



# Dondrite news

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**N° 8.**

**Nijmegen, Friday, June 23, 2017**

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*F*inally, summer is here! That is, for at least two days every fortnight. And with it comes the all too familiar stress of exams and deadlines. You must have been looking forward to the last

edition of the Dondrite news of this academic year, to inform you on what happened, what is going to happen and more importantly, to keep you from studying. We are happy to oblige and wish all of you a sensational summer!

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## **Advisory committee**

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Dondrite exists out of several glamorous, inspirational and exciting committees, with hardworking members that organise our wonderful activities. You know and possibly worship them. They are respectively the Activity, Education, Synapsium and Travel committees. And then there is also a board. They can usually be seen running from one meeting to another, trying to remember bank codes, loving up to Ellen or goofing off at the Dondrite Drinks.

But have you heard about the elusive Advisory

committee? This shiny new committee should consist of two members and give advice on any matter regarding Dondrite. To that end they check the annual settlement, amongst other things. This is to make sure that Dondrite does not lose track of it's purposes. To ensure continuity and involvement, one of the members of the advisory is preferably a former board member and the other is someone from the CNS management. Can you guess who?

We'll give you a hint, Advisory committee is the 4th A in the 3 A's...

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## Recent Dondrite Activities

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### **Dondrite Debate: Human Enhancement:**

The pilot session for our very own Dondrite discussion group took place this month and it was great fun to meet up with fellow Dondrites to brainstorm, imagine, and discuss what fancy new societal and technological changes (neuro)science might have in store for us when it comes to enhancing our own species. You know that you have had a great discussion (and perhaps a great imagination) when you have talked about new ways of communicating solely through chips (without the need of putting in the effort to move our mouths), designerbaby's without physical pregnancies and Java's witnesses, all within the span of two hours!

### **Synapsium:**

Around eighty people joined us on the eighth of June for Synapsium 2017 - our yearly CNS

symposium. Many of whom were from outside of our master's programme, outside of Nijmegen, and even from outside of the country! The day was packed with activities and events. From hands-on practicals to a lecture teaching us about bayesian inference and the positive predicted value of scientific publications. Furthermore, many ambitious students presented their work to the Synapsians through talks and posters. Congratulations to Theresa Marschall and Nicole Rheinheimer for winning the best talk & poster awards! All the while, students were finding time to enjoy their lunch and drinks and meet some new people with alike passions. The day concluded with a rich panel discussion, and then drinks at the sportscafe in the mellow spring evening air. We hope to see you all again next year!

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## Upcoming Dondrite & Donders Activities

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### **Beach party:**

Theoretically, we will all make it to the end of the semester.\* Theoretically it will also be nice weather then.\*\* Theoretically we will all be free to celebrate the last of the exams.\*\*\* We don't know though. Luckily, we don't need to have a sound reason to throw a beach party. So, if you want to relax with your fellow students before they fly all over the world, come join us at the Waal beach. Please bring sunshine, musical instruments + talent, food, drinks, hugs, old work to burn, blankets and anything else you might like to enjoy that evening. We will bring a barbecue and start a little fire. We will start at 6 PM, but you can join at any time you like.

\*Terms and conditions may apply. The Dondrite

board takes no responsibility whatsoever about your exams and deadlines. We wish you luck however.

\*\*If there is a hurricane (or something similar) we will go to a bar in the city centre instead. Stay up to date with Facebook or check with the activity committee to stay posted of any changes.

\*\*\*Unless you are a second year and you are still facing your thesis deadlines. Tough luck, come have a drink and tell us all about it.

**Info:** June 30th 18:00-∞, Waal beach  
**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/309678966128028/>

## Introduction:

We do apologise for bringing up the end of your summer holiday before it has started. But we have good reason to do so! There is something we have to look forward to! Newbies are coming! If you started in September 2016 or February 2017 you may remember the warm welcome you received from Dondrite. If you started before, you may have even helped us out welcoming the hatchlings. This year there will be a whole new bunch of pups and we want to make them feel at home right away. Therefore we are organising another Dondrite introduction. This means that we will spend the afternoon with the kittens, show them around, have fun with them and generally get to know them. If the new students

have some energy left we will probably go out with them afterwards. But, we want to expand the introduction experience for the whelps by forming for mentor groups that will support them during their start of the master. Being a mentor, you may be the first one they will turn to for questions and you might get to know them quite well. Our aim is to have two mentors for every 10 newbies, so you will not be alone. You will also be fully supported by Dondrite and we will be very grateful for your help. Don't miss out on this fun experience! If you want any more information or to sign up, please email [activitythunderrocks@gmail.com](mailto:activitythunderrocks@gmail.com).

**Info:** August 24th 12:30, campus

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### Upcoming Donders Events:

### Date:

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**Inaugural lecture prof. dr. de Leeuw**

[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, June 29th,  
15:45

**FCS lecture Annemarie van Stee**

Conceptual review for cognitive neuroscience [\[url\]](#)

Wednesday, July 5th,  
15:30-17:00

**Formal DCC lecture Olivier Piguet**

Recent advantages in primary progressive aphasia

[\[url\]](#)

Thursday, July 13,  
12:30-13:30

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For more information see: <http://www.ru.nl/donders/agenda-news/agenda/>

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## General Assembly 1.2

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On the 13th of June the General Assembly continued. Thanks to the gracefulness of Tildie, we got to use the Oval office, which has air conditioning. There was also pizza, so we think it is only fair to say that this was already an improvement from the first part of the GA. Together with around 20 Dondrites, we discussed next year's plans, approved a budget and had some very interesting discussion about Dondrite regulations. We would like to thank all of those who filled in the evaluation and those

who were present. To be precise, we would like to congratulate Levan, Kari, Clara, Lennart, Ine, Flavia and Teun with winning a free drink for their dedication and input! The random raffle favoured you, so you will get your drink at the beach party! If you cannot attend, please notify one of the board members.

In September we will organise the next GA to finalise the bylaws and policies for Dondrite. We hope to see you then!

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## Dondrite Spotlight

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*Each month a Dondrite is asked three questions, no more, no less. This month in the Spotlight: Christina Schoechl!*



**1. You moved countries for your bachelor and your master and you are going to do it again for your PhD. Do you think this is necessary in science?**

For me yes, but it may depend per person. What I've found is that although people are working on the same thing, they know very little about their colleagues somewhere else and their work. They may also have very different approaches to it. Working in different places gives you a much broader point of view, so that's why I'd recommend it.

**2. Do you think that moving all over the world is a benefit of pursuing a scientific career?**

Only in the beginning of your career, because then it is usually only for a couple of years and those fly by. The benefit of being able to do science all over the world is that you get to explore, but the practicality of this changes per person and situation. When you're older though and you have more responsibilities, this might be a disadvantage and possibly even a reason to get out of academia.

**3. What is your favourite brain structure?**

The left inferior parietal cortex because this has a higher gray matter density in bilingual people. I find this especially interesting since I want to teach children a second language.

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## Fun Fact

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It is hot! Everyone looks hot or at least feels hot, the birds and the bees are in overdrive and you

can smell the passion in the air. Especially behind the Trigon and in the Erasmuslaan,

funky smells have been reported. Did you know one possible culprit is the *Pyrus Calleryana*, also known as Bradford or Semen tree? The smell they emit is caused by volatile amines, compounds derived from ammonia that are also

found in human sperm. You can look this up, we recommend the Urban Dictionary. Another possibility is horny freshmen that are not used to spend that much time studying in a library with so many attractive students.

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