa and a few green armchairs. Also, you have to put up with a lot of people walking by and a strong echo from the lobby hall. Come on Aurora, step up your napping game.



## Axis *Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz*

Only available for students and employees that work on food-related stuff, the napping options in Axis are very confidential. If you manage to get in, the building has some cutely designed lunch areas, but they do not work well for napping. The padded benches around are indeed good for sitting during your extended lunch breaks but beware, some of them are busier than others.



## Forum *Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz Zzz*

Forum has a surprising number of lovely napping spots. On the first floor of the library lie four magical pouffes which are super comfy. But be warned, it is very bright in the library so, bring some cover for your eyes. On top of that, you've got the green sofa in the corner room of the library's third floor, room number 466. This long sofa in a separate quiet room is wonderful for a deep sleep. Furthermore, at the end of each corridor of the 2nd and 3rd floors of Forum there are padded benches with partitions that can give you some privacy. It gets busy during breaks, but things calm down when everyone goes to class. Finally, there is room number C0569 on the 5th floor. This room is equipped with nine padded benches which means the napping is even possible in groups. The room also has thick curtains for making it completely dark!







## Orion

Orion offers three main relaxation areas. One: the two sofas at 'the spot' are in high demand and are usually occupied almost all day. Two: on the 1st and 2nd floors in both the northeast and southeast wings there are relaxing areas with soft benches and stools. It's not much but at least it is something. Next to it is the wooden angular surface which is basically the roof of the lecture hall below. If you can fit into this, satisfaction is guaranteed.



## Gaia

Long live Gaia! This building is well-prepared for your tiredness in ways you won't believe. There are many sofas and lots of comfy armchairs scattered around in the main lobby of the building as well as in the wings that stretch out in the direction of Forum. The atmosphere is very calm so just pick your favourite spot and take a rest.



## Leeuwenborg

Despite its bad rep as the outcast of campus, Lebo has a large selection of sofas and a delightful coffee room in the upper floors of the west wing. They are quiet and private but cannot be darkened. Some of them belong to departments and are located close to their offices – so you might get asked to move on. But others are located next to the elevators and seem quite public.



## Global lounge

For all the members of ISOW & ESN, this space is available during most of weekdays with an equipped kitchen, large living room sofas and a gallery filled with pouffes. As a member you can get cheap hot drinks, heat up your lunch and fall asleep right after. The lounge is located behind Campus Plaza on the opposite side of the swimming pool.



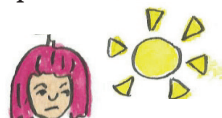
## Lumen

This is the green house building that shares an entrance with Gaia and, like its twin sister, has some sweet relaxing spots with large sofas and homely coffee tables. At the right side on the end of the connected corridor from the entrance, there is a very nice corner sofa and in the east wing patio a lovely pergola with benches and cushions. Sit back and listen to the quietness of nature in a greenhouse.



## Helix

Available only for students and employees that deal with biochemistry and microscopic things, Helix has coffee and lunch break spots on each floor. Each spot is a copy-paste of each floor, so don't bother searching for a better option. Personnel are walking by and large windows give light. That said, there is a nice view of the campus.



## Omnia

The newest building in campus-town has some modestly designed sofas located in the middle of the lobby. Omnia has huge windows, making the lighting sometimes overwhelmingly bright for napping. The best private and quiet sofa option are the long sofas opposite to side of the main entrance. Only staff walks by, and they don't really mind you napping there. If you are nice enough to them, you will get free food.



## Impulse

This small building at the heart of campus has very nice options on offer despite its size. In front of the entrance there is an amphitheatre-like gallery, covered with a rug, mini-mattress and pillows. There are people walking around so you won't get much napping privacy. To the left side of the entrance there are two more private floors with relaxing areas fitted with sofas and coffee tables. A good example of how size does not matter and how, with some imagination, any building can do it right.



I hope this guide will help you achieve your napping ambitions. A full picture gallery will be available on the Jester website. If you are aware of more napping and relaxation spots which you wish to share, you are more than welcome to let us know.





