

# First Quarter of 2021: Relatives, Rats and Riots

Dear friends,

instead of yearly update, you are hearing from me much sooner!  
There is so much going on... and I miss you, so I'd love to hear back from you soon, too!

After the mass-email on the last day of 2020, I got many replies - thank you for all your news!

Some people asked me: how are the others in my family doing? How are the rats??  
Short answers: everyone is OK! Rats are fine!

And what's with the situation in Holland??? There's no short version there...

I am answering all those questions at once, PLUS the impressions from the first 3 months of 2021.

You can find it all back on my old-fashioned home page: [www.xs4all.nl/~becha](http://www.xs4all.nl/~becha)



## Relatives in 2020

Alisa

Alisa is 17!

- \* finished 5th year & started 6th, last year of her high-school
- \* stopped with bass playing in her band
- \* was active with eXtinction Rebellion
- \* Alisa wrote long essay about history (& economy, culture, religion..) of her grandmother Mileva (my mother) and her father
- \* performed in a final theatre-school-play "Festivalers"
- \* had many friends visit us in our new, large house - I'm happy to get to know them!
- \* :( missed SO MANY THINGS because of the pandemic!! School-exchange, birthday party, school trips, theatre performances, vacations with friends, direct actions & demonstrations, music festivals, vacations with family...
- \* had a first girlfriend: Floor!

2021 update: Alisa has an online-shop!!

<https://www.vinted.nl/member/51922527-alisakoch123>





## Charlie

Charlie is 15!

- \* finished 3rd year & started 4th year: "culture" profile, still in VWO, big achievement!
- \* won a prize for music competition , with his band Distage
- \* recorded Distage songs in a professional studio!
- \* :( missed SO MANY THINGS because of the pandemic!! School trip, vacations with friends, live-concerts & band practices, vacations with family...
- \* bought a "new" second-hand bike (a "trigger" to my own childhood drama... that ended better for him than for me!)

2021 update: Charlie has a new hair color, is passionately creating MineCraft worlds, and Piskel animations



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## Arnd

Arnd has kept his hobbies of beer brewing, gardening and electronics!

- \* He brewed beer with friends, shared it with neighbours and collected even more books about it.
- \* He organised & maintained our backyard + ground floor plants, and induced the love of garden-centres to me!
- \* He created an "egg-bot" and decorated our unique Xmas-balls! And built our books-sharing-case!
- \* he took care of our sick pet rat: took her to the operation & gave her medicines till she healed!
- \* Arnd also suffered from several "dips" in his mood, connected with the drama in Techinc & uncertainty with this house & with the renting of his apartment... and pandemic, AND the change into "living together in one house"...

2021 update: Arnd is again in the board of TechInc, had his birthday in lockdown and we are doing relationship therapy again



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## Nana's family

- \* Nana finished her university course to become an Art Teacher
- \* the school of Iris moved to IJburg!
- \* Lara is in her last year of primary school; in 2021 she has to choose high school
- \* two of the kittens from Alisa&Charlie's cat moved to Nana's house!!

## Camiel

- \* Camiel turned 60 & celebrated his birthday in the park with the freinds, delayed due to lockdowns
- \* He's working as a tree-surgeon: outside, trimming branches, planting new saplings...
- \* His new family is Arllette & Django, and they are exploring moving out of Amsterdam

Mileva did not visit for a whole year; she got vaccinated so now maybe she will be able to!  
Luckily, she stayed healthy through all of this!

Nikolina & her family are all well: they survived two earthquakes in Croatia, as well as the whole pandemic...

