

THE PAPER MILL

FIRST EDITION | OCTOBER 2023

The Encounters

en • coun • ter /m'kaʊn.tər/

noun

1 particular type of experience

2 **meeting** someone, particularly significant

In terms of that – nice to meet you! We are the PPE Encounters committee and want to provide you the realization of our name: An Encounter for exchange and inspiration. How?

We organize **guest speaking events** every Wednesday: Listening to interesting, and inspiring people talking about their work, experiences and publications will widen your view in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

In our **podcast** we offer talks with the guest-speakers, stories of PPE students and discussions about current topics.

And: The product you are holding in your hands - the Paper Mill. Under the sign of our name patron, we don't only produce paper, but provide enriching content - and maximize your happiness!

From interviews, discussions and reports about political events to stories about our home countries and entertainment: the Paper Mill reports what is happening outside in the world and inside the John Stuart Mill College.

We are keen, motivated and driven by heart to make this a year with many engaging encounters.

Best,
Your PPE Encounters

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Senior Years Committee

Dear PPE students!

We are thrilled to give you a sneak peek on our agenda for the year. We mostly time our activities for the next calendar year which includes a Welcome Back Party for the third years, a study-abroad/internship specific get-together, and more! Also: If you have any interest to be represented, any unanswered senior year specific question or problem, please turn to us with trust.

- The Senior Years Committee

Sports Committee

Hello guys,

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Football tournament on 6-11 at 3pm in the Uilenstede football pitch! Apart from that we are working on another project: The Olympic Games within the Humanity faculty!! Each program is going to be represented by an elected and will then compete against each other, as in the Olympic Games. The winner would have a memorial somewhere in the university. This would be in late spring (btw. April and May), the location is still unknown, but we will keep you updated.

- The Sports Committee

Party Committee

Hey there PPE! 🎉

Franz and Frank here, your trusty co-chairs, with exciting news for our party committee. First off, let's set the scene: Picture a laid-back borrell at the start of every month, where we can all kick back, connect, and have a good time. No wild parties, just pure, authentic connections (with maybe a drink or two in hand 😊). But wait, there's more! Around these chill borrells, we'll be sprinkling in some special events. Ever thought of mixing our studies with a rave? Or perhaps with lecture hall karaoke. Game for competition? Brace yourselves for pub golf, beer pong tournaments, and the beer olympics.

We know what you're thinking: "Wow, that's a lot!" But remember: quality over quantity.

We're all about unforgettable experiences!

So, gear up for a legendary year!

Cheers to the good times ahead! 🍷

- The Party Committee

Social Committee

Helloooooo lovely people!

We have ambitious plans for the upcoming year that will lead to fantastic events, to brighten the occasionally gray & demanding days of PPE students. During the year, we will organize movie nights, vertical dinners, excursions, Christmas drinks, FIFA tournaments and board game nights. We will also organize the weekly Tosti Tuesday/Thursday, with toasts that are of gastronomical perfection. At the time you are reading this, the Vertical Dinners will be right around the corner. Make sure to sign up, as guest or host, and get the chance to enjoy wonderful food while meeting peers from different years and friend groups. This is an event you don't want to miss!

stay tuned for announcements about the December-Excursion: A day-trip to a Christmas market in a fantastic city. Tickets will be cheap and we can ensure it will be worth every cent!

- The Social Committee

Academic Committee

Dear PPE students,

warm greetings from Katinka & Roman, your co-chairs of the academic committee. We're thrilled to invite you to an exciting journey of personal and academic growth.

In November, don't miss our Dutch election night with snacks, discussions, and a crash course on Dutch politics.

In December we'll host our first debating event featuring gingerbread, mulled wine, and more. Our debate club will hold regular debates, and we encourage everyone to participate and propose topics you're passionate about. These events will prepare us for a competition against other universities.

Additionally, we're introducing our book club. Dive into a diverse range of readings, from science-fiction to academic papers, and engage in insightful discussions.

For those interested in diplomacy and international relations, our Model United Nations offers the opportunity to hone your public speaking and negotiation skills, attend diplomatic dinners, and earn a certificate.

Worried about experience? We foster a non-judgmental environment and offer workshops to equip you with essential skills, from rhetoric to academic writing. We've got you covered. And if you need extra academic support, our tutoring sessions, starting with Microeconomics, are designed to assist you.

Later in the academic year, we'll have exchange and internship information sessions, providing insights from returning third-years and alumni speakers sharing their career experiences.

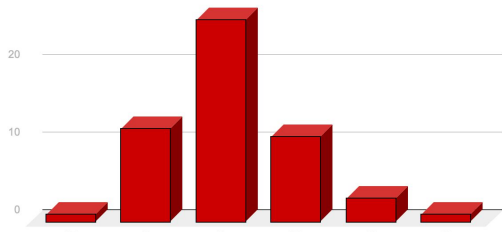
We're incredibly excited about the upcoming year and can't wait to see you at our events!

