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# CURRICULUM VITAE DR. IR. GILLIAN SAUNDERS-SMITS

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## CURRENT POSITION (SINCE 2023)

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Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, Robot Dynamics Group, Cognitive Robotics Department, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Delft University of Technology.

## KEY COMPETENCES

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*Knowledgeable, Educational Leader, Helicopter View, Analytic, Project Manager, Organizer, Passionate Lecturer, Networker*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Transferable Competencies and Skills, Preparation for Labour Market, Curriculum Development and Evaluation, Teaching Innovations, Online Education and Lifelong Learning

## EDUCATION

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**2008** - PhD in Aerospace Engineering Education - [Study of Delft Aerospace Alumni](#): A study into the professional success of the alumni of the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering and how the aerospace curriculum contributed to this success and what changes to the curriculum should be made. PhD Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Z. Gürdal & Prof. Dr. E. de Graaff

**2005** - TU Delft University Teaching Qualification (UTQ/BKO) – 400h. BKO/UTQ is the post-graduate certificate in higher education teaching within Delft University of Technology as mandated by Dutch Law.

**1998** - MSc in Aerospace Engineering, Chair of Aerospace Structures and Computational Mechanics, Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, Delft University of Technology. Supervisor: prof. dr. J. Arbocz.

## PAST ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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**2020 – 2022:** Visiting Associate Professor at Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Centre for Education and Learning, the Netherlands.

**2016 - 2022:** Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, Aerospace Structures & Materials Department.

**2001- 2016:** Lecturer/Assistant Professor, Aerospace Structures & Computational Mechanics Group.

**1999 - 2001:** Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Aircraft Performance and Propulsion Group

**1999:** Researcher Aerospace Structures & Computational Mechanics Group,

*All at Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands.*

## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

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**1998 – 1999** Facilities Manager, Shell Exploration and Production B.V., The Hague, The Netherlands.

## TEACHING (present)

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### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- Mechanical Engineering design project 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc ME (WOP1), project tutor, since 2022
- Mechanical Engineering design project 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc ME (WOP2), project tutor, since 2022
- Statics/Mechanics of Materials, 1<sup>st</sup> year ME, tutor, since 2023

### GRADUATE COURSES

- RO47007 Multi-Disciplinary Project Robotics since 2023, lecturer

## ONLINE COURSES & OPENCOURSEWARE

- [Let's Innovate Assessment!](#) Part of open European E-course [Let's get Flipped](#) for Lecturers within the Erasmus+ Rapide Project since 2022.
- Using Peer Assessment in Inclusive Digital Education - Workshop to help lecturers design their own Peer Assessment in their course – [4TU/CEE Innovation Map](#) since 2023
- MOOC on Multidisciplinary Research Methods for Engineers on [edX](#), 2021-2025. Available on [OCW](#).
- Curriculum Elements to develop transversal skills in engineering students, [OCW](#) published as part of [PREFER](#) Project
- MOOC Introduction to Aerospace Structures & Materials on [edX](#), since 2018. Also available on [OCW](#).
- Mini-MOOC [Bachelor Aerospace Engineering](#), since 2021
- Research Methodologies, online course also available on [Open Courseware](#), 2013-2021

## SUPERVISION & EXAMINER

- PhD Supervision: Lydia Kes on Competency Based Assessment for Aviation Maintenance Basic Training within the ICAO framework, expected submission December 2026
- External Examiner for Engineering, Physics and Social Sciences by the Government of Denmark (CENSOR network) since 2017
- External Subject Examiner, Aerospace Engineering Queen's University Belfast, 2021-2026

## TEACHING (past)

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### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

- Honours Programme in Next Generation Robotics (NGR) for excellent bachelor students, coordinator and tutor, 2022-2025.
- Introduction to Aerospace Engineering part I, Lecturer, 2020-2021
- Statics for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2004-2015
- Mechanics of Materials for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2001-2009 and 2011-2014
- Aerospace Structures Design Project for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2001-2008
- Aerospace Structural Design Project for 2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2001-2009
- Aerospace Flight & Orbital Mechanics and Computer Programming Project for 2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2001-2009
- Computer-Aided Design using AutoCAD, for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2006
- Airplane Performance I for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer, 1999-2001
- Airplane Performance II for 2<sup>nd</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer, 1999-2001
- Introduction into Aerospace Engineering for 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc students, Lecturer, 1999-2001
- Tutor Design Synthesis Exercise for Final year BSc students, 2001-2012

### GRADUATE COURSES

- Research Methodologies for MSc & PhD students, Lecturer and Course Coordinator, 2010-2021
- Industry Best Practices in Structures & Materials for MSc students, 2014-2016
- Interdisciplinary CDIO Bootcamp for MSc & PhD students, 2018-2019
- Ethics & Engineering for Aerospace Engineering for MSc students, Facilitator, 2020-2021