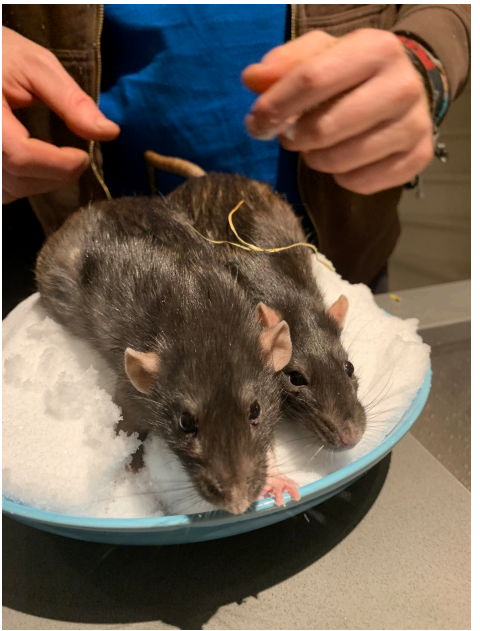




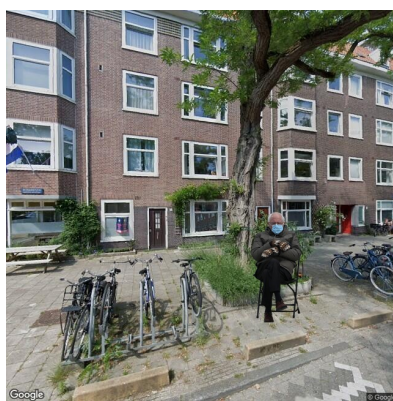
## Home Sweet Home



Pictured: top-floor bird visitors & ground-floor heat-wave measures



Pictured: book-case in the snow, windmill in the snow, rats in the snow



Pictured: Bernie at BP-14; SEVEN herons in Bijlmer; new kitten = Grapje



# Holland

## January Riots

Dutch approach to achieve "herd immunity" has turned deadly :( Inadequate government's measures have achieved both huge losses in people's lives & health - and economic losses - AND people are unhappy, for those two reasons: but also for the opposite: some people feel "oppressed" because there is a ban on social events, AND when the evening-curfew was introduced, all of that pain & helplessness came out as rage & violence. . . Or, as BBC says it:  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-55799919>

But, the Dutch also made an art-piece of a whales-tale, that saved the derailed tram... so not all is bad ;-)

### Waar ging het dit weekend mis?



Pictured: where did the riots happen; stranded tram

## February Corona Failures

Dutch Covid-rules by the government are ridiculous: greed and materialism are placed before the wellbeing of the vulnerable people! Old are left to die; kids are sent to school to enable parents to keep on working; "economy" is kept "functioning" , for the benefit of the rich!

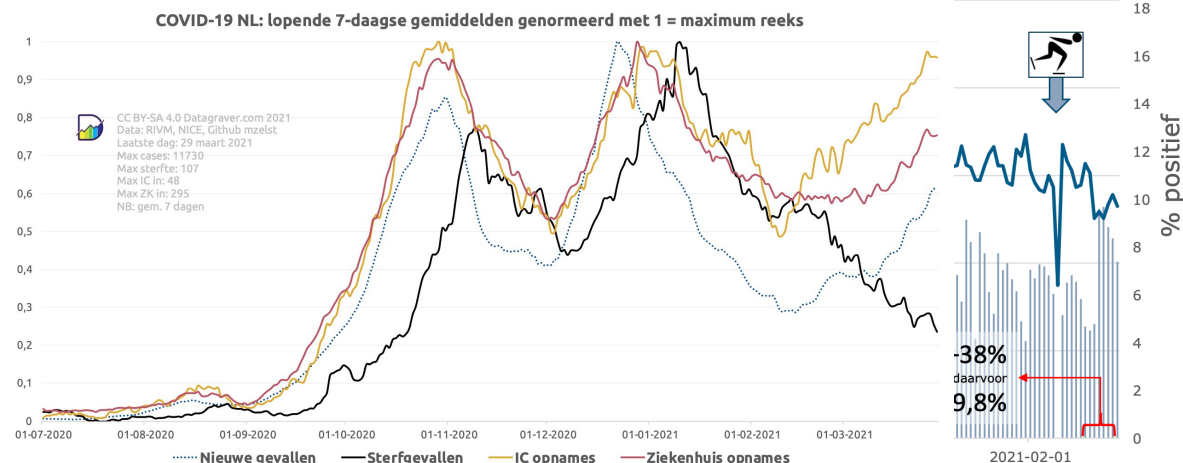
<https://www.dutchnews.nl/features/2021/02/dutch-exceptionalism-superior-failure-in-the-year-of-coronavirus/>

That has led to the phenomenon of "wappies" or "Corrona gekkies" -- people who are fed up with restrictions, combined with people who believe in conspiracy theories and NOT in the "virus"... so they had "peaceful protests" every Sunday at Museumplein in Amsterdam -- but the local government (GREEN! LEFT!) has sent military police to disperse them...

