

# 3mE PhD Life



Issue April 2021

## UPCOMING DEFENSES

APR  
21

DEFENSE MOHAMMADJAVAD MOHAJERI  
Grabs and Cohesive Bulk Solids -  
Virtual prototyping using a validated co-simulation

10:00

APR  
28

DEFENSE HAMID GILVARI  
Degradation of Biomass Pellets during  
Transport, Handling and Storage

12:30

APR  
30

DEFENSE XIAOLING GUO  
Dissolution and Electrochemical Reduction  
of Rare Earth Oxides in Fluoride  
Electrolytes

10:00

MAY  
20

DEFENSE XING CHANG  
An absorbing boundary condition for  
wave-current flow simulations in maritime  
applications

12:30

## UPCOMING EVENTS

APR  
22

DISCUSSION SESSION IV: OPEN SCIENCE

We explore how open data, software, hardware and access movements are changing static communication in research.

MAY  
06

DISCUSSION SESSION V: WORK PRESSURE ACADEMIA

We look at the root causes of the increasing work pressure in academia using the works of contemporary experts and researchers.

MAY  
20

Q&A NEW DIRECTOR GS

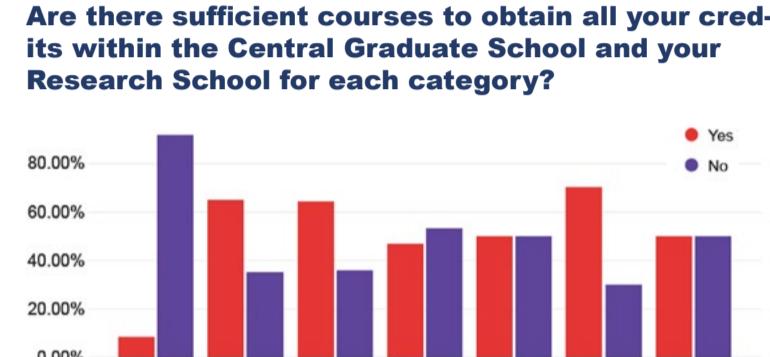
Ask your questions directly to the director of the 3mE Graduate School!

A few weeks ago we conducted a short survey to evaluate how you are experiencing your PhD candidacy. We received many responses and we would like to thank you all for participating, the feedback we received was extremely useful! Overall the results are positive: everybody is dealing really well with the current situation and there hardly are issues on workload, well-being, inclusion and guidance and mentorship with the supervisor(s). However, there still exists some concerns within the PhD community. We will share more results from the survey in the coming months.

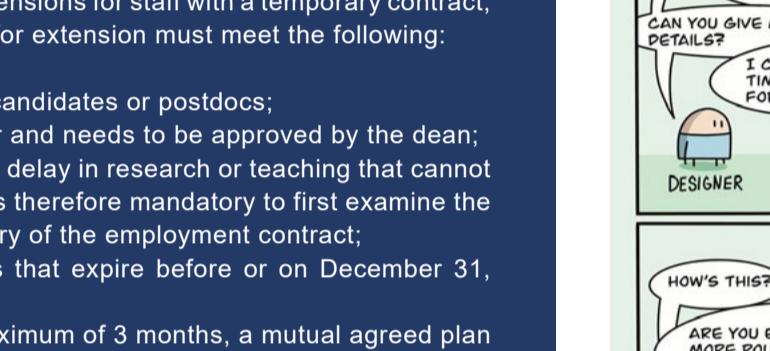
### I am satisfied with the social interactions that I have with the people outside my department within the Faculty



### Do you expect to defend your PhD within the length of your contract?



### Are there sufficient courses to obtain all your credits within the Central Graduate School and your Research School for each category?



#### 1. Social interactions

Some of the respondents are not satisfied with the social interactions within the faculty. As PhD Council, we try our best to facilitate those interactions and we are looking forward to on-campus activities again.

