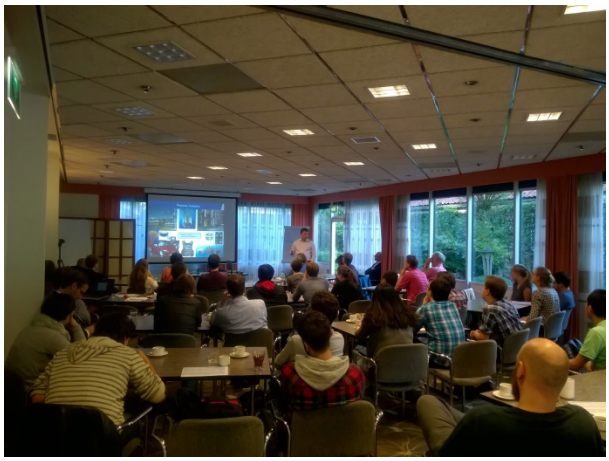
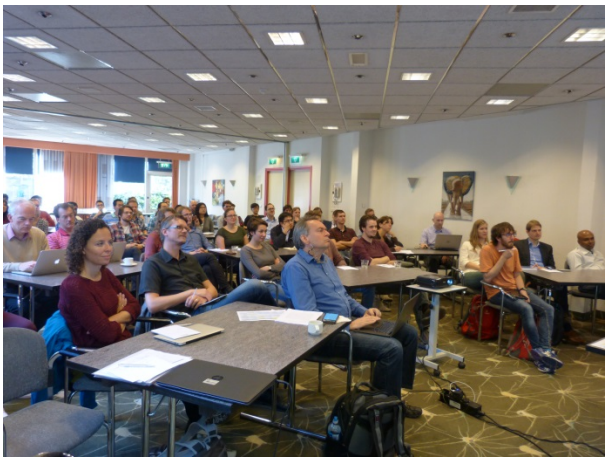
MCEC School 2016
Sharing knowledge, expanding knowledge

With several introductory talks and the close involvement of our students, this year's MCEC School featured a lot of made-to-measure knowledge. The lectures and tutorials, combined with social activities and a case study contest, as well as good company and conversations, made for a very insightful week.

Monday
After a word of welcome from Hans Kuipers, the first day of MCEC School 2016 started off with three introductory lectures on respectively Catalysis & self-assembly (by Evgeny Pidko and Marijn van Huis), Fluidics (by Detlef Lohse and Todd Squires) and Chemical reaction engineering (by Hans Kuipers). After dinner, the first evening lecture, on Energy challenge, was held by invited speaker Prof. Gert-Jan Kramer of the Copernicus Institute (Utrecht University).

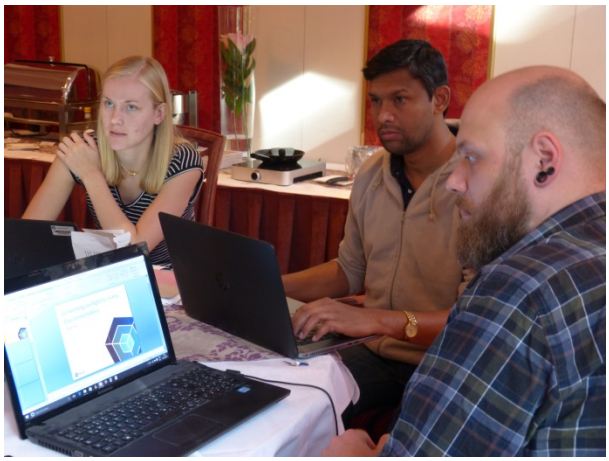


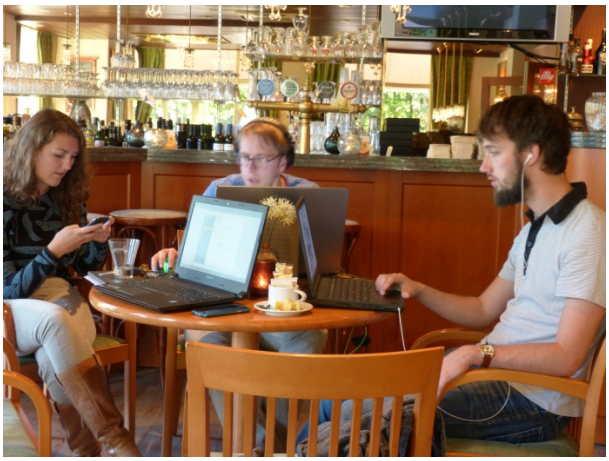


Tuesday
Last year's request to include more introductory sessions was granted by the introduction of so-called Phd Tutorials. In parallel sessions, 23 PhD's and Postdocs presented a 20-minute talk on a self-selected subject. After lunch, the students were divided into eight groups and had the rest of the afternoon to work on a case study. The subjects for these case studies were brought in by themselves some time earlier. The invited lecture that evening, on Fluidics, came from Prof. Todd Squires (University of California, Santa Barbara).

