

Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of May 2020, this month coordinated by [S4F Amsterdam](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

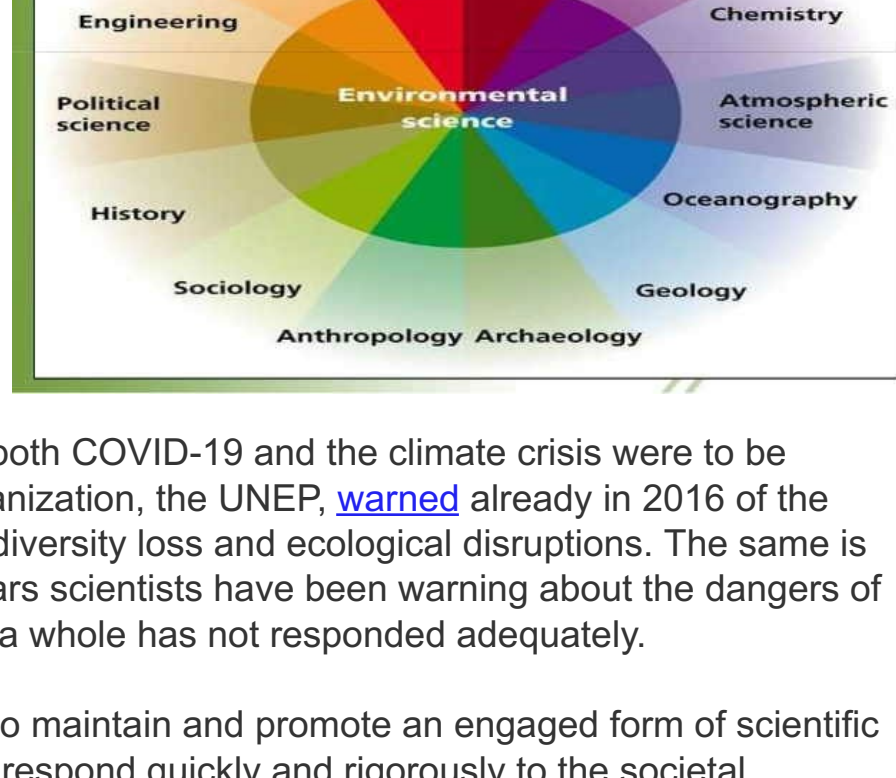
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Editorial

Today it is clearer than ever that science has a crucial role in ensuring a safe and happy life for everyone. Governments, companies and individuals are all seeking to understand the COVID-19 virus. People are craving trustworthy information about the future evolution of the pandemic and its clinical progression, and they look to scientists for answers.

Unfortunately, this reliance on science as the foundation for decision making and action has up till now been insufficient in other domains, such as the climate- and biodiversity crises. Yet both COVID-19 and the climate crisis were to be expected. An international research organization, the UNEP, [warned](#) already in 2016 of the increased risks of pandemics due to biodiversity loss and ecological disruptions. The same is true for the climate crisis: for over 40 years scientists have been warning about the dangers of over-exploiting the Earth, but society as a whole has not responded adequately.



It is therefore more important than ever to maintain and promote an engaged form of scientific inquiry, advocating approaches that can respond quickly and rigorously to the societal challenges we are facing. Scientists are, and should be, a core part of the political debate. Scientists can offer scenarios and envisage different courses of action. They are active subjects in setting up research questions and innovative methodologies to address the unexpected situation we are in. They have the responsibility to urge and warn governments of the future effects of their courses of action (or lack of action).

However, just as virologists and medical scientists are not the only experts needed to address the challenges we face during the corona pandemic, we need a large array of expertise in order to effectively deal with the increasing social, emotional, political, ecological, and economic impact of the climate crisis and explore possible solutions. What is needed is transverse cooperation by academics from all disciplines, from physicists and ecologists to political scientists, sociologists and psychologists, in order to find more effective ways to deal with the dangers ahead.