### COURSES ON EDUCATION FOR TAs AND STAFF

- Being a Teaching Assistant in Mechanics for students, 2002-2015
- Being a Teaching Assistant tutoring Design Projects for students, 2005 - 2010
- Being a Tutor in the Design Synthesis Exercise for PhDs and Staff, 2010 -2014

## SUPERVISION & EXAMINER

- Over 100 Bachelor students in their final thesis group design projects in Aerospace Engineering
- Several MSc students in Structures and/or Education
- PhD students supervision:
  - Mariana Leandro Cruz, (2017-2021) Measurement and Practice of Transversal Competencies in Engineering Education – Evaluations of Perceptions and Stimulation of Reflections of industry, lecturers, and students – Awarded 20 December 2021
- External Examiner in MSc and PhD examinations within TU Delft, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and Australia

## LEADERSHIP

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- Editor-in-Chief SEFI Handbook on Engineering Skills – Volume A: Teaching Core Transferable Competencies & Skills in Engineering, to be published September 2026
- Chair Accreditation Committee Bachelor Military Systems & Technology, Netherlands Defense Academy, 2023
- Chair Accreditation Committee Bachelor of Engineering in Aircraft Systems for Engineers Ireland, Carlow Institute of Technology, 2019
- Chair Accreditation Committee Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aerospace Engineering for Engineers Ireland, Carlow Institute of Technology, 2019
- Co-founder PhD & Post-doc Network on Education Coordinator at TU Delft: encouraging cooperation and intervision among early career researchers in education at TU Delft, 2018-2020
- Master Track Coordinator Aerospace Structures and Materials Track: responsible for the curriculum of the MSc track as well as the progress and monitoring of its 200+ MSc students, 2012-2018
- Member Education Management Team Aerospace Department tasked with Online Education, 2016
- Faculty Coordinator Online Education Aerospace Engineering responsible for setting up and implementing online education at Aerospace Engineering, 2013-2016
- Project leader Curriculum Innovation of MSc Track Aerospace Structures and Materials, 2013 - 2015
- Project Education Coordinator and Chairperson of the Project Education Coordination Committee, 2000 – 2009

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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### AWARDS

- [TU Delft Education Fellow](#) – awarded November 2024
- [Extension School Ambassador for Open Education Award 2022](#) awarded March 2022, TU Delft
- [Finalist](#) Edx Prize 2021 for Introduction to Aerospace Structures & Materials MOOC
- Educational Hero – included in [TU Delft Wall of Fame](#) at Teaching Academy, November 2021, TU Delft
- Member of Merit – TU Delft Staff Association Prometheus, awarded June 2021
- Best Research Paper award – 48<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, Twente, the Netherlands, 2020
- Finalist 2019 SEFI Maffioli Award for Aerospace Online Education
- Best Paper award – 39<sup>th</sup> SEFI annual conference, Lisbon, Portugal, 2011
- Part of winning team of the “Universiteitsfonds - Ritsema van Eck prize” for excellent teamwork in organising the Design Synthesis Exercise, 2003

### GRANTS

**TU Delft Educational Fellowship** on '[RevAlmping the Literature Research](#)'. Internal education innovation grant awarded by TU Delft Board of Directors, 2025-2027, €50,000.

**TU Delft Open Education Stimulation Fund 2025** on [Enhancing Buddycheck: a toolbox for teachers to analyse student peer evaluation data in BSc Electrical Engineering](#), Internal Open Education grant awarded by TU Delft Open Science Programme, 2025 €17,000.

**TU Delft Open Education Stimulation Fund 2025** on [OREO: Open Robotics Education](#), Internal Open Education grant awarded by TU Delft Open Science Programme, 2025 €20,000

**TU Delft Open Education Stimulation Fund 2024** on [MIRTE, a family of open educational robots](#). Internal Open Education grant awarded by TU Delft Open Science Programme, 2025 €20,000

**RAPIDE - EU Erasmus+ Strategic Alliance** on Relevant assessment and pedagogies for inclusive digital education in collaboration with University of Zagreb - Croatia, Goethe University - Germany, the Open University - UK, and the University of Rijeka – Croatia, 2021-2023, € 219,085.

**PREFER - EU Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliance** on Professional Roles and Employability of Future Engineers in collaboration with KU Leuven, Dublin Institute of Technology, Siemens, Engie, ESB, KIVI, IE-net, Engineers Ireland, Agoria, and FEANI, funded by the European Commission, 2016 -2020, €988,462.

**ASM MOOC on edX** - Development of Massive Open Online Course and Open Courseware Textbook in Introduction into Aerospace Structures & Materials, funded by Extension School TU Delft, 2017-2018, €25,000.

**Online MSc Courses in Aerospace Engineering** – Follow up Pilot project to investigate the feasibility of expanding of paid online credit-giving courses at TU Delft, funded by TU Delft 2014-2015, €100,000.

**Online MSc Courses in Aerospace Structures** – Pilot project to investigate the feasibility of paid online credit-giving courses at TU Delft, funded by TU Delft 2013-2014, €100,000.

