



# Citizen Science

17/06/2024

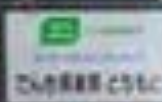
Michiel van Oudheusden

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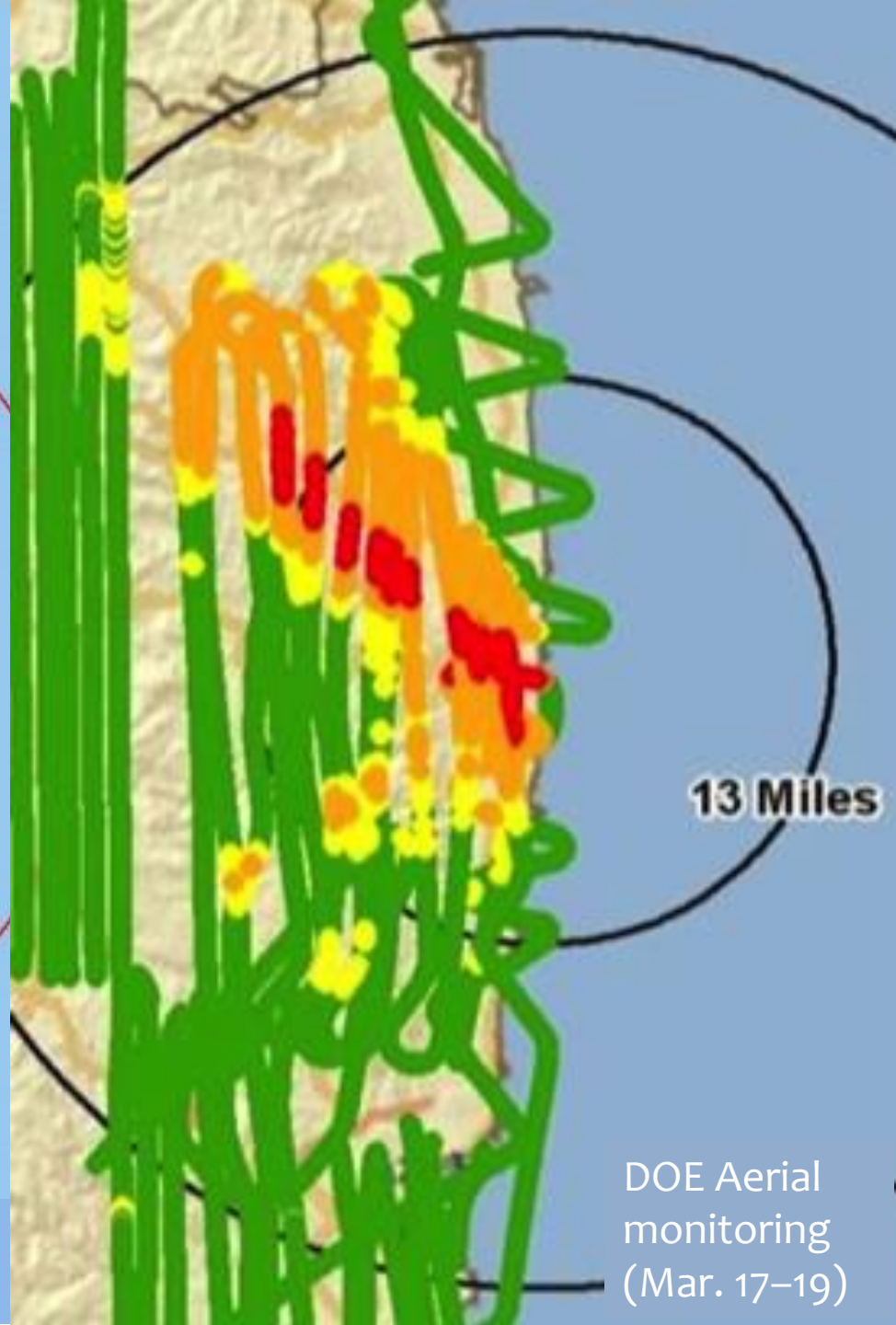












