



IRMA MEIJERMAN

Educational innovator · Researcher (life sciences & education) · SoTL advocate · Learning designer

CONTACT

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Mijn CV is Engelstalig, zodat het aansluit bij de internationale context waarin ik werk. Een Nederlandstalige samenvatting vind je op mijn website op de pagina 'In de praktijk'.

Professional Profile

I bring over three decades of experience across higher education, research, and academic development. With a background in the life sciences and a deep commitment to meaningful learning, I've contributed to educational innovation at all levels: from designing new curricula and mentoring teachers to embedding Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) institutionally.

I enjoy translating complex ideas into engaging learning experiences — whether in scientific education, professional development, or strategic change. My approach is evidence-informed, collaborative, and creative — always shaped by the context and always focused on learning that lasts.

Key Areas of Expertise

- Curriculum development & program innovation
- Educational leadership & mentoring
- SoTL leadership, facilitation & coaching
- Professional development & academic qualifications (Guiding teaching qualifications (BKO/SKO in NL))
- Learning design & facilitation
- Life sciences education & communication
- Organisational learning & interdisciplinary collaboration
- Educational and life science research

ROLES AND EXPERIENCES

Curriculum Innovation & Educational Design

- Co-designed and led the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences (CPS) at Utrecht University — an honours programme integrating inquiry-based, student-driven learning
- Initiated and shaped curriculum reforms aligning learning outcomes with emerging academic and societal needs
- Developed course modules that encouraged critical thinking and ownership of learning
- Worked closely with students and teaching teams to continuously adapt and improve educational practices

Impact: Improved student engagement, fostered active participation, and contributed to a dynamic learning environment

SoTL – Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

- Chair of the EuroSoTL network, connecting educators across Europe in scholarly, evidence-informed teaching
- Co-author of the Utrecht Roadmap for SoTL, adopted by multiple institutions to shape their SoTL practices and strategies
- Organised and facilitated SoTL writing groups, retreats and community sessions to support reflective teaching and professional development
- Delivered national and international workshops and keynotes on SoTL, both within higher education and at cross-sector events
- Coached and mentored educators and teams in developing SoTL projects, embedding inquiry in their teaching, and integrating SoTL into portfolios and institutional frameworks

Impact: Helped establish SoTL as a visible, supported, and valued element of academic practice; enabled others to engage in educational inquiry and gain recognition for their teaching contributions.

Academic Development & Professional Growth

- Guided dozens of educators in completing teaching qualifications (e.g. BKO/SKO in the Netherlands)
- Supported lecturers in shaping their educational identity and articulating their strengths through portfolio writing
- Facilitated retreats and programmes that fostered reflection, peer learning and career progression
- Facilitated dialogue between educators and students to strengthen collaborative learning cultures

Impact: Increased confidence, direction and recognition for teaching staff across disciplines

Scientific & Educational Research

- PhD in Toxicology (Leiden University), with research experience in cell biology, oncology, and pharmacology
- Published 50+ peer-reviewed articles in international journals
- Taught and developed courses in cell biology, toxicology, and pharmacology for BSc/MSc students
- Supervised PhD candidates, as well as numerous BSc and MSc students during research projects and thesis work
- Led and contributed to interdisciplinary research projects connecting scientific knowledge with real-world applications in health and education
- Actively engaged in educational research and innovation through SoTL, exploring themes like learning design, curriculum development, and teaching cultures
- Used evidence-informed approaches to improve practice and contribute to institutional learning strategies
- Member of working groups and review panels supporting the integration of research, teaching, and professional development

Impact: Strengthened the connection between research and teaching; built bridges between scientific expertise and meaningful education; supported new generations of students, educators, and researchers in developing their academic voice.

Leadership & Educational Management

- Member of the Educational Management Team (OMT) of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, contributing to long-term strategy, coordination across programmes, and alignment of educational vision with departmental goals
- Led multi-stakeholder processes related to curriculum renewal, organisational change, and policy development — often bridging teaching teams, university boards, and external partners
- Mentored early-career colleagues in taking on leadership roles within teaching teams and working groups
- Chaired interfaculty committees focused on strengthening educational professionalism, including the development and implementation of faculty-wide criteria for promotion based on teaching excellence
- Managed grant-funded initiatives to support innovation in teaching and professional development — including coordination of teams, timelines, and evaluation processes
- Advised leadership teams and programme boards on topics such as teacher recognition, interdisciplinary collaboration, and internal development programmes

Impact: Helped build a stronger foundation for educational leadership and policy within the department and university — supporting both vision and execution. Enabled more coherent collaboration across levels and contributed to the visibility of education as a recognised and valued academic domain.

Consultancy, Facilitation & Cross-sector Projects

- Supported organisations in shaping internal learning and development through tailored advice, design, and facilitation
- Designed onboarding and growth pathways for interdisciplinary teams, connecting individual learning goals with organisational vision
- Facilitated strategy sessions and change processes using creative formats and tools that helped teams explore complexity, align perspectives, and take action

Impact: Greater clarity, ownership, and alignment within and across teams — leading to improved collaboration, shared learning, and movement from ideas to implementation

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD in Toxicology – Leiden University
- Senior Teaching Qualification (SKO) – Utrecht University
- Senior Research Qualification (SKOoz) – Utrecht University
- (Alumnus) Principal Fellow – Centre for Academic Teaching and Learning (UU)
- Senior Fellow – Advance HE, United Kingdom
- Educational Leadership Programme – Utrecht University
- Senior Fellowship Track – Centre for Academic Teaching and Learning (CAT)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Chair – EuroSoTL Network (<https://eurosotl.org/>)
- Former Vice-President Europe and current member ISSoTL (International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning)
- Contributor to national working groups on education and academic development

MORE INFORMATION

For a full list of life science and educational publications, please download the publications list.