# What is the I?

*'I think':* Grappling with – or for – my identity



## In search of the True Self

Existential crises seem to have become common in our current age of ‘late capitalism’\* - a world where lasting beliefs in big narratives, culture, and tradition are gone. Everything rapidly changes and becomes disposable or replaceable - even identity. But feeling existential angst is not exactly new. It has haunted many philosophers, particularly since the Age of Enlightenment in Europe, when the seemingly oppressive weight of religion and tradition were cast off for the dogmas of rationality and individuality. But, as the German philosopher Nietzsche feared, the collapse of universal beliefs (which he called the ‘death of God’) may easily lead to nihilism. This tied to his forceful idea of becoming the ‘Übermensch’ - to create an identity for yourself, free from the influence of dogmas, and exist as per the values and ideals of your ‘true self’. For the French existentialists Sartre and Camus, there seemed to be an ‘authentic’ self that has to be discovered, for a person to finally become truly ‘free’.

When first reading these ideas, they can seem like something great to aspire to – like Descartes’ quote ‘I think, therefore I am’. For me, they seemed to clarify and settle the anxiety and uncertainty of growing up between two cultures – an Indian one, which seemed to be sterile, antiquated, and with a history that could not be coherently separated from myth; and the Western one, apparently built on science and knowledge gained from rational inquiry, towards which lay progress. An ‘individual’, acting rationally and logically, with a sure sense of the world, could be the way (great!) to gain some identity and security.



But Nietzsche or Descartes didn’t live in times of liquid modernity. In this consumerist-capitalist world (that the French philosophers Deleuze and Guattari have called ‘a motley painting of everything that ever was’), with its inherent plasticity, marked by perpetual change and the absence of long-term, the very bases of identity, of the ‘I’, are loosened and slowly eroded. With a seemingly continuous identity crisis that comes with constant uncertainty, how does someone know their ‘true’ self? This ‘self’ itself seems to be mediated by the influence of things and people, and becomes merely performative.

No wonder then that existential angst and nihilism seem rife. And with its ever-ready offerings of a continuous stream of entertainment and pleasure, consumerism/capitalism opens the door to a ‘depressive’ hedonism\* (à la Rick and Morty, which on the surface appears to be a mind-blowingly creative and impressive mix of nihilism and depressive hedonism, a ‘sign of our times’). I mean, anything that keeps me from looking inwards: awesome. And when I do turn inwards, I am supposed to do it for ‘self-optimization’ so I can function effectively (or so all the become-your-best-self-shtick seems to be about).

*\*Late Capitalism – A world of ‘no-long term’ - no lasting beliefs, and perpetual change | Depressive hedonism – A sense that something is missing, but not realizing that this mysterious something maybe exists beyond just seeking pleasure.*







### A different perspective

But maybe, this need not be the only way - at least, that seems to be the promise held out by Buddhism. A flash of lightning, a line drawn on water – ideas that hint at a different notion of identity, self, and meaning. There is an interesting ancient Buddhist story of an encounter between a Greek king called Menander and a Buddhist monk named Nagasena. It goes somewhat like this: the king inquires about the monk's name; he replies that his name is only a 'generally understood term.' To clarify, the monk goes on to say that it's just a 'practical designation' for the collection of the physical components and the thoughts and feelings that make up his being in that moment. 'There is no question of a permanent individual implied in the use of the word,' he says. What the story tries to illustrate is perhaps a quite radical view of identity – identity as a construct, of constantly shifting matter, ideas, instincts, perceptions, and thoughts; but which is impermanent, without lasting integrity – that maybe there is no true self.

But to someone with a Western mindset, growing up in the trappings of science, individualism and rationality, these notions can be hard to understand. Even Hinduism (the religion I grew up with) seems to have an idea of a true self which is one with the universe. Schopenhauer said that it is inherently difficult to understand Buddhism because it lacks a coherent theory of creation. Why focus on mundane humans and their suffering? How can one not talk of creation, not seek the origin, but instead just be fine with there being no original essence? If nothing matters, why care? How can this offer a better understanding for someone? Maybe this is just a 'passive' version of nihilism best taken in small doses of 5-minute mindfulness meditations (with the help of your favourite mindfulness app).

