



Save the dates:

23 May

Guest lecture and PhD masterclass Dean Jolliffe (World Bank)

24 May

PhD-Defence Melanie Feeney

21-23 June

New Business Models Conference, Maastricht

23-25 October

MORSE2023 Conference, Maastricht

Calls:

Join the MORSE Social Sciences Simulation Lab Team!

MORSE wants to work towards also establishing itself as a physical research and teaching infrastructure at SBE. The idea that we will be exploring in the next months is to create the **MORSE social sciences simulation lab**, where serious gaming and scenario simulations will be developed as tools for immersive learning in education and post-graduate education and training, but also as a research tool. In the new lab, we can play out slow onset and sudden shocks in realistic scenarios for (future) business, political and academic leaders. Modern ICT technologies and developments in (serious) gaming allow Maastricht University to start experimenting with these new

educational tools and MORSE will gladly take the lead in developing this for the urgent challenges that our society faces. It will make MORSE a place in addition to a network.

This project is still very much in the exploration stage, but if you are interested and enthusiastic about joining us, please reach out to m.sanders@maastrichtuniversity.nl to indicate your interest and relevant expertise. We will organize a first brainstorming session to plan a course, divide tasks and collect ideas in May 2023. We aim to develop this into a proposal (chat GPT wrote an interesting first draft you could find [here](#)) to the SBE and UM board by the end of 2023.



MORSE Blogs

MORSE continues with its blog series! Every Monday at alternate weeks until end of July, MORSE will publish short blog entries. Read the last blog about whether ESG improves market efficiency [here](#). The next blog will be published on April 11th, authored by Laura Kirsch. Follow MORSE on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) to not miss out on any new blog posts!

Would you also like to contribute to our blog series? Let us know writing an email at morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl, we are planning the autumn schedule!

Internship Opportunity

The European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) is a non-profit organization that offers internship opportunities in financial and sustainability reporting. The internship offers two different positions in either financial reporting, which influences the development of IFRS Accounting Standards or sustainability reporting, which

supports drafting European Sustainability Reporting Standards. The intern's responsibilities include supporting EFRAG staff in drafting technical documents and their engagement with EFRAG's governance bodies, working groups, or other external stakeholders. The internship provides a unique experience in a dynamic and multicultural environment, and the intern will have access to a rich network of corporate reporting stakeholders. To apply, candidates should send their CVs and letters of motivation to rf@efrag.org. You can obtain more information and requirements by clicking on [this link](#)!

MORSE travel grants

To support MORSE researchers in reaching out to colleagues and stakeholders, it is important that especially our early career researchers have sufficient resources to travel. Of course, we encourage you to consider the environment and travel by train whenever possible. You can request financial support from MORSE for up to 50% of your travel budget, with a maximum of 500 euros for travel within Europe and 1000 euro beyond Europe. Apply at least 2 weeks before your departure by sending a half-page motivated request detailing your topic, the event and a simple budget plan, to veronica.menegatto@maastrichtuniversity.nl. Find more information, a slide deck template, and exact requirements by clicking on [this link](#).

News and Events

News:

The New MORSE Executive Board

MORSE has a new Executive Board, meeting once a month, which consists out of Mark Sanders, René Kemp, Tina Comes, Maria Tomai and Jaap Bos. Their different fields and backgrounds in research highlight MORSE's vision to support transdisciplinary research around the challenge of building more resilient, responsible, and sustainable societies, enterprises, and economies.

Past Events:

The MORSE Week “Conferences of Conferences” 2022

Last year, from the 20th until the 26th October 2022, a series of events organized by MORSE took place. The week included many workshops, lectures, and student trips, tackling various topics ranging from Climate to Investors and Stakeholder Relationships of the Future. From October 26th to 28th, MORSE further supported and attended the 20th Interdisciplinary European Conference on Entrepreneurship Research. Find more information [here](#)!



Workshop on a Natural Social Contract

In the St Jan's church in Maastricht on Jan 30, around 50 people met to discuss the topic of a natural social contract. The workshop entitled "*RE-NEGOTIATE: A New Social Contract in an age of crises*" preceded the inaugural lecture of Patrick Huntjens on the same topic. Via the live stream, 600 people watched the event (co-funded by MORSE). You can find more information by clicking on [this link!](#)



MORSE Research Day

MORSE hosted its **Research Impact Day** on January 30th. The program included a session on Problem-Based Research given by Prof. René Kemp and Erwin de Bruin, followed by the 2023 Thesis Award Ceremony, and concluded with a New Year

reception and networking. René Kemp discussed the complexity of societal problems and how Problem-Based Research can address them through transdisciplinary research. Erwin de Bruin presented the energy transition program of the Maastricht Municipality as an example of Problem-Based Research in practice. The program aims to achieve a climate-neutral municipal organization by 2030 and a climate-neutral Maastricht by 2050. You can find more information on [our website](#).



MORSE Thesis Prizes 2022

The MORSE Research Impact Day included the 2022 Thesis Award Ceremony, which recognized theses that have potential societal impact. The winners of the MORSE Best BSc.-Thesis Award were Kira Kappe, and Martina Bighignoli as the runner-up, while Nick Adzic won the MORSE Best MSc.-Thesis Award, with Nicola Grande and Sarah Lemp named runner-ups. The event closed with the MORSE New Year Reception, providing a networking opportunity and interview sessions with some MORSE fellows. A more detailed description of the event can be found on [our website](#).