**WO Sprint project Master Thesis** - A project aimed at enhancing the efficiency and success of MSc students during their final thesis at the Faculties of Aerospace Engineering and Technology, Policy and Management of Delft University of Technology as part of the WO Sprint initiative funded by Platform Bètatechniek, 2010 - 2012, €85,000.

**SURF Onderwijs Vernieuwings Project PROOF** (Peer Review Online – Scaling up and Facilitating) on the use of Peer and Self-evaluation in writing and group work in conjunction with Universiteit Utrecht, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management at Delft University of Technology, funded by SURF, 2007-2009, € 294,100.

## **SERVICE**

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### **WITHIN TU DELFT**

- Member of the Education Advisory Board, TU Delft Extension School for Continuing Education appointed by the university's Executive Board, since 2021
- Member of Lifelong Learning Working Group for the TU Delft Executive Board, 2021-2023
- Member Work's Council, 2015 – 2016
- Member of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc Design Synthesis Exercise Coordination Committee, responsible for scheduling, grading and the training of all new tutors and coaches, 2001-2015
- Coordinator International Design Exercises with Queen's University Belfast and RMIT Melbourne, 2003-2009
- Board of Studies Aerospace Engineering– faculty education advisory council of students and staff, 2010-2014
- Bachelor Curriculum Innovation Skills Committee, 2007-2009
- Bologna Agreement Implementation Committee - Advising director of education on implementation of separate BSc and MSc degrees with a BSc degree becoming a set entry requirement for the MSc and its consequences for students, 2007-2009
- Bridging Program Design for University of Applied Sciences students, 2004-2005
- Implementation of New Educational Methods Committee, 2004-2005
- Re-Evaluation CAD software committee, 2004-2005
- BSc development Minor Committee member on Earth & Planetary Observation Technology, 2005
- Blackboard Coordinator Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, 2000-2004
- Representative Aerospace Engineering in ICT in Education platform of TU Delft (ICTO), 2000-2002
- Chairperson Aircraft Collection Committee Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, 2000-2004

### **EXTERNAL**

- Chair & Member of Accreditation Panels for Aerospace for Engineers Ireland, since 2019
- Member Editorial Board Journal of Teaching Engineering, since 2021
- Member Editorial Board International Journal of Technology and Design Education, since 2023
- Mentor in Safety Champignons in Engineering Education Programme run by University College London and NMITE for the Royal Academy of Engineering and Lloyds Register Foundation, 2021
- Member SEFI, the European Society for Engineering Education, Board of Directors, 2019-2022
- Member Scientific Committee 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Science and Technology Education, October 2021, Porto, Portugal, 2020-2021
- Member Scientific Committee 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Science and Technology Education, October 2020, Porto, Portugal, 2019-2020
- External Advisor to SEFI Steering Committee, 2017-2019
- SEFI National Correspondent for the Netherlands, 2013- 2019
- Reviewer for European Journal of Engineering Education, since 2007
- Reviewer for International Journal for Design & Technology, since 2017
- Reviewer for Journal of Engineering Education, since 2019
- Reviewer for IEEE Transaction on Education, since 2020
- Reviewer for Journal of Teaching Engineering, since 2021
- Reviewer for Humanities and Social Science Communications (Nature), since 2023
- Reviewer SEFI Annual Conference, since 2011

- Reviewer ASEE Annual Conference, since 2018
- Guest Editor Special Issue: Best papers from the SEFI 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in 2009, European Journal for Engineering Education, Vol. 35, Issue 4, August 2010
- Organizer & Editor proceedings SEFI 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Rotterdam, 2009
- Organizer & Editor proceedings Active Learning in Engineering Education, ALE 2005, Amsterdam/Delft, 2005

## OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

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### EDUCATION COURSES

- Workshop Make your own Jupyter book – Bètasteunpunt Zuid-Holland – November 2024
- Introduction Class and Workshop Universal Design for Learning by UDL Academy – March 2023
- Using Miro boards in Workshops by Peter Schwöbel Coaching & Training - 2021
- TU Delft UTQ module on Supervising Individual Students – 2016
- TU Delft UTQ Module on Advanced Assessment – 2015
- TU Delft UTQ Module on Designing and Teaching an online Course – 2014
- Masterclass Interactive Teaching by Eric Mazur from Harvard University - 2011
- TU Delft Workshop Plagiarism and Prevention - 2010
- TU Delft Workshop “aansluiting VWO”( transition High School – University) - 2010
- TU Delft E-learning Workshop - 2008
- TU Delft Active Learning Workshop by Dr. Mark Somerville from Olin College - 2008
- TU Delft Storylines workshop – Masterclass on theatre skills in education - 2007
- TU Delft Course for Tutors of the Design Synthesis Exercise - 2003
- TU Delft Course in Designing and Correcting of exams - 2000
- TU Delft Course Starting lecturers - 2000
- Improving English Medium Instruction in an Engineering Education context- 1999

