



# Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business (CPHEB)

## Newsletter

May 2026

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In this monthly newsletter, the CPHEB keeps you informed about recent and upcoming events. **If you have a contribution to the newsletter, please let us know at [cpheb@rug.nl](mailto:cpheb@rug.nl).** You can also find us on [LinkedIn](#).

### **In this newsletter:**

- Recent and upcoming events
- CPHEB members in the spotlight
- Publications
- Calls
- Data available through the CPHEB

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### **Spot available for PhD student to present during CPHEB brown bag seminar!**

On June 25th we will have another PhD edition of our monthly CPHEB brown bag seminars. We are still looking for a PhD student to present their work. Please let us know if you are interested.

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## Recent events

### Economic Afternoon: Danielle Jansen

During EEF's Economic Afternoon on April 15, former minister of Health, Welfare and Sport **Danielle Jansen** shared her unique experience across medicine, academia, and policy. She shared her insights into the two central challenges facing the Dutch healthcare system: affordability and fairness. Students actively engaged in a lively discussion, sharing their thoughts on healthcare policy.



### CPHEB seminar: Stijn Bruls (Radboud University)

On April 16, we hosted **Stijn Bruls** (Radboud University). Stijn presented his paper "*Digitalizing High Reliable Collaborations: A Flow-Oriented Approach to Emerging Affordances*". In the study, he employed a multi-sited ethnography in 3 Dutch emergency care collaborations. His findings highlight that complementing existing ways of working with digital technologies can support high reliable collaborations.

Claudio Annibali (EEF) will present at the next CPHEB seminar on May 21.



## Upcoming events

<p>May 21, 2026 11.00 - 12.00 5419.0240</p>	<p><b>CPHEB Seminar: Claudio Annibali (EEF)</b></p> <p><b>The Power of the Pill Revisited: New Evidence from the Netherlands.</b> This paper studies the Netherlands, where early access to the pill was introduced in 1970 and abortion legalized only in 1984, exploiting this institutional separation to separately identify their effects using a difference-in-differences design and a discrete-time duration model. Early pill access suppressed teenage fertility, delayed marriage, and increased educational attainment. Early abortion access had no effect on teenage fertility but shifted births from the early to the late twenties without affecting completed motherhood rates or education. Intergenerational effects are documented for the pill but not abortion. The two technologies operated as complements at distinct stages of the life cycle.</p>
<p>June 4, 2026</p>	<p><b>AJSPH: Bijeenkomst Mentaal Gezond Groningen</b></p>

<p>10.00 - 14.00 House of Connections</p>	<p>Centered around the theme “Bridging,” the event brings together policymakers, researchers and practitioners to strengthen connections between policy, research and lived experience, with the shared goal of improving youth mental health. Through plenary sessions and interactive breakouts, participants will work towards a more integrated, prevention-focused approach and concrete next steps for collaboration. More info <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>June 11 -13, 2026 Mannheim</p>	<p><b>CPHEB - ZEW Mannheim Public Health in Economics and Business Workshop</b></p>
<p>June 17, 2026 14.00 - 17.30 House of Connections</p>	<p><b>AJSPH: From Awkward Emails to Real Collaboration: Connecting Your (PhD) research with Societal Partners</b></p> <p>Training event organized by Aletta Talent Network and Rudolf Agricola School PhD Community. The training will offer practical insights, real-world examples, and strategies to help early career researchers turn societal stakeholders into engaged partners. The event is open to all early career researchers. More information and registration <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p>June 26, 2026 09.00 - 17.00 House of Connections</p>	<p><b>AJSPH: Future Proof Healthcare Systems - From ambition to action</b></p> <p>On June 26, Aletta brings together professionals, researchers, policymakers and innovators at the House of Connections to explore how we can move from ambition to real change in healthcare. With rising demand, workforce shortages and increasing complexity putting pressure on the system, the event focuses on identifying barriers, sharing insights and defining concrete actions for sustainable, future-proof care—contributing to both a national strategy and regional agendas. More info <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

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## In the Spotlight

On Tuesday, 14 April 2026, DASH (UMCG), the Jantina Tammes School of Digital Society, Technology and AI, and Aletta organized a joint day on healthcare transition and the use of healthcare technology in practice where, among others, **Francesca Lombardo** presented her PhD work on human-robot collaborations.

Jan 2024  
Lombardo

# How to Welcome a Nurse Robot: Fostering Collaborative Human-Robot Teams

Francesca Lombardo, Jana Holthöwer, Jenny van Doorn  
University of Groningen

## Introduction

Healthcare systems worldwide face severe workforce shortages, with a projected global gap of 10 million healthcare workers by 2030.