But maybe this was missing the forest for the trees, maybe there was something more? I have tried to find and understand more – by reading, reflecting, trying to meditate (failing quite a bit), and trying to be mindful. And interestingly, the question slowly seems to have shifted a bit – maybe the obsession with finding a true self is not worth it. Maybe, the idea is to be aware of the impermanence of things, of identity, and let it bring an appreciation for what is here in the present. That engagement done with consideration, with this awareness and appreciation, is not all bad. The more aware and mindful I am of what I do, and how it affects myself and the people around me, the lesser the existential anxiety. So, what if the meaning I create is something constructed? Does it somehow curtail happiness?

### Acceptance, meaning, and cheerful nihilism

A countercultural approach to the usual run-of-the-mill existential nihilism has been, interestingly, named optimistic, positive, or 'cheerful' nihilism: nothing matters, but it's all right. Maybe this is just a way of cheerful nihilism then? Perhaps. Either way, it seems to have led to an interesting change – making me try and be kinder to myself and others, seeing that maybe a lot of issues are systemic. Maybe things don't need to last or always be perfect. Reality can be B+, but awareness can bring acceptance, and maybe some release from frustration, anxiety, or running circles in your head.

But acceptance doesn't just have to lead to passive nihilism. It doesn't just mean going along for the ride, indifferent to the world crashing down. If anything, it has made me question how maybe I had internalized the capitalist-consumerist ideal of just doing what 'makes you feel good.' Maybe these feelings don't originate in my 'true self' but originate in the constructed notion of identity. Instead of becoming cynical and simply detached, awareness seems to have brought more engagement and appreciation, which seems to have brought more care.

I don't have a definitive answer to the 'self' question (maybe there isn't one, who knows?). But there can still be meaning. Maybe value, even if not inherent to life, comes from building it, especially in building it together with people. Maybe that's what is worth looking for, instead of a lonely quest for the true self - a sense of connection, of community. As Rick says in an episode of Rick and Morty- life may be a boat full of holes, but at least we are in it together. Maybe a better option to Descartes' quote is the saying from the African philosophy of 'Ubuntu' - I am because we are.

 Pratik Gupta





# University cities love Sci-Hub

Sibbe BAKKER

November 11, 2022

**When writing a scientific text, you will frequently come across sources that are only accessible through your university library account. This usually presents only a small obstacle to accessing scientific knowledge, but scientific literature can also be accessed without restrictions through the ‘shadow library’ Sci-Hub. Surprisingly enough, Sci-Hub is also popular in Dutch university cities that generally do have high access. This article explores why.**

## 1 The issue of paywalls

Picture yourself in this familiar situation: You are writing a literature review – but on a computer where you are not logged in to your WUR account. You just found the perfect reference to put in your story but to your utter displeasure, it is locked behind a paywall. Oh yeah, you remember that you are not logged in, so you then navigate the tedious Microsoft verification process and finally access the article. This whole misadventure cost you perhaps a small annoyance and 5 minutes of your time. Now imagine writing the literature review without access to a WUR account. Would this be possible? Well maybe, but you’d for sure not be able to read the same number of articles.

In the current academic publishing climate, publishing companies hold the cards. When a researcher wants to get their work published, most often, a journal owned by Elsevier is the first option, as their journals are widely read. The journals owned by Elsevier published 6 million articles last year. Journals with a high impact do not publish for free and charge an extra fee to make the article accessible to people who do not have a subscription. These article processing charges can run up to 5 thousand US dollars and must be paid by the author.

The powerful position of the publishers means that WUR must spend a lot of money to guarantee access for its students and staff. In 2021, WUR spent €7.6 million on books and subscriptions for its students and researchers. WUR also has made deals with the most influential publishers (such as Springer), so that its authors can publish there at no or reduced cost. On this front, WUR is doing everything it can to promote open science for its students and staff. Besides the actions of WUR (and other universities), there are also other organisations working on making science more open. One of these organisations is Sci-Hub which is quite successful in giving free access to the most popular pay-walled journals.

## 2 The history of Sci-Hub

Sci-Hub, which is currently the biggest shadow library for scientific articles, was founded on the 5th of September 2011 by Alexandra Elbakyan. Alexandra, born and raised in Kazakhstan, has been programming since she was 12 years old. Besides this, she had an interest in neuroscience from an early age. Sadly, most of the neuroscience articles were locked behind a paywall by MIT Press. This is where Alexandra’s programming knowledge came in handy: she was able to exploit a vulnerability in the MIT Press website and downloaded all articles for free.

