



E-Gazette

Writing Camp “Cerro de Hajar”, Tolox, Spain 17-23 April 2008

From 17 – 23 April 2008 the MGSOG PhD fellows enrolled in the second and third year of their programme participated in the annual writing camp. This year the writing camp took place in an isolated resort in Tolox, one of the beautiful villages in the Sierra de las Nieves in Andalucía (Spain). The Academic Writing Camp took place for the second time this year. It serves several functions. Fellows are expected to read, write papers and work on the analytical frameworks and models. The PhD committee uses this week to have individual progress meetings with all fellows and to inform the fellows on the general activities and plans of the MGSOG. Last but not least, team building is an important aspect of the writing camp and takes place during the joint lunches, dinners, afterparties and refreshing hikes in the mountains.



The writing camp 2008 started with rain and heavy wind, forcing all to stay inside. Spread all over the hotel, fellows could be found in small groups or alone intensely working on their thesis. When the rain stopped for a while,

many decided to get some fresh air during short mountain hikes in the vicinity of the hotel. Despite the unusual weather for the South of Spain the atmosphere was positive. The excellent catering from the hotel increased the spirit in the evenings to high levels. Finally, towards the middle of the week the weather changed showing us some Spanish sun occasionally. Monday – the birthday of both Chris de Neubourg and Franziska Gassmann – was the highlight of the week. Supported by Franziska's husband who came by surprise, we all visited Ronda, one of Andalucía's highlights. In the evening we had an excellent birthday diner and enjoyed our gift to Chris and Franziska, which came in the form of a private performance of flamenco musicians and dancers.



During the last two days we finally experienced why we decided to go to the south of Spain. Sunny and beautiful weather allowed us to work outside, get a tan, make long hikes and some brave fellows even tried the pool. We left the place with good memories and some of us plan to return some day. All in all, the week was successful. A lot of work could be done and, even more importantly, done in a friendly and productive atmosphere. We thus already look forward to next year's event.

New specializations/tracks for MPP being developed!

From next academic year onwards (2008-2009) the School of Governance will offer 2 new specializations will be offered to our master's students. In the spring semester students will have the opportunity to choose from the following tracks:

- Social Policy Financing/Social Policy Design
(in cooperation with the ILO)
- Globalisation, Trade and Development
- Sustainable Development
- *Food, Nutrition and Development (New)*
- *Migration Studies (New)*

Currently the School of Governance is putting everything for the new tracks into framework. As soon as there is more information thi information will be available on the website.

The Governance Squad runs around the world

Last weekend the School of Governance was represented in the 36th Batavieren Race for the second time. The rules of the game are simple; race from Nijmegen to Enschede (185 KM in total) with a team of 25 runners as fast a you can. The Governance Squad this year consisted of PhD fellows, master's students and friends of the School from at least 20 different countries.



The logistical organization was Robert Bauchmüller's (PhD Fellow) call, who was, next to running his part, responsible for the dietary needs and the transportation of the runners to the different locations. Both of the team captains deserve a big thank you! Anke Schliwen (MSc student) made sure everybody was well prepared for this challenge. In the months before the race she would made sure the runners stayed in shape and the teams spirit was built up during the training sessions over the weekends.

The race started on Saturday at 01.00 in the morning. The bikers, making sure the runners would stick to the track made sure there was light in the pitch black night. It was pure strength and determination that didn't stop the runners from surviving the darkness after the bike had broken down.



After more than 15 hours the Governance Squad crossed the finish line. During the night the Party Squad celebrated their success and met students from all over the Netherlands. Getting back to Maastricht with more good memories and inspiration to successfully cross the finish line of their studies.

Nice to meet you... (Marjolein Koeman, Project Manager, Training and Research Projects)

Hello,

My name is Marjolein Koeman. I am the new Projectmanager of the Training and Research Projects department and started last February. I am responsible, together with the team, for organizing training projects like Advanced Academic Updates and bringing in new research projects.

Since June 2007, I am living together with my partner Rutger in Echt. Echt is a small but cozy city in the middle of Limburg. Before that, I lived in Amsterdam for 10 years, where I have studied European Studies and have found my first job. I have worked for the French National Tourist Information Bureau as a Press Officer and have organized different press tours to France. Furthermore, I have worked as a French teacher and translator/coordinator at a translation agency.

Originally, I am from Roermond. Moving to Limburg last year was like moving “back to the roots” for me. And working in Maastricht is a great pleasure; it is such a beautiful city. As for the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, I like the fact that it is such an international and dynamic school. People from all over the world are studying here and it is easy to get in contact with other cultures. I wish to be a staff member for the next years and to extend my international network. I am looking forward to meeting you soon!

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