



Secondment: The Meuse River Research and practice, living the fieldwork

The *Secondment: The Meuse River* is part of the Riverhood and River Commons projects. Riverhood and River Commons are both 5-year research projects that focus on enlivening rivers, river co-governance initiatives, and new water justice movements. Riverhood has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 101002921). River Commons is funded by the Wageningen Interdisciplinary Research and Education Fund (INREF).

Secondment coordination team:

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Secondment: The Meuse River

Research and practice, living the fieldwork

The Secondment was a 2-month course designed to provide Riverhood and River Commons PhD students with action-research tools and experiences in preparation for their actual fieldwork in various countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. In this course, the PhDs developed a short-term action-action project in partnership with local initiatives and institutional actors working on the Meuse River, in the Netherlands.

After the secondment, participants should be able to:

- Independently set up and execute a research project
- Evaluate and apply different interdisciplinary riverine research methods
- Explore creative and participatory ways to learn about and with a river
- Analyse the different river dimensions (ecosociety, territory, subject, movement) in a specific case study
- Implement and experience reflective- and team learning

This was achieved by:

- Getting to know different issues related to the Meuse River
- Getting to know river commons initiatives related to the Meuse River
- Training research skills (interviewing, literature study) and try out River Co-learning Activities (focus group discussions, video making, etc.)

Three excursions to different locations along the Meuse River, were organized as part of the groups' assignments. The first excursion was to Limburg; the second, was to Brabant; and the last trip was to Biesbosch.

Participants

River Commons PhDs: Laura Giraldo-Martínez, Chisala Lupele, Tanvi Agrawal, Juliana Forigua Sandoval, Paulose Mvulane, Sarita Bhagat, Lotte de Jong, and Sebastian Reyes

Riverhood PhDs: Carolina Cuevas Parra, Carlota Silva Houart, Ana María Arbeláez, and Catalina Rey

Postdocs: Lena Hommes, Bibiana Abadia Duarte, Daniele Tubino de Souza, and Juan Hidalgo

River Commons and Riverhood supervisors

Representatives of government, academic and civil society organisations



Programme

Overall structure of the Secondment: the first two weeks were formed by introduction lectures, training workshops and excursions. During week 3 to 7 the assignments were executed.



WEEK 1

	Monday 5 Sept	Tuesday 6	Wednesday 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9
morning	Introduction lecture: Explanation of the program and to the Meuse River Lecture by Bernhard Becker (Deltares): Hydrology of the Meuse (drought problems, drinking water)	EXCURSION LIMBURG Borgharen and other dams and canals / fish passage (navigability) Border Meuse project (flood protection, gravel mining and nature building)	EXCURSION LIMBURG Lecture by Nico Rander-aad (Maastricht University) Herbricht: History of river stewardship Visit to the Benzenraderhof Farm: Water retention and water quality project	Lecture by Tom Buijse : Fish migration in the Meuse River	Lecture by Elisabet Rash : Activism and (participatory) action research, and positionality and identity
afternoon	Lecture by Koos Beurskens (Waterschap Aa en Maas, Manager Deltaprogramma Maas): Flood protection and Maaswerken Lecture by Jeroen Warner : Transboundary cooperation and conflicts in the Meuse	Kayaking in Border Meuse Start: Itteren, Op de Meer, corner with Pasestraat. End: Meers	Lecture by Britt Dragstra IVN "Maak de Maas de Baas" (Rights for the Meuse river campaign)	Interview training by Rutgerd Boelens Interview training; ethical concerns in doing field work and data management plan	Training by Anke de Vrieze Arts-based methods and creating a method to engage with stakeholders

WEEK 2

	Monday 12 Sept	Tuesday 13	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16
morning	EXCURSION BRABANT Wim van Opbergen – Werkgroep Behoud de Peel	Work on group assignment (research plan) Lecture by Edwin Peeters : Water quality, aquatic ecosystems in - and drinking water from – the Meuse	Lecture by Frank Selten (KNMI) and Eveline van der Deijl (Deltares): Hydrological and climate change models of the Meuse	EXCURSION BIESBOSCH	EXCURSION BIESBOSCH
afternoon	Lecture by Koos Beurskens : Den Bosch - room for the river Delta Programma Maas, Waterschap Aa en Maas) Dreumel, Burgercollectief Dreumelse Waard	Training by Edwin Peeters : Benthic macroinvertebrates inventory practice (on campus)	Lecture by RWS Adriaan van Nooten Advisor spatial planning and river management	EXCURSION BIESBOSCH	Visit to Biesbosch Museum

