

Margriet van der Heijden is professor by special appointment of science communication at the Applied Physics Department at Eindhoven University of Technology. Van der Heijden's focus is on science communication in physics.

“Together with Ivo van Vulpen, who holds a similar chair at Leiden University, I hope to underline the relevance of science communication in physics. In my own research I want to focus on the (in)effective use of metaphors and on assessing the outcomes and impact of science communication projects over longer periods of time (“continuity” and “building relations”). In addition, my aim is to support colleagues at AP who are sharing their work through outreach projects, or who are involved in teaching activities in the field of science communication.”

E-mail: m.w.v.d.heijden@tue.nl

The position of Van der Heijden at the TU/e, one day a week, was initiated by the Netherlands' Physical Society (Nederlandse Natuurkundige Vereniging, NNV).

Past activities

Van der Heijden has been trained as a particle physicist and conducted her PhD research at Cern in Geneva where she studied quarks and their mutual interactions at the NMC-experiment. After another two years in particle physics as a postdoc, she chose a career in science journalism and as a science writer. She was head of the science desk Dutch at Het Parool and for many years worked as a science editor at quality paper NRC, where she was responsible for/ wrote about mathematics, physics and astronomy. For years she also made the children's page at the back of the science section of NRC, 'De Kleine Wetenschap'..

In 2021, her double biography about physicists Paul Ehrenfest and Tatiana Afanassjewa was shortlisted for the Libris History Prize. In the same year she also wrote a series of portraits of female physicists for the Dutch Journal of Physics.

Present activities next to TU/e

Van der Heijden serves as a columnist for the science section at NRC.

She teaches at Amsterdam University College (physics and writing courses).

She is (unpaid) Member at Large of the Executive Committee of the APS Forum on History and Philosophy of Physics.

A selection of publications

Een eeuw natuurkundevrouwen – series in Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Natuurkunde NTvN about women in physics in the Netherlands: [NNV - Een eeuw natuurkundevrouwen](#)

M van der Heijden, ‘Tatiana Ehrenfest-Afanassjewa: No Talent for Subservience’, *The Legacy of Tatjana Afanassjewa*, Eds. J Uffink, G Valente, C Werndl, L Zuchowski, Springer 2020.

M van der Heijden, Afanassjewa en Einstein. Wederzijdse waardering, *Studium* 9 (1-2) 2016.

Amaudruz, P. et al. (1991), Gottfried sum from the ratio F_2^n / F_2^p , *Physical Review Letters* 66:21, pp. 2712-2715.

Amaudruz, P. et al. (1992) Proton and deuteron F_2 structure functions in deep inelastic muon scattering, *Physics Letters Section B: Nuclear, Elementary Particle and High-Energy Physics* 295:1-2, pp. 159-168.

Some (popular science) books

Margriet van der Heijden, *Denken is verrukkelijk, Het leven van Tatiana Afanassjewa en Paul Ehrenfest*, Prometheus 2020.

Margriet van der Heijden, *De wiskundetrompet*, Uitgeverij Nieuwezijds, 2019.

Margriet van der Heijden, *Het wiskundehondje*, Uitgeverij Nieuwezijds, 2015.

Margriet van der Heijden, *Drinken vissen water?*, Nieuw Amsterdam, 2006.