# *Do-it-yourself* Citizen Science

**Need for reliable,  
actionable data NOW**

Breach of public trust in  
formal science and policy





# Safecast



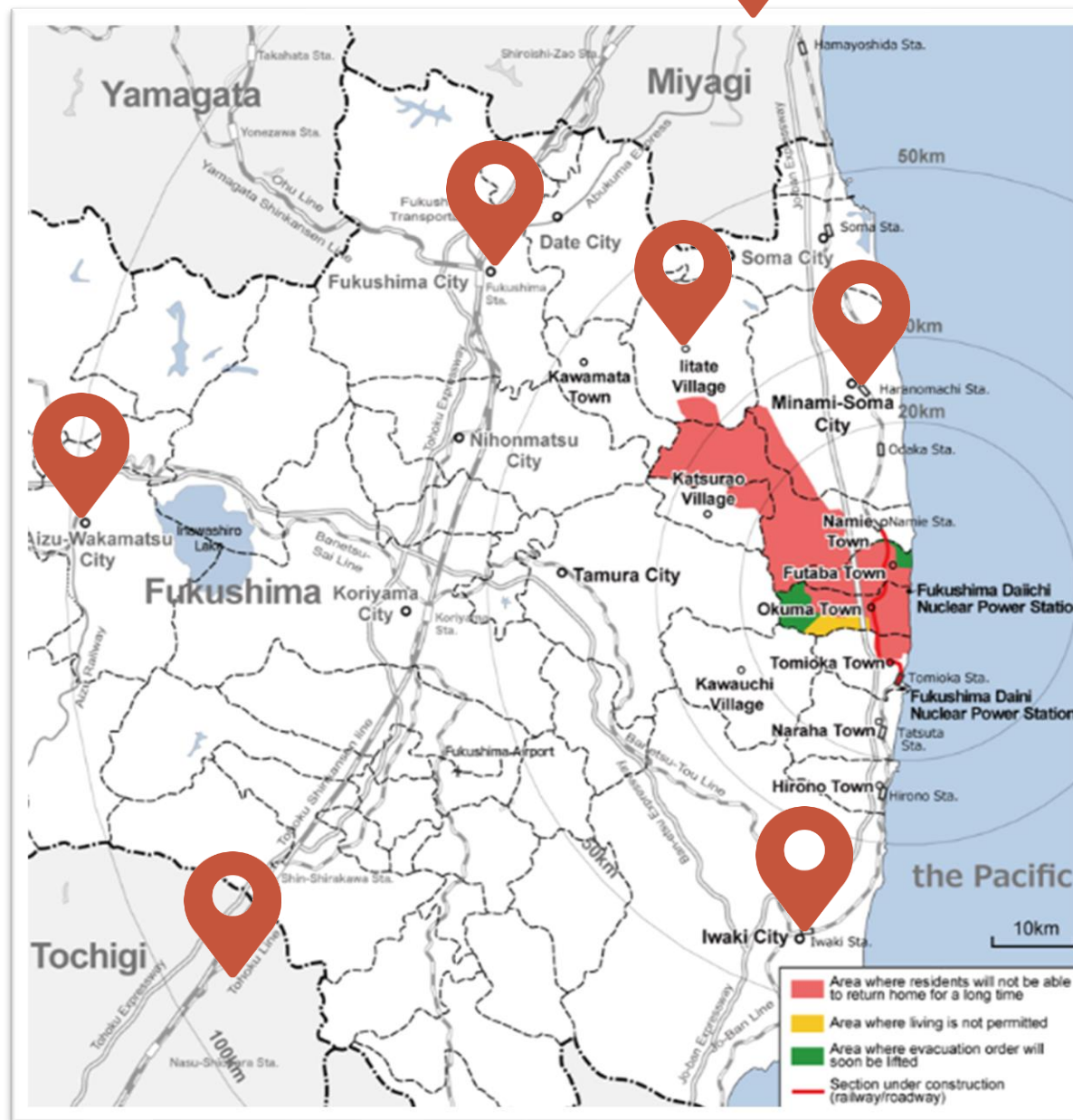


Shalom Disaster  
Support Center  
(Fukushima city)

Fukushima 30 Year  
Project (Fukushima  
city)

Aizu Radiation  
Information Center  
(Aizu Wakamatsu)

The Fortress of  
Hope in Nasu  
(Nasu)



Small Flower  
Independent  
Radiation  
Measurement Lab  
(Sendai)

Radiation  
Measuring Center,  
Todokedori  
(Minami-Soma)

Iwaki Radiation  
Measuring Center,  
Tarachine  
(Iwaki)

Iitate Farm  
(Iitate)

