

Letter from The Editorial Board

Hello! Welcome to DiscoverIE, the official newsletter of the Industrial Ecology Study Association. The Editorial board are honored to present this debut publication, which includes five pieces of original content relevant to the IE program.

So why are we starting a newsletter? First and foremost our goal is to provide you with content that is helpful a, informative b and entertaining. This means bringing you clear information about what is happening in our community and academic field. Dedicated readers will be rewarded with articles and columns written by IE colleagues, classmates and professors, fun IE event details, relevant information about classes, and any other information for the IE community in Leiden and Delft.

Who are our readers? Well, that's you! Who are you? We expect you're one of our peers on the IE program at Leiden & Delft. Perhaps you're one of our professors, or someone else working in the field. Perhaps you're a prospective student, or alumni. Or maybe you're completely unrelated to Industrial Ecology and just a massive fan of this newsletter, which would be an impressive feat considering this is the first edition. Our second goal is to showcase the IE program and community to the rest of the world. The multidisciplinary nature of the field requires a broad range of people and groups to interact, seek, and analyze solutions (see Dr. Kleijn's new definition below). Through the newsletter, the outside world can glimpse how our community aspires to improve the natural environment and social systems which depend on it. DiscoverIE can serve as a way to highlight our masters-level academic university program and encourage more people of varied backgrounds to enroll, increasing our positive diversity to the benefit of all.

These goals place some responsibility on a newsletter of such humble origins. The new Shift Board (more on them below) decided just a few weeks ago that a newsletter could be instrumental in furthering the goals of the study association. They assigned responsibility to the Network Coordinator, who formed a small team. We've been communicating on line through chat channels, with three of us ("the editorial board") meeting in Delft to discuss visions, plans and content, feeding back to the wider group. This issue has been produced using the web-based collaboration and publishing tool Overleaf. We'll also upload the articles to the Shift website. We've commissioned articles from the people around us, and would like to thank those that have followed through and provided us with the entertaining content presented below. And those of you that promised contributions but couldn't deliver? Well there's always...

Next month! We'd love to see an even wider range of submissions. For that, we turn to you, kind readers. If you're interested in becoming involved, please reach out. Send us your ideas, articles, poems, beers, events, homework, thoughts, drawings, comments, critiques (I dare you to say a bad thing about this newsletter - Alan), recommendations, and anything else that you would like to share with our readers. This newsletter is a platform you can engage with, so that you, your loved ones, and the global community, can wholeheartedly Discover IE.

Stay woke,
AMM, JB, TM



General Assembly

by T. M.

On Monday the 6th of March, the new board of the Industrial Ecology Study Association (IESA Shift) began their yearly tenure. The General Assembly took the format of a presentation, followed by a Q&A and public ballot. There were around 25 people in the audience, representing all of the four cohorts of students from the past 2 years of the IE MSc. They relaxed back in comfortable chairs, supping free beer and devouring tasty vegetarian snacks, whilst pondering thoughtfully on the scene unfolding before them. Sabine, the illustrious 2015-16 Chair, took to the stage to introduce the event and detail the successes and challenges of the past year. She concluded by passing the metaphorical torch to Eveline, who continued the presentation with her captivating vision of a resplendent future for the study association.

In quick succession, the new treasurer and exemplar of fiduciary duty, Noor, rendered the audience flabbergasted with her concise budgetary outline. The time approached for the (mostly symbolic) 'voting in' of the new committee. The atmosphere was laden with tension, as the membership in the audience were consulted regarding their thoughts on what they had witnessed...

It was this very moment, that the right honorable fresh-faced February starter Lennart, chose to make his strategic play. "I HAVE AN ALTERNATIVE VISION" he screamed, sending tables flying as he leaped from his seat. The crowd were shocked, a bead of sweat formed on Eveline's brow as she encouraged elaboration on the details of Lennart's unforeseen competitive offering. With a confidence rarely seen on such a young man, he volunteered the first of his revolutionary policy proposals for the communal funds: "Free Diesel-car hire for all members!". Before the students had a chance to recover from that bombshell, he followed up with "Grave to Grave! No cradle-to-cradle solutions, no cycle at all, straight to the grave!".

A period of serious, intense structured discussion followed, lasting for many hours. The pros and cons of Lennart's proposals were carefully weighed against the competing alternative presented by the new board. Eventually, a vote was called. In an event that historical scholars will recognise as pivotal in the history of Shift: the diligent and principled students cast their ballots. The vote was unanimous, the new Shift board was elected with an overwhelming mandate; to become the change that Industrial Ecology wants to see in the world.

