



Carolien Kroeze, the first female rector magnificus

During the *Dies Natalis* celebration in early March, rector magnificus Arthur Mol handed over the baton to his successor Carolien Kroeze. Mol had held the position for nine years.

Kroeze is taking over at a time when staff and students are asking WUR to speak out on the issues of Palestine and the climate crisis. Kroeze: 'As a knowledge institution, our tasks are education, research and value creation. We should not be speaking out about political and legal issues. Of course, it's fine if scientists make statements on climate change, for example, based on their field of expertise. But as an institution, we mustn't compromise on our independence.'

Kroeze (1964) studied Biology in Groningen,

got her doctorate in Amsterdam and came to Wageningen in 1995 for postdoc research in the Environmental Systems Analysis chair group. Kroeze was also a part-time professor at the Open University of the Netherlands from 2009 to 2016. Afterwards, she held the chair of Water Systems and Global Change at WUR, and subsequently the chair of Environmental Systems Analysis. In addition, in 2019 she was appointed director of WIMEK, one of the six graduate schools at Wageningen.

Info: vincent.koperdraat@wur.nl