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Personnel Gazette

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CWI

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PICTURE: IVAR PEL

Meet our new director **Vanessa Evers**

If it hadn't been for her father, Vanessa Evers would have studied English rather than computer science – and might never have met Steven Pemberton at a CHI conference in 2001. He asks her about her early career, life in Twente, and the additional roles she holds alongside her directorship at CWI.

Steven Pemberton

"My early years, from age 2 to 8, were spent in Africa, in Nigeria, and as a result my English was very good. This showed up at school once we returned to the Netherlands, where I was terrible in everything except English. Still somehow I managed to get through my education. As far as I was concerned was going to study English at University, but my dad suggested computing.

"It is hard for young researchers from 'within' to reach seniority, especially when you are one of the few females"

That didn't attract me, also because few women did it. So my dad offered to pay for my room if I did computing, and I relented, expecting to fail in the first year and then do something else. I went to the UvA, and had such good teaching assistants that I actually did rather well. My maths teacher was Peter van Emde Boas, who had done his PhD under van Wijngaarden at CWI!

In the final year, I specialized in Business Computing, and did an exchange with UNSW in Australia, where I studied the human side of computing, and did my thesis on "Cultural Aspects of HCI". Someone pointed out an open position for a PhD in the same area as my thesis, at the Open University in the UK. I didn't even know what a PhD was! (I come from a non-academic family.) I got accepted, and it was amazing! The Open University is mostly a virtual university, where students watch the lectures on TV late at night at home, but the PhDs were all on campus. It was a super-rich university, with all the best people teaching. There were 220 PhDs on site! It was so much fun. I did my PhD in localization and internationalization of software.

At that stage in my life I wanted to be Rich! So I went for an interview at a small start-up in California called Google, to be their Internationalization lead for search. Because it was a start-up, it was cash-poor: they weren't offering much in the way of salary, only in shares. So I took the offer from the highest bidder, which was Boston Consulting in London, where I stayed for two years, until I realized that working to be rich was not a satisfying lifestyle for me.

So I returned to the Netherlands, and got an assistant professorship at the UvA, in the psychology department. Later I moved to the Institute for Informatica, where I stayed for 15 years, with a 2 year period at Stanford in the USA.

BACK TO THE NETHERLANDS

It is hard for young researchers from 'within' to reach seniority, especially when you are one of the few females, with young children. So I applied for a professorship at the University of Twente, in Human-Media Interaction, and got it. During my time there, I went to Singapore for three years, to set up the Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity, which was so much fun, and I learned so much. I came back to the Netherlands mainly due to my parents' failing health. I took up my old role at Twente, and suddenly felt very unfulfilled: I had learnt all these new skills, but wasn't using them.

Then someone said that CWI was looking for a new director. I wasn't sure: it seemed so monodisciplinary, and fundamental, and wasn't the challenge I was looking for. But I visited anyway, and I have to admit, I was charmed. I'm in awe of the quality of the people who work here!

Of course, I've only just started, so I have a lot to learn. I can see that the CWI is at the super-top in science, and that is its core business. We need to support and improve the research, and that means supporting the people doing it. My first task is to discover where we want to go, which point in the future we want to reach.

I currently have 4 roles. Working at CWI, I am reserving 1 day a week to continue my own research at Twente; I will be three days, and two nights, in Amsterdam each week at CWI, currently staying

"I'm in awe of the quality of the people who work here!"

in a hotel. I used to live in the Jordaan, and when I moved to Twente I thought I'd never be able to cope being away from Amsterdam, but I now live in a beautiful farmhouse, with horses at the back, on the edge of the woods, with my partner and 2 children (16, 18) and I can't see myself leaving that. I have bought a place in Amsterdam, but it needs renovating before I can live there, so it's hotel life for the time being. My other roles are as a member of the Supervisory Board Committee for Education and Research at Radboud University in Nijmegen, but that is only a few hours a week, and I have recently been appointed as Chief Science Advisor at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW in Dutch) for one day a week."

Lessons from the end of a PhD

Takeaways by almost graduated PhD students

Savvina Daniil

My moving to a new house had me sorting through papers amassed in the span of 6 years, among which was a list of pros and cons of doing a PhD. I had made this list in the waning days of 2021, when I couldn't for the life of me decide whether committing to a 4-year plan was sensible, given my fear of committing to what I'd have for dinner. Reading it made me smile; in retrospect, the cons seem elementary, almost childlike. At the time I couldn't have guessed what would turn out to be troublesome and what wouldn't matter at all. Well, we live to learn and we learn to live.