Pub Quiz

by J. MURRAY

The event committee kicked off its 2017 series of events the night of March 24 with a massively successful pub quiz (you'd be correct in assuming this snippet of the newsletter is written by an event committee member; if you were at the quiz I'm sure you'll agree though - extraordinary success? Yes). In a welcomed break from LCA's, MFA's and one too many PDF's, IE knowledge of the more trivial elements of life was put to the test and the class's true competitive colours emerged.

While teams showed well balanced strength throughout the evening, with notable performances from "The A-Team" and "Chinglish Cheesecake", victory was clinched in the end by the formidable 'Quizlamic State". The team was rewarded with bottles of wine made, stamped and approved by our very own professors. All a bit controversial, but where's the fun otherwise, eh? Thanks to everyone for attending and I speak on behalf of the event committee in saying that we look forward to more of these fun social events. There are several more in the pipelines, so keep an eye out!

Upcoming in May

Beach Day!

What Shift Social Event - "Beach Day!"
When Sunday 7th May, 13:00
Where Scheveningen Beach

Details: You've got deadlines, we get it. But if you think that's a valid excuse for missing a day at the beach with your friends, then you need to get your priorities straight! Please bring what you can: frisbees, volleyball, music, tasty food & drinks etc. If you are in for a nice bike ride, some of us are leaving from Delft station at 12:00. Plan B: if the weather is not so beachy, we will reschedule to the week after. Follow on Facebook to stay updated!

Lunch Lecture

What Free lunch lecture - "Challenges of the Post-Fossil City"
When Monday 1st May, 12:30
Where TPM Room A

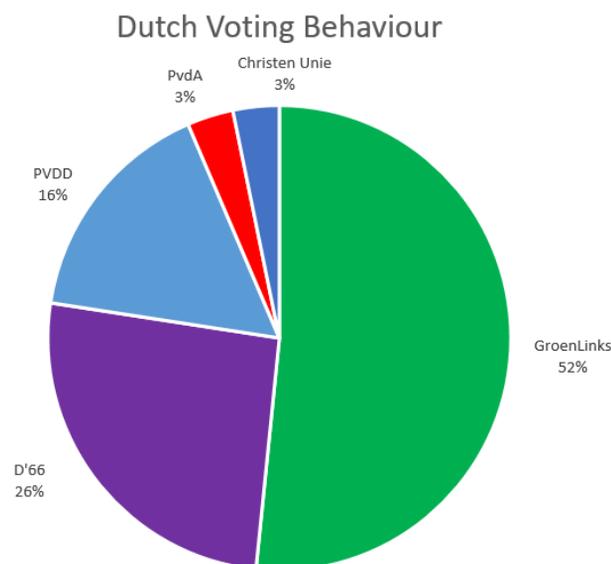
Details: Can cities embrace the immense challenge of decarbonization to become places that natural, social, and creative life can flourish? Join us in visualizing the potential if they succeed, and what might happen if they don't...

Industrial Ecology & Politics

by J. BRINKMAN

The recent Dutch elections showed an increase in seats for parties campaigning on climate change. Though still not enough, environmental issues are definitely higher on the agenda than in the past. But what is the opinion of Industrial Ecologists? What do our Industrial Ecology students think about politics? A quick survey (n=50) provided some insight. The international character of the study ensured that a third of the respondents were not eligible to vote. The sample consists of slightly more males than females, with an average age of 25 years. The respondents were asked about their political interests, economic and moral positions, as well as their voting behavior. In general, the political interest of Industrial Ecology students is high, with an average of 7.4/10.

Most of the eligible students voted in the elections for the Dutch Tweede Kamer, which is comparable with the US House of Representatives. In this Tweede Kamer, 150 seats were distributed to represent the Dutch electorate. On economic issues, IE students place themselves slightly left. A significant number of students place themselves on the middle position, and very few on the right side of the spectrum. This represents a general recognition that the market cannot solve all of our (environmental) problems. When students were asked to choose a position between conservative and progressive, the results are very clear. IE students are very progressive, and none of the respondents tend towards conservatism. However, it should be noted that this is based upon their own conceptualization of conservative and progressive.



In terms of voting behavior, the Dutch IE students favored the GreenLeft party. At the second place comes the liberal democrats (D66), a progressive party but economically more to the right. The Animal Party attracts some votes as well. Interestingly, the Conservatives (VVD), Christian Democrats (CDA) and the far-right PVV attracted no votes at all among the sampled students. We could expect a relatively high number of leftist, progressive voters among IE students, due to the normative character of IE with its focus on sustainability. This survey supports this theory remarkably well. Is that problematic? Might be. When we want to change the world, it is important to reach out to everybody, regardless of political view. My advice: listen to others, stick to your ideals.



