

SEASON'S GREETINGS

From the VLAG Office

Dear all,

This year has been a special one in many different ways, and I would like to thank you all for all your efforts to keep things running in 2020; a year that will go into history because of the many challenges that it put on our plates. I feel that many of the solutions that we searched for to keep things manageable were found! What I appreciate is that these solutions were found within ourselves, and the team / groups, and this is something that I am very grateful for. I am very aware that this did not materialize just like that, and that you all needed to put a lot of extra effort in, so thank you all very much, and keep up the good work!

I hope that you all have a wonderful festive season (as far as covid allows of course) and wish you all the very best for 2021!

Kind regards, also on behalf of the VLAG team
Karin



Anouk, Vesna, Suzanne, Cornelia, Eva, Yvonne and Karin would like to wish all of you happy holidays and warm wishes for a safe and healthy 2021!

From the VLAG PhD Council

Dear fellow VLAG – PhDs!

This year ends with a strange realization, this won't be over soon.

What started with a lockdown in spring, ends with a lockdown in December as well and crosses travel plans, family visits and like throughout the year, affects your PhD.

With the approval of the new vaccine by the EU there is some prospect of improvement for 2021, but as researchers we know that those things take time.

Also in the upcoming months we will need each other's support to cope with the consequences of the pandemic.

Christmas time is usually the time to give something back.

A helpful hand here, a listening ear there; it may also just be a friendly word or smile that makes the difference. In times, where giving a hug is more difficult than it sounds, we have found new ways of showing sympathy. Virtual coffee breaks, a walk at 1.5m-distance, even online borrels and birthdays.

It is like reinventing the wheel – it sounds so trivial but still requires quite some effort and energy.

We hope that despite the tricky situation, you'll have time during the holidays to rest, relax, recharge and reflect. We, as the VLAG PhD Council, and your fellow PhD colleagues, are sure you have done great! You have done your best to juggle your PhD project and your private life after the distancing rules have turned our habits and rhythms upside down.

Now, let's look forward to a new year with surely more challenges but also with new opportunities and new chances.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, a peaceful holiday and a safe transition into 2021!

And we'd like to remind you: **We're all in this together!**

Don't hesitate to let us know about any problems, concerns or fears; but also feel free to [share](#) your corona rituals or tricks to stay motivated.

Your fellow colleagues of the [VLAG PhD Council](#)