WEEK 3

	Monday 19 Sept	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23
morning	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Elaborate research and RCA proposal
afternoon	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Guest lecture and discussion Erik Swyngedouw	Discussion of research and RCA proposal with tutors

WEEK 4

	Monday 26 Sept	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 29	Friday 30
morning	Makmende Media: Training in making videos	Makmende Media: Training in making videos	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Lecture by Nina de Roo: Training in non-violent communication and dialogue
afternoon	Makmende Media: Training in making videos	Makmende Media: Training in making videos	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Discussion: Organisation of RCAs in the Secondment

WEEK 5

	Monday 3 Oct	Tuesday 4	Wednesday 5	Thursday 6	Friday 7
morning	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research
afternoon	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Present cases: Exchange of experiences among the groups on research, communication, taking field notes, ethical concerns, 'RCA' activities	Field work/ Research

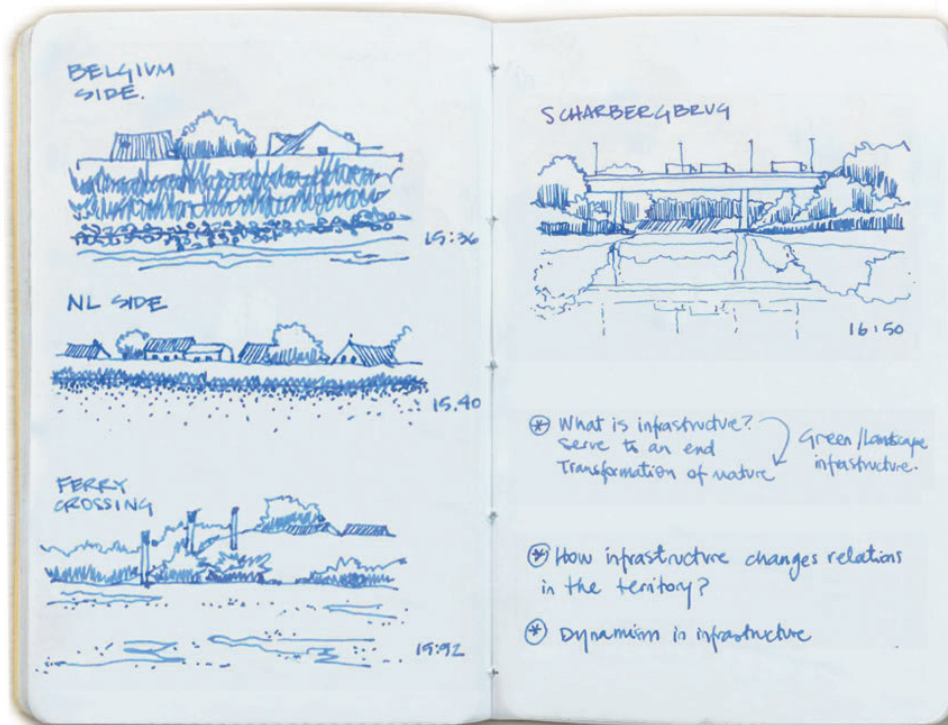
WEEK 6

	Monday 10 Oct	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14
morning	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Makmende Media: Editing videos	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research
afternoon	Field work/ Research	Field work/ Research	Makmende Media: Editing videos	InspirAgua and W. Aa en Maas: Discussion on international learning/exchange projects of Waterboards	Field work/ Research

WEEK 7

	Monday 17 Oct	Tuesday 18	Wednesday 19	Thursday 20	Friday 21
morning	Group report writing	Group report writing	Group report writing	Individual reflection report writing	Elaboration of presentations
afternoon	Individual reflection report writing	Individual reflection report writing	Elaboration of paper outline Presentation of a short pitch on an interesting theme for a scientific paper and work out the outline	Group report writing	Discussion of research and RCA proposal with tutors

