

Outdoor Conference on Exploring More-than-Human Ecologies of Learning for Deep Environmental Care

Wild Pedagogies gathering 2026



Illustration: [Dafni Petratou](#)

26-30 October 2026

[Het Paradijs, Quadenoord](#)

Renkum (The Netherlands)

Welcome!

We warmly invite researchers, educators and fellow wanderers to join us for the first Wild Pedagogies Gathering in the Netherlands.

Over several days, we will create space to wander with the more-than-human world, gather around the fire, exchange ideas, share practices, spark new collaborations, and imagine wilder futures together.

The gathering coincides with a special milestone: on Wednesday, 28 October 2026, Reineke van Tol (Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands) will defend what is believed to be the first PhD dissertation dedicated entirely to Wild Pedagogies. We hope many of you will join us in celebrating this moment, but above all we hope it offers a meaningful opportunity for our growing international community to connect, learn from one another, and continue shaping the future of Wild Pedagogies together.

The gathering will take place at [The Paradise](#), a beautiful campsite nestled in nature, offering the perfect setting for shared inquiry, outdoor learning, campfire conversations, and encounters with the more-than-human world.

Theme

In line with the dissertation to be defended, the theme of the gathering is:

Wilding Pedagogies. Exploring More-than-Human Ecologies of Learning for Deep Environmental Care.

This gathering invites participants to collectively explore this theme through research, educational practice, artistic inquiry, and lived experience.

Possible questions we may explore together include:

- How can more-than-human ecologies of learning emerge within – or transform – existing educational structures and institutions?
- How is agency distributed within more-than-human ecologies of learning?
- Can deep environmental care – understood as unconditional care for the world that arises from realizing we are part of it – be cultivated through education?
- What new collaborations, practices, and futures might emerge when we gather around these questions?

Call for Sessions

We warmly invite you to contribute to the gathering by proposing a session connected to the overarching theme and suggested questions to explore. From all submissions, we will curate a diverse and inspiring program that reflects the richness of the Wild Pedagogies community.

Possible session formats include:

- **Guided morning practice** (30 minutes) – e.g., meditation, yoga, forest bathing, or other embodied practices
- **Immersive nature experience** (1.5–2 hours)
- **Interactive presentation or workshop** showcasing new research, educational practices, or creative work related to Wild Pedagogies (1–1.5 hours)
- **Nature-based energizer** (15–30 minutes)
- **Excursion, walk, or moving experience** in nature (2–3 hours)
- **Collaborative session** exploring future research opportunities and partnerships (1 hour)
- **Campfire session** for stories, dialogue, music, or shared reflection (approximately 1 hour)
- **Something entirely different!** We warmly welcome creative ideas that do not fit neatly into the categories above.

If you have a preference, please indicate on which day and in what timeslot your session would fit best.

You are welcome to submit more than one proposal, particularly if they involve different types of activities.

There is no strict format for the proposals. Try to keep it to 1 A4.

Proposals can be submitted to reineke.vantol@wur.nl before September 15th

Preliminary program

Please note that all parts of the program are invitations to join. Feel free to roam around, take some time to rest, or do something else at any time.

Monday 26 October – Arrival & Landing

12:00–14:00 Arrival at The Paradise & setting up camp

14:00–15:00 Welcome & landing together

15:00–17:00 Immersive nature experience (led by a participant)

17:00–18:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect**

18:00–19:00 Dinner & shared clean-up

19:00–21:00 Research and practice pitches around the campfire, followed by storytelling and music

Tuesday 27 October – Immersion Day

08:30–09:00 Guided morning practice (led by a participant)

09:00–10:00 Breakfast & shared clean-up

10:00–12:30 Participant-led sessions

12:30–13:30 Lunch & shared clean-up

13:30–14:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect**

14:00–17:00 Participant-led sessions

17:00–18:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect**

18:00–19:00 Dinner & shared clean-up

19:00–21:00 Campfire session (led by participants), followed by storytelling and music

Wednesday 28 October – Celebration & Local Adventure day

08:30–09:00 Guided morning practice (led by a participant)

09:00–10:00 Breakfast & shared clean-up

10:00–11:30 Immersive nature experience, guided walk, or other participant-led activity

11:30–13:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect** and travel to Wageningen Campus

13:00–15:00 **PhD Defense & Reception Reineke van Tol**

[Omnia Auditorium](#), Wageningen Campus

Due to the limited capacity of the venue and catering arrangements, attendance at the graduation party in the afternoon and evening is by personal invitation only.