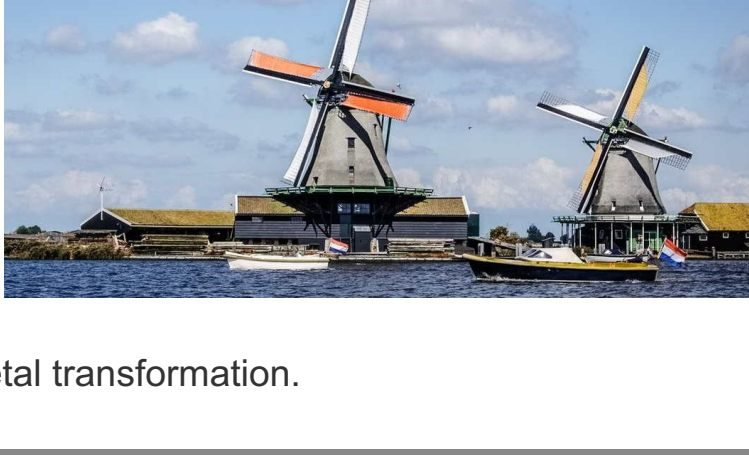
Scientists4Future Netherlands (S4F-NL) is a platform that enables a more active role for academics in relation to all aspects of the climate and ecological crises. S4F-NL is not an organization but a distributed platform. In addition to groups that run the website, and coordinate the production of the newsletter, activity is based in virtual teams that pick up topics if enough interest, time and energy is available. In addition, there is a growing number of local groups. S4F Amsterdam is the most recent addition and we produced this months newsletter. If you are employed in any research institution in Amsterdam, you are warmly invited to join!

Scientists4Future Amsterdam

Ontgroei - 2nd Utrecht Degrowth Symposium

The second Utrecht Degrowth Symposium "From Circular Economy to Circular Society" will be held at Utrecht University on Friday, May 15. In response to the current measures to contain the spread of Covid-19 the symposium will be held online. [Registration is open here!](#)

During the event we will discuss what a circular society can look like and how it can be achieved from the perspectives of practitioners and academics alike. The symposium will stimulate timely and much needed debate on a holistic societal transformation.



Scientists4XR NL

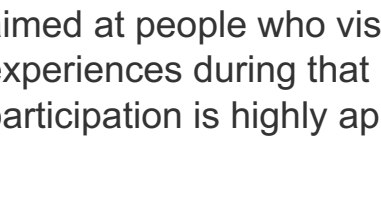
(*guest post*) Scientists4XR NL is a network of scientists supporting Extinction Rebellion Netherlands. The group is part of the worldwide network of Scientists4XR International and is open to all academics from all disciplines. We have written an [open statement](#) in support of the demands that the movement puts forward to the Dutch government. We kindly invite all scientists, from all disciplines and position, active in the Netherlands to read and sign this statement, and if possible to forward it to more colleagues (in any field or position). The statement has been circulating already through different channels and you may have already signed it. In that case, apologies for cross posting. So far, we have collected about 160 signatures.



To access the letter [click this link](#). Your signature does not attest any membership to the movement, but it only supports the specific text of the letter.

Many colleagues elsewhere have already signed similar statements in other countries. You can find the UK statement [here](#), and the Australian one [here](#). You can join us by signing up via the XR-NL website [here](#) or writing to scientists@extinctionrebellion.nl