Best regards,

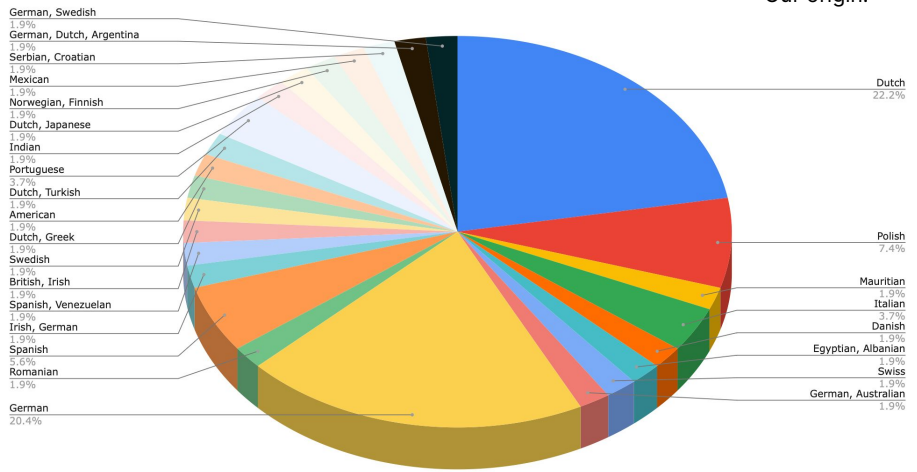
- The Academic Committee

Statistics

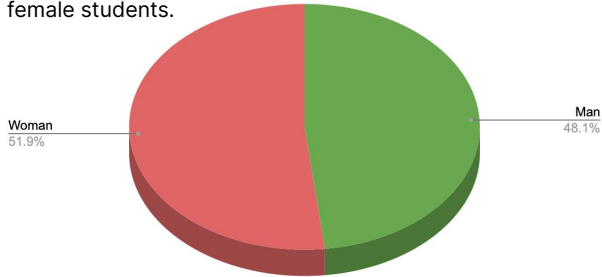
The average of us is 19.



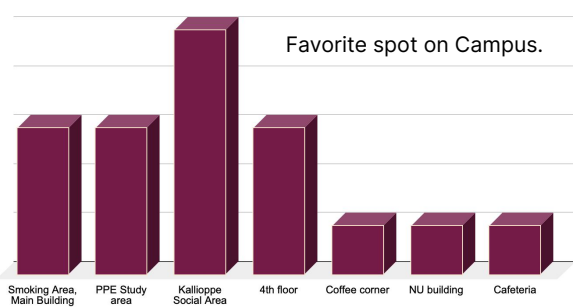
Our origin.



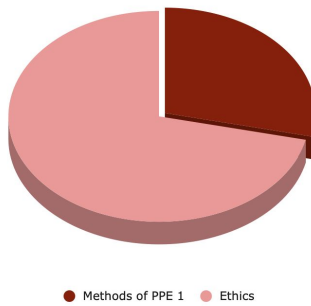
We have an almost equal split between our male and female students.



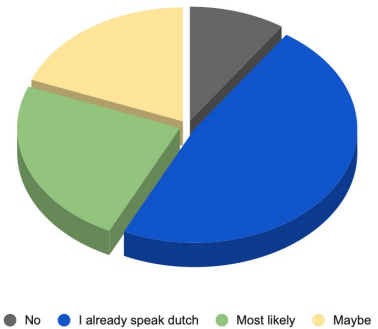
Favorite spot on Campus.



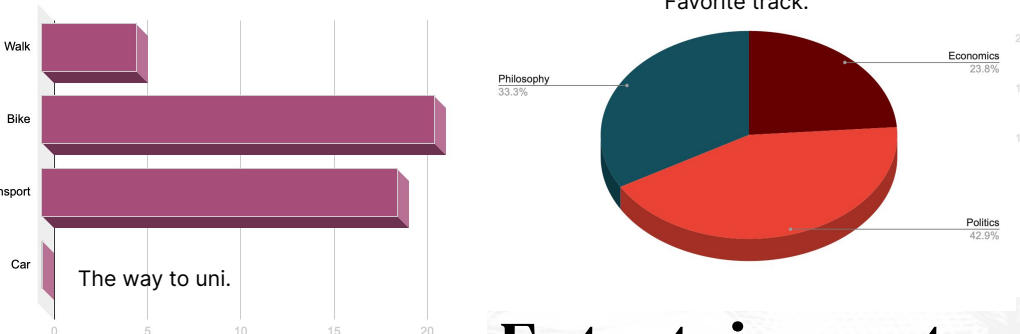
Methods or Ethics?



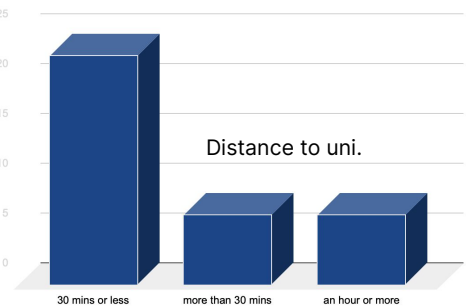
Dutch: Yay or nay?



Favorite track.



Distance to uni.