But what did I actually learn? And what did my colleagues who are also close to graduating (and were kind enough to share with me) learn?

For one, some level of regret is a persistent theme. It comes in many forms: regret for not being more confident and taking matters into our own hands from the start, for not seeking outside support more often, for not planning for the future early enough, for overstressing about the future too early. A PhD is an intensive and sometimes isolating experience, which naturally leads to self-evaluation. On top of that, because of the time limitation, we are called to make decisions that end up being very influential and are potentially irreversible within the PhD. Yet, regret doesn't automatically mean despair. On the contrary, it often helps us understand ourselves better. By the end of the PhD, some of us feel like we have finally managed to strike some balance between being motivated and taking time to enjoy our lives outside of work. Importantly, the imposter syndrome seems to wane significantly, especially when you realize that someone being mean at a conference says more about them than about your work.

Finally, one of my colleagues said something that left a big impression: in the end it's only up to you to decide whether you want to finish your thesis. This statement is definitely true in a vacuum. A PhD is not a court-ordered sentence, so yes, you can stop it at any time. To perfectionists like many of us are, this is inconceivable. But it shouldn't be. If I talked to my 2021 self, that's what I would say: the pros and cons you are now drawing up may be short-sighted, but it doesn't matter because a PhD contract is a job that you can opt out of if it's not what you expected, and digesting this will allow you to enjoy it much more.

COLUMN

A milestone year

Vanessa Evers

We approach the end of an eventful year, at least, it was for me since I started at CWI this September. It's a steep learning curve! How does CWI work, how does NWO work, what are the opening times of the canteen, a lot to learn indeed.

Getting to know this diversity in people and research activities CWI encompasses I look ahead to everything that awaits us at CWI in 2026. It promises to be a milestone year, one that brings reflection on our culture, renewal of our strategy and celebration of our successes.

CWI will mark its 80th anniversary. Eight decades of pioneering mathematics and computer science deserve to be celebrated and it tells us about the future: how CWI research could continue to shape technology and society.
Expect a festive programme that connects our alumni, partners and current researchers — and reminds us why CWI remains such a special place to work.

2026 will also be the year we develop our new Strategic Plan (2028–2033). Together we'll explore where CWI wants to go next: strengthening our scientific excellence, deepening our societal relevance and ensuring that every researcher can thrive.
These discussions will shape not only the institute's research priorities, but also how we collaborate, with whom we collaborate, as well as how we share ideas and innovate across disciplines.

There's much to look forward to in our day-to-day initiatives: new Research Semester Programmes, visiting scholars through the pilot visiting scheme, hiring of female senior scientists and the start of the NWO-I funded joint teams with Inria. These initiatives will bring new faces and fresh perspectives to our corridors.

And finally, I've got to know the everyday things that make CWI vibrant: lunches at the canteen, spontaneous discussions at the coffee machine in the library, and the big successes and small celebrations that mark steps forward. Here's to all of you and to another year at CWI with lots of curiosity, collaboration and community — the values that have defined CWI and which we will continue to strengthen together.

MEET YOUR NEW COLLEAGUES!

CLEMENCIA SIRO
In May 2025, I joined the Human-Centered Data Analytics group as a postdoctoral researcher. My research focuses on bias, fairness, and evaluation in LLMs and linked open data, with the goal of making AI systems more inclusive and trustworthy. Outside of research, I enjoy organizing and leading community initiatives for language inclusivity in Natural Language Processing (NLP), as well as staying active through sports and outdoor activities.

GUILLERMO ROMERO MORENO
I started in July at the Intelligent & Autonomous Systems group and am working on a project of the AI, Media & Democracy lab. In collaboration with UvA and HvA partners, we use multi-agent models to understand disinformation and AI threats, to study how we can improve collective sense- and decision-making and counter malicious agents' attempts to destabilize systems. Free time is very much away from a screen: bouldering, running, cycling, dancing, and jazz and funk music!