- 15:00–18:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect** and to travel back to Quadenoord or explore the beautiful city/surroundings of Wageningen/Renkum
- 18–21 Cooking on and eating around the fire, shared clean-up & campfire stories

Thursday 29 October – Digestion Day

- 08:30–09:00 Guided morning practice (led by a participant)
- 09:00–10:00 Breakfast & shared clean-up
- 10:00–12:30 Participant-led sessions
- 12:30–13:30 Lunch & shared clean-up
- 13:30–14:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect**
- 14:00–17:00 Participant-led sessions
- 17:00–18:00 **Time to Wonder, Wander & Connect**
- 18:00–19:00 Dinner & shared clean-up
- 19:00–21:00 Campfire gathering, storytelling & music

Friday 30 October – Farewell

- 08:30–09:00 Guided morning practice (led by a participant)
- 09:00–10:00 Breakfast & shared clean-up
- 10:00–11:00 Closing circle
- 11:00–12:00 Packing up camp & saying goodbye

Food & Catering

Dinner on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday**, together with lunch on **Tuesday and Thursday**, will be prepared by [De Groene Ketel](#) (vegetarian, with vegan options available).

For the dinner on **Wednesday** we will provide ingredients to cook together on the fire.

Participants are kindly asked to arrange their own lunch on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**.

A supermarket as well as several shops and cafes are located nearby in Renkum. Next to the campsite, [Bassie](#) offers sandwiches, snacks, drinks, and ice cream throughout the day.

Facilities

The campsite offers a simple but comfortable setting with:

- Several toilets
- Drinking water
- Warm showers
- A large covered gathering space ("The Giant Hat") with fire pit where we can meet, stay dry, and gather around the fire

Please note that there is **no electricity nor Wi-Fi*** at the campsite. We invite this to become an opportunity to disconnect from our screens and reconnect with each other and the more-than-human world. If you need an internet (or other) connection, please feel welcome at the library of Wageningen University & Research (Forum building).

Weather

Late October in the Netherlands can be unpredictable. Average daytime temperatures are around **13–14°C**, while nights typically cool down to **7–8°C**. Rain and wind are common.

Please bring warm layers, waterproof clothing, sturdy footwear, and camping equipment suitable for autumn conditions.

Tickets

Full Gathering – Small* Tent or Hammock – €230

Includes:

- Four overnight stays in a small hiking tent or hammock
- Three catered and one jointly prepared dinner
- Two catered lunches
- Four breakfasts
- Full participation in the gathering

Full Gathering – Tent, Caravan or Small Camper (<6.5 m) – €250

Includes:

- Four overnight stays in a tent, caravan or small camper
- Three catered and one jointly prepared dinner

* So can we say this is ‘nature’? According to Dutch primary school children we can indeed, see: van Tol, R. S., Elands, B. H., Buijs, A. E., & Schouten, M. G. (2022). Nature Is Where There Is No Electricity and Wifi. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 32(2), 35-58.

* Small tent refers to a light-weight hikers tent you’d be able to carry in a backpack. For bigger tents, please select the other option.

- Two catered lunches
- Four breakfasts
- Full participation in the gathering

Full Gathering – Large Camper (>6.5 m) – €285

Includes:

- Four overnight stays in large camper
- Three catered and one jointly prepared dinner
- Two catered lunches
- Four breakfasts
- Full participation in the gathering

Day Ticket (Tuesday or Thursday) – €75

Includes participation in the full programme on the selected day, together with breakfast, lunch and dinner.

(If you would like to attend both Tuesday and Thursday, please purchase two day tickets.)

Registration

Please register [here](#) before **September 15th**. Please note that you will receive a request for payment after registration. Registration is only completed after payment.

Contact

For questions regarding the outdoor conference, please reach out to reineke.vantol@wur.nl.

We look forward to gathering with you around the fire, deepen our conversations, and continue growing the Wild Pedagogies movement together.

Warm regards,

The organizing team

Reineke van Tol, Louise van der Stok, Lian Kasper, Evita Laheij, Ester Klein-Hesselink