

Innovative ideas in the social sciences and humanities

Scientist Wanted

Scientific discoveries done in the past are crucial for our daily lives and have a large impact on our society. The relevance of this is acknowledged by the large financial investments that are done by the Dutch government

each year into science. However, the visibility of researchers and the knowledge about their work is disappointingly small compared to the impact of the scientific discoveries. We believe this is mainly due to the fact that researchers who can enthusiastically communicate about their research and people who are interested to give these people a chance to present, have a hard time finding each other. To overcome this challenge, we want to create an online platform where scientists can present themselves and where organizations can find a scientist that fits their needs.



The online platform will consist of public profiles of researchers including keywords that describe their preferences, as well as short videos in which the scientist presents him/herself. Event organizers can enter their preferences in a search engine, or just scroll through the profiles presented on the website.

We believe that by direct contact of scientists with their audience, this platform can contribute to bringing science and society closer to each other. But even more important, the platform is of benefit to scientists that like to communicate to a general audience but had too little opportunities yet, as well as to organizers for whom otherwise the threshold to invite a scientist would be too large.

We are three interdisciplinary neuroscientists with an interest in public outreach, who encountered the issue of finding the right scientist for the conference we were organizing. We were surprised to find that no platform existed where scientists present themselves in a clear manner. This led us to develop such a platform, in which easy access for both scientists and organizations should be the first priority. We thus offer not only an easy-access platform for organizations, but also a springboard for scientists to develop their communication skills towards various audiences.

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