In 2010, Alexandra completed a bachelor’s degree at Satbayev University in Kazakhstan. After her bachelor’s, she did internships in neuroscience labs in Germany and the USA. She was not able to find a master’s programme in her field of interest: transhumanism and machine-human interfaces. She returned to Kazakhstan in 2011 and started working on transhumanism topics on her own. She encountered issues with paywalls. To solve that issue, she created Sci-Hub, which quickly found popularity with researchers worldwide.

Alexandra does not mention to the press how she obtains the full-text versions of paywalled articles. Publishers such as Elsevier, say Alexandra uses phishing attacks (stealing account details using fake official emails) to obtain the documents. Alexandra has always denied these allegations, noting that she ‘did not send any phishing emails.’ While Alexandra runs the website on her own, there are ‘fail safes’ in place to keep the data of the articles preserved—even if Alexandra is arrested. Upkeep of the servers is paid from donations. Adding to this, the full Sci-Hub database with more than 50 million articles has been copied by various users.

Publishers of scientific articles, such as Elsevier have successfully sued Sci-Hub in the USA. In India, Sci-Hub is on trial. With Sci-Hub being used by more people, Alexandra was acknowledged both by researchers who used her website and by the publishers who sued her: several species have been named after her (like the plant *Spigelia elbakyanii* from Mexico) and Nature listed Alexandra as one of the 10 most important people for science in 2016.





### 3 Using Sci-hub: ease or access?

For researchers not living in the global north, Sci-hub use is mostly for access: there is simply no money to pay for articles, especially the case in Brazil, Indonesia, India and Iran. But even in universities in the USA, some university libraries have more limited access than Sci-Hub, such as the University of Pennsylvania. In other countries—like Russia—publishers may even be forbidden from selling their articles due to economic sanction regimes, leaving no other option other than pirating articles. But the lack of money does not have to be the only drive that pushes people to Sci-Hub.

The statistics of worldwide Sci-Hub use are clear, the Dutch love Sci-Hub: while the population of the Netherlands is only around 18 million, we download the about same number of articles as Canada, a country with about 40 million inhabitants. Of all Dutch university cities, Wageningen stands out for its high Sci-Hub article download rate per capita. This is not surprising as Wageningen is only a small town with a large population of students.