JULIAN FIRMINGER
I joined the Information Technology and Facilities (ITF) core team in August with a view to build and manage compute clusters to support scientific payloads. I am also very interested in systems automation and Infrastructure as Code. This is my first step into the world of science coming from film Visual Effects and broadcast TV. To relax, my partner and I are avid home chefs and dinner party holders.

MICHELE MEZIU
Hi! I'm Michele and I joined CWI in August 2025 as a PhD student in the Machine Learning group. I will work on anytime-valid testing and flexible statistical inference, with the goal of developing statistical methods for sequential data that are both adaptive and efficient. In my free time I enjoy having dinner with friends, swimming, playing soccer and music.

JIAYANG SHI
I joined the Computational Imaging Group as a postdoctoral researcher in September. Before this, I was a PhD student at Leiden University. My research focuses on solving inverse problems with learning-based approaches, especially for computed tomography (CT) reconstruction. Outside of work, I enjoy karting and driving on racetracks.

MARTIJN LENS
Hi! I started in September at the library as repository manager. Before joining CWI, I worked at Leiden University Libraries for 25 years, most recently as a metadata specialist. In my free time I enjoy listening to and making music (playing the euphonium) and reading. I also bake bread and play video games. I'm also fascinated by languages and writing systems, it's safe to say I'm a bit of a language nerd.

JACQUES FURST
In October I started as PhD student in the Intelligent and Autonomous Systems group. My research focuses on the overlap of Multi-agent Reinforcement Learning and Game Theory. As part of my PhD project, I am specifically applying these concepts to integrated hydrogen energy markets. In my free time I enjoy learning languages and exploring new cultures. I am currently focusing on Spanish and Mandarin. I also enjoy practicing calisthenics, bouldering, and yoga to clear my mind after a long day of thinking.

OLIVIER MOROT
Hi there! I joined CWI as the new Communications Manager since June. I am half French and half Dutch and have a diverse background in communications, both in the public and commercial sector. I served as a spokesperson and Public Affairs advisor for NWO and for the Universities of the Netherlands and led the communication team for the Social Sciences and Humanities domain at NWO. I play (table) tennis and look forward to working together with you!

MAXIM VAN DER KAAIJ
Hi everyone! I joined CWI's Stochastics group in August as part of the follow-up to Dolce Vita, where the aim is to put the project's earlier results into practice. I am also involved in a second track on healthcare logistics, focusing on modelling and data analysis. I hold a Master's degree in Artificial Intelligence and previously worked as a data analyst. In my free time, I play tennis, explore philosophy and AI-related topics, and produce electronic music – a long-standing hobby.

PHOTOS: PAUL ROBERTS

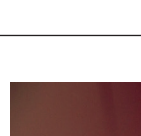
WELCOME

PHOTO: PAUL ROBERTS

Ten questions for

Dimitrios Loukrezis

Dimitrios Loukrezis (1987) has been a tenure-track researcher in the Scientific Computing group since March 2025. "I aim to integrate uncertainty quantification and scientific machine learning."



Tony Gómez Pérez and Dimitrios Loukrezis

1 Why did you become a researcher?
Initially, because of all the usual noble reasons, such as advancing science and human understanding. I also became enamoured of the environment and community offered by universities and research institutes.

2 Where did you work before CWI?
I worked as a research scientist specialising in modelling, simulation, and optimisation of digital twins at Siemens AG in Munich. Simultaneously, I held a part-time position as a research group leader at TU Darmstadt, also in Germany.

3 Why did you choose CWI?
Because of the opportunity to pursue curiosity-driven, fundamental research, and the strong encouragement to apply research results to address societal challenges. CWI's world-class reputation also played a role. Moreover, as a Python user myself, I wanted to say that I work at the same place where Guido van Rossum once coded.

4 What will you study at CWI?
I aim to integrate uncertainty quantification and scientific machine learning by developing physics-informed machine learning models with quantified uncertainty in their predictions.

5 Which scientific breakthroughs do you expect in the next ten years in your field?
I anticipate the development and establishment of foundation models for physics and engineering. Think of it like the LLMs we know —such as ChatGPT and Gemini —but with the capability for simulation and scientific computation. The consequences are beyond imagination.

6 What strikes you as typically Dutch?
The orange sports jerseys.

7 What do you do in your spare time?
I work out, watch movies and series, and read. I also play chess, but I am not very good at it.

