

Public outreach at the Radboud Astronomy Department

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The importance of public outreach

- Prove societal relevance: create a basis of support in society (e.g. grant awarding institutes, politicians, tax payers)
- Moral duty of helping interested non-experts along
- Professional honor: improve the image of science/scientists
- Inspiring a new generation



Source:
"The exact story"
by Ionica Smeets

Why should YOU engage in public outreach

- You gain more insight about your research area when you explain it to non-experts
- It reminds you how much you love science
- On your CV, it shows that you are a good communicator with a broader view than only your research
- You meet interesting people outside your daily world
- It is fun!

Public outreach at the astronomy department

- Telescope tours for diverse groups
- Open star gazing evenings
- Pre-University College, HOVO (life-long learning), teacher training
- Public talks, lectures, master classes, etc
- Interviews (radio, tv, newspapers, magazines)
- Writing popular articles
- Help for high school students (e.g. profielwerkstukken)
- Twitter
- ... and much more

Open star gazing evenings

- Every last Friday of the month in winter
- In cooperation with the AKN (Astronomische Kring Nijmegen)
- 60 – 300 visitors per evening, depending on weather
- a tour of the telescopes (AKN), a lecture (us), a movie (us), and the opportunity to ask questions (AKN and us)



Everybody is expected to participate in the department's public outreach efforts in some way!

The outreach committee



Ester



Jamie



Laura



Marijke



Antonio



Helma



Hannah



Steven



Roque



Manon



Harm

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The outreach committee: what do we do?

We are **NOT** planning to take over all the public outreach in the department!

- We will coordinate public outreach:
 - try to divide the outreach load more evenly
 - all outreach requests can be forwarded to outreach@astro.ru.nl
 - make an inventory what we do (offer)
 - decide which requests we want to spend time and effort on
- Run the Twitter feed: include [@RUastro](https://twitter.com/RUastro) in your (work-related) tweets (*and post your news on the wiki!*)
- Set up an astronomy outreach webpage
- Set up an ordered repository for public talks and materials
- Work on increasing the use of the RIF in outreach

What can you do?

Star gazing evenings:

- Dutch-speaking lecturers
- Dutch- and non-Dutch speaking helpers with organization, video, questions, and logistics
- We still need a **coordinator for next year!**

Telescope tours:

- **Tour guides:** make sure you do a telescope training and keep up
- Roque will give a last telescope training in Nov/Dec
- We need a **telescope trainer and telescope guardian!**

Help setting up **radio outreach using the RIF**

And much more! Come talk to us about opportunities.

Internal pages

Getting started

- Arriving in Nijmegen
- House rules
- Useful links

Computing resources

- Login accounts
- Basic setup (wireless, email, printing, etc.)
- Backups
- Installation of tools and packages
- The Coma Computing Cluster
- Tips and Tricks
- Mailing lists

Working in the department

- Schedule of Attendance
- AstroMeetings
- Visitors
- PhD Meeting Report and Policies
- Seminar hosting
- Colloquium dinners
- Travel
- LKBF (Leiden Kerkhoven Bosscha fonds) fur
- Publications and presentations
- The Astro Lab
- Observing with the optical telescopes
- Grant opportunities
- Climate control
- Thesis printing and defense ceremony

Outreach & Cetera

- List of outreach events and volunteers
- Masterclass VWO Radio Astronomy 2012 + 2013
- General public presentations, movies and other digital outreach material
- Exercises for students

Please note your efforts on the list!

2016

[Edit](#)

DATE	TIME	1)	EVENT	TASK	WHO	PUBLIC	L	Location	CONTACT
PLANNED									
DONE									
9 NOV	18:00-21:30	3h	Visit of the University of Eindhoven	Telescope tours	R. Ruiz-Carmona	University students	EN	Nijmegen	Marja v. D.
6 NOV	-	2.0h	Reviewing articles for <i>Astrobiten in Spanish</i>		R. Ruiz-Carmona	Online readers	ES		R. Ruiz-Carmona
6 NOV	16:15-16:15	2h	InScience Film Festival (Interview after Mind of the Universe)		T. Wijnen	General public	NL	Nijmegen, NL	T. Wijnen
4 NOV	12:15-14:50	10.5h	InScience Film Festival (Introduction to the The Martian movie)		M. I. Saladino	General public	EN	Nijmegen, NL	M. I. Saladino
3 NOV	20:30-22:00	3h	InScience Film Festival (Talk about GWs, BlackGEM)		S. Bloemen	General public	NL	Nijmegen, NL	S. Bloemen
2 NOV	17:50-21:30	8h	Radboud University Open weekend	Telescope tours and coordination	R. Ruiz-Carmona	Prospective RU students	EN	Nijmegen	R. Ruiz-Carmona
2 NOV	17:50-21:30	3h	Radboud University Open weekend	Telescope tours	J. van Roestel	Prospective RU students	EN	Nijmegen	R. Ruiz-Carmona
2 NOV	17:50-21:30	3h	Radboud University Open weekend	Telescope tours	L. Rossetto	Prospective RU students	EN	Nijmegen	R. Ruiz-Carmona
2 NOV	17:50-21:30	3h	Radboud University Open weekend	Telescope tours	A. Al-Zetoun	Prospective RU students	EN	Nijmegen	R. Ruiz-Carmona
2 NOV	17:50-21:30	3h	Radboud University Open weekend	Telescope tours	L. Houben	Prospective RU students	EN	Nijmegen	R. Ruiz-Carmona
OCT			Artikel Zwaartekrachtgolven bieden een nieuwe kijk op de kosmos		G. Nelemans	NWO Magazine	EN		G. Nelemans
28 OCT	19:00-22:00	2.5h	Open Sterrenkijkavond Radboud	Showing movies	L. Rossetto	General public	EN	Nijmegen	L. Rossetto
19 OCT	19:00-22:00	5h	Talk about Gravitational Wave Astrophysics, BlackGEM		S. Bloemen	Amateur astronomers	NL	Arnhem, NL	S. Bloemen
9 OCT	11:30-12:30	10h	Museum JeugdUniversiteit (Huygens' Hockwijck)	Talk	T. Wijnen	Elementary school kids	NL	Voorburg	T. Wijnen
1 OCT	?	5h	Talk about Gravitational Wave Astrophysics at yearly meeting Vlaamse Vereniging voor Sterrenkunde		S. Bloemen	Amateur astronomers	NL	TBD, BE	S. Bloemen
1 OCT	-	4.0h	Article for <i>Astrobiten in Spanish</i> (writing)		R. Ruiz-Carmona	Online readers	ES		R. Ruiz-Carmona
30 SEP	19:30-21:30	10.0h	Open sterrenkijkavond Radboud	Talk	Jan van Roestel	General public	NL	Nijmegen	Harry Balster
30 SEP	19:00-22:00	5h	Talk about Gravitational Wave Astrophysics, BlackGEM		S. Bloemen	Amateur astronomers	NL	Venlo, NL	S. Bloemen
28 SEP	19:00-20:00	1.0h	Telescopes tour		Jan van Roestel	Parents of prospective students	NL	Nijmegen	J. van Roestel
28 SEP	19:00-20:00	1.0h	Telescopes tour		Luc Hendriks	Parents of prospective students	NL	Nijmegen	J. van Roestel



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Our first outreach event for the department

Come play the science game
Expedition Mundus with us at this
year's Christmas dinner!