Entertainment

Autumn Recipe - Risotto ai funghi porcini

Martina Belotti

Today I'm proposing an Italian dish for our autumn recipe. Risotto is a staple dish of Italian cuisine, is easy to make, is a healthier option of carbohydrate, and it's delicious. The risotto of this recipe is paired with mushrooms to give that earthy, autumn taste. (For two people)

Preparation:

- Heat oil & briefly sauté a clove of crushed garlic
- Turn up the flame & add the mushrooms
- Brown the mushrooms over a high heat for about 10 minutes so that they take on color, then salt
- Add pepper & remove from heat.
- Meanwhile, peel & finely chop the onion
- Melt butter in a saucepan, add the onion
- Let it cook gently for 10-15 minutes. When the onion has melted, add the rice and toast it
- When rice has become almost transparent, cook it by adding one ladle of broth at a time

- Stir often, ensure boiling bubbles remain constant
 - When rice is very "al dente", a few minutes before it is ready, add the porcini mushrooms
 - Finish cooking, adjusting salt & pepper if necessary.
 - Once cooked, stir risotto off the heat by adding the butter & Parmesan cheese, while mixing well.
- I hope you'll find this recipe easy and yummy. Please send us pictures of your risotto so we can put it on our ig account ;) Buon appetito!



Ingredients

- Rice 160g
- Vegetable broth 0,5l
- Garlic 1/2 a piece
- Olive oil 2 table spoons
- Black pepper
- Porcini mushrooms 200g
- Golden onion 1 small one
- Butter 15g
- Salt
- Parmesan cheese (grated)
- Butter

Get to know PPE staff: Rozemarijn van Faassen

Nele Fasshauer

Could you introduce yourself?

Hello, I am Rozemarijn, the new PPE Programme Officer. I was born in Enschede into a big family. We were 7 siblings and a patchwork family, which was quite special back then. Some of my siblings moved to India and France. At one point in the future, I would also like to move abroad, but for now I am happy here!

I studied information and communication sciences in Nijmegen. I have been living in Amsterdam for 13 years, where I had various jobs in communications. Before this job, I for example worked for the [Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations](#) in a campaign to get young people more interested in government jobs.

I like music, yoga, and going out for dinner and drinks. I have friends and family all over the country, so I travel quite a lot. I love studying and completed a study in Holistic Therapy, and a Yoga Teacher Training. Recently I also finally convinced myself to pick up the guitar. I also love travelling, and I studied Spanish and lived in Sevilla for a semester abroad.

My upbringing was quite strict. When I was 13, my brother started studying, and seeing how much freedom it gave him opened my world: Studying sounded much more interesting than going to school every day. I wanted the same for myself. My study was not as demanding as PPE, so I had enough time to develop my life and my personality. I was in a sorority, and made friends for life during my university time. I also participated in various commissions and was a member of AIESEC where I helped students finding an internship abroad.

Why did you want to come to PPE?

I really loved being a student, and it came to my mind to look for jobs at a university. I really love working with young people, and the international atmosphere here, and that the PPE community is a tiny universe. I also really like the team.

What are your plans for PPE?

I am here to organize the promotional events like the Bachelor Days (so I started in the busiest time of the year for that :)), and to manage all forms of communication, including social media. My main plan is to increase the number of students, by for example finding out why people study PPE, and how we can use that information to convince potential students. And as my role as co-pilot of Roland, I would love to get to know the PPE students to see how I can best contribute to the programme.

How are you going to try to get to know more students?

I am looking forward to working together with students on the Bachelor days, and other occasions. I am also looking forward to working with the KallioPPE Board (actually it is pronounced Cal'liope, I once went to a concert by a band that had a song named Calliope and I mispronounced it and I will remember that for the rest of my life 😊).

Thank you for the interview!





A crash course in Dutch politics

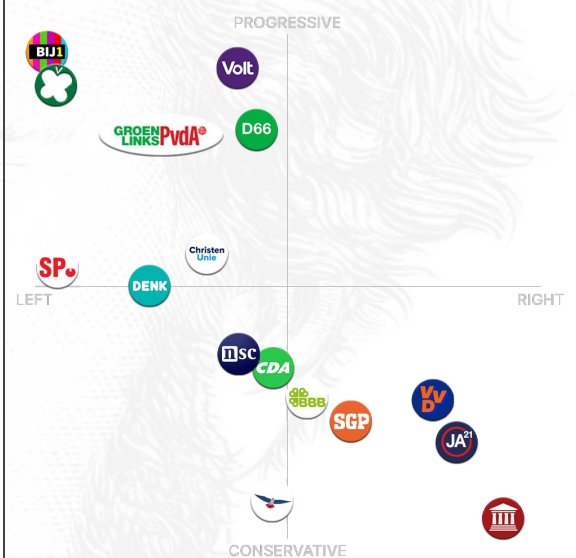
Political

Roos van den Doel & Take Watanabe

In 3 weeks, nearly 14 million people will be making their way to the ballot box. What is at stake, who are the key players and who stands to gain or lose in the polls? If you are confused about all the events unfolding around these elections or you just moved here and have to get familiar with a new political landscape, this crash course will help you out!