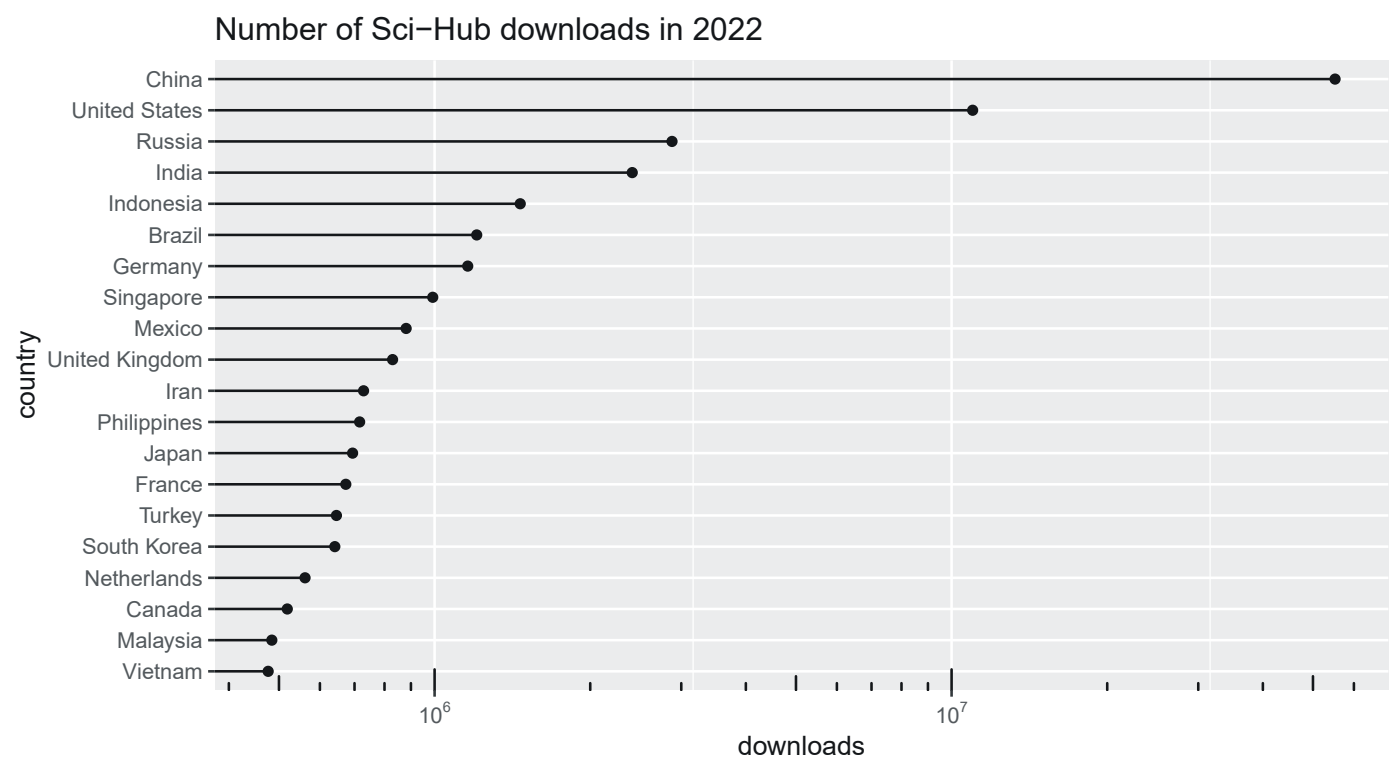


Figure 1: Overview of Sci-Hub useage over the year 2022 for the top 20 countries. The x axis is on a logarithmic scale. For example, the number of articles downloaded from Singapore is around 1 million.

### 4 Conclusion & Outlook

The reasons for Sci-Hub’s popularity in university cities may be twofold: an article may simply not be accessible, even with a university library account. The other reason may simply be that Sci-Hub can fetch the PDF quicker. Bianca Kramer investigated the drivers of Sci-Hub use at the University of Utrecht and found that about 25% of the pirated articles were not available through the library. This suggests that ease of access is the main driver of Sci-Hub usage. The exact reason is an interesting subject for future study.

#### How to use Sci-hub

Because Sci-Hub is an illicit website it is frequently taken down. When one Sci-Hub access point is taken down, another one is taken online from a different URL. While the Netherlands does not (yet) block Sci-Hub completely, there are some countries (Belgium, France) that do. If you find yourself in the unenviable position of being in one of these states, you need to access Sci-Hub through a virtual private network. There are three ways to use Sci-Hub:

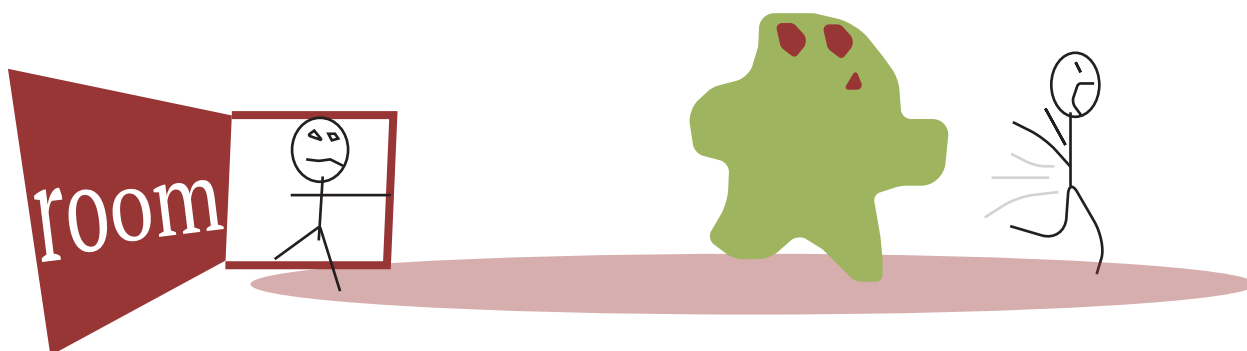
1. From the web page or one of its mirrors, here you can give the URL or DOI for an article and find the available pdf. At the time of writing, <https://sci-hub.se/> works, but that might change in the future, the link <http://vertsluisants.fr/index.php?article4/where-Sci-Hub-libgen-server-down> shows an overview of the most recently active mirrors.
2. Using a reference manager to automatically fetch the pdfs from Sci-Hub using a provided DOI. The Zotero Scihub written by Ethan Willis (<https://github.com/ethanwillis/zotero-scihub>) works well for this.
3. Using a programme on your computer.
4. For windows/MAC/LINUX systems: SciHubEVA by leovan (<https://github.com/leovan/SciHubEVA>) offers a snazzy graphical interface to Sci-Hub. You can search for the pdf of one article, or download in bulk using DOI, PMID and URL.
5. For Linux-based systems: scitopdf made by dougy147 (<https://github.com/dougy147/scitopdf>). Can find the pdf on Sci-Hub using a title or DOI.



