



## Meta-analysis during your PhD: theory and practical tips

### NVG PHD WORKSHOP

Wednesday 28 November 2012, 10.00 - 17.30

Kontakt der Kontinenten, Soesterberg <http://www.kontaktderkontinenten.nl>  
(preceding the annual NVG meeting)

The annual NVG PhD Workshop will take place in 2012 at Soesterberg. **The goal of these workshops is to facilitate contact and discussion among PhD students in behavioural biology.** Normally there are about 20 PhD students and 3 senior researchers, all of whom will be present throughout the day.

The workshop will consist of three main parts:

1) **Mirre Simons & Simon Verhulst** of the Department of Behavioural Biology, University of Groningen will be the joint keynote speakers, and talk about ‘**Meta-analysis during your PhD – theory and practical tips**’. Mirre and Simon say: ***“Meta-analysis is a powerful tool to synthesize the results of different studies to test a particular hypothesis, and to examine the role of specific causes of variation in study results. Your PhD is the perfect time to do a meta-analysis. It allows you to relate your own research to the literature that you have studied already and/or to generate new research questions, which you can pursue experimentally. We will discuss the statistical theory underlying meta-analysis using graphical examples. This will include conditional variance; variance attributable to study, species, phylogeny; and moderator analyses (you do not need to understand these terms just yet – but you will understand them after the workshop!). We will give practical tips concerning the meta-analytic process, from literature search to the actual analysis, which we will illustrate using examples from the literature.”***

2) A series of talks by research students about their work plans (10 minutes talk + 20 minutes discussion). All of the students (including those who are not presenting a talk) + the senior researchers are present and contribute to the discussion. Although not all the students present their work, the discussions typically range across a whole series of general issues related to research (the importance of the research question, the approach chosen, the design of behavioural experiments, data analysis, etc). Starting PhD students (in the first or second year of their PhD research) are particularly encouraged to offer a presentation. Recently, one of the talks that generated the most useful discussion (both for the student and audience) was given by a PhD student who had started their project only 6 weeks before: this is a good chance to think about your project plans and get useful feedback!

3) Small-group discussions about the highs and lows of PhD research. A chance to exchange experiences about what worked or didn't work, and to get to know some of the other PhD students better.

**Provisional program:**

Coffee available from 9.30 am

10.00 – 11.00	<b>Mirre Simons &amp; Simon Verhulst: Meta-analysis during your PhD</b>
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee & Tea
11.30 – 12.30	<b>Student Talks + Discussion</b>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	<b>Student Talks + Discussion</b>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee & Tea
15.30 – 16.30	<b>Student Talks + Discussion</b>
16.30 – 17.30	<b>Small-group discussion</b>

**Registration fee for the PhD workshop: €70**, including lunch and tea/coffee

**Details of NVG meeting:** <http://www.gedragsbiologie.nl/> (and click on the links for 'bijeenkomsten' or 'meetings')

**Register for NVG meeting & PhD workshop:**  
<http://fd8.formdesk.com/rodenburg/Soesterberg2012>

**For other information on the PhD workshop contact:**  
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