The Netherlands is historically a right-leaning country and usually governed by centre-right coalitions consisting of two to four parties, with our last left wing coalition being more than 45 years ago! After 13 years of governance, we are waving goodbye to our outgoing liberal prime minister, Mark Rutte. The last coalition of VVD, D66, CDA & ChristenUnie collapsed last summer over disagreement on immigration, which resulted in the upcoming snap election in November.

The election topics of housing, immigration, healthcare and cost of living are all being eclipsed by the Israel-Palestine conflict, a hugely divisive and principal issue. For instance, member of parliament Kauthar Bouchallikht stepped down from the candidate list of GroenLinks/PvdA because of her party's reaction to the conflict, and she is not alone. All over the country, people are cancelling their party memberships over this issue. The conflict has polarised public debate, and many people's opinions differ from the party they were planning to vote on. The current events in Gaza are taking over public discourse and will potentially have an impact on these elections.



Not only did Mark Rutte resign after the fall of his fourth coalition, but also other major party leaders left the scene and were replaced with a new generation of politicians. It looked like it was time for something fresh, something new. Guess again, because the liberal VVD is leading the polls again. After 17 years of Rutte's leadership, they chose Dilan Yeşilgöz (cover image: woman on the right) as their new leader. She is the new kid on the block when it comes to her short time in national politics.

Next, we will look at a peculiar runner up. Nieuw Sociaal Contract (New Social Contract) is a newly founded party led by Pieter Omtzigt. For our Germans, he is the Dutch centrist version of the controversial Sahra Wagenknecht.

Omtzigt has always been one of the most beloved, rebellious and controversial MPs of the CDA. After the March 2021 election, he became the biggest topic of discussion after Mark Rutte proposed to give him a 'functie elders' (*position elsewhere*) during the pre-coalition talks, which was essentially an attempt to relieve him of his duty to scrutinise the government and to prematurely end his career as a member of parliament by Rutte. This was seen as an affront to parliament, and Rutte nearly lost a vote of confidence when nearly every party lost their trust in the inconsistent words of Rutte. Omtzigt has since then parted ways with the CDA after internal conflict. Among other things, party members called him a 'psychopath' and 'unstable' behind his back. He now leads his own party, which focuses on reforming the current governance culture. With no official election manifesto yet to be seen, he nevertheless holds second place in the polls with nearly 19% of the vote.

Third place is occupied by GroenLinks/PvdA (*GreenLeft-Labour*), a joint list of GroenLinks, an ecological party, and the Partij van de Arbeid, a social-democratic party. Their party leader is the former high-profile European Commissioner Frans Timmermans. With a united left-wing list, they hope to finally be able to challenge for government.

Fourth place is held by the PVV, an anti-islam, right-wing populist and nationalist party. They are led by Geert Wilders, a controversial and experienced politician who faces a cordon sanitaire around him and his party for his extreme views, while fifth place is occupied by the agrarian and social conservative BBB (*Farmer-Citizen Movement*) led by Caroline van der Plas (*cover image: black-haired woman in the middle*), which was seen as the anti-establishment voice in the provincial elections. Riding off the back of a huge win in the provincial elections, they have dropped off and stifled in their tracks after the rise of Omtzigt's new party, which reduces their

Party	2021	2023 (NL poll aggregate)	2023 (PPE)
● GroenLinks/PvdA	17	23	60
● Volt	3	4	23
● D66	24	7	15
● BIJ1	1	1	13
● Socialistische Partij (SP)	9	5	13
● CDA	15	4	5
● Nieuw Sociaal Contract (NSC)	0	27	5
● Partij voor de Dieren (PvdD)	6	7	5
● VVD	34	27	5
● ChristenUnie (CU)	5	4	2
● Forum voor Democratie (FvD)	8	4	2
● Belang voor Nederland (BvNL)	0	0	2
● Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV)	17	18	0
● BoerBurgerBeweging (BBB)	1	12	0
● SGP	3	3	0
● DENK	3	3	0
● JA21	3	2	0

appeal as a protest vote when Omtzigt is seen as the personification of the man that became too hot for the establishment to handle.

But who cares about what the country is going to vote? We must know what our PPE students would vote. More than 60 PPE students made clear who they would vote if the elections were today. First place is taken by GroenLinks/PvdA with 37.7% of the vote, second place is Volt with 14.8%, third is D66 with 9.8% and fourth is BIJ1 with 8.2%. These parties range from centrist pro-European (D66), pan-European (Volt) to radical left (BIJ1). We found the level of support for BIJ1 remarkably high and only found under international students. BIJ1 are considered as radical anti-capitalists and now internally unstable due to toxicity and 'internal racism', which resulted in sitting councilors leaving the party. Predicted to get zero or one in parliament, PPE would give them 13 seats. An interesting observation is that the two leads in the nationwide polls have very little support in the PPE community. The VVD and Omtzigt, both predicted to get 27 seats, only get 5 seats from PPE. There are also no people at all who are going to vote for the PVV or the BBB, even though they are fourth and fifth in the nationwide polls. In general, the PPE student population is significantly more left-leaning than the Dutch population. If it were up to us, GroenLinks/PvdA and Volt will have enough seats to form a new government.