8 What are your plans for the future?
I want to establish a small research group dedicated to addressing the challenges of combining uncertainty quantification and scientific machine learning. I would also like to see my work included in the solutions that industrial partners incorporate into their products.

9 Could you mention three remarkable qualities of yourself?
Adaptability, resilience, empathy.

10 What's your favourite music?
Psychedelic rock and heavy blues.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

On 5 September, Jannis Teunissen (MD) explained in NOS News how supercomputers like the recently launched Jupiter in Germany (Europe's most powerful supercomputer) advance science, from simulating electric discharges to enabling breakthroughs across research and innovation.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bart Van Parys (ST group) has been awarded an NWO Vidi grant. He will develop methods that enable algorithms to make dependable decisions even when the underlying data are messy, incomplete or extreme.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Peter Boncz (leader of the DA group) and his co-authors have received the VLDB Test of Time Award 2025 for the influential 2015 paper 'How Good Are Query Optimizers, Really?'.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

For her theoretical and computational work on electric discharges in gases, Ute Ebert (leader of the MD group) has received the Von Engel and Franklin Prize, awarded biennially for contributions to the physics and technology of plasmas and ionized gases.

OFF THE CLOCK

Ailsa Robertson (QuSoft)

Off-air, on script

"I grew up in the UK, listening to radio comedy. Even now my most-used app is the radio. I can listen for hours to shows from decades ago. In Britain, radio has long been a breeding ground for comedy. To reach younger audiences, broadcasters launched open competitions in comedy writing. You could send anything: sketches, one-liners, monologues.

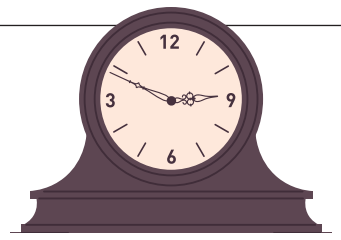
I entered to challenge myself. After my father died, it became an escape. At the time I was a software engineer, and at weekends I tried all sorts of things: voices, accents, recording and editing. One character was Uncle Callum, who needed help installing Netflix. I recorded that scene again and again – dozens of takes – because my biggest challenge is making characters sound real. I'll agonize over the exact words a thirteen-year-old might use to insult a twenty-four-year-old.

Whenever I had a story to tell, I wrote it and sent it in. I don't think I am a good comic writer, but my goal isn't to be broadcast, it is simply to make and submit work. The fun is in shaping an idea that pops into my head: building a character, a story line, the dialogue, and then emailing it to friends who like to hear it. I love making family and friends laugh.

Once I even made a script for a Sky Network competition: a romcom sketch where Sense and Desire push the lead around invisibly, vying to guide her. Mostly, though, I write. If someone asked me to fill a radio show, I'm ready.

Unfortunately, these days I write less, it's hard to combine with a PhD. But the itch hasn't gone."

Irene van Elzakker

The  Past

Steven Pemberton

In English there are several ways of expressing the past: I cooked, I have cooked, I was cooking, I had cooked. There are also two types of English verbs: weak verbs, that form their past by adding -d or -ed, like cook/cooked above, and strong verbs, that change their form in the past like I drink, I drank, I have drunk. Dutch is similar, with weak and strong verbs and similar tenses, although used slightly differently.
This article is about the simple past, the I cooked form in English, for both weak and strong verbs.

WEAK VERBS

Most Dutch verbs are weak, and they form their simple past by taking the ik form of the present, and adding -te or -de in the singular, and -ten, -den in the plural, according to this rule:
If the letter before the final -en of the infinitive is unvoiced (x t s p k f ch), add -te/-ten, otherwise add -de/-den.
Examples:
Koken: ik kook (to cook), k is unvoiced so it becomes *ik kookte* (I cooked), *wij kookten* (we cooked).
Voelen: ik voel (to feel), L is voiced, so it's *voelde/voelden*.
Kussen: ik kus (to kiss), s is unvoiced so becomes *zij kuste* (she kissed), *zij kusten* (they kissed).
Blaffen: ik blaf (to bark, like a dog), f is unvoiced so becomes *hij blafte, zij blaften*.
Leven: ik leef (to live), v is voiced, so *ik leefde, wij leefden*.
Niezen: ik nies (to sneeze), z is voiced, so *ik niesde, wij niesden*.
Lachen: ik lach (to laugh), ch is unvoiced, so *jij lachte, jullie lachten*.