Source: <http://www.jaif.or.jp/en/fukushima/>



# Flanders, Belgium









# Scientific and societal impact

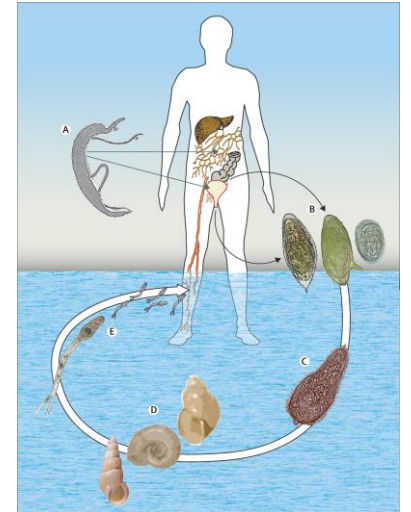
- CuriousNoses Flanders: largest citizen science project on air quality to date
- 20.000 citizens measuring NO<sub>2</sub>
- Enormous interest
  - Media reporting
- Hundreds of spin-offs
  - Example: Ireland: Let's Clear the Air
- New air pollution policies in cities
  - Low Emission Zones
  - More biking, public transport
  - Continuous measuring and monitoring





# Uganda: ATRAP

- Africa: over 400 million people lack access to safe water. Every time they fetch water, they expose themselves to vector-borne parasitic diseases
- Schistosomiasis (bilharzia) caused by parasitic flatworms
- A key element in the disease's life cycle: **snails**
- ATRAP engages community members in scientific activities, specifically snail monitoring, but also in the design of community led intervention campaigns



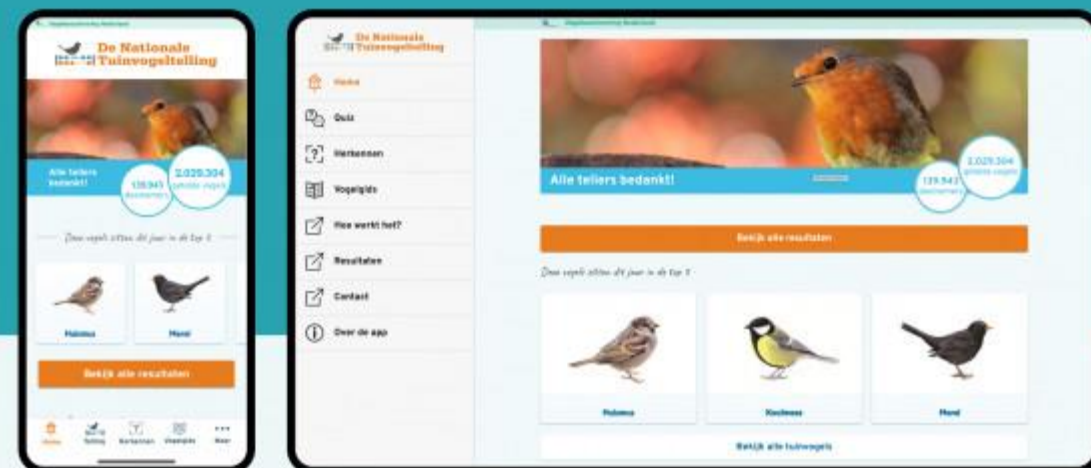
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33158719/>



Hét *grootste*  
tuinonderzoek  
van Nederland!



## IN EEN VOGELVLUCHT





# Flanders and the Netherlands

## deGroteGriep&CoronaMeting

DE VIRUSSEN IN KAART GEBRACHT VOOR NEDERLAND EN BELGIË



Log in

[Home](#) [Over griep](#) [Over Corona](#) [Resultaten](#) [Griepvaccinatie](#) [Het project](#) [Archief](#) [Contact](#)

### De Grote Griep&CoronaMeting

Beste mede-meter,

In het najaar van 2020 zijn wij gestart met de Grote Griep&Coronameting. Daarmee hebben we met circa 4.000 meters de verspreiding van het griep- en coronavirus gemonitord.

De meting is een burgerinitiatief van de Stichting Citizen Science. Het is een vervolg op de Grote Griepmeting. Beide projecten zijn met eigen middelen gefinancierd.

