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NEW BEGINNINGS...

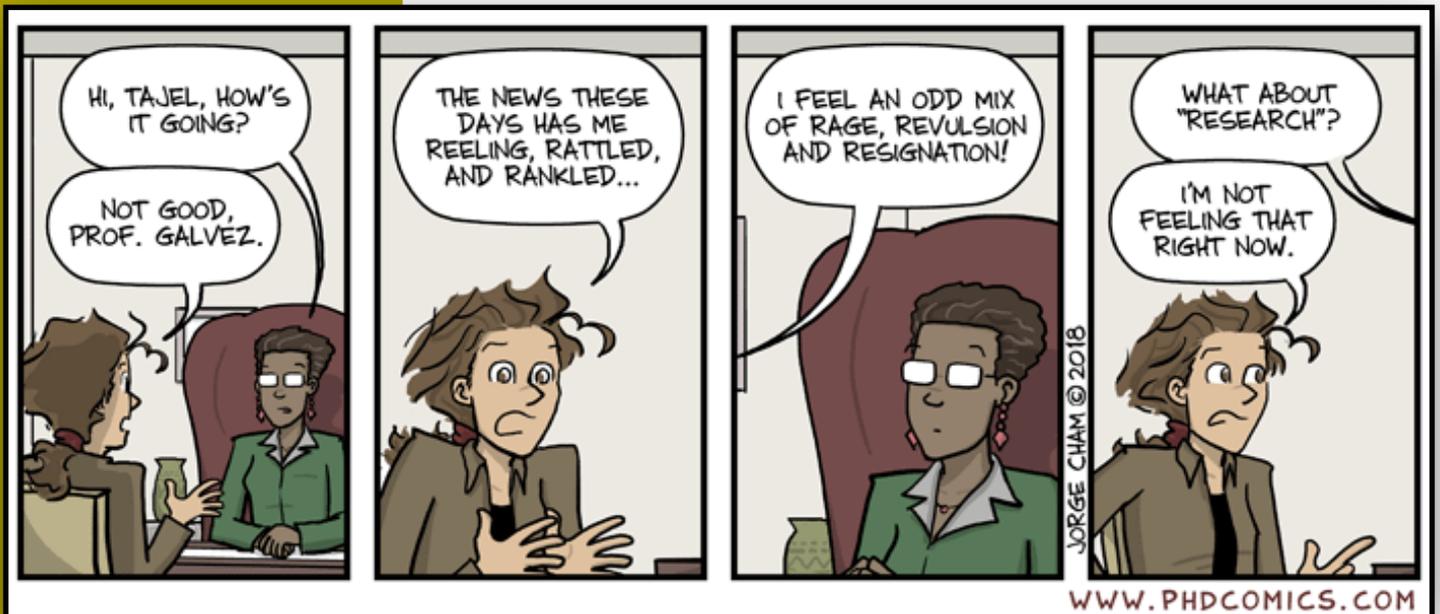
As Shirley successfully defended her PhD, she asked me to take over the daunting task of writing the newsletters. Over the past weeks I tried to give it a new look, while keeping the lighthearted feeling intact. Luckily, I've received plenty of help/contributions from our department!

What do we have in store? Congratulating our newest doctor (Shirley Kempeneer), some interesting conferences/summer schools/workshops took place during the summer, a fire-safety session and we welcome four new colleagues. However, not all good news in this newsletter, we need to say goodbye to the Dishwasher of the LN-building.

Enjoy!



Save the date
Defence Brecht Volders
28/10



SHIRLEY BROKE THE BANK AND SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED HER PHD!

She investigated the EU-wide banking stress test, which was introduced in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Her doctoral thesis, titled "Breaking the Bank: The regulatory implications of knowledge production by indicators", was praised by the jury.

After the official formalities Wouter (promotor) referenced the cult classic "Pulp Fiction" and told the audience that Shirley is a "mister Wolf", a man, in this case woman, who solves problems. Shirley has always been very active in the department and will definitely be missed.



CONGRATS SHIRLEY!

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020!



On 26 September 2019, higher education in Antwerp made a festive entrance into the 2019/2020 academic year with a formal session in the Stadsschouwburg.

We wish all the professors and teaching assistants good luck with educating the students.