The Dutch face a rare clear opportunity for change following the resignation of long-standing Prime Minister Mark Rutte. The VVD is leading in the polls, but new players like Pieter Omtzigt and the GroenLinks/PvdA joint list are making waves. In conclusion, the Dutch election this year promises to show new intriguing shifts within the political arena.

Our predictions

Winners: NSC, PVV (Take) | VVD, NSC (Roos)

Ones to watch: Esther Ouwehand (PvdD), Henri Bontenbal (CDA)

Disappointments: BBB, JA21, GL/PvdA, SP



Polish election night on October 15th in the JSM-college

Old Enemies, New Faces

Oliver Clemits

Poland's complex history, marked by oppression, foreign occupation and a struggle for independence, deeply influences the collective memory and identity of its people. This historical context plays a pivotal role in shaping contemporary politics, especially the appeal of nationalistic and aggressive rhetoric.

Poland's political landscape is largely defined by two main forces: the Law and Justice Party (PiS) and the Civic Coalition (KO). PiS is often labelled as a right-wing populist party with a strong emphasis on nationalism and social conservatism. In contrast, the Civic Coalition adopts a more centrist and pro-European stance.

It is worth noticing that those who live in previously German occupied Poland tend to vote for KO whilst those in previously Russian occupied Poland tend to vote for PiS, although these are generalisations that aren't immune in exceptions.

It's noteworthy that both the President and Prime Minister of Poland hail from the PiS, which emphasises the party's influence within the government. However, despite this political dominance, PiS lacks a parliamentary majority, occasionally leading to political standstills. PiS's efforts to forge stronger bonds with the UK and

the USA, coupled with increased military spending, resonate with a segment of the Polish populace. In the context of recent events including the Russian invasion of Ukraine and far-right movements in Germany, these policies have bolstered nationalistic and euro-sceptical sentiments.

PiS's implementation of extensive social benefits targeting families with children and senior citizens has likely bolstered its support among specific demographics. These policies carry significant weight in influencing the voting behaviour of these groups, especially during an era of economic uncertainty.

A smaller party known as Konfederacja has recently seen a significant increase in popularity. Konfederacja's anti-establishment stance and advocacy for lower taxes have garnered substantial support among young voters, evident in the 31% approval rate among those aged 18-21. This mirrors a global trend where younger generations favour fiscally conservative and anti-establishment parties.

The high level of frustration with Poland's political landscape, particularly among young people, signals a deep-seated desire for change or an exploration of alternative political options.

October 31st - celebrated around the world

Amelie van Limburg & Katharina Graf

As the days get shorter, the air colder and the sky greyer, you feel that the dark half of the year is getting started. More than 2.000 years ago, already the Celts experienced this change in the year and the atmosphere of eeriness. They believed, that at that time the barriers between the physical and spiritual world were blurring. Hence, the souls of the dead would return to earth, while those who had just died made their way to the otherworld. That was celebrated with the Celtic festival of Samhain on the night of October 31st – the origin of Halloween.

After the Church established „All Saints Day“ on 1st of November in the 7th century and Christianity spread in Europe in 9th century, the Christian and Celtic rites and traditions blended. The 31st of October became “All Hallows Eve”. From Ireland the holiday spread around the world and nowadays is known as: Halloween.

Similar motives and same date, the “Day of Death”, in Spanish “Día de los muertos”, – merely a festivity in Mexico – has an even older root: Already 3.000 years ago the Aztecs – a pre-Columbian Mesoamerican culture – held rituals to honor the dead. As they believed the dead had to undergo a several-year-long journey before arriving at their final resting place, the living wanted to support their loved dead. On the Day of Dead, the deceased were believed to pass the boundaries between spiritual and real world to strengthen themselves with food, drinking and being with their loved ones. Thus, the ritual arose to honor them by making the deceased’s favorite food and other offerings.

