

Wageningen Young Academy Annual Report 2023

Wageningen, February 2024

Wageningen Young Academy (WYA) is an independent platform that brings together enthusiastic, ambitious, and outstanding young scientists of Wageningen University across all its scientific disciplines.

WYA's mission is to strengthen the position of the young generation of academics within the University and to promote scientific excellence within and among science groups of WUR. WYA aims to inspire current and future scientists, to act as advisor in scientific and political debates at the University, to create links with (inter)national inspiring eminent scientists, and to communicate science to society.

This report lists main information about WYA and outlines our activities covering the year 2023.

Members

As per December 2023, WYA had 27 members:

Annemiek ter Heijne	AFSG	Mangala Srinivas	ASG
Carel Peeters	PSG	Mark Sterken	PSG
Chris Seijger	ESG	Maryna Strokal	ESG
Dieuwertje Kok	AFSG	Meghann Ormond	ESG
Emilie Wientjes	AFSG	Mehdi Habibi	AFSG
Evelien de Olde	ASG	Nico Claassens	AFSG
Eveline Verhulst	PSG	Nora Sutton	AFSG
Guanna Li	AFSG	Pariya Behrouzi	PSG
Hannah van Zanten	ASG	Peter van Heijster	PSG
Janneke Pieters	SSG	Pim de Zwart	SSG
Josephine van Zeben	SSG	Sjouke Kingma	ASG
Judith Gulikers	SSG	Sophie Boerman	SSG
Justin van der Hooft	PSG	Tim van Emmerik	ESG
Maarten Voors	SSG		

During 2023, six members left WYA because their five-year term had ended:

Diana Zita Machado de Sousa	AFSG	Bernice Bovenkerk	SSG
Franzel van Duijnhoven	AFSG	Yann de Mey	SSG
Ingrid Luijkx	ESG	Reindert Nijland	ASG

We thank them for their efforts and support during their five-year term!

In the next sections, our various activities at the national level, WUR-level, and WYA-level are described.

National collaboration with Local Young Academies and National Young Academy

WYA:

- Participated in joint meetings to discuss and share experiences related to the organization of YA's, Starters Grants implementation, Recognition & Rewards
- Co-wrote the Taalwet letter 4TUs YA's: <https://www.wur.nl/en/article/4tu-young-academies-publish-letter-on-taalwet.htm>
- Initiated and participated in the Everyone Professor meeting with WUgenoten (and DJA members Lisa Bekking, Chiel van Heerwaarden). This resulted in the following:
 - o WYA Statement: <https://www.wur.nl/en/newsarticle/wya-publishes-statement-on-everyone-professor.htm>
 - o Follow-up letter to Academic Board and Executive Board/Arthur on ius promovendi
- Has been involved in the Green Academy (Evelien de Olde)

WYA Activities/ Working Groups

- Retreat: during the day, several topics were discussed including the possible impact of AI on research and teaching. There was an alumni reunion dinner organized to close the lustrum year, celebrating WYA's 10th anniversary, that included a murder mystery.
- D&I Week: buddy benches (placed at Aurora and Orion) that were covered with text and drawings from visitors; and Ask Me Anything where WYA members were on stage to answer questions about the academic life from various perspectives. Also, coasters with four texts designed during the D&I 2022 week were printed and distributed over the WUR campus.
- Call to Action D&I at WUR: <https://www.wur.nl/en/newsarticle/di-at-wur-we-can-do-better.htm>
- Book club: summer Book List was collected, divided in themes, and published on Twitter (X).
- Science Café the Future of Science 25 October 2023: WYA member Meghann Ormond talked about how learning to engage in interdisciplinary research collaborations can enable scholars to hone key civic competences invaluable for developing powerful research questions.
- Workshop Compassionate Communication: just before Xmas, a morning workshop about Compassionate Communication was organized where 15 WUR staff members learned about the non-violent communication style. The workshop contained both theoretical and practical parts which was helpful to directly practice with the material.
- Writing Days in February and December: writing days were organized in the Beekdalhoeve, Renkum, for tenure trackers to find piece to write on their manuscripts and/or portfolio's.
- Visibility WG: the WG created guidelines for promotion of WYA activities. Furthermore, joined with the Book club WG, a summer reading list was circulated on Twitter (X).

Centre for Unusual Collaborations

WUR Board member and WYA member: Meghann Ormond (1 Jul. 2022-31 Dec. 2023) co-developed CUCo's mission statement, co-developed and –ran the Spark interdisciplinary research competence training and spoke in venues/events highlighting the significance of interdisciplinary research (e.g., CUCo documentary '1+1=3', see the documentary here online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fr5KhV5ipuo>).

- For more information go to: <https://www.unusualcollaborations.com/>