# Escaping loneliness in Wageningen

The first year of university is tough. It can leave you feeling as if a giant green monster of emptiness and dissatisfaction is chasing you. Even those people who seem “fine” and say that they are having a “super good” time struggle. So do not despair, the Jester has been there and so have your fellow students. So we asked them what would be their top tips to help you get out of your room and satisfy that longing for some lovin’ in these winter months.

## Getting out of your room



If you’ve joined Franciscus, are working towards your B1 Dutch, and managed to appear interested when the 6th Dutch person introduced the word ‘gezellig’ to you: Congratulations captain integration. But for all you regular regular folk, you may be worrying that you haven’t found your lifelong friends after three months of being here. Trust me, it’s normal. Although everyone in your class seems as if they’ve known each other since primary school, the truth is they don’t. They’re probably just part of the International Association and go to their cultish association meetings together. So whether or not you want to join a cult, here are some tips for getting out of your room.

- #1** Socialize with your corridor, organize a dinner (potluck, pizza, nacho night, or anything that can be paid for by the corridor fund, if you’ve got housing that is.) - **Kriti**
- #2** Have a nice evening once a week with some people you want to get to know more, they could happen to be a future mixologist - **Andrei**
- #3** Maybe go to a party or two – from someone who doesn’t go out - **Petra**
- #4** Join groups to meet people (e.g., ISOW (International Student Organization in Wageningen), ESN (Erasmus Student Network) or groups with people of your nationality) - **Noe**
- #5** Join a club. I was a member of the football club. You will always meet people with similar interests at clubs and things tend to ‘kick off’ from there. - **Sehan**
- #6** Head out to a bar a bit early one weekend, before it gets crowded. Sit at the bar. Start talking to the bartender and other people sometimes would join in. I’ve heard some of the most unique stories over the bar. - **Sehan**



## Longing for some lovin’



Whether you’re interested in hookups or you’re a serial monogamist, the sea of life sciences has every kind of fish. If you’re cool, so are they! If you’ve got degrading self-esteem, so do they! If you take interest in someone, they might too. But rule number one of loving: ensure they have at least some useful attributes like respecting you. Other than that just go for it. Have crushes, get your heart broken, and get tested.

- #1** Move into a corridor for having potential boyfriends at your disposal - **Petra**
- #2** As the saying goes love goes through the stomach; learn how to cook - **Petra**
- #3** Take the first step, and see where it leads you - **Noe**
- #4** Go to the gym instead of wallowing in your love sorrows - **Cad**
- #5** Persistence, more so than less, tends to make the other person uncomfortable. You’re not living in a movie so don’t act like you do - **Sehan**





# POST-AUTUMNSCOPE



**Sagittarius**  
(November 22-December 21)

You're craving the sun and all you want is to take a Christmas holiday on the other side of the equator. But family demands your presence at home so you'll have to make due with some vitamin D supplements and a turkey dinner instead. Suck it up.



