



VESTING

Study Association for Econometrics,
Operations Research & Actuarial Studies

Conference

Unleashing the Future: Economic
Innovation, AI Integration

May 15, 2024

Flonk Hotel Zuid

Sponsors:

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VESTING is affiliated with the
Economics and Business student
Faculty association

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Can you do better?

At Portwise we are continuously working on solutions that make operations at container terminals run more efficiently. Decreasing the waiting queues by applying better algorithms or reducing the driving distances with better job selection procedures are just some examples how we try to make the traffic flow on a container terminal as smooth as possible.

If you like solving these puzzles, we would like to meet you!



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Preface

Dear participant of the VESTING Conference 2024,

On behalf of the VESTING Conference Committee, I would like to welcome you to this year's VESTING Conference. This year's theme is 'Unleashing the Future: Economic innovation, AI integration'. In this magazine you will find a detailed overview of the day and useful information about the speakers and the companies that will attend during the day. You will also find a short case description about the cases given by COMPANY, Districon, Portwise and WTW.

The speakers will inform you about their career path and other inspiring experiences they encountered after their studies

That being said I will, on behalf of the entire VESTING Conference Committee, wish you an exciting and educative day!



Jesse Indrisie

Chairman

VESTING Conference Committee

Day Programme

09.00 - 09.30	Welcome
09.30 - 09.45	Opening
09.45 - 10.35	First speaker
10.40 - 11.30	Second speaker
11.30 - 11.50	Coffee break
11.55 - 12.45	Third speaker
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch
13.45 - 15.45	Cases
15.45 - 16.05	Coffee break
16.10 - 17.00	Fourth speaker
17:00 - 17:15	Closure
17.15 - 18.15	Drinks
19.00 Onward	Dinner at 't Zwarte Schaap

Unleashing the Future

This year's conference is aimed at econometrics students who are interested in learning how the integration of AI is changing the business world. We believe that as we integrate AI more and more into the business world, the economic innovation will only increase.

During the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in case studies provided by some of the top companies in the industry, including Districon, Portwise, and WTW. These companies all have a different way of incorporating AI in their work.

Our keynote speakers, who are experts in their fields, will share their insights on how the integration of AI will benefit the economic innovation. There will also be panel discussions and networking opportunities to allow attendees to engage with industry professionals and their peers.



UNLEASHING THE FUTURE



Your actuarial future in sharp focus

WTW is a global advisory, broking and solutions company. Our skilled, talented and collaborative teams work together across various functions, influencing nearly every aspect of our clients' businesses.

In our Insurance Consulting & Technology (IC&T) and Retirement divisions, many of our colleagues have degrees in Econometrics, with Groningen being well-represented. At WTW you'll support clients in the insurance or pension market on key strategic projects. We're looking for individuals who have affinity with modelling and quantitative problem solving, and possess excellent interpersonal skills for presenting results.

If you recognise yourself in the above description and would thrive in a dynamic, international environment, WTW could be the perfect fit for you! Apply now through: <https://careers.wtwco.com/>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact colleagues Noortje (Noortje.Stolk@wtwco.com) or Joost (Joost.Wilbers@wtwco.com) for IC&T or Simone (Simone.Schepers@wtwco.com) for Retirement.



Speakers



Jord Schepel

Chair of the day

Born and raised in Rotterdam, Jord moved to Groningen to study Econometrics & Operations Research, where amongst others he joined the VESTING Board as treasurer and vice-chairman. After Groningen, Jord did internships in both private equity and politics, before finishing his studies in Rotterdam with a degree in Quantitative Finance.

His analytical and financial background brought him to the Corporate Development team at Picnic, where he raised € 1B in two investment rounds and is involved in long-term strategic projects, such as market expansion and automation.

Next to Picnic, Jord is active in the board of the Lideke Wery Foundation, providing free education to underprivileged youth in Sri Lanka. Happy to not have been replaced by AI – yet –, Jord is able to share his view on the future of business, brought with bubbling energy and a smile.