Wednesday

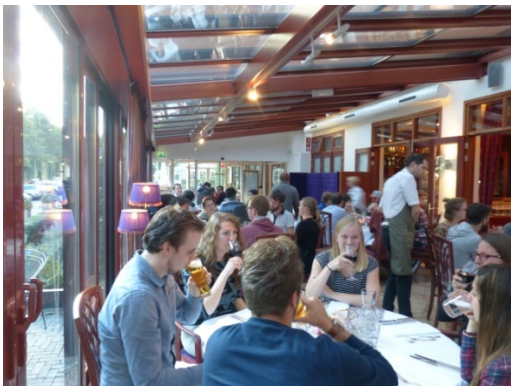
The day started with a GPS tour through Rhenen and surroundings, thanks to our Team Community who this year were responsible for the School's social activities. The afternoon provided time to work on the case study under the guidance of three members of our Education Committee (Rosa Bulo, Johan Padding and Rob Lammertink). The last evening lecture for the week, on Catalysis/self-assembly, was held by invited speaker Prof. Eelco Vogt (Albemarle, Utrecht University).

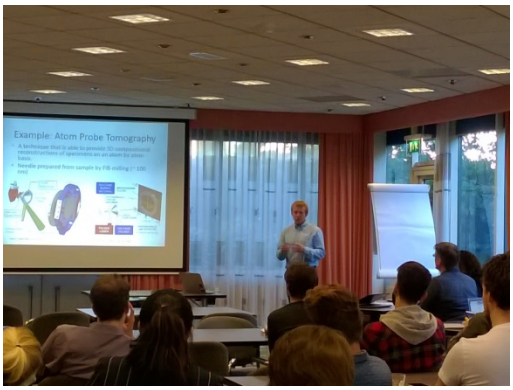




Thursday

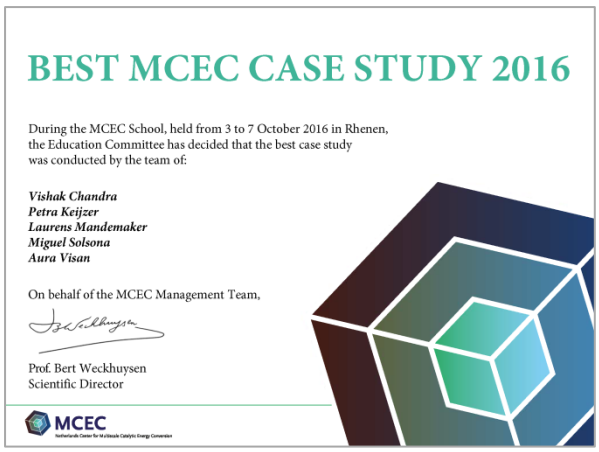
Thursday morning was filled with two in-depth lectures: Probing catalysts with molecular experimental techniques, by Joel Schmidt (UU), and Mesoscale particle-based & continuum modelling by Johan Padding. After lunch the students quickly came together for an hour to discuss community matters and the plans for the new outreach program. The rest of the afternoon was spend finishing the case studies. In the evening, there was room to talk and catch up during informal drinks.

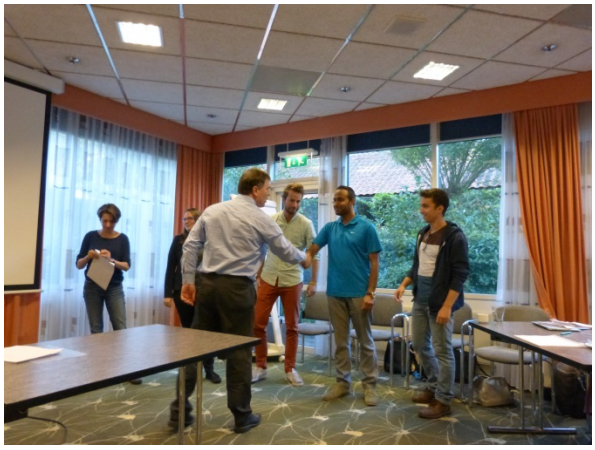




Friday

The participants came together for the final two lectures on Quantum-chemical & molecular modelling, by Ivo Filot, and Mesoscale experimental techniques by by Michel Versluis (UT) and Niels Deen. Right after lunch the eight groups presented their case study's. The Education Committee rewarded the 'Brown Hats' team* for Best Case Study on their study on 'Patterning porous catalysts inside microchannels using contrast in wettability'. This team can continue their puzzling, as they will receive entrance tickets to an Escape Room of choice in Eindhoven, Enschede or Utrecht.





Since all case studies were of a very high quality, the participating students are asked to send in their 'concept article', so we can consider an appropriate follow-up.

The organization looks back on an inspiring week and would like to thank all students, members and (guest) speakers involved, for its success.

This second MCEC School was held from 3 to 7 October 2016 in Rhenen (the Netherlands).

* The Brown Hat team consisted of Vishak Chandra, Petra Keijzer, Laurens Mandemaker, Miguel Solsona and Aura Visan.