For the speeches and more pictures, click [here](#)



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Dishwasher

LN55

WE ARE SAD TO ANNOUNCE
THE PASSING OF OUR BELOVED DISHWASHER
ON SEPTEMBER 18TH 2019.
HER STRONG WORK ETHICS, HELPING HAND AND CLEANLINESS
WILL BE DEARLY MISSED BY ALL.



2019



On the 18th of September, we received the terrible news that one of the most productive members of our department passed away.

The Dishwasher was a good friend to all and was always willing to help out in times of need. The loss has been especially hard on the people from the LN-building.

Some have taken this opportunity to say goodbye. I'm sure the Dishwasher would have loved these kind words. Let's all support each other in these desperate times.

Dear dishwasher of LN55

It feels so weird to say goodbye to you, because you were always there for us when we needed you most.

Other people might have thought that we were lazy, not doing the dishes ourselves. They think we should do our own dishes, like everybody else of our Faculty!

But I think that they were just jealous, for only we had someone like you, someone who we could trust to help us with this dire task.

Someone so precise and efficient, has now become broken. We feel so lonesome. Immediately after eating or drinking, we think about you, and how much we miss you.

You magnificent wonder of modern technology, we hope you rest in peace.

Written by: Pieter Verheyen



Working in the LN (a.k.a. the Left wing) is a luxurious position. No, it's not because we have a ping pong table where games are played on a daily basis to unload our stress. Nor is it the fact that we have 'the center of power' of PW at our side in the form of the Oval office. It is not even the fact that we can always enter and leave the building by means of the back door. No, the privilege of working in the left wing has been one machine that has unburdened households since the 70's: The dishwasher.

For years the LN had the (as far as the author knows) only dishwasher in the Meerminne. Rumours even have it that when part of PW decided to make a move to the LN, about 6 years ago, the sole reason was the promise of this dishwasher. Piles of plates and even coffee cups where biologists could discover new forms of life have been cleaned by this wondrous machine. Until a few days ago. Our kitchen friend broke. Although debate is still going on about whether the machine is really broken and it is not a plot to equalize work conditions across the department, we may have to accept the fate that 'helaas pindakaas' in the future we will need to do dishes by hand.

Goodbye old friend! You will be missed!

Written by: Patrick Van Erkel

The impact of your departure has been heavy on our cups - they can hardly keep calm...

Written by: Zeljko Poljak

MET DE AUTO OP CONFERENTIE: EEN GOED IDEE? (JULIE SEVENANS)

Begin september zakten een aantal collega's van ons departement af naar de ECPR General Conference in Wroclaw. Greta, Anuna & co indachtig, maakten enkelen er een missie van de ecologische voetafdruk van de trip wat te drukken.

De voorkeursoptie—de trein—bleek onhaalbaar: met 18 uur reistijd, 5 overstappen, en soms slechts 5 minuten overstaptijd, lijkt de moedige treinreiziger gedoemd om ergens halverwege te stranden...

Met de auto op conferentie dan maar! Aanrader, of niet?

		
Route?	Vlucht van Eindhoven naar Wroclaw (vervoer van en naar luchthavens niet inbegrepen)	Rit van Antwerpen naar Wroclaw via Dresden
Uitstoot?	275 kg CO ₂ per persoon (vervoer van en naar luchthavens niet inbegrepen)	80 kg CO ₂ per persoon (busje met 7 personen)
Prijkaartje?	177 euro per persoon (vervoer van en naar luchthavens niet inbegrepen)	130 euro per persoon
Tijdsinvestering?	5 uur reistijd (vlucht van anderhalf uur + vervoer van en naar luchthaven, wachttijd)	11 uur reistijd
Stress?	eventuele stress voor de vlucht	eventuele stress voor de chauffeurs (verantwoordelijkheid) administratief iets meer geregeld, maar doenbaar (delen van kosten over verschillende projecten)
Sfeer & gezelligheid?		Tussenstop in Dresden. Knappe stad!
<p>Onze conclusie: De auto is de economische & ecologische winnaar, MAAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meerdere chauffeurs nodig die zich er goed bij voelen • niet ideaal voor wie het snelle comfort van het vliegtuig preferereert 		

En was de conferentie de moeite?