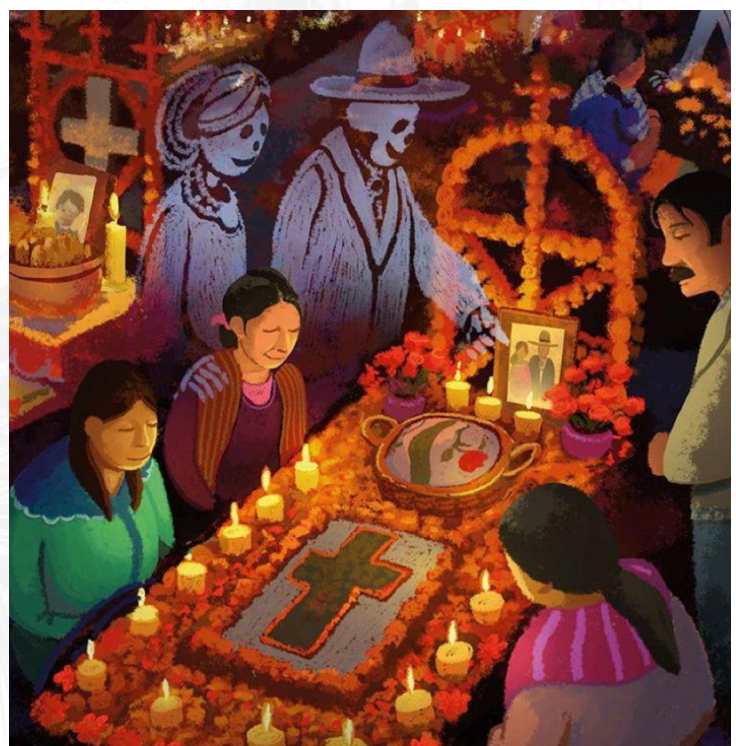
Samhain, Halloween or Día de los muertos – until now, we celebrate on the 31st of October: “Día de los Muertos is a big feast to bring back the memories of people that are no longer with us”, explains Ani from Mexico. “We build them altars, put food and pictures on it, decorate everything with the orange cempañil-flowers and eat delicious, sweet buttery bread. All to celebrate life and honor the dead. It is about appreciating the time we got to spend with our loved ones as well as the lives we have because of them. It is really nice!”

And Ani has a tip for you: “If you want to get an idea of how it is, I highly recommend watching the Disney movie COCO!”

Avril, celebrated the 31st of October on the other side of the Atlantic: “In Ireland I learnt a lot about Halloween and its traditions in school. It is a pagan tradition – poor people would knock on other people’s doors and offer to do a trick in exchange for food, that’s where “trick or treat” comes from. When I was a kid, I used to dress up and go trick or treating as well, and some people would want to see a trick before they gave us fruits or monkey nuts (peanuts), so I would do a dance move or handstand for them, but I don’t think they do that anymore.

We also had a lot of Halloween pre games like apple bobbing or the floury grape and there is a special Halloween cake, the Barnbrack cake with a ring hidden somewhere in the dough and whoever would have the ring in their slice wins because finding it is considered very lucky. I think they got rid of the ring though because it became a choking hazard...”

No matter, if you try out Ani’s and Avril’s traditions or you celebrate it in your own way – we wish you a wonderful and scary Día de los Muertos and Halloween!



Report from Study Abroad

An interview with Valeria Kuznetsova

Where are you currently on exchange?

I am on exchange in China at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Which courses are you taking?

At Fudan you can only take Economics courses. PPE has a collaboration with Fudan's Econ department, but if possible it would be nicer to collaborate with the whole university, since they also offer other PPE relevant courses. I am taking social security and its reform in China, international trade theory in practice, China and globalization, and design driven innovation and entrepreneurship.

How much did you travel in China?

I went to multiple cities already. China has a mid autumn festival and everyone has off. For one week, everyone goes to their family. We went to the Avatar forest mountains. Before Uni started we also went to different cities. You can make nice day trips, the trains are super fast and cost as much as for example going to Den Haag.

Where do you live?

I am renting an apartment with a girl who is also doing the same exchange. I am renting through a Chinese app, and live a 7 minute bike ride from university. Also the Fudan campus is huge and you need to bike. But the traffic is chaotic, which I did not expect. The motorcyclists don't respect red lights. They won't hit you, but they don't respect the rules either. That was a culture shock for me.

The rent per month is 530€. You can for sure find cheaper apartments (although the dorms are like 600€ per month). But it's not difficult to find something - you can find something within 3 or 4 days after you arrive, and you don't need something in advance. You can have a viewing within an hour. That is a stark contrast to Amsterdam.

How hard was the practical stuff with your visa etc?

The Visa process was very efficient. You need an appointment and a lot of documents, and then go to the Visa center. They take away your passport and give it back within 4 days, then you get the Visa. As an exchange student you can only get a single entry visa. So once you enter China you cannot enter again.

How does your typical day look?

Most of the time, my lectures are in the evening and start quite late, so my mornings are relatively empty. I started running lately. And I also go to Campus and hang out there. After the classes, we often go to dinner together. In the beginning I went to the city a lot, but not anymore. To get to the center it takes me 50 minutes in the metro.



Food culture here is amazing. You basically don't need a fridge, we just eat out all the time. You can eat very good and cheap on Campus. I recently had a salad for two euros. If you buy your own food, it will be way more expensive than that. Breakfast was hard for me - they don't really have bread or eggs, all their bread is sweet.

How difficult was it to get adjusted?

The first weeks were surprisingly easy. You have this adrenaline and feeling of everything being new and cool. If you have a phone and data, you are completely fine. You need some help at first (which apps you can use etc, eg google maps does not work here), in advance. If you have that ready, you will be good when you arrive. One thing: As a vegetarian you will struggle. Even if you eat veggie ramen, there will be sea food or animal oil in the sauce. Vegetarianism is not a concept for the Chinese. Also, Chinese people barely speak English. I met maybe 5 people outside of campus who spoke English. But if you have a translator you're fine.

How do you make friends? Did you make friends with Chinese people?

