



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

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Bergen, 20 January 2015

**Subject: rejection of de WAR bid on Warner Jenkinson buildings**

To: Mayor & Municipal Executive and the Municipal Council of Amersfoort  
(College van B&W en Gemeenteraad)

Dear Municipality of Amersfoort,

As a world leading academic unit in research on the relation between Science and Society we would like to express our deep concern about the recent developments that threaten the future of Universiteit Amersfoort and the various Citizen Science initiatives of De WAR at the Warner Jenkinson Campus.

Last December we organised the first major international scientific symposium on the future of science (theme: "Science for Policy: Post-Normal Science in Practice") here in Bergen, where we invited Diana Wildschut to give a presentation of the unique bottom up peer-to-peer approach to Citizen Science developed and practiced by Amersfoort University.

Their inspiring vision and practice of Citizen Science has been very well received and welcomed by leading international scholars in the field of Science in Society brought together in our symposium, such as Prof Brian Wynne (Lancaster University), Prof Jerry Ravetz (Oxford University), Prof Mario Giampietro (Autonomous University of Barcelona), Prof Jeroen van der Sluijs (Bergen University & Utrecht University), Prof Silvio Funtowicz (Bergen University) and Dr Andrea Saltelli (European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra).

We plan to organise the 3rd international scientific conference in this series in 2016 (theme: *Applied Story Telling in Practice*) at the Universiteit Amersfoort on their Warner Jenkinson Campus, which is a very attractive location for such a major international scientific event.

Over the past year, Universiteit Amersfoort has become an important international partner for our centre in various research proposals. Recent research proposals with Universiteit Amersfoort as a partner include:

- *Go Figure: Visualizing Climate Change* (FIGO)
- *Understanding Cultural Conditions for Climate Change Adaptation* (UC4A)

Both are so-called Researcher Network Proposals submitted under the Norwegian SAMKUL (Cultural conditions underlying social change <http://goo.gl/2ho6mJ>) funding scheme and are currently under review.

We further initiated a researcher exchange between the *Measure-your-City* (Meet je stad!) project of Amersfoort University and the international flag ship project led by our group: *Transforming Climate Knowledge with and for Society* (TRACKS <http://www.uib.no/en/rg/tracks>). Prof. Dr. Mohammed Mahfujul Haque from Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh, who leads the TRACKS

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work package on Citizen Science, will spend a 3 week working visit at the Warner Jenkinson Campus of Universiteit Amersfoort this spring, to exchange approaches and experiences with the Amersfoort Measure your City project.

We are keen to further develop our collaborations with Amersfoort University's grass root initiatives to restore the troubled relationships between science and society. This, however, requires that you as municipal authorities, give these initiatives for the redevelopment of the Warner Jenkinson site a chance to develop their potential.

The plan developed by De WAR for sustainable spatial development of the Warner Jenkinson industrial heritage site – both physical and institutional - draws on state of the art scientific insights such as genetic algorithms for sustainable financing and spatial development, and on peer to peer community building. This visionary blend of approaches is highly promising and unique in the world.

We urge the City of Amersfoort to reconsider the initial decision to reject the proposal of De WAR and give these self-sustaining important social experiments and initiatives a fair chance to test and prove their long term viability.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

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