STRONG VERBS

These verbs change their form, and although there are patterns, you really just have to learn the past tense along with the verb. Examples are:
drink (drink) *dronk/en*
zing (sing) *zong/en*
zend (send) *zond/en*
doe (do) *deed/deden*
ga (go) *ging/en*
help (help) *hielp/en*
Some lengthen their vowel in the plural:
geef (give), *gaf, gaven*
neem (take) *nam, namen*
eet (eat) *at, aten*
lig (lie [down]) *lag, lagen*
kom (come) *kwam, kwamen*.

This is the latest in a series of articles on Dutch. You can find earlier ones at **cwi.nl/~steven/dutch**

At the frontline of science

Jop Briët took up the role of group leader of the Algorithms & Complexity group on 1 October. A portrait of a researcher whose career has been shaped through chance encounters. "I'm not the most obvious person to lead A&C."

Irene van Elzakker

The name of Danish computer science expert Peter Høyer comes up regularly when Jop Briët talks about the start of his scientific career. "He took me under his wing." Briët was living in Canada, ready to start his master's and looking for a supervisor. "I got talking to someone on the bus who put me in touch with Høyer. That's how I ended up in the quantum world, purely by chance."
After his master's, Høyer arranged a year as his research assistant and urged Briët to pursue a PhD. The Danish scientist connected him with several institutes across Europe. "That's how I reached CWI. I spoke with Ronald de Wolf, and a few months later I was told there was a PhD position for me." After a final nudge from Høyer, Briët left for Amsterdam.
"I had no real sense of what it means to be a researcher; I had to find my way. Unbelievable that I was allowed to do this, surrounded by geniuses. There are extremely smart people here, creative people with original ideas. After a year I asked my supervisor, Harry Buhrman, whether it was a good idea for me to continue. Am I smart enough? My confidence had taken a knock after an extremely poor talk I'd given. But Harry assured me I could do this, so I stayed."

PICTURE: IVAR PEL

PHD RESEARCH

"With my PhD research I struck lucky. There turned out to be interesting links between quantum computing and areas of mathematics I didn't yet know. I could dive into the most beautiful ideas, at the front line of science."

"It's an honourable role, though I don't see it as a step on the career ladder"

His 2011 dissertation won the Stieltjes Prize and the Andreas Bonn Medal, both awards for the best mathematical thesis. A year later, funded by an NWO Rubicon grant, Briët left for New York University, where he spent two years. "It was the best place I could imagine going, a candy store for knowledge and science."
And now group leader of A&C, something Briët had not foreseen. "I didn't aspire to the job. In terms of research, I'm not the most obvious person to lead such a group. It's an honourable role, though I don't see it as a step on the career ladder, more as facilitating the people in the group."

WHO IS JOP?

Finally, what does Briët's private life look like? " I work four days a week and spend my free time with family - I have a seven-year-old son and a ten-year-old daughter. My wife and I met at an Amsterdam climbing gym, another passion."

RONALD CRAMER (LEFT) AND VICTOR SHOUP, WHO DEVELOPED THE INFLUENTIAL CRAMER-SHOUP CRYPTOSYSTEM.

Ronald Cramer Pushing the boundaries of cryptology

Ronald Cramer (1968), group leader of CWI's Cryptology group, has been with CWI for a total of 25 years. On returning to CWI from abroad, he founded the group just over 20 years ago, when he became a professor in Leiden as well.

