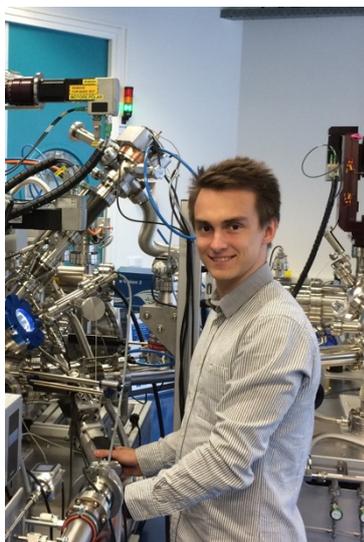


Project: Insights into mechanism of CO oxidation by means of Operando NAP-XPS

“Elucidating the nature of active species of the ceria based catalysts under operating conditions.”

Valery Muravev (TU/e)



Can you do a short presentation about you?

I am a PhD student in the Inorganic Materials and Chemistry department at TU/e. It's been nearly a year since I moved to the Netherlands just after my graduation from Novosibirsk State University where I did my Master in Catalysis and Adsorption.

How is living in another city like Eindhoven?

After the climate of Siberia I find the weather here quite nice, although sometimes I'd rather prefer snow to heavy rain with wind. Eindhoven itself is a nice city, not too big, not too small, and very comfortable for studying and having a good time with friends in the city center.

Would you advice a friend to come to the Netherlands?

Definitely. The working conditions are remarkably good, very friendly environment with people always ready to help. It's very easy to settle in also due to the fact that English is enough for work and living.

How/why did you finish in Eindhoven?

Well, I was specifically looking for a PhD project related to XPS and heterogeneous catalysis as my primary scientific interests. So I was just lucky to find that position here in a group of Emiel Hensen.

How did you become interested in science?

It happened in high school, when first I was more interested in Biochemistry and then it finally turned into Chemistry. But in fact I do not recall a specific moment when I felt that I want to do science and only that.

Did you know right away that you wanted to be a research scientist?

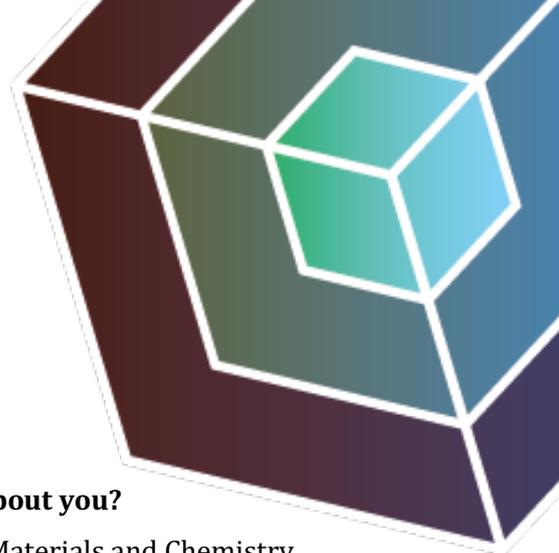
No. It appeared to me only in high school when I started to take part in Chemistry Olympiads.

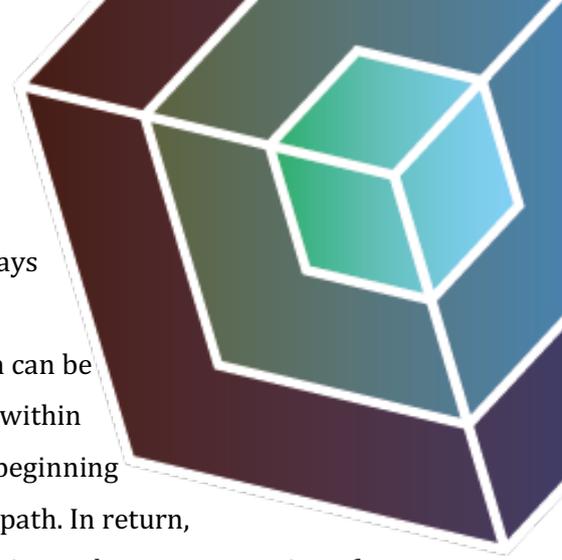
What do you enjoy the most about your research?

Designing of the experiment and then checking afterwards whether your prediction was right or not.

What is your biggest motivation?

To make a valuable input in the field to bring something new.





How do you see yourself fitting in the MCEC project?

I think the strength of MCEC is in its multidisciplinary. You're always around the people with very different backgrounds and scientific interests, sometimes the solution for a particular scientific problem can be found in another field. I think the diversity of scientific community within MCEC makes it also helpful for the new people, who are just in the beginning of their PhD, for students just like me to find/adjust their scientific path. In return, years later I might be the person to share the knowledge and expertise to the new generation of the MCEC members.

If you had a time machine and 2 beers, with which scientist would you like to meet?

Never thought about that. Although it would be interesting to talk to Maxwell or Pauling, just to check how "normal" they were, being geniuses at the same time.

Which scientific term/phenomena you think is the most misused by media?

GMO (genetically modified organisms).

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Playing football for the local team here in Eindhoven. Just chatting with friends with beer and nice food. This really recharges for the next day.

Is science the answer to everything?

Certainly not. Some things we might be unable to understand or see; likewise in practice not everything might be studied or measured, just because the measurement itself is affecting the matter you study.

What do you want to do after finishing your PhD?

Take a few weeks for a break and then do science again! At the moment I'm quite sure that I'll stay in academia at least for a while and then who knows, maybe I'd try to work in industry as well, just to have a feeling of it.