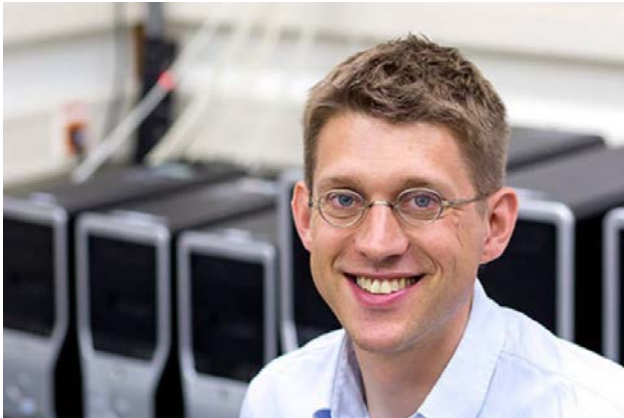




Prof. Berend Snel



Research Areas:

- Evolution
- Comparative Genomics and Genome Evolution
- Bioinformatics
- Protein Networks
- Phylogenetic Tree Reconciliation
- Evolutionary Genomics and Integrative Bioinformatics

Which contributions does evolution and, related to it, our genetic dispositions make to our current changes in biodiversity?

Genomics and the sequencing revolution make it possible to study changes in biodiversity at an unprecedented level. The dropping costs in sequencing make it even possible for local wild-life organisations to track the impact of human induced change on ecological and population level in real time, and take fast and appropriate actions. In addition insights from genome evolutionary studies help us to address and predict the evolvability and adaptational capabilities of different species and populations.

How far does your scientific model help us to develop strategies to face global challenges?

As mentioned above studying genome evolution allows us to track the changes happening and plot appropriate courses of action in response. I mainly train young scientists to be able to make sense of these data. Some of my former PhD students are for example helping to fight emerging plant pathogens by studying their novel genomic evolutionary adaptations that confer resistance overcoming properites. These new plant pathogens arise in real time and threaten global food production.