#### 2. PhD duration

Looking at the PhD duration, a large portion of 2nd, 3rd and 4th year PhDs don't expect to finish their PhD on time. As PhD Council, we try to do our best to help you going through the PhD, but when you feel that you are not going to make it, you should step to your supervisor or somebody else early. Don't forget that you can ask for support from your PhD mentor or the [University Psychologist](#).

#### 3. Discipline-related course

Another crucial aspect is the amount of discipline-related courses to obtain the required credits, a large number of respondents cannot find enough courses with significant variation among departments. We are aware of this and are discussing this issue with the 3mE Graduate School. If you have any suggestions for courses that you would like to follow, or that you feel are missing, send us an email at [PhDcouncil-3mE@tudelft.nl](mailto:PhDcouncil-3mE@tudelft.nl).

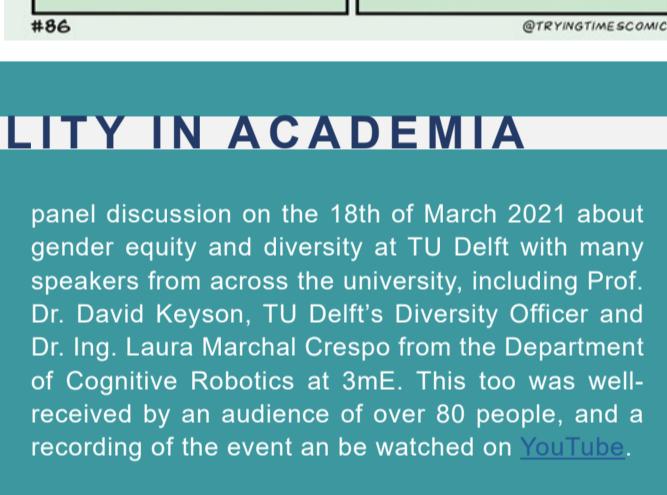
## CONTRACT EXTENSIONS UPDATE

The faculty of 3mE has published an update on contract extensions for staff with a temporary contract, read it [here](#) (NetID login required). In summary, requests for extension must meet the following:

- Only supervisors can make the request for their PhD candidates or postdocs;
- The request will be assessed by the Department Chair and needs to be approved by the dean;
- The request for extension is made in connection with a delay in research or teaching that cannot be absorbed in 2021 due to COVID-19 regulations. It is therefore mandatory to first examine the possibilities of making up for the delay before the expiry of the employment contract;
- Only requests for extension of employment contracts that expire before or on December 31, 2021 will be considered;
- The guideline for the duration of the extension is a maximum of 3 months, a mutual agreed plan for finalizing the project needs to be formulated.

More questions? Contact your supervisor or Mascha Toppenberg.

### CLIENTS



## GENDER EQUALITY IN ACADEMIA



### GENDER EQUALITY IN ACADEMIA

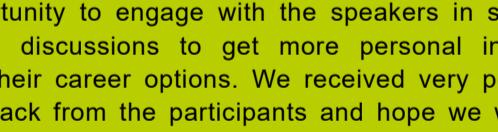
On the 18th of February 2021, the PhD council of 3mE organized a talk and discussion session on the representation of and issues faced by women and gender minorities in academia, in collaboration with the Delft Women in Science (DEWIS). The speaker was distinguished Prof. Dr. Jenny Dankelman from the Department of Biomechanical Engineering at 3mE. She covered topics such as the current state of gender equality in 3mE, at TU Delft, in the Netherlands, and worldwide. She also spoke passionately about the challenges women in science have to overcome, the reasons for these issues, possible solutions for them, and her personal battles over 35 years in academia. She also drew attention to the documentary *Picture A Scientist* which powerfully highlights these problems. This movie is available to stream free of charge for employees of TU Delft (including PhDs) for the next year, and may be accessed by following [this link](#), while logged onto the TU Delft VPN.