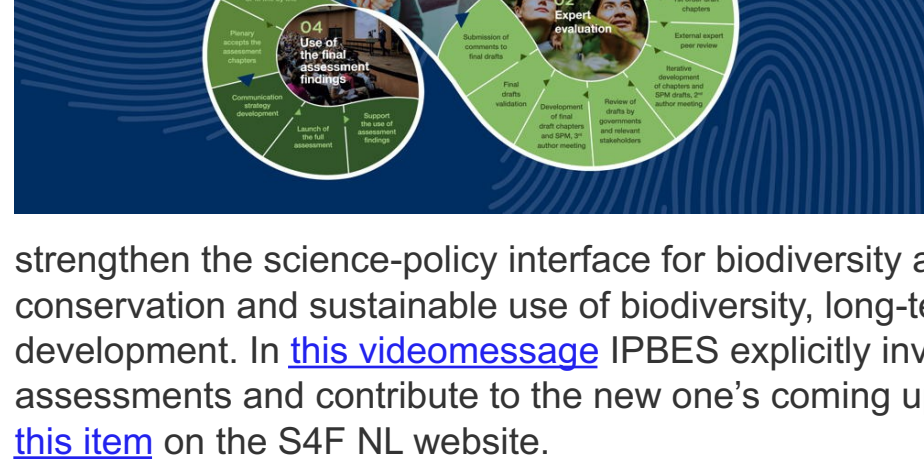
Invitation for online survey



Erasmus behavioural lab (Erasmus University Rotterdam) is looking for [participants in an online survey](#). The research studies the emotions felt during public protests. Examples of public protests are the climate protest in the Hague on the 27th of September 2019 or the protest by hospital employees all over the country on the 20th of November 2019. The survey is therefore

aimed at people who visited a protest in the past year and asks questions about your experiences during that protest. The survey takes a maximum of 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is highly appreciated.

Contribute to IPBES



As **Scientists4Future NL** we are not only covering climate change in the strict sense but explicitly aim for an interdisciplinary approach to the related problems like the biodiversity crisis. We therefore would like to highlight the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (**IPBES**), an independent intergovernmental body (like the **IPCC**), established by states to

strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. In [this videomessage](#) IPBES explicitly invites scientists to use the IPBES assessments and contribute to the new one's coming up. See for more background information [this item](#) on the S4F NL website.

Divestment & Fossil free advertisement



It is increasingly recognized that business-as-usual technological progress and carbon pricing alone are not going to deliver the rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions needed to achieve the 2015 Paris Agreement targets. Far-reaching changes on the level of customs, values, and social norms are needed as well. Scientists can contribute to the knowledge about such

[social tipping elements](#) by providing scientific evidence for the effectiveness of measures like [bans on advertisement for fossil products](#) and the redirection of financial flows in line with the [divestment movement](#), as well as openly supporting [such campaigns](#).

Astronomers for Planet Earth

(*guest post*) [Astronomers for Planet Earth](#) is a worldwide group of professional and amateur astronomers as well as astronomy educators who are concerned about the climate crisis. We aim to bring a community of astronomers together to amplify our voices and share our unique perspective on Earth with the general public to strengthen the feeling of global citizenship which must ultimately lead to decisive action to solve the climate crisis. We are looking forward to working together with S4F in the Netherlands and elsewhere and increase our networks by e.g. re-tweeting each other's posts. Contact us at astronomers@scientists4future.nl

Astronomy for Future:

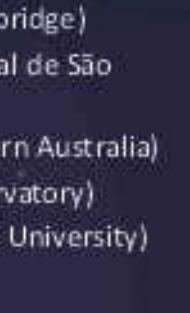
Development, global citizenship & climate action

Join us to discuss the unique perspective astronomy provides on our own Planet

Mon 29 June - Special Session 14, Lunch Session 11

Tues 30 June - Lunch Session 10

European Astronomical Society meeting 2020, Leiden



Invited speakers

Didier Barret (Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planétologie)

Sandra Benitez Herrera (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias)

Luis Calçada (European Southern Observatory)

Faustine Cantalloube (Max Planck Institute for Astronomy)

Jaime E. Forero-Romero (Universidad de los Andes)

Stefania Giodini (Red Cross Data Unit)

Rachel Grandje (ETH Zürich)

James Hansen (Columbia University)

Helga Kuechly (The Helmholtz Centre Potsdam)

Vanessa McBride (The IAU Office of Astronomy for Development)

Sharon Morsink (University of Alberta)

Simon Portegies Zwart (Leiden University)

Travis Rector (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Sir Martin Rees (University of Cambridge)

Gustavo Rojas (Universidade Federal de São Carlos)

Adam van Steen (University of Western Australia)

Edwine van Dishoeck (Leiden Observatory)

Kathryn Williamson (West Virginia University)

