



Dondrite news

No 8 | APRIL 2020

NIJMEGEN

DEAR DONDRITES,

We hope this newsletter finds you healthy, safe, and feeling good at home.

Busy world, life in the fast lane, the buzz of having no time at all is not new. People had something or other to do, anytime all the time. Words like caring and courtesy were long forgotten. Fitness, career, traveling amidst many other things, we forgot to talk about. People earned money, built houses. To be honest, they only built houses with rooms for every individual and an extra one too, for visitors, if any. They called it home, but hardly were people living in it, together. Life has lost its balance, or was this the new balance! To this busy world, where Siri, Ok Google or Alexa spoke to us more often than our loved ones, came to sudden halt when nature said Hey Corona!

Dondrite committees are working their ways to help you pass this transition period of new normal life. We hope you like reading about research in times of corona, reports of the activities conducted by the Activity and Education committee, filling out the crossword puzzle, and hopefully the monthly meme gets a tee-hee on your face!

Stay healthy and safe, and happy reading!

Love,
Scribe



APRIL

RESEARCH IN TIMES OF CORONA

The current times are strange times for everyone. We are all at home, trying to continue our studying or internships as well as possible during these times. How are principal investigators at the Donders dealing with the situation? We asked some researchers about their experiences.



ERNO HERMANS

Cognitive Affective Neuroscience

How are you doing these days?

Thanks for asking! I have to say I feel lucky to be together with my family in a very nice house. I now see the kids way more than usual which I really appreciate, especially during this crisis.

Can you continue with your research? If yes, in which ways?

No, all data acquisition in labs has been halted. However, the crisis has also led to new initiatives: with an international consortium we are investigating how people remain mentally healthy during the crisis. With a team of enthusiasts working day and night, this study has been conducted at a speed that I never thought would be possible.

Do you feel like you lay way behind because of the corona crisis?

I cannot complain myself - as group leader, I have job security and I can continue most of what I do from home. I worry about the younger people though; MSc students, PhD students, postdocs. Their projects are delayed while the pressure on them was already very high.

What's your favorite work spot in your house/apartment?

Our home office room. I have invested in making it a healthy work place, with a standing desk and all equipment I need. I now really enjoy working there, and seeing my kids between (sometimes during..) all the meetings.





MIKE COHEN

Synchronisation in Neural Systems

How are you doing these days?

Really great, actually. These times are challenging for many people, but I happen to be in a fortunate situation where I am benefiting from the lock-down. I live in Amsterdam and work in Nijmegen, so my long days with eating from the train station AH have been replaced by relaxing days cooking healthier meals and sleeping well every night. I have a mini-office in my apartment and can work reasonably well from home.

Can you continue with your research? If yes, in which ways?

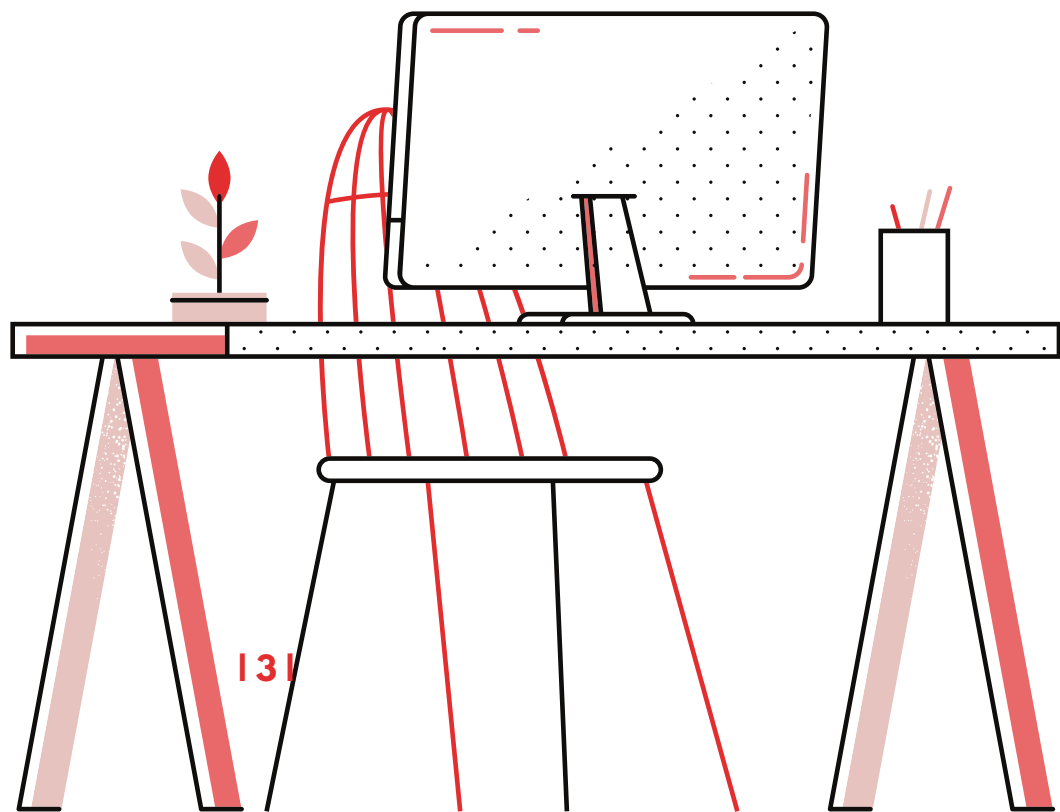
Mostly yes. Many of the people in my research group are at the stage of data analysis and writing, which can be done from home. I have more frequent skype meetings and emails; those aren't as good as face-to-face meetings, but are a decent substitute. We do have a few projects that are experiencing delays because they require physically working in the lab, but I'm hopeful that they will be able to continue in the next month or two.

