



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Variables and variable naming in introductory programming education

Werf, V. van der

Citation

Werf, V. van der. (2025, September 2). *Variables and variable naming in introductory programming education*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4259393>

Version: Publisher's Version

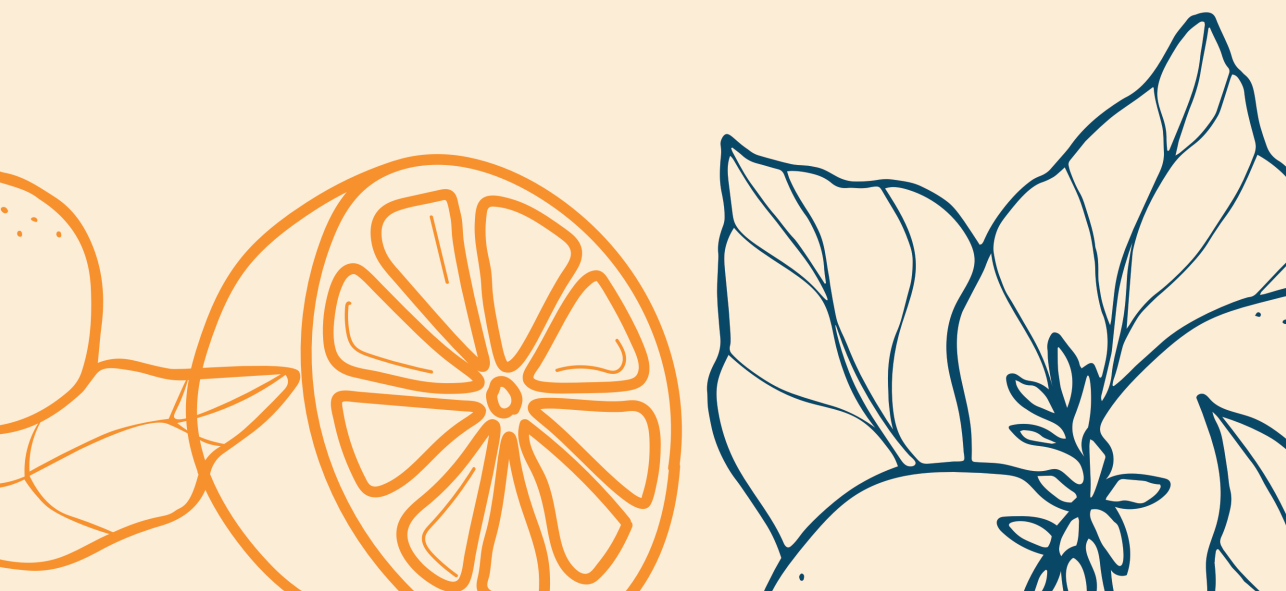
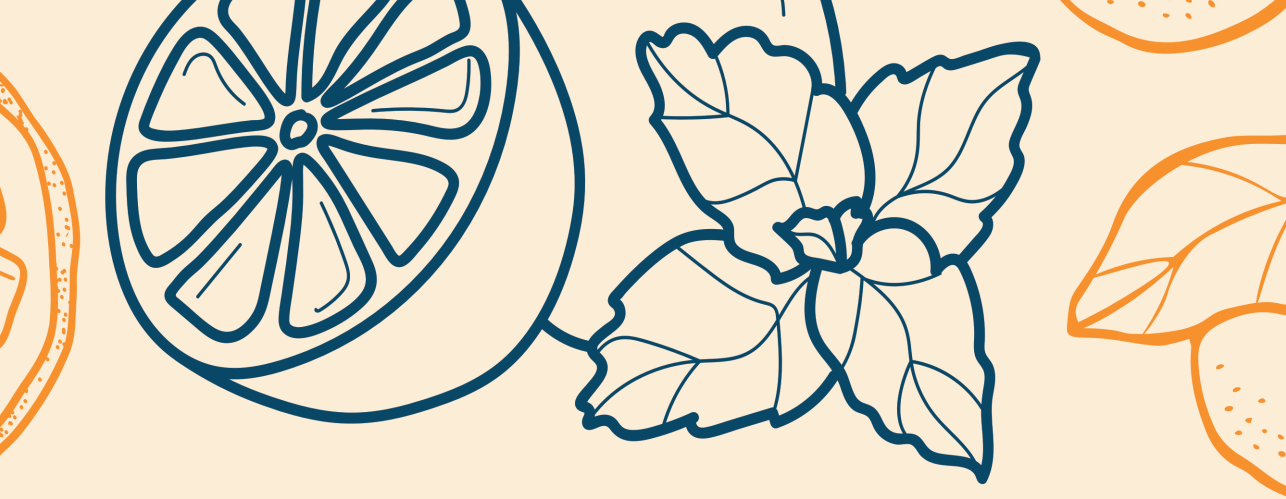
License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4259393>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