### LEADERSHIP COURSES

- Coaching Leadership Course – internal leadership course offered by TU Delft, 2010 – 2011

### MEDIA COURSES

- Camera Training – New Media Centre TU Delft –2015
- Media and Interview Training – Communications Department TU Delft – 2014
- Social Network Training – Library TU Delft – 2011, 2014

### EXTERNAL ONLINE COURSES

- MOOCs on *Overview of Creating an EdX Course* - 2017
- MOOC *Creating Video for the EdX Platform*, - 2017
- MOOC *StudioX, creating a Course with edX* – 2018
- MOOC on *Introduction to Composites* by University of Washington
- MOOC on *Aircraft Accident Investigation* by Embry Riddle

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

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- ICO fellow (Interuniversity Centre for Educational Sciences, Netherlands and Belgium)
- KIvi (Royal Institute for Engineers)
- SEFI (European Society for Engineering Education)
- ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education)
- IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)
- UK&IE EERN (UK & Ireland Engineering Education Research Network)

## SKILLS

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- Languages: Dutch (mother tongue), English (fluent), German (Fair), French (Fair)
- Training Skills: Holder of Presenting, Facilitating, Skills instructing and Course Director qualifications of the UK Scout Association.
- Computer Skills: SPSS, Jamovi, MS Teams, Office365, Möbius, Camtasia (video editing)
- Digital Skills: Basic Programming, XML, CAD and FEM skills.

- Hobbies: Aviation & History, Art & Design, Yoga, Family Holidays and (Pub)Quizzes – I was a participant in the TV Programmes: “*de Slimste Mens vs. De Rest*” in 2017 and in “*Beat the Champions*” in 2022.

## **VOLUNTARY WORK & OUTREACH**

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- Volunteer “Rolf’s Surprise lab” – helping primary school kids build technical St. Nicholas day presents for their classmates at TU Delft’s Science Centre, since 2018
- Volunteer for “Spiegelbeeld” – initiative by Dutch Women in Engineering Association (VHTO) to increase number of girls choosing a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) since 2014
- Member of Local Sounding Board for the Emerald Estate in Delfgauw to advise the Pijnacker-Nootdorp council on the implementation of their new recycling scheme, 2016-2019, 2025
- Member Financial Audit Committee TU Delft Staff Association Prometheus 2023-2025
- Board Member TU Delft Staff Association Prometheus, 2017-2021
- Scout leader 1st The Hague Scout Group, British Scouts Abroad 2000-2006
- Leader Trainer British Scout Western Europe, 2004-2007, training adults to become qualified leaders in their relevant sections
- Have in the past volunteered for more than 10 years as Youth leader in both Dutch and British Scouting Association. Also served as Member of Parent Committee and Central Parenting Council of “Octopus Kinderopvang - nurseries” in Delft from 2007 – 2011 and Parent-Teacher Association Primary School Eglantier Tanthof Delft (2011 – 2015).

## **REFERENCES**

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Available upon request

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Melkert, J.A., and Schuurman, M.J., (2020). "80 Years of Aerospace Engineering Education in the Netherlands", ISBN 9789463663380, TU Delft Open, the Netherlands, [DOI:10.34641/mg.12](https://doi.org/10.34641/mg.12)

De Graaff, E., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Nieweg, M.R., editors, (2005). "Research and practice of Active Learning in Engineering Education", ISBN 978 90 8555 091 2, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kes, L., Van Wesel, F., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Specht M.M. (2025). Defining Valid Criteria for Transversal Competency Assessment in Vocational Education and Training for Aircraft Maintenance using the Delphi Method, *PREPRINT for Discover Education* [DOI:10.21203/rs.3.rs-6429387/v2](https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-6429387/v2)

Kes, L., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Specht M.M. (2025). Towards New Educational Standards for Aircraft Maintenance: Analysing Transversal Competencies on Industry Safety Priorities and Assessment Challenges. *PREPRINT for Cogent Education*. [DOI:10.13140/rg.2.2.32434.26561](https://doi.org/10.13140/rg.2.2.32434.26561)

Kes, L., Pietersma, B., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Specht M.M., (2025). "Valid Assessment of Transversal Competencies in Aircraft Maintenance" in *ATEC Journal*, 47(2), pp. 26-45, ISSN 1068-5901. [https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/atec/ATEC\\_Fall\\_Journal\\_2025.pdf](https://assets.noviams.com/novi-file-uploads/atec/ATEC_Fall_Journal_2025.pdf)

Van Helden, G., van der Werf, V., Schleiss, J., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2025). "FIETS: A Tool for Assessing the Embedding of Theory in Engineering Education Intervention Research" in *European Journal of Engineering Education*, [DOI:10.1080/03043797.2025.2532589](https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2025.2532589).