In the meantime, the numbers of cases, deaths and hospital admissions are raising... while the vaccination programme is one of the WORST in Europe!!

<https://www.containmentnu.nl/articles/scandals?lang=en>

<https://www.containmentnu.nl/articles/mitigation-truth-en?lang=en-US>



Pictured: statistics, and a drop in testing due to the good skating weather!

## March: Elections Farce

Dutch politics are becoming ridiculous!!!

Elections results are ... tragic. Largest neo-liberal party won AGAIN, and smaller right-wing parties gained A LOT of new votes / seats, while left parties mostly lost a lot of support...

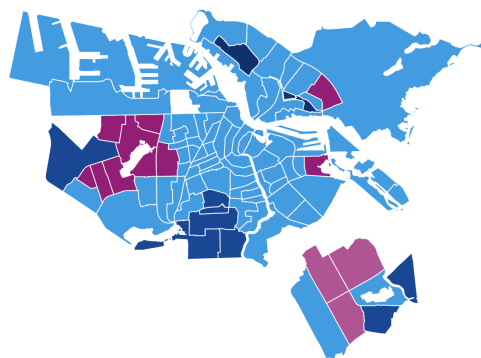
Formation of the government is... comical! Leaked notes, "formatters" embarrassed, everyone angry...

And many many politicians have tested positive for Corona, INCLUDING the ex-prime-minister, who is NOT following the rules to stay at home but is going to work (by bike, and \*finally\* with a mask) but still HE IS NOT FOLLOWING HIS OWN RULES!!!

And again, to be on the bright side: the EU has placed imaginary bridges on the bank-notes, to avoid conflicts between the member-states about why were some bridges/places chosen and others not... and then "the Dutch" have made ALL THOSE BRIDGES along one waterway!!! Stubborn & creative & industrious... when they feel like it ;-)



Grootste partij bij verkiezingen Tweede Kamer van 2021  
bron: OIS



Pictured: my favourite party BIJ1; race/class division in Amsterdam; the bridges project!

## World

Start of 2021 in the USA:

Wednesday, January 6th: Insurrection  
Wednesday, January 13th: Impeachment  
Wednesday, January 20th: Inauguration  
Wednesday, January 27th: Investments

& from the ex-Yugoslav's PoV, it's the history repeating itself, re-traumatizing the survivors:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/jan/07/what-happened-in-washington-dc-is-happening-around-the-world>

<https://conversationalist.org/2021/01/08/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-trump-presidency-explained-by-a-scholar-who-lived-through>  
<https://www.pressherald.com/2021/01/10/the-view-from-here-watching-democracy-come-unglued/>

.. with links to a new term for me: [Yugosplaining!](#)

On February 19, Djordje Balasevic died!!! This loss has hit me very hard -- I was crying for days -- because his music has been a constant companion in all of my life's events: falling in love, protesting, losing loved ones, losing a country, going on vacations, being "gast-arbaiter", getting old, EVERYTHING!!!

I've re-connected with several old friends over his death -- and made many new connections on twitter with "diaspora", who loved him too.



Almost all the anti-social behavior which makes us think it's necessary to have armies, police, prisons, and governments to control our lives, is actually caused by the systematic inequalities and injustice those armies, police, prisons and governments make possible.