CURRICULUM VITAE

Vivian van der Werf was born in Tilburg, The Netherlands, in 1992. She completed her Bachelor's degree (BA) in Archaeology in 2013 and her Master's degree (MA) in Archaeology in 2018, both at Leiden University. Meanwhile, she pursued a second Master's degree by completing her pre-master's in Child and Education Studies in 2014 and her Master's degree (MSc) in Educational Sciences in 2018, both at Leiden University. During this time, she was a member of the Educational Committee at the Faculty of Archaeology for two years and completed the International Leiden Leadership Program of the Honours Academy Leiden in 2017. She has worked for about two and a half years as a data analyst and policy officer before starting her PhD research in 2020 at the Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science. Vivian guest lectured upon invitation at the Erasmus School of Social and Behavioral Sciences in 2022 and 2023 with Dr. Martine Baars, gave workshops on implementing peer feedback (national and international), job crafting, and variable naming in programming, and assisted in the bachelor's course Studying and Presenting in 2023. She furthermore took courses in academic resilience, qualitative research, and scientific conduct, among others. Currently, Vivian is obtaining her BVNT2 certificate at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and works as a Dutch language teacher for international students, expats, and immigrants, with a special focus on women and minorities who are (re)skilling themselves for the Dutch tech/IT sector.



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

* Also published in this dissertation.

- van Helden, G., V. VAN DER WERF, J. Schleiss, G.N. Saunders-Smits (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
- *VAN DER WERF, V., F. Hermans, M. Specht, and E. Aivaloglou (2024). *Promoting Deliberate Naming Practices in Programming Education: A Set of Interactive Educational Activities*. In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Virtual Global Computing Education Conference V. 1, **SIGCSE Virtual 2024**, page 235–241, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3649165.3690115
- *VAN DER WERF, V., F. Hermans, M. Specht, and E. Aivaloglou (2024). *Variables and Variable Naming in Popular Programming Textbooks for Children and Novices*. In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Virtual Global Computing Education Conference V. 1, **SIGCSE Virtual 2024**, page 242–248, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3649165.3690112
- *VAN DER WERF, V., A. Swidan, F. Hermans, M. Specht, and E. Aivaloglou (2024) *Teachers' Beliefs and Practices on the Naming of Variables in Introductory Python Programming Courses*. In 2024 IEEE/ACM 46th International Conference on Software Engineering: Software Engineering Education and Training (ICSE-SEET), **ICSE-SEET 2024**, page 368–379, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3639474.3640069
- VAN DER WERF, V. *Fostering a natural language approach in programming education (doctoral consortium)*. In Proceedings of the 23rd Koli Calling International Conference on Computing Education Research, **Koli Calling 2023**, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3631802.3631838
- VAN DER WERF, V., G. van Helden, J. Schleiss, G.N. Saunders-Smits (2023). *A Framework for Investigating Educational Theories in Engineering Education Research*. European Society for Engineering Education (**SEFI 2023**). doi: 10.21427/PM7V-MD26
- *VAN DER WERF, V., M.Y. Zhang, E. Aivaloglou, F. Hermans, and M. Specht (2023). *Variables in Practice. An Observation of Variables in Introductory Programming MOOCs*. In Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education V. 1, **ITiCSE 2023**, page 208–214, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3587102.3588857
- van der Meer, N., V. VAN DER WERF, W.P. Brinkman, M.M. Specht (2023). *Virtual reality and collaborative learning: A systematic literature review*. In **Frontiers in Virtual Reality**, vol. 4. doi: 10.3389/frvir.2023.1159905
- van Helden, G., V. VAN DER WERF, G.N. Saunders-Smits, M.M. Specht (2023). *The Use of Digital Peer Assessment in Higher Education—An Umbrella Review of Literature*. In **IEEE Access**, vol. 11, 22948–22960. doi: 10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3252914
- G.N. Saunders-Smits, G. van Helden, V. VAN DER WERF, M.M. Specht (2022). *Using peer assessment in inclusive digital education (workshop)*. European Society for Engineering Education (**SEFI 2022**).

- VAN DER WERF, V., E. Aivaloglou, F. Hermans, and M. Specht (2022). *(How) Should Variables and Their Naming Be Taught in Novice Programming Education?* In Proceedings of the 2022 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research - Volume 2, **ICER 2022**, page 53–54, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3501709.3544288
- *VAN DER WERF, V., E. Aivaloglou, F. Hermans, and M. Specht (2021). *What does this Python code do? An exploratory analysis of novice students' code explanations.* In Proceedings of the 10th Computer Science Education Research Conference, **CSERC 2021**, page 94–107, New York, NY, USA. Association for Computing Machinery. doi: 10.1145/3507923.3507956