Are there any unexpected benefits or new opportunities presented to you due to the corona crisis?

The lock-down is creating an incredibly rare opportunity for people to look at their life and their place in society from a different perspective. People can now realize how introverted vs. extroverted they really are, how much they really need non-essentials, what really is important to them, and so on. These are deep and important issues, and many people spend too much time distracting themselves with work and entertainment to avoid thinking about these issues. I hope everyone will use this period as an opportunity for deep self-reflection.

What do you think is the most annoying thing about working at home?

Honestly, the most annoying thing about working from home is having to answer the first question multiple times each day ;)



A WORD FROM THE BOARD

Dear Dondrites,

Did April come by and go already? For many of us as we can imagine, it still seems like March when the sunshine was just peeking through, and the time came to a standstill.

It's been over a month in lockdown, and a massive collective effort is underway throughout the world to rid us from the pandemic. We urge you all in these difficult times to take it chill, stay safe, and support one another as best we can.

This seemingly non-existent month on the Board, we have been discussing the future of Dondrite with a shortened group of board members and how best to cope with the ongoing situation. Unfortunately we did not have any sign-ups, and following a GA in early May, two of five board members will retire. Charlotte, Eline, and Jochem carry forward the torch along with the dedicated committee members who want you all to have a fun time socializing even from home. The semester continues online, and so do we!

Activity successfully hosted an online game night this month, Education hosted Cafe Philosophique, and Travel managed to get a partial refund for everyone who had signed up for the big trip! Scribe continues to send out amazing newsletters where you are reading this, and last but not least, Synapsium too, is doing their best to improvise on short notice and bring about a virtual Synapsium real soon! Stay tuned for details from them.

The board wishes you all a safe and productive quarantine.

Once again, if there is something Dondrite can do, please reach out and we will do our best to do so, no matter how small the request. We want to make sure we are helping our members as much as we can during these unprecedented times.

Best wishes,

The Board



RECENT DONDRITE EVENTS



Friday April 3rd, the activity committee organised a fun and relaxing online pub quiz. Using Jitsi, everyone was able to communicate and have social interactions while enjoying a drink from their own homes. Questions about the percentage of penguin pee on Antarctica and how Sam and Frodo first met were alternated with some beautiful singing by members of the Activity committee. Overall, the activity allowed for a great evening!

The Activity committee also organised weekly hangout activities. Every Tuesday at 15:00 and Friday at 12:30 people could (and still can!) hop onto Jitsi to chill and chat with fellow students. This provides for a nice coffee break during the day, and makes sure you can keep in touch with friends.

Lastly, Friday April 24th, the Activity committee organised an online board game night. At 20:00 everyone met online in the common Jitsi room, where instructions were provided. After that, everyone subdivided into groups playing Cards against Humanity, Pictionary, Mafia/Werewolf, Saboteur, Rummikub, Picolo, Psych, or Carcassone.

The Education committee organized a virtual gathering where one could exchange their views on current topics in Neurophilosophy and engage in philosophical dialogue with fellow students beyond the lectures. This was held at Café Philosophique on Jitsi every Thursday from 15:00 to 17:00 with 6-10 students. Given the situation, this was the best platform made available for students to enrich their ideas for essays and discuss a wide variety of interesting topics related to Neurophilosophy. Most of the students received constructive, technical and encompassing feedback. Overall, this activity motivated students to think along in different dynamics to gather new ideas and fine-tune their Neurophilosophy proposals.