Rienties, B., Divjak, B., Eichhorn, M., Iniesta, F., Saunders-Smits, G.N., Svetec, B., Tillman, A., and Zizak, M. (2023). "Online professional development across institutions and borders", in *International Journal Education Technology in Higher Education*, 20, 30. [DOI: 10.1186/s41239-023-00399-1](https://doi.org/10.1186/s41239-023-00399-1)

Van Helden, G., van der Werf, V., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Specht, M.M., (2023). "The Use of Digital Peer Assessment in Higher Education – an Umbrella Review of Literature", in *IEEE Access*, [DOI:10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3252914](https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3252914).

Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2021). "Interview: Ir. Koo Siu Ling – In conversation with the first female graduate of LR, TU Delft", in *Leonardo Times*, Year 25, Number 2, Summer 2021, pp. 14 – 17, ISSN 2352-7021 (Non-reviewed Journal)

Leandro Cruz, M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N.,(2021). "Exploring the effectiveness and the transversal competency retention of a game-based learning activity one year after student participation", *Journal on Teaching Engineering*, 1:1 (2021) 94-112. [DOI: 10.24840/2795-4005\\_001.001\\_0004](https://doi.org/10.24840/2795-4005_001.001_0004)

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Craps, S., Carthy, D., and Langie, G., (2021). "Comparison of 1st-year student conceptions of their future roles as engineers between Belgium, Ireland, and the Netherlands", *International Journal for Mechanical Engineering Education*. [DOI:10.1177/03064190211027135](https://doi.org/10.1177/03064190211027135)

Leandro Cruz, M., Sá, S., Mesquita, D., Lima, R.M., Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2021). "The effectiveness of a simple tool to practice communication skills: A case study across five European Engineering Universities", *International Journal for Mechanical Engineering Education*. [DOI: 10.1177/03064190211014458](https://doi.org/10.1177/03064190211014458)

Leandro Cruz, M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2021). "Using an industry instrument to improve the transversal competency learning outcomes of engineering graduates", *European Journal of Engineering Education*. [DOI:10.1080/03043797.2021.1909539](https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2021.1909539)

Leandro Cruz, M., van den Bogaard, M.E.D., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Groen, P., (2021). "Testing the Validity and Reliability of an Instrument Measuring Engineering Students - Perceptions of Transversal Competency Levels". *IEEE Transaction on Education*, Vol. 64, no. 2, pp. 180-186, [DOI: 10.1109/TE.2020.3025378](https://doi.org/10.1109/TE.2020.3025378)

Leandro Cruz, M., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Groen, P., (2020). "Evaluation of competency methods in engineering education: a systematic review", *European Journal of Engineering Education*, Vol 45, Issue 5 pp 729-757, [DOI:10.1080/03043797.2019.1671810](https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2019.1671810)

Cervone, A., Melkert, J.A., Mebus, L.F.M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2016). "Push or Pull Students into Blended Education: A Case Study at Delft University of Technology". *International Journal of Engineering Education*, 01/2016; 32(5(A)):1911-1921.

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and de Graaff, E., (2010). "Assessment of curriculum quality through alumni research", *European Journal of Engineering Education*, Vol. 37(2), p133-142, 2012. [DOI:10.1080/03043797.2012.665847](https://doi.org/10.1080/03043797.2012.665847)

## BOOK CHAPTERS

Brügemann, V.P., Brummelen, H. van, Melkert, J.A., Kamp, A., Reith, B.A., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Zandbergen, B.T.C., (2005) "An example of active learning in Aerospace Engineering", in *Research and Practice of Active Learning in Engineering Education*, Editors: E. de Graaff, G.N. Saunders-Smits, and M.R. Nieweg, ISBN 978 90 8555 091 2, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, pp. 156-164

## KEYNOTES

"*What type of Engineer are you and do you have the right skills? – sharing the outcomes of the PREFER Project*". Keynote speech at BEST Virtual Summit, 16 June 2020

"*The Skills Gap in Engineering Graduates: Fiction or Reality? - A call for Research-based Intervention on Closing the Gap*". Keynote speech at the UK & Ireland Engineering Education Research Network meeting, November 2016, York

"*Engineering Engineering Education*", Keynote Speech at ETALEE 2015: Exploring Teaching for Active Learning in Engineering Education, DTU, Copenhagen, Denmark, November 2015. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.1.3113.9442

"*Attracting young people to engineering*" and Keynote Speech and Member of keynote debate panel at 37<sup>th</sup> annual SEFI conference: Attracting Young People to Engineering, Rotterdam, 2009

## INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS & PRESENTATIONS

"*Developing a Typology within the Internship Landscape in Engineering Education: An Initial Comparative Study*", Saunders-Smits, G.N., and van den Bogaard, M.E.D., presentation at the UK&IE Engineering Education Research Network Annual Symposium, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, 1-2 June 2023.

"*The Assessment of Transversal Competencies in Aviation Maintenance Training*", Kes, L., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Specht, M.M., presentation at the UK&IE Engineering Education Research Network Annual Symposium, University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, 1-2 June 2023.

