



university of
 groningen

Linking Community and Ecosystem Dynamics

21 - 26 October 2018
 UoG Field station Herdershut,
 Schiermonnikoog, the Netherlands





> Winter school description

This winter, the Research School Ecology & Evolution (RSEE) will be hosting the second annual Winter School on Linking Community and Ecosystem Dynamics.

The Winter School will be held at University of Groningen's field station the "Herdershut" on Schiermonnikoog and is organized in collaboration with an expert in the field from the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam and under auspices of the research schools PE&RC and SENSE.

The 5-day academic programme is composed of lectures, poster sessions, working group activities and discussions.



Scope of the course:

The research fields community and ecosystem ecology have diverged more or less independently over the last decennia. In community ecology progress is made in understanding shifts in community composition under the influence of environmental change and how these shifts can be explained by functional trait approaches of component species. Also, the importance of positive feedbacks in community dynamics is more and more appreciated, and merged with trophic interactions in ecological networks. Studies in ecosystem ecology traditionally have a strong focus on energy and nutrient fluxes and how deviation in these fluxes affect ecosystem functioning and stability. Recent studies reveal tight links between these sub-disciplines that enforce us to rethink how communities and ecosystems interact.

This course focuses on theoretical concepts, such as autocatalytic loops and positive and negative feedbacks between organisms in ecological networks. Also, the importance of non-trophic interactions by ecosystem engineers, and how these principles can be used to link communities to ecosystems to enable to understand how environmental change affect community and ecosystem dynamics. Students will construct ecological networks of their own study system or based on literature data and analyse these using structural equation modelling.

> Academic coordinators	Prof. Matty Berg Prof. Han Olf
> Fees	€ 350 (RSEE and co-organizing research schools e.g., PE&RC, SENSE) € 500 (other participants)
> Target audience	PhD students, post docs
> Language of instruction	English
> Credits/Certificate	2 EC
> Application deadline	1 October 2018
> More information	https://www.rug.nl/research/rsee Dr. Corine Eising: c.m.eising@rug.nl