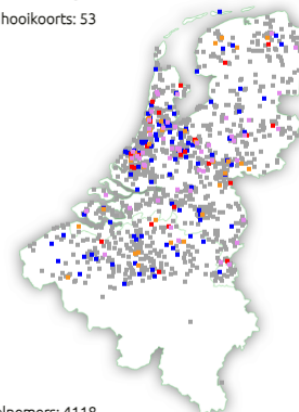
Het griepseizoen is nu bijna voorbij. Het coronavirus is nog wel actief, maar levert nog maar in beperkte mate besmettingen op. De maatregelen om verspreiding van het coronavirus actief tegen te gaan, zijn niet meer geldig.

Gezien de beperkte financiële middelen en de geringe prevalentie van beide virussen hebben we besloten de Grote Griep&Coronameting met ingang van

Kaart Griep Corona Verkoudheid

◀ Status week: 14 - 2023 ▶

- geen ziekteverschijnselen: 2038
- vermoedelijk griep: 26
- verkoudheid: 114
- vermoedelijk covid-19: 39
- hoofkoorts: 53



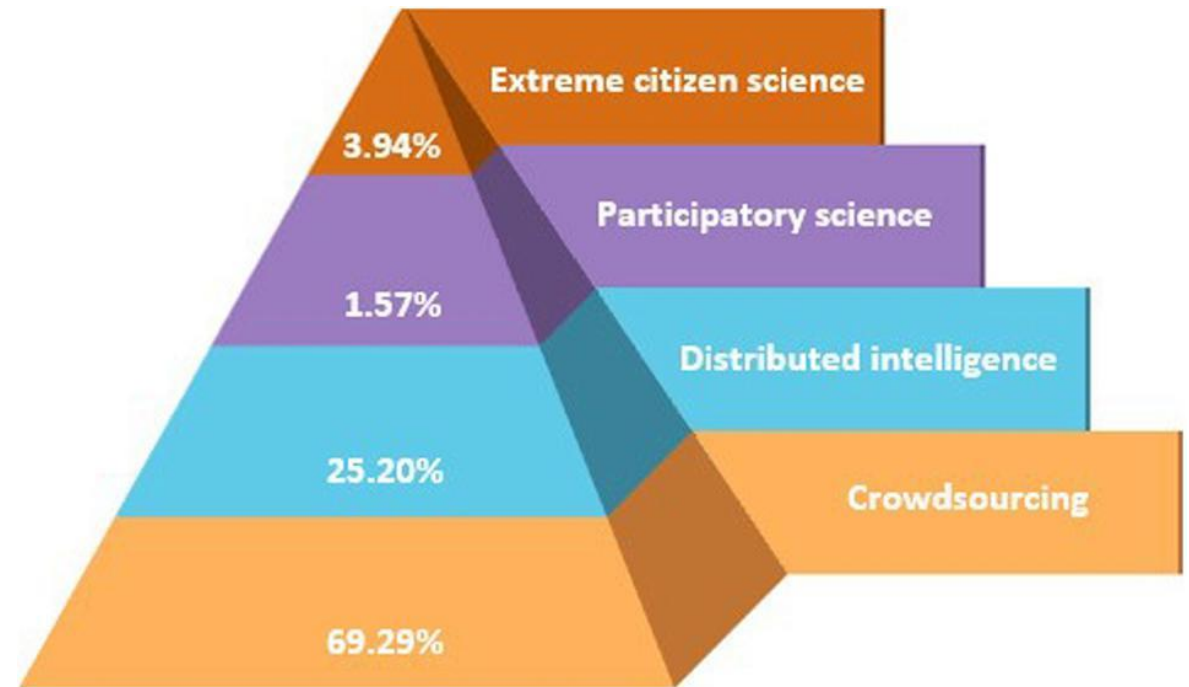
aantal deelnemers: 4118





# Various types of citizen science

- Crowdsourcing
- Distributed intelligence
- Participatory
- Extreme (Co-created)







Top-down



Bottom-up





# Definitions

- **Dominant definition:** Involving amateur scientists and lay people in scientific activities such as data collection (Bonney, 1996: 7-15).
- **Alternative definition:** ‘Opening up’ science and science policy to wider publics (Irwin 1996).
- **Co-creative citizen science**, where citizens participate in all levels of a project, from designing the research question to analyzing data (Shirk et al., 2012).
- “Public engagement is meaningful when it contributes to the *democratisation* of knowledge development” - Moving Forward Together with [Open Science](#), Rathenau Institute

# Institutionalization has kicked in





Joint  
Research  
Centre



# CITIZEN SCIENCE COMES OF AGE

*Efforts to engage the public in research are bigger and more diverse than ever. But how much more room is there to grow?*

