

Thesis Propositions* (Stellingen)

1. The mixed model of spatial variation is better suited than either continuous or discrete models to deal with both geographical and internal variability of soils.
2. Spatial soil variability is commonly a result of complex soil processes working at the same time and over long periods of time, rather than an effect of a single realization of a single soil-forming factor.
3. We do not necessarily need to retire the ‘old’ systems (soil classification, photo-interpretation) and praise digital technologies. These two can be equally important.
4. The key usability problem of soil maps is that soil surveyors, as in many other geo-sciences, spend most of their funds on collecting and processing the data. They should instead spend some of that money to make these products more popular (interviews, posters, brochures, user guides, training courses, workshops, TV and radio programmes...).
5. To become a true geo-statisticians, one needs to know the difference between the kriging and regression, between the co-kriging and regression-kriging, between the estimation error and prediction error and most of all — between the accurate and a pretty map.
6. The most significant discoveries in the World happend unexpectedly, often just by accident (e.g. electricity, telephone, Roentgen rays, cosmic background radiation). This means that the one who plans a very routinely research, does not expect to discover something great.
7. A message to PhD students: don’t be discouraged with the stress and pressure that a PhD study brings with it — if you didn’t fight with your supervisor over the style of work, if you didn’t experience a rejection of a paper by the journal, if you didn’t get lost during the fieldwork, if you didn’t experience the RSI syndrome (pain in wrist and back, red eyes, sleepless nights), well... what did you learn from it then?
8. Sometimes, if you want to be more productive, you have to now how to relax.

*These propositions belong to the Ph.D Thesis of T. Hengl: **Pedometric mapping: bridging the gaps between conventional and pedometric approaches**. Wageningen University and ITC. Enschede, 17th September 2003.