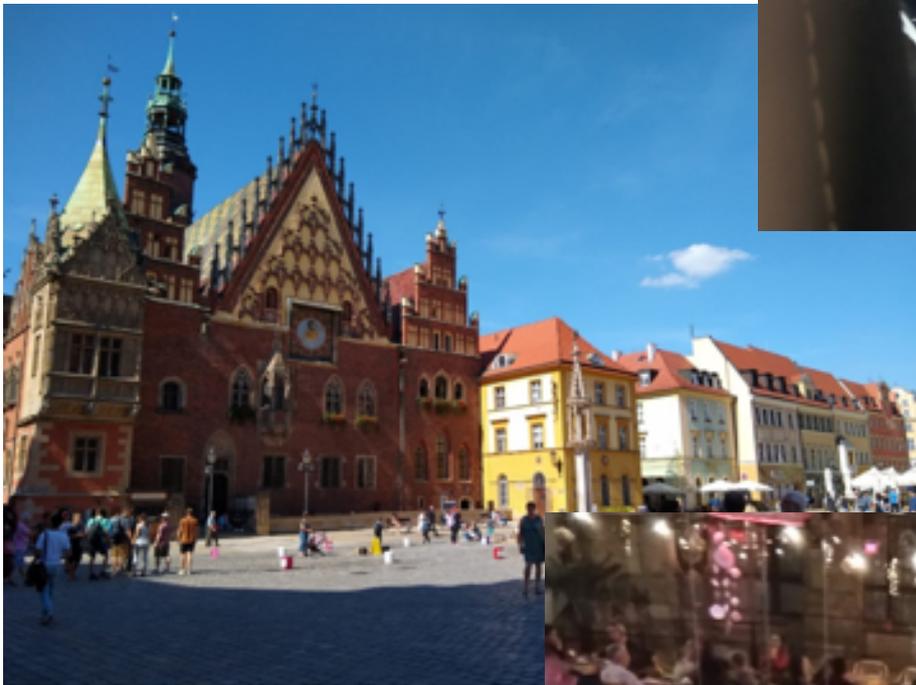
Ja! Een mooie combi van wetenschap (interessante presentaties), cultuur (schone stad!), mensen (netwerken met onze favoriete buitenlandse collega's) & kabouters! Enkele sfeerbeelden

(zie volgende pagina):

ENGLISH SUMMARY

Some colleagues went to the ECPR General Conference in Wroclaw by renting a car together (taking the train wasn't an option). Julie made a cost benefit analysis and concluded that the car is, both in economical and ecological terms the better mode of transportation compared to an airplane.

However, you need multiple drivers who feel comfortable with it and it isn't ideal if you prefer the quick comfort of a plane. The conference itself was worth the effort.



I HAD A DATE. A NUCLEAR ONE. (FERDIANA HOTI)

Talking about nuclear science and technology on a first date sounds like such a turn off right? It's a bit like talking about football or telling your date "well, my previous relationship was so toxic (high CO₂ emission) so now I'm desperate and that's why I'm using you although I know you're not the best option". Well, some people are still attracted by this (don't act like you're not!) and want to know more.

A couple of weeks ago I participated in a workshop called "Nuclear Dating". Spoiler alert, this is not a type of bad-tinder-date story. I actually liked all the dates (yes, there were more than one) and we all tried to find something in common with each-other in order to bring something useful out of this date. *Responsible* dating you would say. Well, that was part of the workshop too. One of the main goals of this event was to learn about the logic behind Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and see how we can incorporate it in our ideas of a common project.

The workshop was organized by the Academy of Belgian Nuclear Research Center and the venue was at the *Hard* Rock Café in Brussels, because, where else can you work *hard*, play *hard*? The aim was to bring together PhD students and Early Career Researchers (ECR) from exact- and social science disciplines to share insights on, and approaches to, research on ionizing radiation and nuclear technology. We wanted to explore ways to connect with each other and integrate different perspectives and forms of knowledge.

We started the event by first presenting our research topics/interest. Every participant gave a short presentation in *Pecha Kucha* format. It worked quite well for all of us and it was much easier to understand each-other's projects when they are not explained in detail as is usually the case. There were really all different sorts of projects starting from cancer treatment with alpha therapy, to gender diversity management and democratization of science through do-it-yourself citizen science initiatives. For those of you that don't know, my PhD research deals with the communication aspects of radiological risk situations. Hence, my interest for this workshop.