September 6
Excursion to Limburg: Grensmaas project

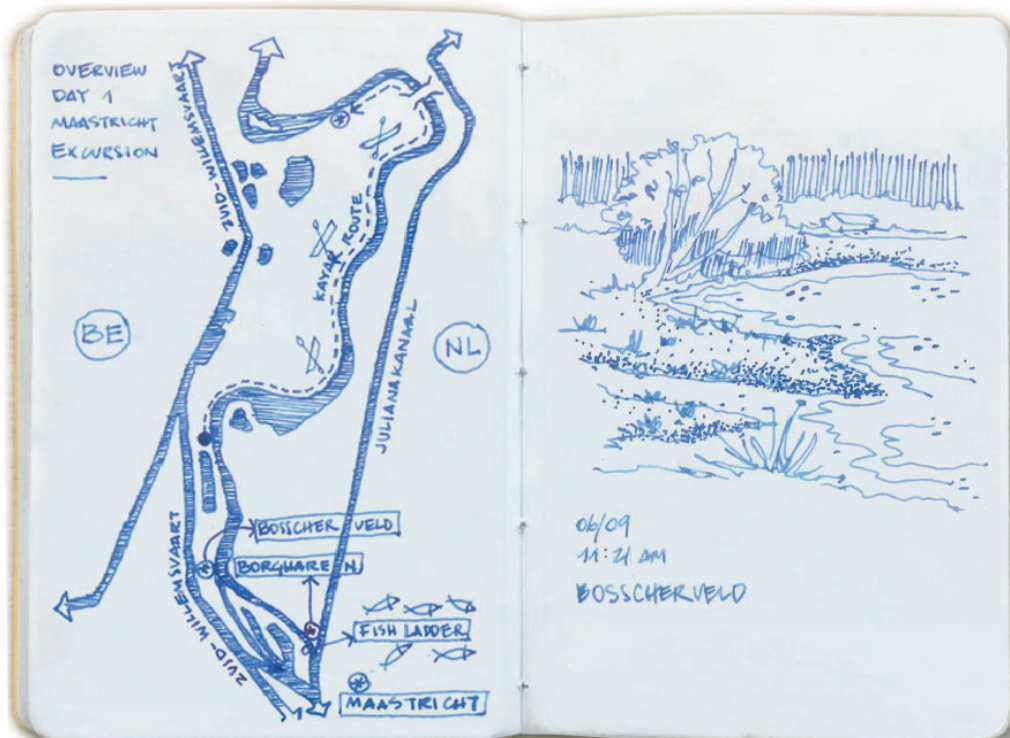


Drawing by
Catalina
Hernandez.

September 6
Excursion to Limburg: Grensmaas project



Kayaking along the Maas River.



Drawing by
Catalina
Hernandez.

September 7

Excursion to Limburg: Visit to the Benzenraderhof farm



The Benzenraderhof farm



The Benzenraderhof farm



September 12

Excursion to Brabant: Creation of wetland, drying peatland area, and flood control in Den Bosch



Explanation on challenges faced by the peatland in the Deurnsche Peel by Wim van Opbergen



Den Bosch - flood protection, explanation by Koos Beurskens

Burgercollectief Dreumelse Waard; a group that has worked intensively to denounce the dumping of contaminated soil in a lake connected to the Maas River system.



September 13 - afternoon

Activity on campus WUR: Benthic macroinvertebrates inventory practice



September 9 - morning

Lecture by Elisabet Rash: Positionality, activism and (participatory) action research



September 9 - afternoon

Lecture by Anke de Vrieze: Arts-based methods



September 15
Excursion to Biesbosch



October 13

Working abroad and Co-learning experience

On October 13, a workshop about cross-cultural learning was organized within the cooperation framework between the Riverhood and River Commons Projects, managed by the Water Resources Management Group (WRM) of Wageningen University (WUR), and the Blue Deal Program for Colombia, InspirAgua, managed by the Waterschap Aa en Maas.

