

**Short bio speakers Symposium Future Food Utrecht 'Food Shortage & Food Waste'
3 november 2017**



Katrien Van Laere, PhD
VP RESEARCH & INNOVATION
DANONE NUTRICIA RESEARCH

Dr Katrien van Laere graduated as an agricultural engineer at Gent University, Belgium and obtained her PhD in food chemistry at the Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

Katrien started her career in Danone in 1997 at Numico Research, as Prebiotics Scientist. As a R&D Scientist, she worked in various research fields including the role of fibres on diabetes, obesity and disease related malnutrition. In 2008, Katrien moved from the research centre to a business unit, and became the Medical Director, Nutricia Early Life Nutrition of the Netherlands. In 2013, she was appointed a global role as the Global Health Care Nutrition Director for Tailored Nutrition. During all the years spent in Danone, Katrien has gained diversified scientific and business experience. In October 2015, she returned to R&D to lead the Life Science Innovation for Early Life Nutrition at Nutricia Research.



Peter Alexander, PhD
University of Edinburgh, School of Geosciences

Dr Peter Alexander graduated as a mechanical engineer at the University of Bristol and obtained his PhD at the University of Edinburgh.

Research Interests

Interdisciplinary research on the interactions within land use systems, and combining social, economic and environmental aspects is the main area of interest. Approaches typically apply data and computationally intensive techniques, such as agent-based modelling, and use high-performance computing, to improve understanding of these complex systems. My current research focuses on food security, including, the development a new global agricultural land use and food security model (with a detailed spatially specific response to intensity and without an equilibrium market assumption), analysis of the drivers for agricultural land use change, and the role of diet and waste in agricultural land use.

[CV](#)



Jessica Dijkman, PhD

Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities

Jessica Dijkman (1960) is an assistant professor in economic history at Utrecht University. Her research focuses on the medieval and early modern era. Currently she studies the way societies in late medieval and early modern Europe coped with food crises and famines. In earlier research projects she investigated commodity market institutions in medieval Holland and compared the organization of labour, particularly craftsmanship, in the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic world.

[CV](#)



Arjen Hoekstra, PhD

Arjen Hoekstra is Professor in Water Management at the University of Twente. He is internationally recognized for his pioneering work on quantifying the water volumes virtually embedded in trade, thus showing the relevance of a global perspective on water use and scarcity. As creator of the water footprint concept, he laid the foundation of a new interdisciplinary research field, addressing the relations between water management, consumption and trade. Hoekstra's scientific publications cover a wide range of topics related to water, food, energy and trade and include the books *The Water Footprint of Modern Consumer Society*, *The Water Footprint Assessment Manual*, and *Globalization of Water*.

[CV](#)



Chris Backes, PhD

Utrecht University, Utrecht Centre for Water, Oceans and Sustainability Law

Chris Backes is Professor of Environmental and Planning Law. He teaches and does research in the area of international, European and Dutch environmental and planning law (amongst which nature protection law, waste law and air quality law). He regularly conducts comparative studies. More especially, he is interested in how law can support the transition to a more sustainable use of the environment.

[CV](#)

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Toine Timmermans
Program manager sustainable food chains
Wageningen University



Corné Pieterse, PhD
Utrecht University, Faculty of Science

Corné Pieterse is professor Plant-Microbe Interactions and scientific director of the Institute of Environmental Biology of the Faculty of Science. His research group investigates how the plant immune system protects plants against microbial pathogens and insect herbivores, and how beneficial microbes in the plant root microbiome stimulates plant growth and health. Worldwide, plant diseases and pests cause yield losses of up to 25%. With their research, the Plant-Microbe Interactions group aims to contribute to grand societal challenges, such as food security and sustainable agriculture.

[CV](#) See also [here](#)



Mirjam Nielen, PhD

Utrecht University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Mirjam Nielen is full professor in Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine at the Department of Farm Animal Health. Her main academic tasks are research, teaching and advisory aspects of clinical epidemiology and Evidence-based Veterinary Medicine. Her goal for EBVM is to support veterinary decision making by providing evidence originating from population-based studies. Her current research interests is therefore to apply epidemiological techniques to 'get the most' out of practice data.

Mirjam Nielen was trained as a veterinarian in Utrecht (1987). She initially wished to work in general practice, but quickly felt a need to specialize. She focused on bovine herd health, in Utrecht, where she defended her PhD thesis on mastitis detection in 1994. She continued in academia as a 'de facto epidemiologist' within the Animal Health Economics group in Wageningen, where she worked on decision support models for control of infectious diseases. She meanwhile kept teaching

epidemiology at post-graduate level in the international course in Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics in Utrecht. She returned to Utrecht in 2002 to the Department of Farm Animal Health, where she worked as a clinical epidemiologist on many veterinary relevant diseases. She describes herself as a 'Jack of all trades, master of none', indicating that she has become a generalist, rather than a specialist in any aspect of veterinary epidemiology.

[CV](#)



Herman Lelieveldt, PhD

Herman Lelieveldt is Associate Professor in political science at Roosevelt Academy, one of Utrecht University's liberal arts honours colleges, located in Middelburg, the Netherlands.

His current research focuses on the policies and politics of food consumption and production, with an emphasis on policies at the EU level and the interplay with national political systems.

[CV](#)