After presentations and questions, the speed dating started. Every social scientist had speed dates with the researchers with technical background. Therefore, every person had 4 dates where we tried to find common viewpoints and ideas of how our knowledge or expertise can be useful for the other. Although the research fields were very different, we still managed to come up with common ideas of how we can collaborate with each other. And as almost always, arguments that "social science IS a science and plus a relevant one even for such technical aspects" had to be included during the speed dating.

After the speed dating, we were introduced to RRI concept. RRI means that societal actors work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes, with the values, needs and expectations of European society. After being explained about the six main RRI keys (public engagement, gender equality, ethics, science education, open access and governance), we formed small groups of two people and had to state arguments pro and contra some of these keys. In my group, we had to argue why public engagement is important and why gender equality isn't. The latter was quite hard for me to state because I could only think of why it actually is important.



Finally, it was time to incorporate these RRI keys into a research project ideated by us. This time we formed groups of four people (polygamy you might say) in order to bring more diverse knowledge and expertise to the table. Each group had two social scientists and two researchers from the exact sciences. This required out-of-the-box thinking. Creating a new project by just adding our current (PhD) research focus was not useful and possible because every research topic was very different from the other. Nevertheless, we managed to come up with novel projects by incorporating different methods we apply in our research. We also managed to include RRI keys in these projects and clearly divide and explain the roles of every member of the group. After presenting the project, we discussed about it with the members of the other team as well as with the organizers of the workshop in order to see what is missing and what could be changed.

So all in all, the workshop was very useful for me and for the other participants too as far as I noticed during the discussions. Apart from learning about RRI, we connected with other researchers and got a better understanding of what they are doing and how we can collaborate together while taking into account RRI keys. It really gave an insight into how we can create and collaborate in interdisciplinary projects. Nowadays, as we all know, although a lot of research is said to be interdisciplinary, the work is still done in a parallel way, each researcher working on her own field and then bringing everything together. But in this workshop, we learnt how to break new ground and work together, rather than in parallel. Furthermore, we found common ground on how we can cooperate outside of the research as well with some of the participants. I invited one of the participants working on gender diversity for a **second date** in an event I will organize about gender equality next year. So, in conclusion, it was a useful date and I would recommend to all researchers no matter what your status, interest or orientation might be.



FIRE!

Don't panic! Our department is completely prepared. As many others before us, Wouter, Robin and I followed the voluntary information session on how to deal with, or prevent, fires. We even got the chance to feel like real heroes and rescue a doll from a real fire!

During the theoretical session, a professional fireman (and occasional "uithekker"*) provided us with numerous anecdotes and plenty of information to reflect upon. Wouter, as proven by the fire drill a couple weeks later, rightfully criticised that evacuation the M-Building isn't safe. Cars or construction materials block a quick and orderly exit. Apparently, this is beyond the control of the university and the city decided that it should stay this way.

Takeaways applicable to your homes are listed on the next page. More technical information (in Dutch) is available on request. We received a small manual after the course.



* When looking after children, nurses are often considered as bad people ("witches") because attending the burns is a painful proces. Volunteers, called "de-witchers", push the nurses aside and take over the nursing part for a bit. By afflicting more pain than the medical staff, the child is relieved when the nurses and doctors decide to replace the individual. Thus, "de-witchers" make sure the perception towards nurses changes.