Dick Hordijk

CEO Agrifirm

I studied Business Econometrics at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and later on also studied Register Controllers at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. I've held various positions in Finance and Supply Chain during my first 20 years of work experience. Afterwards, I became General Manager at Cargill, and since 2016, I've been the CEO at Agrifirm.

I primarily used my education in practice to demonstrate improvement potential through reporting and analysis and to involve people in this process. I still enjoy making analyses, but I rely on the work of others in this regard. My current work is more strategic and focused on people management. Again, this often involves logical thinking, proving once more that Econometrics is widely applicable.



Tom van der Woude

Manager at Amsterdam Data Collective

My name is Tom, I'm 28 years old and I've studied Econometrics at the University of Amsterdam during which I was a teaching assistant for multiple mathematical and operations research related courses. After my studies (in 2017) I've started at Building Blocks, which at the time was a data science consulting of about 25 people. Over the course of 6 years we expanded the company and transformed from consulting to a SaaS company where I became Head of Product and got the opportunity to greatly influence what we've built, but also learned how to create a high performing development team and create processes that support the product development lifecycle. After the company was sold I was looking for a new challenge and came across ADC, a broad Data & AI consulting with offices in Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Stockholm that is currently with about 150 people and is experiencing very rapid growth. I mostly enjoy the Collective nature of our organisation, where we try to stay away from hierarchy and bureaucracy. Naturally this is very exciting, but also comes with great organisational challenges on how we work together and be successful as a Collective. I'm currently active as a manager in our Analytics Competence Center.



Chiel Tjeerdsma

Team Leader & Pension Calculation
Analyst at TKP Pensioen

After completing his studies in Econometrics & Operations Research in 2018, Chiel started working at TKP Pensioen in Groningen. As a team leader, he is responsible for a team that focuses on the accuracy of the calculation models behind pension entitlements and their expression. In his talk, Chiel takes you with him into the world of pension administration, the projects and challenges that have come his way during his career, and he discusses one of the largest transitions in pension legislation currently underway.



Mick van Ottele

Junior Data Engineer at
CUMLAUDE.AI

Hi, dear VESTING Members!

Some of you may still remember me as the former chairman of the VESTING Board. For those who don't, allow me to introduce myself briefly!

I studied Econometrics at the RUG, completing both the bachelor's and master's programs. During my first year, I was part of the Activity Committee, with whom I organized various events for VESTING. In later years, I took on roles such as organizing the VESTING Career Experience, serving on the VESTING Board, and mentoring first-year Econometrics students.

In May 2024, I will have the honor of being the opening speaker at the VESTING Conference. During my speech, I will share insights into my academic journey at the RUG, my experiences as a student, and my transition to working at CUMLAUDE.AI. Currently, I serve as a backend engineer, assisting clients in setting up their data environments. Our base is in Zwolle, which means I commute roughly three times a week. I work alongside a team of 15 enthusiastic young individuals that enjoy both working hard, and enjoying life!

I'm eager to delve deeper into my student life experiences and my role as a data engineer at CUMLAUDE.AI during the conference. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Companies

DISTRICON

a company of Royal HaskoningDHV

Districon

Company profile

Districon – part of Royal HaskoningDHV – is a supply chain consultancy group consisting of about 80 consultants. In the supply chain area, we are one of the largest specialized providers of advisory, solutions and professionals. Our strength is to streamline, to accelerate and to enrich processes. In short, we optimize the flow of goods, from producer to consumer, or reversed, from consumer back to the source.

Case description

Our case will be about optimizing a supply chain network for a retail company. The main business question to answer is: where should we set up our warehouses, and how should we allocate our customers towards these warehouses, such that we keep our logistic costs and carbon footprint as low as possible?

Portwise

portwise®

Company profile

Are you interested in using simulation models to solve challenging logistic problems and implement the results in a real operating terminal?