BY AISLING IRWIN



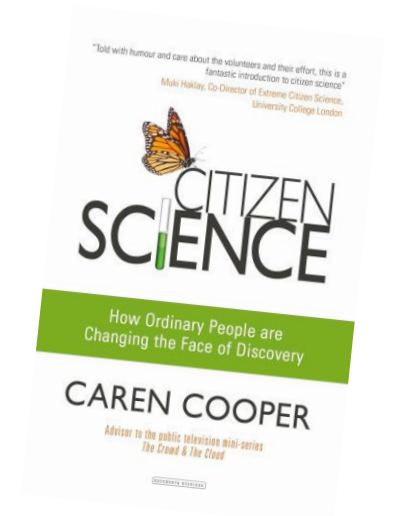
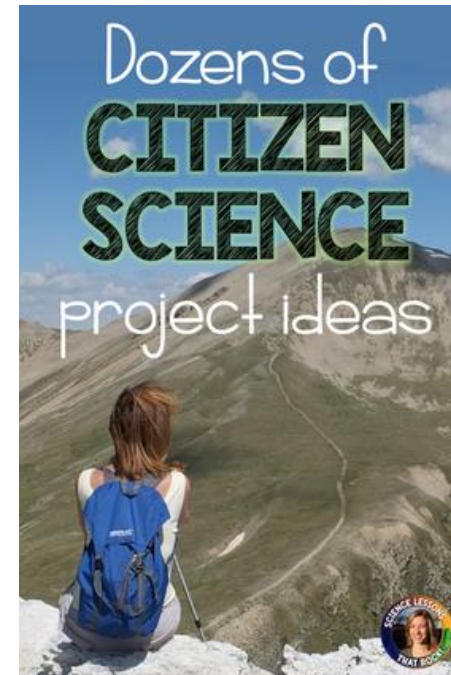
# Valuable plurality of the citizen sciences

- Citizen science is a multilayered concept
- Involves the public in science and technology – and data collection
- Role of citizens can be expansive or limited
  - *Citizen science projects actively involve citizens in scientific endeavour that generates new knowledge or understanding. Citizens may act as contributors, collaborators, or as project leader and have a meaningful role in the project* (ECSA, 10 principles of CS, <https://osf.io/xpr2n/>)
- Guiding idea: Scientists and citizens benefit
  - But this is not always the case
- Value to be found in all citizen science approaches

Van Oudheusden, M., Berti Suman, A., Huyse, T., Huyse, H. and Medvecky, F. (2024) “The Valuable Plurality of the Citizen Sciences”, *Science & Technology Studies*, 37(1), pp. 10–20. <https://doi.org/10.23987/sts.126210>

# Citizen science fields

- Art
- Astronomy
- Biodiversity
- Conservation
- Ecology
- Environment
- Health
- History
- Libraries
- Pollution
- Smart cities
- Social sciences
- ...





# Resources

- Open Science NL <https://www.openscience.nl/>
- European Citizen Science Association (ECSA) <https://www.ecsa.ngo/>
- Citizen Science & Theory [journal] <https://theoryandpractice.citizenscienceassociation.org/>



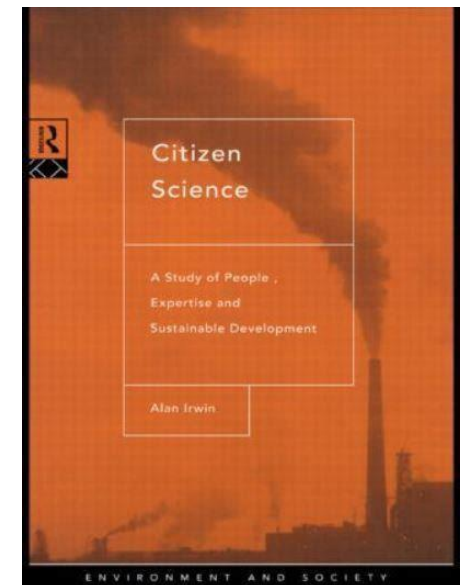


**Friday 19 July**

## **Panel on citizen science: possibilities, tensions, and transformations**

Convenor: Shachi Mokashi

Chairs: Alan Irwin and Michiel van Oudheusden





# References

Bonney R (1996) Citizen science: A Lab Tradition. *Living Bird* 15: 7-15.

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