SOME TAKEAWAYS

- Unlike the advertising by the Flemish Government, you should install smoke detectors in all the rooms (except the toilet), EVEN in the children's room! If there is a fire in a bedroom, the detectors in the hall will go off too late. The Flemish government still believes smoke detectors use radioactive materials, however these have been off the market for 28 years.
- Smoke detectors are cheap! Skip the next lottery and invest in safety because the odds of "winning" are much higher with domestic fires. You can even buy special detectors for places like your bathroom, garage, kitchen etc. that will take into account other types of smoke (water vapor, emission gases, ...).
- You don't need a fire extinguisher (water) in your house, except if people sleep on the attic. In this case it isn't to use on the fire, but to make you wet in order to run through the fire.
- Every household should have a discussed evacuation plan! This includes a clear division of tasks and a meeting place outside. This could prevent panicking parents from running back inside burning houses because they fear the children are still inside (while they are waiting somewhere else).
- Everybody from the age of 6 should know where the main gas tap is located. This handle should always be easily accessible (meaning "not behind closets filled with shoes from Zalando")
- Electrical roller shutters are a bad idea. Electricity is one of the first things that goes out during a fire, limiting your ways of escape. The best doors are those which can always be opened from the inside. Other doors should have a key (preferably coloured red) nearby that is never used/replaced.
- The amount of O₂ in the air is very important. Even the smallest change (normal amount of oxygen in a room is 20,9%) has a big impact on the flashpoint ("vlampunt") and auto-ignition temperature ("zelfontbrandingstemperatuur"). According to the instructor, the easiest way to stop smoking is by adding a bit more oxygen to the room (warning: bad idea)!
- Never use electrical devices when they are charging! Batteries weren't designed to do both at the same time. Some devices have been known to explode occasionally.
- If you want to charge your phone at night, don't put it on a flammable substance! You could put it in a cooking pot (so you can easily limit the oxygen in case of fire) or on a nice stone (installed upon your nightstand).
- Be aware of tunnel vision. If people see fire, their first instinct is to extinguish it, however sometimes it is better to let it be. A good example is putting out a small fire due to a gas leak. Dealing with the fire may lead to gas filling up the building, after which the smallest friction can cause an explosion.
- Car on fire? Do you have a good insurance? Let it burn! Using the fire extinguisher from your car will do more harm than good. Since it is a powder extinguisher (with some fancy chemical products), all the electrical circuits in your car will be damaged. Even extinguishing a seat will result in a completely broken car. The insurance however will only cover the cost of a new seat. An alternative would be to buy a CO₂ fire extinguisher to use with small fires (but don't use it too close to people or they will suffocate!)

ECPR SUMMER SCHOOL IN BUDAPEST

Do the words Magyarország, Pálinka or Közép-európai Egyetem ring a bell? No? Then you probably weren't part of our department's (brilliant) delegation to the 2019 ECPR Summer School in Budapest.

What is more, besides an awesome intellectual experience, you missed out on several visits to the thermal baths, extremely delicious food, a rich and vibrant urban nightlife as well as awe-inspiring architecture and even quite a lot of other things as well. For instance, a spectacular panoramic view of the city from the 235m high Gellert hills (almost twice the altitude of Antwerp's cathedral) or a private-guided tour from our beloved Sharon (she studied in Budapest and was therefore perfectly fit to take us on a trip downtown). Did we mention *extremely* delicious (and cheap) food and *several* visits to the thermal baths yet? But, of course, *noblesse oblige* because there was also this task called 'learning' which the delegation was burdened with. That is to say, we committed ourselves to acquire new method skills by following a one-week or two-week course at the Central European University (bound to move soon, rest in peace CEU Budapest). Patrick took it easy and followed a two-day Python course after which he could concentrate on his tourist mission. Isaïa, on the other hand, engaged in a burdensome one-week course on Panel Data Analysis, which will certainly come in handy when he will analyze his survey data. Emmanuel took it to another level by following a state-of-the-art two-week course on Structural Equation Modeling in R, Amos and Mplus. Sharon, finally, took it to the multi-level (pun intended) and enrolled in a two-week course on Applied Multilevel Regression Modelling. Hence, we consider ourselves to have done a pretty good job representing the Antwerp political science department and we encourage others to enroll in future editions of the ECPR method schools as well since they provide an incredibly valuable opportunity to ~~discover European cities~~ learn new method skills. Cheers to that!



Willem Buyens

1. What makes you nervous?

I'm naturally quite an anxious person, so I would say anything could possibly make me nervous. However, nothing makes me more stressed or nervous than uncertainty or not-knowing. I really can't handle people surprising me or not telling me exactly what we're going to do. Luckily for me, I enrolled in a PhD programme that holds no surprises and doesn't induce any level of uncertainty, so I should be fine. Right?

2. Do you drink alcohol? What is your favourite thing to drink?

I definitely do drink alcohol, and my favorite (alcoholic) drink would be a kind of cocktail I was first introduced to on Ibiza called 'Tinto de Verano'. It's the perfect mixture between red wine and Fanta (read: fizzy sangria), ideal for those hazy, tropical summer nights.

3. Do you have a favourite book? A line in a piece of literature? A poem? Why do you relate to it?

My favorite book would be *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara, that tells the story of a group of friends, all of which have their own traumas and struggles. Nevertheless, they lift each other up, help each other without asking anything in return, and love each other boundlessly. It's one of the few books that have really shaken me and made me think about things differently. It paints a painfully beautiful picture of unconditional love and friendship, the undeniable burden of past experiences, and the unescapable truths one has to face about oneself. It is simultaneously heartwarming and heart wrenching in the very best way.