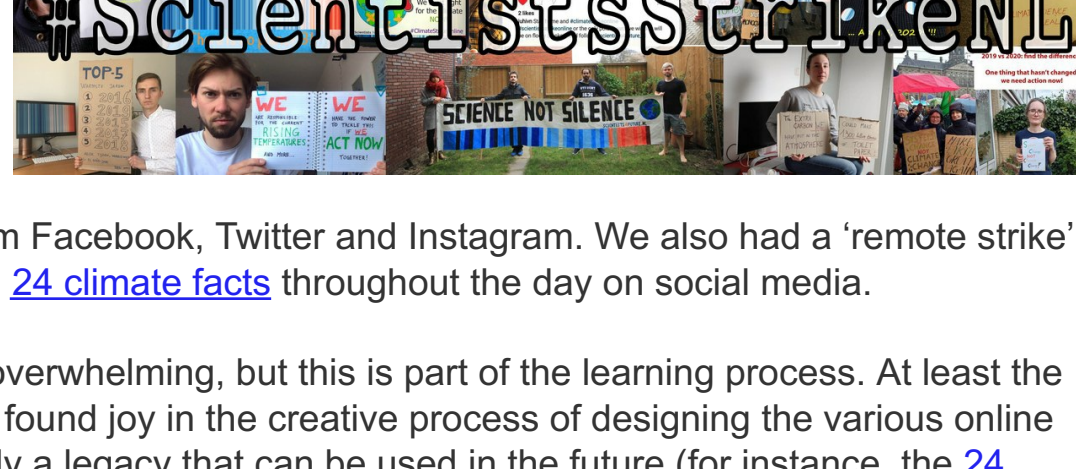
Scientific organisers

Chairs: Michèle Willebrands, Leo Burtscher, Gina Maffey, Pedro Russo

Abijheet Borkar, Andreas Burkert, Kevin Govender, Victoria Grinberg, Violette Impellizzeri, Knud Jahnke, Vanessa McBride, George Miley, David Rosario, Frans Snik and Jacob White

Looking back on the #ClimateStrikeOnline

On Friday April 3rd, S4F NL participated in the global #ClimateStrikeOnline, organised by the youth of FridaysForFuture. To distinguish ourselves, we introduced the additional hashtag #ScientistsStrikeNL. The photo mosaic above was created based on this hashtag, with contributions from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We also had a 'remote strike' on our website, and we shared [24 climate facts](#) throughout the day on social media.



All in all, the response wasn't overwhelming, but this is part of the learning process. At least the involved people within S4F NL found joy in the creative process of designing the various online activities. Also, there is certainly a legacy that can be used in the future (for instance, the [24 klimaatfeiten](#)). Thanks to all the people involved and those participating!

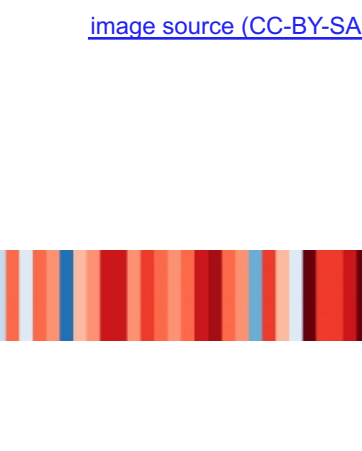
Upcoming events

- May 15 - [Ontgroei](#) - Second Utrecht Degrowth Symposium.
- May 16 - [Future Beyond Crises](#) - How can we support communities, social movements, sectors, and industries to move through the future we want? Via Future Beyond Shell.
- May 25-29 - [Groene Peper](#) - online congress over duurzaamheid in het hoger onderwijs.
- June 5-6 - [Science for Transition](#) - conference organized by Scientists4Future Germany, in Hannover.
- June 29-30 - [Astronomy for Future](#) - development, global citizenship, & climate action. Via Astronomers for Planet Earth.

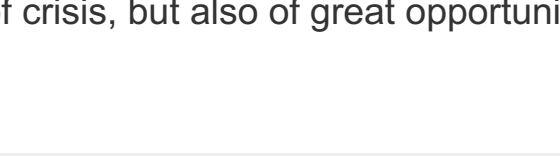
Local groups

Currently, there local groups active in Amsterdam, Delft, Nijmegen and Utrecht. If you wish to get involved (or start your own local group) [contact us](#) and we'll get back to you shortly.

Social media
Contact our [website](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) where we will be sharing national and international news regarding the role of scientists in times of the climate crisis.



[Image source \(CC-BY-SA\)](#)



Best wishes to all in this time of crisis, but also of great opportunity!

Scientists4Future NL

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