



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Faculty of Science

EGU 22-910
Scan for more info
B.Jansen@uva.nl



Institute for Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Dynamics

Future Planet Studies

Embedding soil science in an interdisciplinary
sustainability Bachelor program

Dr. Boris Jansen

EGU General Assembly – 23 May 2022



Why start a new program?

- Fewer students interested in traditional earth sciences
- Strong motivation of bright young people to help reach the Sustainable Development Goals
- Combination of natural and social sciences needed to truly address the SDGs.



Photo: Racaille 1950 - Wikimedia commons
Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International licence



Design of Future Planet Studies

- Thematic education
- Interdisciplinary, with natural or social sciences major
- Fundamental theoretical knowledge embedded in applied courses
- Systems Thinking as central paradigm

1st year		Systems & Complexity Thinking	Future Earth	Future Society	Research & Data Analysis Skills	Academic & 21st Century Skills
Energy & Climate Change						
Quality of Life						
2nd year	Food & Future Earth or Future Society					
	Water & Future Earth or Future Society					
3rd year	Minor (at home or abroad) or Specialisation					
	Research Design, Bachelor Thesis & Future Planet Project					



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
Faculty of Science

Joint core program

Future Earth major

Future Society major

EGU 22-910
Scan for more info
B.Jansen@uva.nl



Institute for Biodiversity
and Ecosystem Dynamics

Year 1	Toekomstige Uitdagingen, Innovatieve Oplossingen (6 EC)		Energie Transities (6 EC)	Kwaliteit van Leven (6 EC)		Quality of Life Research (6 EC)
	Klimaatverandering & Zeespiegelstijging (6 EC)	Toekomstperspectief voor de Samenleving (6 EC)		Inleiding Milieueconomie (6 EC)	Virtual Globe - Environmental Hazards (6 EC)	
	Toekomstperspectief voor de Aarde (6 EC)			Verzamelen, Visualiseren & Analyseren (6 EC)		
Year 2	Plant-Soil Practical (3 EC)	Remote Sensing (3 EC)	Programming in R (3 EC)	Challenges for the Blue Planet (6 EC)	Water Management (6 EC)	Scenario Planning (6 EC)
	Plant-Soil Interactions in Food Production Systems (6 EC)	World Food and Ecosystems (6 EC)		From Data to Evidence (3 EC)	Desertification (6 EC)	
				Digital Earth (3 EC)		
	Philosophy of Science (3 EC)	Reflexive Design Project (6 EC)		Geographical Information Systems (6 EC)	Water Governance of Aquatic Resources and Environments (6 EC)	
	Introduction Spatial Planning (3 EC)	Food and the City (6 EC)				
	Governance & Systemic Transformation (6 EC)	Political Economy of Transnational Food Chains (6 EC)	Spatial Implications of Environmental Change (12 EC)			
Year 3	Minor or study abroad (30 EC)			Research Designs (6 EC)	Bachelor Project (18 EC)	Future Planet Project (6 EC)



It works!

- Enrollment increased tenfold.
- Alumni continue in prestigious traditional and interdisciplinary master programs worldwide.

But...

- Interdisciplinary research is lagging behind interdisciplinary teaching.



Sofia Caycedo: one of several Future Planet Studies alumni who enrolled in the Environmental Management master at Yale University, USA.