With Chinese people: NO. All of the exchange classes that we have are usually with foreigners. The Chinese students don't really talk with each other, they are on their phone a lot. I've seen people on hangouts sit in a cafe and be on their phones.

All exchange students immediately flock to each other. There are a lot of Dutch and Belgians here (and Germans), so I am usually friends with them. You start making friends pretty early on.

What is your general experience of doing an exchange?

I have learnt a lot of things from the exchange. I stopped caring as much about what people think, because they don't really meddle in each other's businesses. If people don't study in a really highly ranked university, they will not talk about it. And it is also worthwhile to talk to people outside of our bubble that don't have the same belief systems, but I miss the comfort of it. I learnt how much I value Europe. So exchange as an experience is very valuable. I have been uncomfortable a lot of times, but it's good to have that.

And the culture is so different. You will be stared at all the time, but you get used to that. But hanging out with internationals sharing your opinion, it's not that tough. Still, you need to be in a good spirit.

How not to Languish in Language: uhhh

Ray Polman

The second time I smoked weed was a glorious affair. Aged sixteen some friends and I, freshly introduced to the green wonder, had the bright idea of turning up high for our karate practice. So, red-eyed and cotton-mouthed we turned up at the dojo to receive what we had ordered: a tortuous hour of holding back laughter while seeing each other lose balance performing roundhouse kicks, produce inaudible g.asps as response to the sensei's questions, and get our asses kicked by opponents who normally wouldn't stand a chance (the young, the elderly, girls). What after all these years is most often recalled, or rather quoted, about this evening however; is what transpired after the training when we, somehow convinced that no one noticed what state we were in, went for a well-deserved frozen treat. At the ice cream parlour, still high as kites, when the shop attendant asked me what I wanted to order I answered with an eloquent and near-endless 'yeah, I'll have the uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh...'

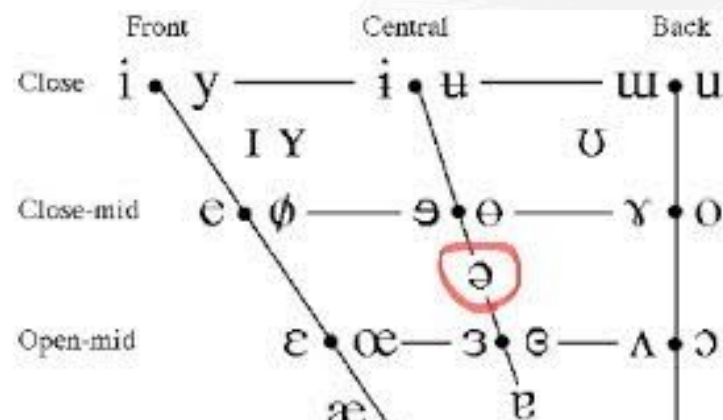
It's a for me and my friends delightful anecdote, which should be relatable to anyone who indulges in the occasional THC-inhalation (or anyone on the other side, having to take these uhh-nbearable orders), but it made me wonder: Why do we say 'uhh' when at a loss for words?

English, like the Germanic languages, resides on the stress-timed side of the linguistic isochrony spectrum, meaning that in English the amount of time between stressed syllables of different words remains equal. This, in contrast to in syllable-timed languages, causes the length of syllables in English to vary due to longer words experiencing vowel reduction. When vowel reduction occurs, the original distinct vowel-sound is interchanged for a more easily and quickly pronounceable one, almost always /ə/. This sound, also known as 'schwa' after the Hebrew word for emptiness, is the most easily pronounced sound as it can be produced without flexing any of the tongue or lip muscles (thus implying emptiness I suppose?). As schwa is produced in a relaxed mouth it is found in the centre of the International Phonetic Alphabet vowel



trapezium, equidistant from the upper-left /i:/ (pronounced as 'ee' in 'free') and lower-right /ɒ/ (roughly like 'ough' in 'thought', but more like 'å' in 'Århus'). And the sound schwa makes when pronounced is of course 'uh'. Back to the ice cream parlour. When we don't yet have our next sentence lined up (due to weed-induced mind fog or otherwise) we stall using filler sounds. Reflexively we grab for schwato fulfil this function as it's simply the easiest sound to produce. The reason that we have a need for filler sounds at all is twofold. As social animals, communication has been crucial for the success of our species and millions of years of evolution have driven us to the point where, firstly: if instead of using fillers we would momentarily go silent between words when gathering our thoughts, this would not only strike our conversation partners as rather odd, but this would also break up the flow of speech (especially in syllable-timed languages). And secondly: most of us have plenty to say at all times and uttering a filler sound is a way to hold the floor; indicating that you haven't quite finished speaking yet, lest your conversation partner inadvertently take over. Filler sounds thus serve the purpose of maintaining the natural feel and flow of conversation and of buying time when formulating your thoughts among talkative company. The functions filler sounds fulfil are so indispensable that they aren't limited to vocal speech as even sign languages have signs for 'uh' (usually, slight horizontal movement of both hands at torso height with the palms up and fingers spread).