Annette Kik

"What sparked my interest in science? Probably mathematics itself. My father had an accountancy firm but we didn't talk about maths. I started out as a physics student at Leiden. Within weeks at university, however, I realized I'm a mathematician at heart! I graduated in pure mathematics in 1992.
David Chaum raised my interest in cryptology. My master's project in his Cryptography group at CWI was followed by a PhD track there. I completed my thesis in 1996. After Chaum returned to the US, I found warm refuge in Paul Vitányi's group. Subsequently I spent 7.5 years abroad at ETH Zurich and Aarhus University.
In 2003 I was appointed full professor at the University of Bonn, in a (coveted) C4 position. However, after a joint effort by CWI and Leiden University, and following negotiations, I chose to return to the Netherlands to found the Cryptology Group at CWI and take a professorship at the Mathematical Institute at Leiden, both on 1 June 2004.
What am I most proud of?
I have had the pleasure of identifying, together with my collaborators, several new cryptographic research lines that have been well-received internationally after we achieved milestones, now part of the modern foundations. For instance, hash proof systems (which we originally developed for chosen ciphertext security), Sigma-protocol theory, the theory and applications of arithmetic secret sharing, and more. Peer recognition, including KNAW membership, is always gratifying.
The Cryptology group — colleagues with outstanding abilities, collective achievements in (post-quantum) cryptography, cryptanalysis and much more, and various kinds of recognition — is also a great source of satisfaction. The group has gone through different generations, each time entering new directions. We complement each other, yet share a strong common core.
We also maintain longstanding strategic collaborations with our colleagues from TNO, including part-time group members. We frequently collaborate with government partners, particularly on post-quantum cryptography and PQC migration. We established the CWI-TNO Symposium Series and its European conference version, co-organized with the Dutch, French and German governments, highlighting how science, policy and practice reinforce each other.

"We keep reimagining cryptography, forging new paths and connections."

My collaboration with Singapore is another highlight. Since 2008 I've been a visiting professor at NTU: a great place for scientific exchange and research collaborations. I have co-organized technology events with the Dutch embassy and others and written a major part of a textbook there.

CWI is also a great place. We have excellent facilities and people, and a supportive environment that allows us to focus on core research. Kudos to the support staff, for their dedication and contributions.
Outside science, I read a lot — fiction and non-fiction — and listen to music. Writers like Coetzee and Conrad, and music ranging from Radiohead to Mahler and Chopin are longstanding favourites. Furthermore, I like watching soccer. I have two teenage sons and we have two cats.
Finally, it is simply a way of life to keep reimagining, reinventing the mission — to explore new paths, new connections between cryptography and mathematics, and to help create the conditions for our group to continue making its mark, both in international research and society."

Full text on intranet: edu.nl/4v9wy

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

CWI is a partner in two consortia funded through NWO's Large-Scale Research Infrastructure (LSRI) programme. In UTOPYS, researchers from the ST and IAS groups will help to build and operate the world's largest power-systems simulator. The ML group is involved in EBRAINS-Neurotech, to advance neurotechnology that can read and write brain activity.

PICTURE: TU DELFT

CWI events

9 MAY-2025 - TRUTH IS IN THE EYES OF THE MACHINES - SYMPOSIUM

2 JULY 2025 - CWI BUSINESS & SOCIETY: FROM WAITING LIST TO PROGRESSION - DOLCE VITA

10 JULY 2025 - SUMMER PARTY AND FAREWELL TON DE KOK

14 AUGUST - FIRST DUTCH PUBLIC SCION SAFER INTERNET DEMO BY NLNET AND CWI

1 SEPTEMBER 2025 - INTERPLAY BETWEEN ML AND OPTIMIZATION - BOOTCAMP (RSP LEO)

9 SEPTEMBER - NWO VICE-PRESIDENT ANKA MULDER VISITS CWI

4 OCTOBER 2025 - SCIENCE DAY

30 OCTOBER 2025 - CWI BEST THESIS IN APPLIED MATH AWARD

Social activities at CWI

The Activity Committee organizes after-hours events like board games, movie nights, meet & greets for new employees, a tropical party, ice skating, tournaments and recently a soap making workshop that proved popular.

We also run regular drop-ins: tea-tasting every Monday at 15:00 in the Forum, Dutch@Lunch for anyone keen to practise Dutch, and an off-topic group on Signal. Fancy something more active? Borrow our spikeball set and start a game on the CWI grounds.
You'll find details on the intranet under Social, including a sign-up link for email updates, so you never miss an event.

Want to get involved? Pitch an idea, co-host an activity, or join the committee! Contact us at activity-committee@cwi.nl.

Get moving with a discount at the University Sports Centre

As a CWI employee, you can enjoy discounted access to the University Sports Centre Amsterdam (USC). The sports centre offers a wide range of activities, from fitness and yoga to swimming, climbing, and martial arts.