"*The effectiveness of a simple tool to practice communication skills: A case study across five European Engineering Universities*", Leandro Cruz, M., Sá, S., Mesquita, D., Lima, R.M., Saunders-Smits, G.N., presentation at 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference for Science and Technology Education, Porto, Portugal, 15-16 October 2020

"*Comparison of 1<sup>st</sup>-year student conceptions of their future roles as engineers between Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands*", Saunders-Smits, G.N., Craps, S., Carthy, D., and Langie, G., presentation at 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference for Science and Technology Education, Porto, Portugal, 15-16 October 2020

"*Online Teaching can be more than Talking Heads – Materials Experiments in a MOOC*" invited presentation at the Ansys Granta Online Materials Education Symposium, 3 September 2020

"*Webinar Oral Exam and Brightspace Discussions and Analytics*" – part of TU Delft's Remote Teaching Webinar series, 10 June 2020

"*Transversal skills - How do we prepare our students for the future labour market?*" Meet & Eat presentation at TU Delft Teaching Lab, 26 November 2019

"*The Invisibles and their Diversity*", Video presentation at European Convention for Engineering Deans, Trondheim, Norway, 05/2018. <https://youtu.be/IBg063-Aqtl>

"*The Use of Online Tools in Student – Lecturer Communications*". Invited speech at Frans-Nederlandse Ontmoetingsdagen voor het Hoger Onderwijs, Lille, France, 06/2014

"*Van OpenCourseWare naar Online Onderwijs*" - invited presentation on SURF Onderwijsdagen, 13 November 2012, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, with S. Dopper. (Presentation on online education at SURF Education days)

"*The use of Teaching Assistants in Project Education - 10 years of Experiences at TU Delft*", invited speaker at LESEC annual event, 8 February 2011, Leuven, Belgium

*“Peer Review versie 3: Teamprestaties meten, volgen, toetsen”, invited presentation at SURF Onderwijsdagen, 8 November 2011, Utrecht in cooperation with Parantion. (Presentation on the use of peer review in project education at SURF Education days)*

*“Peer evaluatie: dé manier om van elkaar iets te leren”, invited presentation on SURF Onderwijsdagen, 9 November 2010, Utrecht in cooperation with Parantion (Presentation on use of peer review in project education at SURF Education days)*

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

### 2025

Klomp, M., Claij, C., & Saunders-Smits, G. N. (2025). Meet MIRTE - Using Affordable Open Science Robots in Engineering Education. SEFI 53rd Annual Conference (SEFI 2025), Tampere, Finland.

[DOI:10.5281/zenodo.17631419](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17631419)

Howard, T. P., Di Benedetti, M., Saunders, G., & Garrard, A. (2025). Open Educational Resources (OER) in Engineering Education: From Awareness to Action. SEFI 53rd Annual Conference (SEFI 2025), Tampere, Finland.

[DOI:10.5281/zenodo.17631273](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17631273)

Van Den Broeck, L., Cooke, N., Di Benedetti, M., Johannsen, T., Tilley, E., Griffiths, J., Winkens, A.-K., Kovacs, H., Manzini, R., Hadgraft, R., & Saunders, G. (2025). SIG Engineering Skills - Complementing the Conventional: Engineering Competencies and Skills for an Uncertain Future. SEFI 53rd Annual Conference (SEFI 2025), Tampere, Finland. [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.17631732](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17631732)

### 2024

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## 2020

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## 2019

Leandro Cruz, M. and Saunders-Smits, G. N., (2019). “*Transversal Competency Level of Engineering Graduates Dictated by European Industry*”, ASEE 2019 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Exposition, 16-19 June 2019, Tampa, Florida, USA. [DOI:10.18260/1-2-33464](https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2-33464)

## 2018

Leandro Cruz, M., and Saunders-Smits, G. N., (2018). “*Pilot study boot camp: professional engineering roles experienced in a week*”, 6th Annual Symposium of the United Kingdom & Ireland Engineering Education Research Network, 1-2 Nov 2018, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

Leandro Cruz, M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2018). “*Design and Implementation of New Communication and Lifelong Learning Elements in a Master Engineering Course*”. 46<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, 17-21 Sept 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark. [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.14678112](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14678112)

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Schuurman, M.J., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Rans, C.D., (2018). “*Increasing Bloom’s Hierarchical Learning in Aerospace Engineering – a Case Study of Forensic Engineering Course using a ‘Chain of Events’*”. 2018 Aviation Technology, Integration, and Operations Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, [DOI:10.2514/6.2018-3201](https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2018-3201)

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Rans, C.D., Teixeira De Freitas, S., van Campen, J.J.M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2016). “*(Blended Learning)<sup>2</sup>: Blending content- and learning-oriented objectives in a blended learning environment*”, 44<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, 15 - 19 Sep 2016, Tampere, Finland. [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.17020997](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17020997)

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Saunders-Smits, G.N., Schuurman, M.J., and Rans, C.D., (2015). "Forensic Engineering: Learning by Accident Teaching Investigation Skills to Graduate Students using Real-Life Accident Simulations", 53<sup>rd</sup> AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting, Jan 2015, AIAA SciTech, Kissimmee, Florida, USA. [DOI:10.2514/6.2015-1516](https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2015-1516)

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Mebus, L.F.M., (2015). "Anytime, Anywhere – The development of an online course in Research Methodologies", 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual SEFI Conference, 29 Jun - 2 Jul 2015, Orleans, France.