Elective Review: Agent Based Modelling

by A. TAJBAKSH

Do you suffer existential angst from not knowing the difference between 'complicated' and 'complex'? Does not knowing how to talk about complex adaptive systems with your friends keep you up at night? If so, the course "Agent Based Modelling"(ABM) may be right for you. This course offers a patent pending mix of a great instructor as well as a tried and tested set of lecture materials. Instead of just teaching you how to use the agent based modelling software *Netlogo*, this course also teaches you how to think about the complexity of real world problems in a different way as well as the vocabulary needed to describe them to your loved ones. The instructor is a good old fashioned, down to earth nerd with a great sense of humor that he injects into his lectures. He's also extremely knowledgeable and frequently helps IE students with thesis and IPG projects that involve ABM.

Side effects of taking ABM include: minor headaches due to large doses of knowledge, vocabulary growth, a heightened awareness of path dependencies, ability to write kick-ass ABM programs, and nerd-like behavior (e.g. appreciation for XKCD jokes). ABM is not for everyone.

Consult with your doctor before taking this course especially if you experience emotional pain when thinking about programming.

IE Spotlight: Hielke van der Aa

by T. M.

Ahoy Hielke! I hear you're studying abroad this semester- what are you up to?

I'm doing some electives at Chalmers in Gothenburg (Sweden). I wanted some new academical challenge but mostly I expected the country and culture to be awesome. Turns out I was right. Also, I get a lot of holidays here which I can spend roadtripping, jeej!

Cool, bet you've got some stories! But this is for the Study Association, so let's hear about those academics :D

I'm taking electives on intellectual property and open innovation, very novel, interesting, and way more applicable than expected! Plus one on nanotechnology for sustainable energy. Extremely cool and relevant, I get to learn about all this awesome stuff like catalysts, thermoelectrics, solar fuels and how it all actually works. Gives an optimistic view on many technologies...

What a mix! So why did you choose IE as your focus?

I saw some really good parts of a Dutch tv-show called Tegenlicht which involved some Industrial Ecologist which initiated my interest. But mostly I considered sustainability issues and sustainable development as very complicated and interesting challenges; the defining challenges for my generation. I thought Industrial Ecology would be the right study to take on these challenges and really appreciated the diversity. I also wanted more variation in my fellow students than the typical Delft nerd, though I was also pretty scared of over sustainable hippies.

Aha, none of those around here ;) So what gets you out of bed in the morning?

Excessive amounts of energy, and the urge to do something useful before I begin satisfying my fundamental cravings such as music, sports and borrelen (google it, if you don't know the Dutch word). And obviously, I'm determined to save the world haha.

What's your dream night out?

An evening with Esperanza Spalding and/or Elisha Cuthbert. We'd go to a gig: Limp Twins (Quantic) → Anderson Paak → Snarky Puppy → Vulfpeck → Afterparty Jamsession and headlined by Nightmares on Wax.

Sounds fun! Last question - any advice for other IE students considering a year abroad?

Approach the study advisor (Els Kroon) for any study related questions such as which courses to choose and get approved, and possible deviations from the regular program. You cannot spend a semester abroad without missing some obligatory IE courses, I've missed the IPG for instance [Ed. Note - the course managers are looking into improving this situation, stay tuned!]. The exchange coordinator (Gloria Schildwacht) is also a very sympathetic and helpful woman, she'll help you through the administrative parts of the application.

Besides that: be confident about foreign institutions willingness to accept you for an exchange, I've found that TU Delft and Leiden University are held in high esteem. I've really enjoyed doing some not-so-typical IE courses, I can definitely recommend that! You can also expect professors to be very approachable and relaxed abroad. Apparently universities in the Netherlands are rather challenging for professors as they are more crowded. And if you're having doubts, there are many students who have been abroad whom you can approach, Gloria Schildwacht can point you to IE-ers that have been anywhere. Cheers!

Thanks Hielke, great advice! Enjoy Sweden and see you on return in September :)

Readers: Got an idea for someone you think would be perfect for next month's spotlight? Let us know!



Definition: Rene Klein on Industrial Ecology

For the first content submission from a staff-member, we have a brief definition of IE from our very own Professor Kleijn. He asserts that:

"Industrial Ecology is the interdisciplinary field of science that studies the material basis of society from a systems perspective in order to identify, design and critically evaluate solutions for sustainability problems and their implementation pathways.

Agree? Disagree? Want to propose an alternative perspective? Let's have it!

Endnote: Bonus Question

Why is the IE Study Association called Shift?! If you don't know, feel free to make up an answer, as we don't know either. Best answer gets a lollipop!

Sustain yourselves until next time and remember: if you do nothing, nothing will happen.



Layout by Ella Tolonen