The USC uses three membership categories:
I UvA and HvA students
II UvA and HvA staff and alumni
III External participants

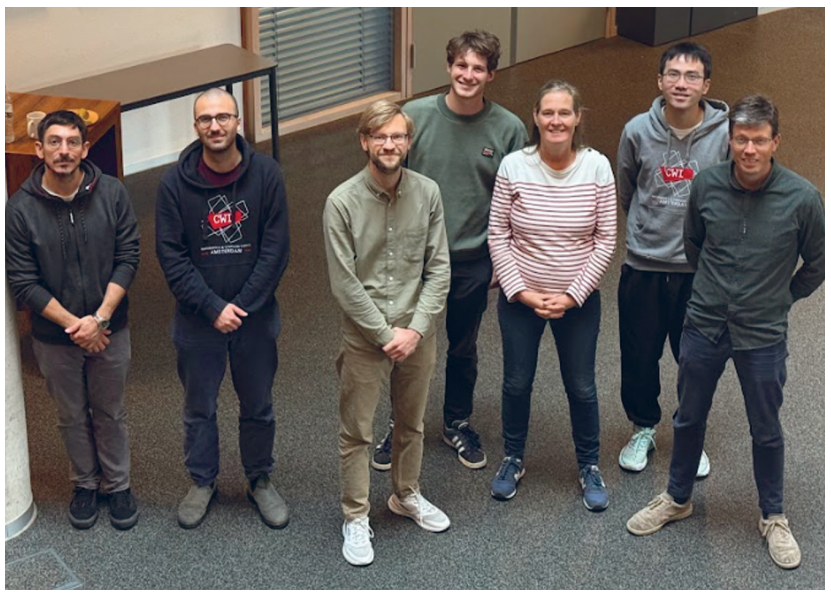
CWI employees fall outside the official categories I and II, but can still benefit from special CWI discount codes. You can contact pd@CWI.nl and ask for this code.
These codes apply to the USC sports programme offered through the USC webshop — including most gym, group and course memberships — but not to student sports associations such as Chip & Charge.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?
Check the full sports offer and rates at uscsport.nl

News from the works council

NEW MEMBERS
Syver Agdestein has decided to leave the works council. Thanks to Syver for all his hard work and dedication! Luckily we found three new members to join us. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ake Köhne, Lorenzo Grevink and Dimitris Loukrezis. They will join existing members Doutzen Abma, Wouter Edeling (chair), Eric Pauwels, Alexander Skorikov, Xinyuan Wang and Martine Anholt (administrative secretary). If you have questions or suggestions, please contact us via or-list@cwi.nl. You can find the minutes, agendas and annual reports of all our meetings at cwi.nl/en/intranet/organization/works-council-ondernemingsraad.

REPAYMENT STUDENT DEBT
Students who built up student debt between 2015 and 2023 under the DUO loan system can repay part of their debt via the AVOM scheme. This provision will be included in the 2026 Collective Labour Agreement (CAO). PhD candidates Lotte Felius and Daniël ten Wolde from CWI were instrumental in getting this adopted. You can read more about this on the intranet (news item on 23 October).



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DIMITRIS LOUKREZIS, LORENZO GREVINK, ALEXANDER SKORIKOV, AKE KÖHNE, DOUTZEN ABMA, XINYUAN WANG, WOUTER EDELING.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

'Python: The Documentary' premiered at PyCon 2025 and is now on YouTube. Featuring Guido van Rossum and several CWI colleagues, it tells the fascinating story of Python's beginnings and its global impact.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Over 160 historic punched tapes from CWI's early computing days, including Algol 60 programs and texts, have been digitized and are now fully accessible for research and study.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In October, two CWI teams participated in the Dam tot Dam run. Our 8 km team finished first among 424 company teams. On the photo is the team who did the full run of 16 km.

AGENDA

Please check the online events calendars for updates: cwi.nl/events & cwi.nl/intranet/events (make sure to log on!).

14 January	Research Semester Programme: Tailored optimization - Kick-off meeting
15 January	Research Semester Programme: Tailored optimization - Applications day
22 January	NUM-SCARS (advanced NUmerical Methods for SCAle Resolving Simulations) - inaugural workshop
4 March	3rd ERCOFTAC Workshop: Machine learning for fluid dynamics

Before finalizing any event date, please obtain approval from Amber Moet (Event Coordinator).

Share your thoughts on **we@cwi**

Do you enjoy reading the magazine, or do you have ideas for improvement?
Scan the QR code to complete a short questionnaire and help us improve future issues.