## 2014

Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2014). "Design of an MSc Degree course in Aerospace Structures & Materials", 42<sup>nd</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, 15-19 Sep 2014, Birmingham, United Kingdom

## 2013

Groot Kormelink, J., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Dopper, S., (2013), "From on-campus to online distance education: a three-dimensional perspective: International market, institutional policies and implementation", The Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference (EADTU2013), 23-25 Oct 2013, Paris, France

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## 2012

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Roling, P.C., Brügemann, V.P., Timmer, W.A., and Melkert, J.A., (2012), "Using the Engineering Design Cycle to Develop Integrated Project Based Learning in Aerospace Engineering", EE2012 International Conference on Innovation, Practice, and Research in Engineering Education, 18-20 Sep. 2012, Coventry, United Kingdom

## 2011

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Melkert, J.A., (2011). "Innovative Grading for Design Exercises" 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Design, 31 Oct – 4 Nov 2011, IASDR, Delft, the Netherlands, [DOI:10.5281/zenodo.5871999](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5871999)

Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2011). "Research Based Learning in a Project Based Learning Environment- A Case Study", 39<sup>th</sup> SEFI conference, SEFI & ISEL, 27-30 Sep 2011, Lisbon, Portugal –Winner of Best Paper Award

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Curran R., (2011). "Designing their own Future: Teaching Students How to Design Aerospace Operations Research", 11th AIAA Aviation Technology, Integration, and Operations (ATIO) Conference, 20 - 22 Sep 2011, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA. [DOI:10.2541/6.2011-6821](https://doi.org/10.2541/6.2011-6821)

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## 2009

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Van den Bogaard, M.E.D., and Chiang, Y.C., (2009). "Designing Training Sessions for TAs: Experiences in Aerospace Engineering at Delft University of Technology", 39<sup>th</sup> ASEE/IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference, San Antonio, Texas, USA. [DOI:10.1109/FIE.2009.5350797](https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2009.5350797)

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De Breuker, R., Hol, J.M.A.M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2009), "The use of Wiki-Pages as a Course Reader: Conclusions after a One-Year Wiki Experiment", 37<sup>th</sup> SEFI conference, SEFI & Delft University of Technology, 1-4 Jul 2009, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

## 2008

De Graaff, E., van den Bogaard, M.E.D., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2008). "Peer evaluation to enhance performance in project work", 37<sup>th</sup> International IGIP Symposium, Sep 2008, Moscow, Russia

De Breuker, R., Hol, J.M.A.M., Saunders-Smits, G.N., and Van den Bogaard, M.E.D., (2008). "GRASSROOTS: How to get lecturers to go digital? Advanced Use of BlackBoard for Online Testing in Aircraft Structural Design Courses", SEFI 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 2-5 Jul 2008, Aalborg, Denmark

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Van den Bogaard, M.E.D., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2007). "Peer & Self Evaluations as Means to Improve the Assessment of Project Based Learning", 37<sup>th</sup> ASEE/IEEE Annual Frontiers in Education Conference, Oct 2007, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. DOI:10.1109/FIE.2007.4417988

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Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2007). "EUREKA Active and integrated learning is important for professional success, so say our alumni! ", 7<sup>th</sup> ALE International Workshop (pp. 353-360), 4-6 Jun 2007, INSA, Toulouse, France

Saunders-Smits, G.N., van den Bogaard, M.E.D., and de Graaff, E., (2007). "Team Building in International Design Projects", 7<sup>th</sup> ALE International Workshop (pp. 71-78), 4-6 Jun 2007, INSA, Toulouse, France

Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2007). "Looking Back – The Needs of an Aerospace Engineer in their Degree Course with the Benefit of Hindsight", SEFI and IGIP Joint Annual Conference 2007, 1-4 Jul 2007, Miskolc, Hungary.

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Roling, P.C., Melkert, J.A., Curran, R., Cooper, R., and Early, J., (2007). "Crossing Borders - 6 Years of International Aerospace Student Design Projects", SEFI and IGIP Joint Annual Conference 2007, 1-4 Jul 2007, Miskolc, Hungary

Hol, J.M.A.M., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2007). "A New Approach to Teaching Finite Element Analysis for Large Audiences", SEFI and IGIP Joint Annual Conference 2007, 1-4 Jul 2007, Miskolc, Hungary

## 2006

Andernach, T., and Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2006). "The use of Teaching – Assistants in Project-Based Learning at Aerospace Engineering", 36<sup>th</sup> ASEE/IEEE Annual Frontiers in Education Conference, 27-31 Oct 2006, San Diego, USA. [DOI:10.1109/FIE.2006.322468](https://doi.org/10.1109/FIE.2006.322468)