-David Graeber

And on February 2nd was 6-months since the death of another hero of mine, David Graeber :(



## Personal

January 2021 (the 13th month of 2020)

-> stopping the anti-depressants, it will take another year  
-> long darkness, low energy, anniversary of Olivia's death  
-> ALL THE GARDEN CENTERS AND 2nd-HAND SHOPS CLOSED! :(

February

-> I've reconnected with friends from "42" group!  
-> I got a new tenant: now there are Kensuke & Tom at BP-14-2  
-> we had snow! I got to slide down the dyke! & we went ice-skating at 3 places: natural ice, so lovely!  
-> I've joined greenpeace brainstorm  
-> I've connected with a new friend in Czech Republic, Yo  
-> I "went to" FOSDEM, virtually  
-> started working on the "community resilience & mental health" topics: <https://labs.ripe.net/Members/becha>

March

-> Arnd got new tenants  
-> Alisa's friends tested positive for Corona so she stayed in quarantine  
-> the Dutch elections happened...  
-> I've joined a new community programme: CatalystLab!  
-> shops opened again -- I bought more plants!  
-> bought a recliner :)  
-> got sick with ear-ache :( pain, deafness, antibiotics...  
-> we've got a kitten!!!





### RIPE Community Resilience: Safety Net

Vesna Manojlovic — 26 Mar 2021

In this third article on community resilience I move on to the "Link Layer" according to TCP/IP stack and how it relates to meeting the need for safety: economic security, avoidance of risks and absence of harm.... [Read more](#)

Tags: covid19 ripe community diversity



### RIPE Community Resilience: Physical Layer

Vesna Manojlovic — 18 Mar 2021

To have a healthy Internet, RIPE community members need to maintain healthy bodies and healthy minds. The additional stress of COVID-19 makes it even more important to take care of the Physical Layer of a network(er)! ... [Read more](#)

Tags: covid19 ripe community diversity



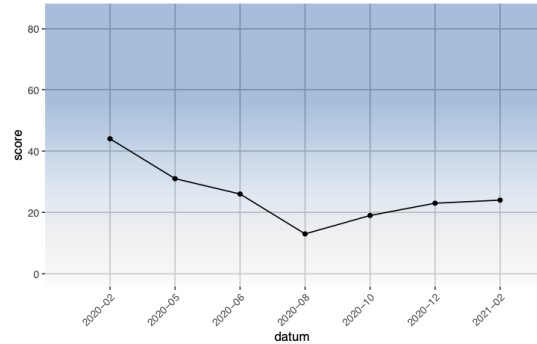
### You are Not Alone: RIPE Community Resilience

Vesna Manojlovic — 12 Mar 2021

The continued resilience of the RIPE community during the COVID-19 pandemic has helped the Internet keep running. This hasn't been easy, but we're in it together! Vesna Manojlovic draws a parallel between universal human needs and OSI model networking abstraction layers.... [Read more](#)

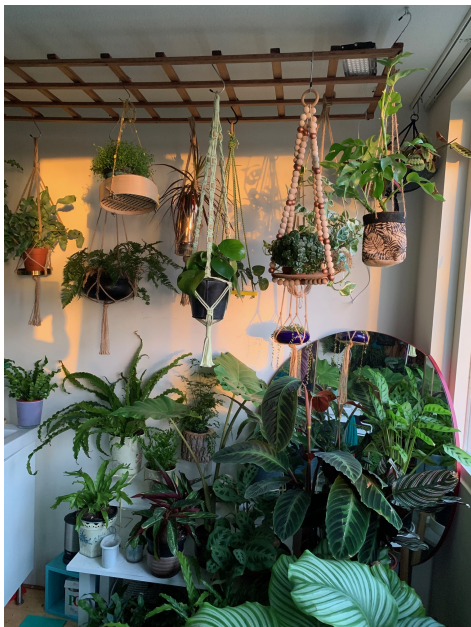
Tags: covid19 ripe community diversity sustainability

### Ernst van depressie



Ernst van depressieve symptomen

IDS score	Ernst van depressie
49-84	zeer ernstig
39-48	ernstig
26-38	matig
14-25	mild
0-13	geen



Pictured: my room, my plants, my projects...



# Memes