By tuning and optimizing simulation models that mimic actual terminals, you determine the optimal terminal design! Because every terminal has its own unique characteristics, every project is different and leads to different logistical challenges to solve.

You can provide a terminal with the type of equipment and amount of equipment that gives the best performance while also taking the costs into consideration.

To stay at the forefront of developments in the port and warehouse business, Portwise is working on various research initiatives.

About Portwise

Portwise was founded in 1996 as part of TBA Group and became independent since 2022. We are a world-leading consultancy and simulation firm for logistics in ports, terminals and warehouses. We stand for progress and impact; we work mission-driven and help transform logistics to become future and planet proof. We do this with a mindset of curiosity and creativity, together as a team and with our clients and other stakeholders in the logistic chain. Above all, we love our work. We use our state-of-the-art models, expertise, and skills to make a positive impact on business, people, and planet.

Working at Portwise

We value togetherness and believe in the power of collaboration, teamwork, and unity to achieve our goals and create a positive work culture. Therefore, our staff of approx. 25 employees work together in our office in Rijswijk several days per week.

There will be opportunities to travel and work abroad due to the international character of our business. We have our own academy, to make sure that all the employees are up to date with the latest developments in the port business.

Case description

The Portwise Game is about optimally designing the quay of a container terminal, with the goal to offer the vessels a good service level, while keeping the costs as low as possible. During the game a few teams will compete with each other to minimize the costs. Vessels are bound to tight schedules, and therefore smart planning is essential! Under the time pressure and in a competitive situation it is important to use clear strategies and communicate strongly. Smart planning, tight resource management, balancing demand and supply, and a good interaction within the team will lead to victory!



Company profile

WTW is a market leading global advisory, broking and solutions company that helps clients around the world turn risk into a path for growth. With roots dating to 1828, WTW has 46,000 employees serving more than 140 countries. We design and deliver solutions that manage risk, optimize benefits, cultivate talent, and expand the power of capital to protect and strengthen institutions and individuals. Our unique perspective allows us to see the critical intersections between talent, assets and ideas – the dynamic formula that drives business performance.

Insurance Consulting & Technology (IC&T):

The IC&T business in the Netherlands within WTW employs 30 people (1,700 globally) and focuses on supporting insurance clients across Life, Non-Life and Health insurance business. As our work is often also internationally focused, we work together with our international colleagues on several of our projects to deliver the best expertise for the client. Innovation and technology are key. The IC&T business has a strong focus on developing and implementing market-leading and future-proof technology solutions to our clients.

Retirement:

With a group of 110 colleagues in the Netherlands, the pension and corporate advisory branch is divided over the offices in Amstelveen, Apeldoorn, Eindhoven, Purmerend and Rotterdam. With an excellent customer experience as a starting point, we as Retirement Nederland (including Investment Services) remain actively involved and continuously innovating in a challenging and ever-changing HR & pension landscape. The Dutch pension market is in full swing and is on the eve of revolutionary changes. In order to function as a full business partner for our customers, we provide a broad training path of high-quality, based on both training and actual work experience, that goes beyond traditional skills. New technologies and data techniques are increasingly crucial in the business operations of insurers, and WTW is a prominent global provider of solutions in both areas.

Case description

In an ever-changing world, accurate pricing of insurance products is of great importance. With more and more data being available, insurers can differentiate their prices based on a variety of variables. During our case you will be a member of a Pricing team competing against other teams in a real-world price war! As a bonus we will showcase one of our newest technology solutions which delivers insights from Machine Learnings models which we use in our day-to-day work on pricing projects.

Committee



The VESTING Conference Committee consists of:

Jesse Indrisie
Freeke Boerrigter
Nanne Postma
Daan Ajanovic
Heleen Hulsebosch

Chairman
Secretary & Treasurer
External Affairs
Day coördinator
Marketing officer