

A Note to Our Readers

Dear readers of Public Note,

About one year ago, a second, brand-new editorial board made up of masters and PhD students was instated in Public Note. Our mission: to create a platform to help young researchers (bachelor-, master-, and PhD-students) take their first steps into the world of academic publishing.

First steps are always exciting, but there is a fine line between exciting and scary. When a child takes their first steps, usually parents are there to cheer them on and catch them when they fall. This creates a safe environment in which they learn how to stand, take their first steps and eventually, walk. Similarly, Public Note strives to provide a safe environment for aspiring academics – by providing guidance and constructive feedback along the way and making sure there are possibilities to learn.

This year, we substantiate our mission to promote work done by young researchers through a collaboration with the Undergraduate Research Symposium of the University of Utrecht. The Undergraduate Research Symposium offers excellent bachelor students the possibility to present their research in a symposium setting. The best papers are awarded with prizes. From this year onwards, the best papers will also be rewarded with the possibility to publish in the Public Note Undergraduate Edition. In these editions, authors communicate their research findings through essays or creative formats after rounds of stringent peer reviews. In this way, we hope to challenge students to think about science creatively and how to communicate their knowledge to broader audiences.

We are so proud of the promising students who publish their findings in this edition. Students of today are the prize-winning researchers and professors of tomorrow.

We wish you a lot of fun and insight in reading their papers and bio's.

Tara Tankink (Co-Editor in Chief)

On behalf of the editorial board of Public Note

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