Service robots are increasingly introduced to support healthcare delivery.

However, robots rarely operate independently, instead, they must work alongside human employees in team-based environments.

This research adopts a **team-level perspective** to understand how healthcare teams successfully integrate service robots into collaborative service delivery.

## Theory

Drawing on team literature, we focus on **team receptivity to newcomers**, which reflects how teams incorporate a new member into their workflow.

This challenge becomes more pronounced with the introduction of a robot teammate, which represents a disruptive and novel shift in team composition.

Team receptivity is characterized by three dimensions:

- **Team reflection:** the ability of the team to collectively evaluate and adapt to the newcomer introduction.
- **Knowledge utilization:** the ability of the team to leverage newcomer's unique skills and capabilities.
- **Social acceptance:** the willingness of the team to integrate and collaborate with the newcomer.

Together, these dimensions determine whether the integration of a robotic newcomer is successful or not.

## Study 1: Qualitative Evidence of Team Receptivity to Robots

- N = 31 (caregivers and clients)
- Two elderly care facilities
- Same social robot, different implementation outcomes
- Method: semi-structured interviews



### Key findings:

#### Successful integration

- Employees adapted workflows to include the robot.
- Robot capabilities were actively used.
- Robot was socially accepted (anthropomorphized).
- Positive client reactions reinforced use.

#### Unsuccessful integration

- Limited adaptation of daily routines.
- Unclear understanding of robot capabilities.
- Robot perceived as a tool.
- Low client engagement reduced use.

## Study 2: Field Intervention on Team Receptivity to Robots

- N = 22 (employees)
- University hospital
- Method: Intervention (Robot demonstration) with pre and post interviews, robot usage data



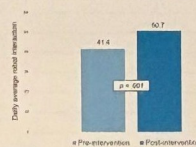
### Key findings:

#### Qualitative insights

- Better understanding of robot capabilities.
- Increased integration into daily routines.

#### Quantitative insights:

- Daily robot interactions increased significantly after the intervention.



## Discussion

Service robot integration is not purely a technological issue, but a team-level process.

Our findings show that successful integration depends on how teams respond to a robotic newcomer:

- Team reflection enables employees to adapt workflows.
- Knowledge utilization helps leverage robot capabilities.
- Social acceptance allows the robot to be perceived as part of the team.

Study 1 shows that integration emerges as a dynamic, self-reinforcing process, in which employee practices and client feedback jointly shape whether a robot becomes embedded in daily work. Building on this, Study 2 demonstrates that interventions targeting team receptivity can activate this process, leading to increased robot usage.

## References

- Harris Watson, A. M., Larson, L. E., Lauharatanshirun, N., DeChurch, L. A., & Contractor, N. S. (2023). Social perception in Human-AI teams: Warmth and competence predict receptivity to AI teammates. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 145, 107765.
- Rink, F., Kane, A. A., Ellemers, N., & Van der Veegt, G. (2013). Team receptivity to newcomers: Five decades of evidence and future research themes. *The Academy of Management Annals*, 7(1), 247-293.
- World Health Organization. (2020). *Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030: Reporting at Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly*.

For questions and/or suggestions:

f.lombardo@rug.nl

## Publications

**Pichler, Stefan**, Christopher Prinz, Stefan Thewissen, and Nicolas R. Ziebarth. 2026. "The Economics of Paid Sick Leave." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 40 (2): 215–42. DOI: 10.1257/jep.20251479

# Calls

## 4th Dutch Health Econometrics Workshop

Workshop for researchers who apply econometric methods to answer questions in health economics.

- September 24 - 25, 2026
- Erasmus University Rotterdam
- No conference fee
- Deadline for paper submission: **May 31, 2026**
- More information and paper submission: <https://sites.google.com/rug.nl/dutch-health-econometrics/home>

## Aanjaagfonds Universiteit van het Noorden

The fund promotes cross-level educational and research collaborations that contribute to broad prosperity in the Northern Netherlands.

Deadline: **June 30, 2026** | More information: <https://universiteitvanhetnoorden.nl/anjaagfonds/>

## NWO: Onderzoek op routes door consortia 2026

Theme: Smart technological infrastructure for sustainable and customised prevention of multimorbidity

Deadline: **October 6, 2026** at 14.00 | More information: <https://www.nwo.nl/calls/onderzoek-op-routes-door-consortia-2026>

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# Data available through CPHEB

*The CPHEB has data available that you can use for your research. Short descriptions of available data and contact persons can be found below.*

## Menzis SamenGezond data

Data from the Menzis SamenGezond App and Program. More information about the program can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Contact: [Koert van Ittersum](#).

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