## 2005

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and de Graaff, E., (2005). "Key Features in the Engineering Curriculum: What can we learn from Alumni Research", SEFI 2005 Annual Conference, 7 – 10 Sep 2005, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, pp 522-528

Saunders-Smits, G.N., Gürdal, Z., and Hol, J.M.A.M., (2005). "Innovative Teaching of Aircraft Structural Analysis and Design Courses – Mathematica in an Engineering Education Environment", 2005 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition, 12-15 Jun 2005, Portland, Oregon, USA. [DOI:10.18260/1-2--14177](https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2--14177)

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and de Vries, J., (2005). "Learning by doing: An innovative laboratory exercise to enhance the understanding of thin-walled Mechanics of Materials", 2005 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition, 12-15 Jun 2005, Portland, Oregon, USA. [DOI:10.18260/1-2--15203](https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2--15203)

Saunders-Smits, G.N., (2005). "The Secret of their Success: What factors determine the career success of an aerospace engineer trained in the Netherlands?", 2005 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference & Exposition, 12-15 Jun 2005, Portland, Oregon, USA. [DOI:10.18260/1-2--15571](https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2--15571)

## 2003

Saunders-Smits, G.N., and de Graaff, E., (2003). "The development of integrated professional skills in Aerospace Engineering through problem-based learning in design projects", 2003 American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition, Jun 2003, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. [DOI:10.18260/1-2--12480](https://doi.org/10.18260/1-2--12480)

## WEBINARS

“*Neurodiversity – the inclusiveness vs. labelling paradox*”, [webinar contribution](#) as Part of the SEFI@work webinar series: The experience of neurodiverse engineering students: support for success, 15 Mar 2023.

## WORKSHOPS ENGINEERING EDUCATION

“*Supporting Engineering Students with Disabilities: Promoting Awareness and Sharing Good Practices*”, Workshop with Natalie Wint (UCL) and Roger Penlington (Northumbria University) at 51<sup>st</sup> Annual SEFI Conference, 10-14 Sep 2023, Dublin, Ireland.

“*Using Peer Assessment in Inclusive Digital Education*”, Workshop at LDE-CEL Annual event, Workshop with Gitte van Helden, Vivian van der Werf, and Marcus Specht, Delft, the Netherlands, 7 Dec 2022.

“*Personal Branding in Academia*”, Workshop for PhD students of the Leiden – Delft – Erasmus Centre for Education and Learning, The Hague, June 2022

“*Using Peer Assessment in Inclusive Digital Education*”, Workshop with Gitte van Helden, Vivian van der Werf, and Marcus Specht at 50<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, 19-22 Sep 2022, Barcelona, Spain.

“*Working with Peers in Education: Evaluation, Review and Assessment*” Workshop for RAPIDE project, LDE-CEL Annual Event, 14 Dec 2021.

“*What type of Engineer are you?*” - Workshop BEST Delft, 29 Sep 2020.

“*Wat voor type Ingenieur ben jij?*” – Klvl Young Engineers, 28 Sep 2020.

“*What type of Engineer are you?*” - Workshop for Aerospace Structures and Materials Student Society Enlightenment, 18 Jun 2020.

“*What type of Engineer are you?*” – European Young Engineers Online Conference, 9 May 2020.

“*Transversal skills - How do we prepare our students for the future labour market?*” workshop at TU Delft Teaching Lab, 26 Nov 2019.

“*Inclusiveness of Neurodiverse Students in Engineering Education Curriculum Design and Delivery*”, by Gillian Saunders-Smits, TU Delft Education Day, Nov 2019.

“*Inclusiveness of Neurodiverse Students in Engineering Education Curriculum Design and Delivery*”, by Gillian Saunders-Smits and Maartje E.D. van den Bogaard, SEFI Annual Conference, Budapest, Hungary, Sep 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14657456>

“*Teaching other Communication Skills than Writing and Presenting – A Take Home Workshop created as part of the PREFER Project*”, by Mariana Leandro Cruz and Gillian N. Saunders-Smits, SEFI Annual Conference, Budapest, Hungary, Sep 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14657441>

“*Protecting the Space for Large Scale Innovation*”, Round Table Discussion, Prof. E. Lindsay, Prof. J. Mitchell, and Dr. G.N. Saunders-Smits, 46<sup>th</sup> SEFI Annual Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sep 2018.

“*Hands on Workshop on Teaching Forensic Engineering: Teaching Students Critical Thinking by Investigative Mindset*”, G.N. Saunders-Smits, C.D. Rans, M.J. Schuurman, 44<sup>th</sup> Annual SEFI Conference of the European Society for Engineering Education, Tampere, Finland, Sep 2016.

Workshop on the use of Peer Review in project education at SURF Onderwijsdagen, Rotterdam in collaboration with Parantion, Nov 2012.