It seems then that for stress-timed language speakers schwa is the ultimate tool for facilitating vowel reduction, as well as serving as the default filler sound, which also explains its disuse in syllable-timed languages. In languages at the far syllable-timed side of the isochrony spectrum, like Spanish, vowel reduction doesn't occur and schwa may even be absent altogether. This effect may be so strong that it has carry-over effects to other realms of speech, resulting in Spanish speakers not uttering 'uh' when thinking of their next quip, but rather 'eh' (or actually rather even, a filler word is used as a conversational crutch or *muletilla*). →



This is curious as neither 'uh' nor 'eh' are proper words but simply filler-sounds, sounds whose entire raison d'être is the effortlessness of their utterance, and as established: 'uh' or schwa is the most effortless of all. The thing is that while schwa might be the objectively easiest vowel to pronounce, it will still prove decently difficult (or at least uncomfortable) if you're unaccustomed to using it. And due to myelination you might not even be able to properly pronounce or hear it at all. Therefore in languages bereft of schwa, the closest known phoneme will simply be used to fill up empty conversational space, or since these languages often are syllable-timed it's for speakers even more intuitive to use a filler word instead.

The reason then that we say 'uhhh' when at a loss for words, if we do so at all, is because, for stress-timed language speakers at least: schwa is the easiest sound to produce and we are loath to

stay silent while mulling over our words as this isn't only awkward but may also mean your speaking-turn gets quickly conquered by a more lucid conversationalist. Additionally, knowing about schwa and the role of filler sounds enables you to gain more profound fluidity in syllable-timed languages, as uttering an 'uhhh' there is a dead giveaway of non-nativeness. Foreign students of syllable-timed languages would be wise to quickly learn the common crutch words to fill up their inevitably numerous moments of verbal hesitation. Furthermore, in stress-timed languages schwa may of course also be used purposefully to express doubt, to slow down the pace of conversation, to signal to the ice cream scooper that you're not entirely there, or, naturally, to find a topical way to end your linguistics article. So, uhh... that's it.

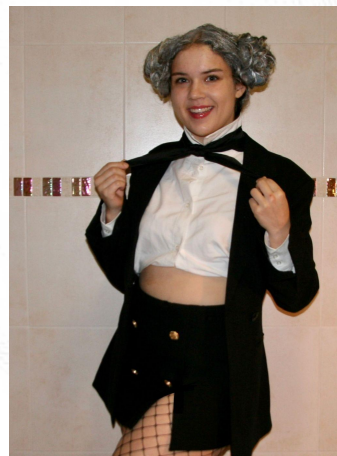
PPE-themed costumes

Roos van den Doel

As the spooky season lurks around the corner, the age-old question arises "what shall I dress up as?". You could go for a classic (like a zombie or sexy cat), something matching with your partner or for something more unique like one of those giant inflatable dinosaur costumes. But what is more fun than representing our college, and dressing yourself in a PPE themed halloween costume?

She is beauty, she is elegance, she is the muse of philosophy and eloquence and the namesake of our study association, Kalliope. She is usually depicted with a golden crown and some parchment or a book, so this is a very lowkey costume. All we need is a flowy white dress, a book (or your spare Ethics notes) and a plastic crown you still have left over from the time you went trick or treating as sleeping beauty when you were 5 years old.

But let's get into the scary stuff. From the moment I first stepped foot on this 4th floor, I heard stories of a horrifying monster, a being of lovecraftian magnitude, a beast most first years never will be able to best: statistics. While the actual magnitude of this urban legend is debatable, it does make for a nice last minute halloween costume. All you need is your favourite all black outfit, a safety pin and a piece of paper, and voila, you are able to scare all of your fellow students into another field of study! If your goal for halloween night is taking home a hand-



some pirate or gorgeous harley quinn, then this costume might be it for you. I will give you a 100% guarantee that with this costume, you will not be spending your halloween night alone. With a grey wig, a blazer and some fishnets, everyone can go out as a sexy John Stuart Mill. The man that makes your heart beat faster during exams will surely have the same effect on the others in the club.

This should get you inspired enough and decide to represent your PPE pride this halloween. Because what is better than getting to know people and not even having to tell them what you are studying? Nothing, so this year, I hope to see in the ocean of nurses and cowboys, a sexy John Stuart Mill breaking it down on the dance floor. Happy haunting!

Thank you!

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THANKS!

A big thank you to all who contributed to this year's first edition of the Paper Mill: To all authors & readers, for all pictures & submissions and for designing & publishing this newspaper.

Ideas, wishes or critique? → Send us an email to: ppeencounters@gmail.com

I wish you a nice Halloween & a wonderful autumn. Stay updated for the next edition ;)

Your Paper Mill-Chair,
Katharina

DON'T MISS OUT!

- 30.10. Humanities halloween party**
(22:00-3:00, Club Akhanton)
- 1.11. Encounters event**
(15:30-17:00, Adam Smith Room)
- 2.11. Study Abroad event for second-years**
(11:00-12:30, Adam Smith Room)
- 6.11. Football tournament**
(15:00, Campus Uilenstede)
- 7.11. Vertical dinner**
- 22.11. Election night for the Dutch House of Representatives**

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