

Wen Ying Wu wins the Cover Prize

The jury and the general public were not far apart in their selection of the best PhD thesis cover of 2021: that of PhD candidate Wen Ying Wu's thesis entitled *Right tool for the right job*. Wu was the jury's winner and came second in the public voting.

Public voting on the *Resource* website drew a record 4887 voters. After New Year in particular, it became a neck-and-neck race between Wen Ying Wu and Raisa Rudge from the Netherlands.

Style elements

Rudge (cover: *Mouthfeel*) won the online contest by a narrow margin, getting nearly 40 per cent of all the votes. The jury put her cover in sixth place, however, so overall she came third. In second place after Wen Ying Wu was Shanshan Yang (cover: *Dead wood lives*).

The jury was made up of *Resource* graphic designer Alfred Heikamp, Professor Marten Scheffer, Dean of Sciences Wouter Hendriks, *Wageningen World*

editor Miranda Bettonville, and Professor Jan Willem van Groenigen. 'Its strength lies in its simplicity,' says Heikamp of the winning cover. 'All the style elements are used brilliantly: the genetic alphabet, the subtle use of colour, and the way it plays on the title.'

The winning cover was designed by Nicky Vermeer of the graphic design bureau Univorm in Arnhem. Wen Ying Wu studied one of the

'Its strength lies in its simplicity'

CRISPR-Cas systems with which you can cut up DNA in particular ways. The title of the thesis has been cut out in the letters of the DNA code. Literally, as holes in the cover reveal the title that is printed on the next page.

The DNA letters (AGTC) were not chosen at random either. Wen Yung Wu says that geneticists can detect the code she studied in the jumble of



Wen Ying Wu. Photo Mihris Naduthodi

letters. This concept runs through the book: each chapter is preceded by a title page with a DNA sequence that is dealt with in that chapter. ㄹ