Furthermore, we thank the Education committee for extending their help to create a platform for providing feedback on the Neurophilosophy essay proposals. We hope and look forward to witness many more meetings at café Philosophique in the coming weeks!

UPCOMING DONDRITE EVENTS

Scientific Movie Night Wednesday April 29th, 20:00

We will watch GATTACA together. As usual, we will provide you with a short introduction into the topic and room for discussion after the movie.

[Facebook event](#)

General Assembly Thursday May 7th, 12:30-13:30

There are two main things that will be addressed in this GA: voting in the previous meeting minutes as well as voting out our current Chair, Harshil, and Secretary, Titus. More information on where to virtually attend the GA will follow.

Café Philosophique Thursdays, 15:00

Discuss your essay ideas or other philosophical topics!

<https://meet.jit.si/CafePhilosophique1>

Virtual coffee/lunch breaks

Tuesdays, 15:00 and Friday 12:30

Hop on Jitsi for a nice break to drink and chat with friends!

<https://meet.jit.si/CNSmasterhangoutplace>

Synapsium Saturday May 16th

A Cognitive Neuroscience symposium, organised by students, for students. This year it will be an online edition!

[Facebook page](#)



MONTHLY MEME



FUN FACT



Most of you will know that since 2014 King's Day is celebrated on April 27th in the Netherlands, seeing as that is our king Willem-Alexander's birthday. But did you know that when his mother, queen Beatrix, was still queen, she did not celebrate Queen's Day on her own birthday? Her own birthday is on January 31st, however Queen's Day was celebrated on the day her mother, queen Juliana, was born: April 30th. Queen Beatrix decided on this because she wanted to honour her mother, but also because the weather would be nicer in April compared to January. Unsurprisingly, a lot of tourists had heard of Queen's Day and King's Day, but did not know that since 2014 it is celebrated on April 27th. Therefore, a lot of tourists would be enthusiastically dressed in orange on April 30th, only to be disappointed to hear that King's Day had already passed.

NOTICEBOARD

Save the date:
Virtual General
Assembly

May 07, 12:30 - 13:30

The last GA of the year (we promise for it to be a short one) will be hosted online wherein we will say goodbye to Harshil and Alex.

Yearbook
questionnaire

The deadline to fill out the yearbook questionnaire is approaching! You have until *April 30th*. The yearbook isn't complete without you, so take a couple of minutes and fill out the questionnaire!

[Questionnaire](#)



Do you have anything you want to share here? Send us your message at

scribedondrite@gmail.com

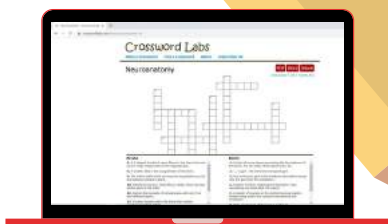


CROSSWORD



Who doesn't like board games?
This crossword is all about these fantastic games to play with your friends, family, even your pets.
Good luck with this one!!

The crossword can be filled out using:
<https://crosswordlabs.com/view/board-games-at-home>