4. What job would you be terrible at?

I'm pretty sure I would be terrible at any job that requires manual labor. Not only would I be too weak and flimsy for most physical tasks, I also get fed up with repetitive and non-intellectually stimulating jobs. Put me at an assembly line in a factory and I would be physically exhausted and frustrated after day 2.

5. What's the greatest risk you've ever taken?

Taking that fourth shot of tequila...

Date of birth: 07/05/1997

Studies: Master of Political Communication (UAntwerp)

Research Group & Position: M2P - BAP

Hobbies: House plants, dancing, thrifting, being a full-time millennial

Frederik Stevens



1. *What are some of your favourite songs?*

- Breezeblocks – Alt-J
- Do I wanna Know – Arctic Monkeys
- No sound but the Wind – Editors

2. *What accomplishment are you most proud of?*

Last year I joined CIVIX, a youth organization that aims to increase political involvement of young people. We created an app that was on the nr. 1 spot in the APP store on the day of the elections in May.

3. *What fictional character do you most relate to?*

Chandler from Friends

4. *What's closest you've ever come to being arrested?*

I only got in contact with the police once and that was when I crossed the red light, on foot...

5. *What are the three most important values that you would like to instill in your children/future children?*

- Respect for everyone
- Critical thinking
- Doing what you love

Date of birth: 25/12/1996

Studies: Master Political Science (UAntwerp)

Research Group & Position: P&PG - AAP

Hobbies: Korfbal, Poker, Netflix

Stephanie Verlinden



1. What is the best vacation you have ever been on?

My summer holiday from last year: California. Ideal combination of amazing cities and beautiful natural parks.

2. What is the best way to cheer you up on a bad day?

Dry British humor

3. If a genie granted you 3 wishes right now, what would you wish for?

- unlimited travel budget for the rest of my life
- becoming a famous artist (painter)
- world peace

4. What qualities do you admire about your parents?

- entrepreneurial spirit
- dedication
- patience

5. What is one dream you have yet to accomplish?

Exhibiting as a painter

Date of birth: 28/04/1989

Studies: Master in Communication Sciences: Strategic Communication (UAntwerp)

Research Group & Position: P&PG - BAP

Hobbies: Running, dating, painting

Steven De Vadder

Considering it would be a bit strange to ask myself questions, Frederik was kind enough to select questions from the list.

1. *If you could turn any activity into an Olympic sport, what would you have a good chance at winning medal for?*

To snooze alarms. I'm terrible at waking up in the morning. I'm not moody or anything, I'm just a very sound sleeper (I once slept through a fire alarm). When I finally realise an alarm is ringing, I fall asleep again very easily after snoozing (and this numerous times). I put the first alarm approximately 30 minutes before I really have to wake up and if necessary I put alarms on several devices. I once had an amazing app that only stopped making noise after you walked a certain amount of steps. However, my family demanded that I deleted the app, because it made too much noise, and it took me too long to start walking.

2. *Where is your favourite place in the entire world to go?*

Norway! I've been there twice and absolutely fell in love with the scenery.

3. *What was the last book you read? And When?*

I finished "De 100-jarige man die uit het raam klom en verdween" (The Hundred-Year-Old Man who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared) by Jonas Jonasson two weeks ago. It has a ridiculous plot, but it is a fun, well-written story with multiple plot twists and historical figures/events. I already bought the sequel! It was definitely a nice variation from Tolkien (whose books I've been reading, with some intermissions, over the past years).



4. *What celebrity alive right now do you dislike the most?*

Easy question: Trump. I truly hope 2020 will bring salvation.

5. *What have you only recently formed an opinion about?*

Does the new Flemish government count? I have a particular issue with the abolishment of the compulsory attendance for local and provincial elections. It has been frustrating me for days. I think it is an unwise and irreversible decision which will not help improve general faith and trust in our democracy and solve the political discontent.

Date of birth: 22/11/1995

Studies: Master Political Science (UAntwerp)
Master Beleidseconomie (KULeuven)

Research Group & Position: P&PG - BAP

Hobbies: Piano (classical music), reading, travelling.