Elverding Student Conference on Sustainable Business

On the afternoon of March 13th, the *Elverding Student Conference* on sustainable business for a sustainable future happened in Maastricht. There is a growing expectation for companies to consider sustainability and social issues beyond just creating profits, and new regulations are emerging to enforce this expectation. The conference explores the role of directors and shareholders in promoting sustainable decision-making and how sustainability can be protected during takeovers. Concrete

discussion topics were among others the effectiveness of Private Shareholder Engagement, A Sustainable Future from the Perspective of the Board of Directors, and Sustainability and Takeovers. Find more information by clicking on [this link](#).

Sustainable Finance Workshop

Maastricht University joined the Sustainable Finance Workshop as co-organiser alongside the Université Paris Dauphine-PSL, hosted by HEC Liège on March 14th 2023! The Workshop started with a welcome coffee and breakfast, which was followed by different workshop sessions that discussed topics amongst others ESG, Financials & Performance, and Climate Finance. Rob Bauer from Maastricht University chaired the session on Investor Attention to ESG. You can find more about the programme and exact discussion points [here](#)!

Future Events:

NBM 2023

Maastricht School of Business and Economics to host an international conference on Sustainability and New Business Models in Summer 2023

The School of Business and Economics is hosting the 8th International Conference on New Business Models NBM2023. The conference will take place in a hybrid setting from June 21st to 23rd. Registration is possible until April 30th! Click on [this link](#) to find out more!

Guest Lecture

Dr. Dean Jolliffe on Monitoring Global Poverty: Measurement Challenges & Developments

On **May 23rd** the World Bank Lead Economist (Global Poverty & Inequality team), Dr. Dean Jolliffe, will visit Maastricht University. You can register for the lecture on Global Poverty [here](#) (15:30-17:00, Aula, TS53). In Dean's Masterclass (13:30-15:00, H0.06, TS53) you can register [here](#) to either be among the 4 Master students or PhD candidates to present their work, or otherwise to follow the Masterclass as an observer.

MORSE Conference 2023

We will organise the MORSE conference 2023 on October 23-25 in Maastricht.

The conference will have a track on each of the MORSE themes, chaired by our theme leaders. The theme-leaders have been invited to submit their track-descriptions and

we will publish the call for papers and open the conference webpage in April 2023. Please disseminate this to your networks!

Scholars from UM, the Netherlands, Europe and beyond will convene in Maastricht around the theme Science for a Sustainable, Resilient and Responsible Future and will discuss state of the art academic work as well as engage in trans- and interdisciplinary discussions on how these latest insights can help in addressing today's most urgent societal challenges.

MORSE PhD Workshop 2023

We will contribute to the PhD-day on June 15

This year MORSE will contribute a session to the PhD-day on June 15th at 1.00pm (FASoS premises). MORSE will present on effectively engaging societal challenges and creating impact with problem based research. We hope to inspire our young scholars to join the mission of MORSE and prepare them for the important trends towards more engaged and impactful academic research.

PhD-Defenses and Inaugural Lectures

Melanie Feeney

Melanie Feeney will defend her dissertation at Maastricht University on Wednesday, May 24th, at 16.00. Her research was supervised by Wim Gijssels, Therese Grohnert and Pim Martens and was funded by the pre-cursor of the MORSE spearhead: "Sustainable Finance". You are invited to attend her PhD defence.

Research:

Projects

Erasmus+ ECOffee Project on Sustainable Coffee Consumption

The ECOffee project is a two-year ERASMUS+ project that aims to develop innovative educational methods to promote sustainable consumption habits to adults, particularly producers and consumers in the coffee industry. The project's goal is to trigger a transformative, systemic change in consumption habits by utilizing existing and developing new tools and methods based on the principles of Technology Enhanced Learning. The project will result in a sustainable cafeteria cluster, video tutorials for consumers, an e-guidebook for cafeteria owners and trainers, and a smartphone application for sustainable and eco-friendly coffee consumption habits. More information can be found on [our website](#).

Highlighted Publications

Melanie Feeney, Therese Grohnert (ERD), Pim Martens (UCV) and Wim Gijsselaers (ERD), published the article “Organizations, Learning, and Sustainability: A Cross-Disciplinary Review and Research Agenda” Click on [the link](#) to read the article!

Rob Bauer, Nora Pakrartz, and Jeroen Derwall published their paper “Climate Change, Firm Performance, and Investor Surprises”. Click [this link](#) to read the full article!

Ruud Gerards and with Riccardo Welters (James Cook University) published, “Unemployment benefit eligibility requirements and perceived time pressure. Click [this link](#) to read the full article.

New Vacancies and Hires

As of March 1 2023 Eoghen O’Connell has started working on the DIAMOND PhD-project: “Improving the Representation of Labor Markets in Integrated Assessment Models” under the supervision of Lex Borghans and Mark Sanders.

Also in the DIAMOND project, the MILE department is now recruiting for a PhD-project on “Improving the Representation of Financial Markets in Integrated Assessment Models” under supervision of Mark Sanders and Friedemann Polzin (Utrecht University).

Together with the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) Nils Kok and Mark Sanders are recruiting a PhD student to work on the financial impacts of physical climate risks in the Netherlands.

This is (inevitably) only a short list of the events, publications and projects MORSE-members are involved in. If you can use our support in developing your proposals or would like your project to be announced and shared in the next New Endeavours, please send a description like the ones above to morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Do you have other relevant news you would like to share with MORSE community?

Reach out to morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl, we’ll make sure to publish it in the next Newsletter.