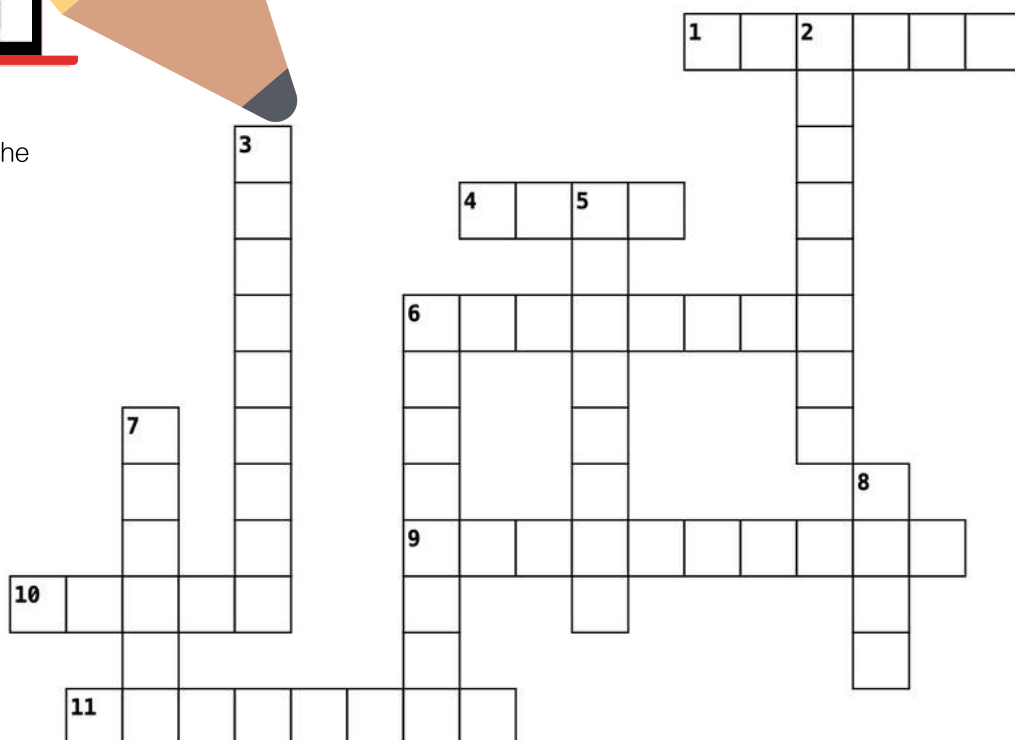


On the next page you will find the solution to last month's puzzle.



Down

2. Pay the owner of the street when you're staying there
3. Guess the concept your teammate is explaining in a short time
5. Jump diagonally and capture your enemy's piece
6. Score points by placing tiles with letters and form a word
7. Investigate a murder by gathering evidence
8. Go on a mission: occupy every territory and eliminate the others

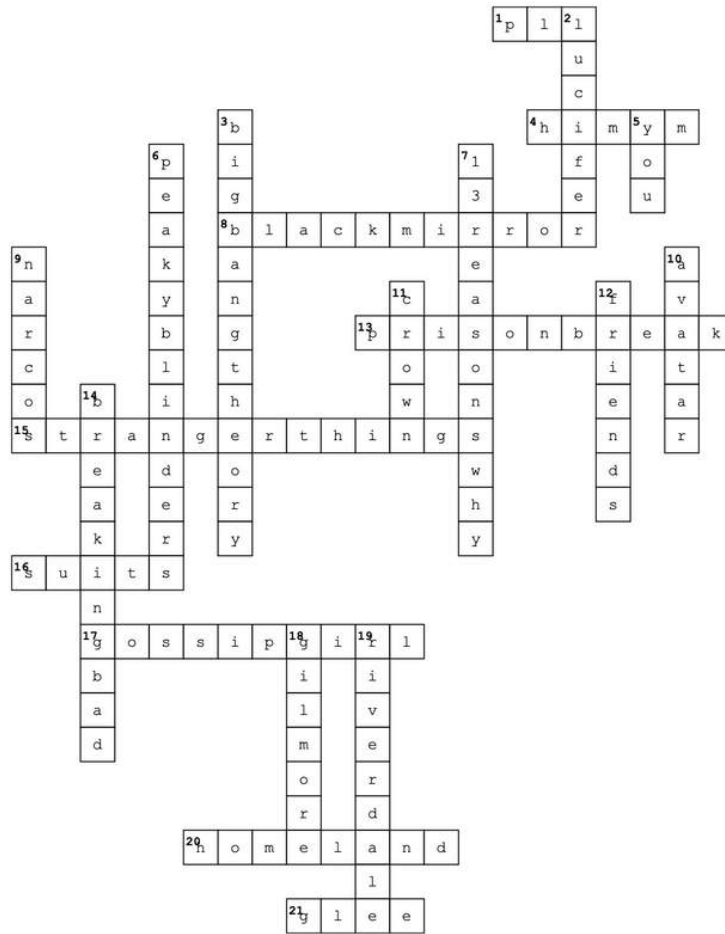


Across

1. Flip the cards and match the tiles to a pair
4. Race your 4 tokens from start to finish, to enter the play, first role a 6
6. Find and captures the opponent's flag
9. Track your target on a grid; hit or miss
10. 16 pieces, 64 squares and 2 kings
11. Match rectangular tiles on the basis of their spots



CROSSWORD solution



Across

1. Four girls being stalked by A.(abbreviation)
5. Legen, wait for it, dary (abbreviation)
6. Mum and daughter with a coffee addiction
10. Weird future stories
11. Historical drama about royalty
13. Serie about brilliant but socially awkward physicists
15. Teen kids fighting against the Upside-down
16. Filmed and set in Colombia
17. An American town, a bunch of teenagers and a dead school boy
18. Thriller about a bookstore manager in New York
19. Chemistry teacher who's setting a bad example

Down

2. The devil coming back to earth
3. American hero/terrorist?
4. British gangster family in 1919
7. Deathly video tapes
8. How you doin'?
9. Going into jail on purpose
12. The serie which makes everyone dreaming about being a lawyer
14. girl You know you love me xoxo
20. Water, earth, fire, air
21. Teen kids from the McKinley High New Directions choir

"You can do serious damage with an MRI, you've basically got your participants in a huge microwave."

--Anonymous Professor

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