**Capricorn**  
(December 22-January 19)

You've been feeling tired and stressed lately, and little things like people sniffing constantly without blowing their nose in the library are really ticking you off. Be patient with yourself and others and repeat after me: it's fine, it's all going to be fine. Alternatively, tell the person to go blow their f\*%&ing nose.



**Aquarius**  
(January 20 – February 18)

World War II is brewing while you're trying to perfect that vegetable broth recipe you found online. Every day you ask yourself "How can I contribute to making the world a better place?". Well maybe start by caring about more than your vegetable broth you selfish hippy.



**Pisces**  
(February 19 – March 20)

You've spent far too many hours indoors lately and you've forgotten what it's like to breathe in the fresh and painfully cold air. This isn't good for your soul. Consider going for a long walk in the forest or the floodplains of the Rhine, hugging a tree, or finding some magic mushrooms to regain your sense of oneness with nature. Stay calm and trip balls.



**Aries**  
(March 21-April 20)

Temperatures are rising everywhere and surprise, COP27 didn't get us any closer to solving the climate crisis. You're considering changing your priorities and moving to a secluded commune in the middle of the Andes and pretend like none of this is happening. You're probably better off, we're all going to die anyway.



**Taurus**  
(April 21 – May 20)

You're feeling a bit daring and this is the perfect time to finally come clean to the people around you about how you really feel. Your dirty housemate will be able to take it when you tell them how utterly disgusting they are. Oh but spoiler alert, your crush doesn't like you back so don't bother with that.



**Gemini**  
(May 21 - June 20)

You want to play your part in the world's messed up food system by only eating local and organic. Fair play, but unfortunately systemic problems cannot be solved by individual consumptions choices and you're now left with a bunch of root vegetables that you don't even know the name of, let alone how to cook. Go make a soup and reconsider your identity beyond an overcharged eco-consumer.



**Cancer**  
(June 21 – July 22)

You're feeling hopeful for all sorts of reasons. Well done, you should keep riding the wave of hope because sooner or later you'll come crashing back into a sea of despair. If you hope hard enough it might even snow this year. Or maybe the polar bears will even make it to the next century. Don't stop believing, hold onto that feeling.



**Leo**  
(July 23 – August 23)

Beautiful Autumn leaves have fallen and are already starting to rot on the ground. You might feel like these are a reflection of your inner self. Whether it is true or not, go to the florist at the market, pick a flower, look at it, and I mean really look at it: the beauty you'll see in it is the beauty in you. Keep that with you whenever you feel like a rotting leaf.



**Virgo**  
(August 24 - September 22)

This season, you have the power to brighten up the lives of the people around you. So lock that Grinch in the cupboard and make some hot chocolate for your friends (if you have any). If you have no friends just sit back with your hot chocolate and imagine all of those miserable people spending time with people they don't like this Christmas.



**Libra**  
(September 23 - October 23)

Say goodbye to the trainwreck that was 2022. 2023 is on the horizon and you can be sure its looking up for you. I foresee gold, love, and infinite fortune on your horizon. Holidays in the sun and attractive lovers will make you feel like the ancient rulers of Rome. But beware, 2022 ain't over yet and you might need to get over some humps before balm in next years bliss.



**Scorpio**  
(October 24 - November 21)

Period 2 has been a long one for you and you cannot wait to get it over with and start something new. Perhaps it's time to join the quidditch club or go check out the World Soil Museum in Gaia to brighten up your days. The Rhine is also finally getting colder so you can get your Wim Hof on. And don't worry, the Christmas holidays are around the corner with plenty of cheer and unexplainable loneliness.





# Best of Student Laza



12 September at 18:52 · 🌐

Dear lazy people of Bornsesteeg!

I could describe what I think of your laziness, but I won't. I am just kindly asking you to take that extra 1 minute from your extremely valuable time and remove the plastic from the paper boxes you leave at the paper waste and dispose it where it belongs.

Kind regards,  
A frustrated neighbor



2h · 🌐

Did you enthusiastically sign up for the "free" social Dutch before knowing the struggles of period 1, to integrate into your new life in the Netherlands...realise it's not so necessary to speak/understand it, but realise now you gotta do it (otherwise pay ~€94 to disenrol) and ALSO buy a book for 20€?

Yeahhhh I remember.

