



27 July 2006

## Those 'Lazy' Hazy Crazy Days of Summer....

The 2006 Summer School in Governance and Social Protection was organised as an intense six day programme, from 26 June – 1 July, 2006. This summer school brought together MGSoG ESPP programme fellows and outside junior researchers to discuss and study the empirics and theory of governance and social protection related subjects. During the week, the fellows had an opportunity to learn more about the equity and efficiency concepts that influence the political economy of welfare states. A number of lectures were given on the subjects, such as:

- Do Social Policies Harm Employment?
- The Political Economy of Redistribution and Education
- Optimal Redistribution, Trade-Off between Equity-Efficiency and the Flat Tax
- Policies to Create and Destroy Human Capital in Europe

Other lecture series focused on the philosophy of science and research practice in other sciences, such as medicine, psychology or engineering. Furthermore, 11 research papers on diverse subjects, such as Social Protection Policy and the Demands of Good Governance, Implementation of Social Protection Policies in Developing Countries, Relative Impact of Income and Health on the Subjective Well-Being across Generation in Europe, Distributional Effects of Tax Relief on Voluntary Private Pensions in Spain, Inequality and Media Capture, Social Protection and Mortality Rates in Post-Communist Countries, etc were presented and discussed. Next to the opportunity to present their papers, the summer school participants had a chance to follow a workshop on publishing, which provided practical tips on how to improve the quality of abstracts and introductions, as well as overall article presentation, which is necessary to catch the eye of the busy editors. In addition to scientific activities, the social programme of the school offered at least some comfort in finding a few refreshing moments...

A small impression by Carlos Soto Iguaran, PhD Candidate in Political Economics, Panthéon - Sorbonne University:

"The Summer School in Governance and Social Protection at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance can be summarized as an intellectually stimulating week, in a relaxed and friendly environment. During this intensive six-days program, we had a thorough outline of social protection related topics given by high quality lecturers. We also had useful workshops on practical tools such as presentation skills and publication. Another interesting ingredient was the possibility of meeting young researchers, to discuss our respective papers and to confront ideas, approaches and methodologies. The School of Governance provided its facilities so that all was held under excellent conditions, in the lively and beautiful town of Maastricht."



### PhD Perfect

While our last year's PhD group is finalizing their research scheme and many are preparing to go on their exchange research time at one of the associated institutes, a new and ambitious group of researchers is preparing to come to Maastricht in order to start the European PhD programme in Social Protection Policy. After careful selection, 12 young academics, originating from for example Azerbaijan, Malaysia, the US, Serbia-Montenegro, Slovenia and Spain, will start in September with the start of their research in a social policy related area. With the changing demands of professional academics and a growing emphasis on sound research, the School is currently developing two new PhD programmes in 'Governance and Policy Analysis'. One programme is set up as regular 3 years programme, while the other will be offered in a so-called 'dual career' path, which is to support fellows in setting up, carrying out and finishing research leading to a PhD alongside a regular full-time job. We expect these 'dual career' fellows to obtain their PhD after three to five years depending on the time they can spend on their research and on their progress in research activities prior to joining the programme. For the our 2005 PhD group, it is time now to leave their desks and piles of books and articles for a bit and enjoy going back to friends and family or just simply enjoy the views over Maastricht from the St. Jan Church. More news concerning our new PhD programmes will soon be published soon in our Governance E-Gazette and on our website.



### Brave Batavieren Race

If you think at the sound of 'batavieren' of fierce Germanic tribes roaming the 'savage forests' of Holland, drinking mugs of 'mead', plundering and ravaging, think again. On the 28th of April 2007, a brave group of sporty MGSOG researchers, student-assistants and staff defied heath, exhaustion and influences of intoxication, to participate in the 35th edition of the Batavieren race. The Batavieren race is a relay race over 185 km from Nijmegen to Enschede, divided into 25 stages (17 men's stages and 8 women's stages) varying from 3.4 km to 11.9 km. More than 300 teams and more than 7,500 students participate in this race. Armed with our School's shirts and plenty of enthusiasm, our 'GG' team' commanded a lot of respect and proved once

again that success in both science and sports is measured not only in grades and results, but foremost in challenging team work and fun!  
Congratulations to our very own 'brave MGSOG Batavieren'!



### **Nice to meet you... Mieke Drossaert (Executive Secretary)**

Hello,

Apparently I'm the last person available to write a little piece for 'Nice to meet you' for the summer edition of the Governance E-Gazette.  
To be honest: I tried to postpone this little interview as long as possible but this week Rally didn't give me any chance to say no.....  
My name is Mieke Drossaert and I am the secretary of Chris, Renée and Annemarie as of the very first day since the opening of the MGSOG. I started working for Maastricht University in 2000. Some of my friends cannot really understand why I am always smiling and singing when the day starts but I really enjoy my work and my colleagues very much! I am 42 years old, happily married to Bart and we have two wonderful and good-looking sons: Alexander (14 years) and Casper (12 years). My husband Bart is working in Eindhoven so when my work at the school is done, my other job starts at home. During the warm summer days I love to go swimming at Jekerdal, which is situated in the most wonderful park of Maastricht. I only have one real addiction: sweet liquorice.  
Till next time, Mieke



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