Jenny's talk was well-received by an audience of over 30 people and it was evident from the fruitful discussion session after the talk that the points she raised resonated deeply with the attendees. While this event was a success, we, the PhD council of 3mE encourage more of our colleagues to get involved in this topic, so that we may take steps in the right direction to address these issues. Soon after Jenny's talk, DEWIS organized a TU-wide

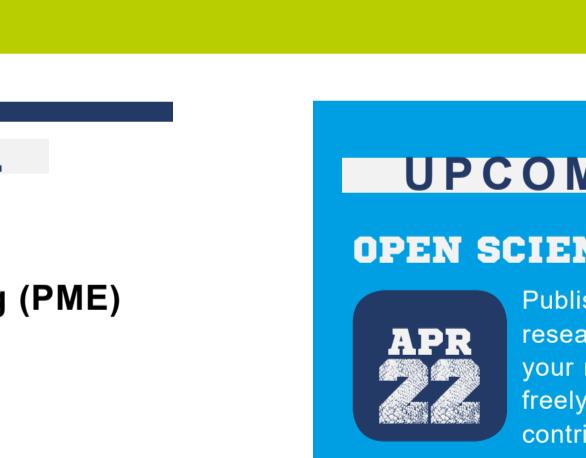
panel discussion on the 18th of March 2021 about gender equity and diversity at TU Delft with many speakers from across the university, including Prof. Dr. David Keyson, TU Delft's Diversity Officer and Dr. Ing. Laura Marchal Crespo from the Department of Cognitive Robotics at 3mE. This too was well-received by an audience of over 80 people, and a recording of the event can be watched on [YouTube](#).

We, as the PhD council of 3mE, plan to conduct regular events with this theme in the future due to the positive response and the need for discussion and action on gender issues in academia.

## PICTURE A SCIENTIST



### CAREER SHAPING EVENT



Our first career 3ME career-shaping event was a great success with 61 participants. We first listened in on a panel discussion in which the speakers provided their views of the potentials and challenges of a PhD graduate starting a job outside of academia. The speaker's backgrounds reached from R&D roles, consultancy, technical management and start-ups to roles in insurance, government, patents and even banking.

After the panel discussion, the participants had the opportunity to engage with the speakers in smaller group discussions to get more personal insights into their career options. We received very positive feedback from the participants and hope we will be able to organize the second edition of this event in person next year!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OPEN SCIENCE DISCUSSION

APR  
22

Publishing pre-prints, open access journals, open databases for research data; probably you have seen some of these during your research. The goal of opening science is to make science freely available to the public, such that everybody can work with, contribute to and make use of scientific progress. In this session, we will discuss various aspects of open science: from open source software, to open access data to open source hardware. How much are you aware of open science? Is your research FAIR? What is the TU Delft open science policy mean for you as a PhD in the coming years? Find out during the Open Science event on the 22nd of April! Register [here](#). Time: 16:00 - 17:00

### WORK PRESSURE ACADEMIA

MAY  
06

There has been increasing discussion about work pressure in academia over the last few years as occupational stress and the number of burnouts increase. Around two thirds of TU Delft employees believe their workload is too high. The number of students feeling study stress is rising as job insecurity and competition are growing. In this session, we will be looking at the root causes of the increasing work pressure in academia by opening a historical and philosophical discussion using the works of contemporary experts, researchers and philosophers.

Time: 16:00 - 17:00

### Q&A DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE SCHOOL

MAY  
20

Last year we organized a Q&A with the director of Graduate School for the first time. Now that we have a new director, we once again give you the chance to ask him anything you want to know about courses, graduate school, credits or the PhD process in general. Do you have any questions that you want answered? Send them in to [PhDcouncil-3mE@tudelft.nl](mailto:PhDcouncil-3mE@tudelft.nl) and tune in on May 20th to get them answered. More information will follow!

## ...AS NEW MEMBERS OF OUR 3ME PHD COMMUNITY!