Here's one with barely any markings and if so, in pencil cause I did the bare minimum work/attendance to avoid paying the full fee for missing 3 classes 🙄🙄

14 September at 09:04 · 🌐

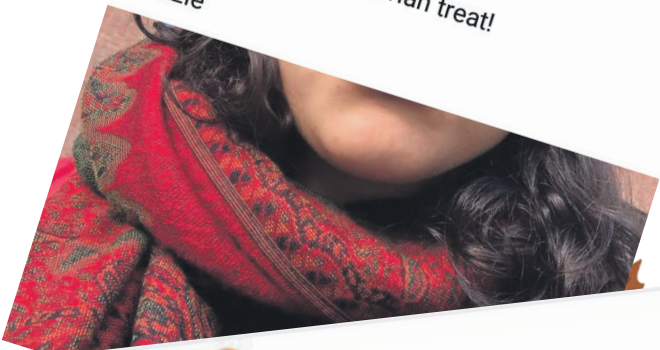
FNV has announced a national strike for Friday 16th of September!

That means the buses in the Netherlands will drive but less buses than normal!

Trains will ride as normal!

Regards,  
The busdriver!

Hello!  
The weekend is over  
But a scarf has been stolen  
It is a beloved lover  
Of mine  
I go to Egypt soon  
And I'd like it back before the next full moon  
Please whoever took it by mistake on Friday evening at herenstraat 3 party  
Bring it back  
And it will give you some speck  
And if you don't it mean  
I'll make you a vegetarian treat!  
Grazie



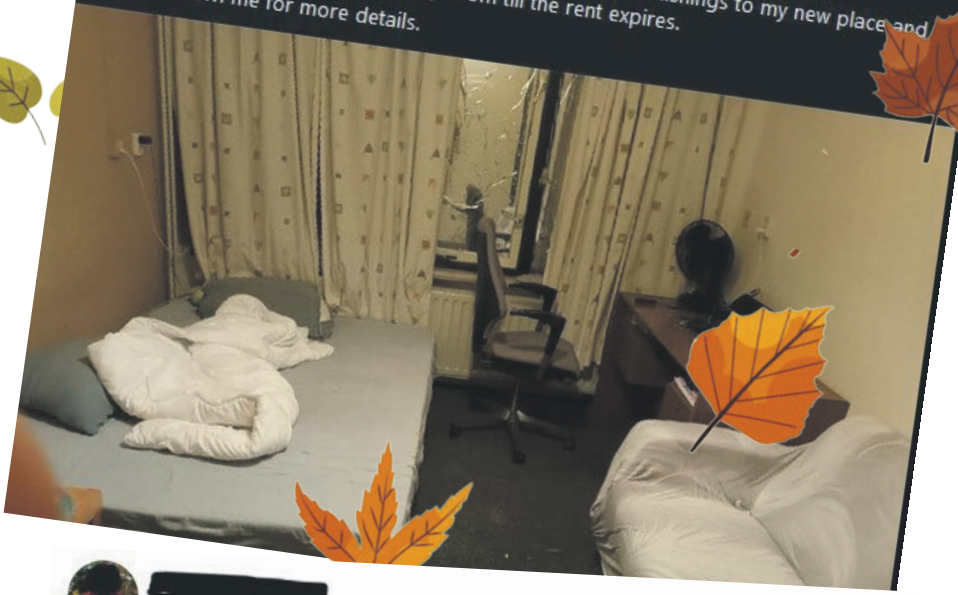
Still available

Hello everyone

I would be subrenting an empty room at Hoevestein 239 from the 6th of November till the 5th of December.

The room would be empty because I have to move all my furnishings to my new place and just need someone that can stay in my room till the rent expires.

Feel free to DM me for more details.



7 September at 15:08 · 🌐

Does anyone have any spare barbed wire? I only need about a meter, and I need it today.

Like Comment Send



23 September · 🌐

Spending 10 minutes looking through our messy spice basket only to find that we didn't have turmeric after all makes me sad. Therefore, I am reforming my house's spice situation. To all Wageningen hoarders, could you donate ~20 medium jars (all the exact same please, for the sake of my neat freakiness)? I would be eternally grateful!

