

COLLOQUIA 2015 – University of Groningen, Department of Sociology

Thursday December 17

Tineke Fokkema (NIDI): Types of Family Solidarity in the Context of Ageing and Migration

In Europe, the number of older people with a migration background is growing fast. The population of older migrants is heterogeneous in many respects, including variation in place of origin, culture, migration motive, integration and transnational ties. While the increase and diversity of older migrants may pose new social challenges and phenomena with regard to intergenerational living arrangements, affection, obligation, contact and support exchange, little is known about the variation in solidarity between aging parents and their adult children in migrant families. This paper contributes to the literature by developing a typology of late-life migrant families and examining to what extent differences between the observed types are linked to migrants' characteristics. Latent class analysis is used for the construction of the typology, considering simultaneously multiple dimensions of family solidarity. Data are taken from the French 'Route to Retirement of Immigrants' (PRI: *Passage à la Retraite des Immigrés*) survey, carried out between December 2002 and March 2003 among more than 6000 individuals aged 45-70. The survey is not only unique because of its large sample size but also because it includes migrants from a wide range of countries and has detailed information on family relationships.

Tineke Fokkema is senior researcher at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI-KNAW) in The Hague and at the department of Sociology at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. The central topic of her research and writing is the ageing of populations, in particular the well-being and loneliness of older adults and the patterns of intergenerational solidarity and exchange. Other research interests include the determinants of remittances and immigrant integration, the contested links between integration and transnationalism, return migration and the reintegration of returnees into society and their extended families. Currently, she is involved in the ERC Research project 'Families in Context' led by Prof. dr P.A. Dykstra, focusing on the social implications of growing old in a migration context. Fokkema has published in leading academic journals and has extensive experience with analyzing large-scale cross-national surveys.

Thursday November 19

Martijn Huisman (LASA, VU): The Effect of Socioeconomic Adversity on Health in Later Life

There is tremendous diversity in physical, emotional, cognitive and social aspects of functioning in old age. Most people are able to envisage ways of becoming old that they would believe to be 'preferable' as well as ways of becoming old that may be less preferable. Capturing this intuitive understanding of diversity in old age has been the goal of theories of successful ageing (or healthy ageing). However, measuring successful ageing is not straightforward and the concept remains a constant source of unresolved questions and conceptual debate. In this presentation I will highlight the approach that we took to measuring it in data from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam (LASA). Besides this, I will show to what extent successful ageing is associated with socioeconomic adversity and related factors such as exposure to stressful life events.

Martijn Huisman is scientific director of the Longitudinal Ageing Study Amsterdam. His main focus is the role of socioeconomic adversity on health in old age. Besides this, he is research coordinator of the Amsterdam Center on Aging. Martijn obtained an MSc in Clinical and Health Psychology (1999) and an MSc in Epidemiology (2003). He received his PhD in 2004 from ErasmusMC for his thesis entitled "Socioeconomic inequalities in health in Europe; studies of middle-aged and older populations with a special focus on the role of smoking". He currently leads several projects that use a combination of qualitative and quantitative research. Examples of specific topics in his research are: perceived control in relation to health care use in older adults (National Program of Care for the Elderly) and resilience in older adults who have been exposed to socioeconomic adversity (NWO, VIDI).

Thursday November 19

Erik van Ingen (Tilburg University): Coping with Negative Life Events Using the Internet

Nowadays when people try to deal with problems in their lives they may turn to the Internet for help. They may search for information about their problem, they may try to connect to others who experienced similar things, and they may try to mobilize instrumental and emotional support from the Internet. In his VENI project he develops measures of online coping and studies several questions relevant to sociology, such as: what can existing theories on social networks and social capital tell us about online coping; do online coping resources give rise to a new type of inequality; and how does online coping affect individuals' well-being and life chances?

Erik van Ingen is assistant professor at the Department of Sociology of Tilburg University. His two main research topics: social and psychological consequences of Internet use, and (effects of) participation in voluntary associations. Other research interest are: personal relationships, political behavior & attitudes, loneliness, social trust, religiosity, and income inequality & health.

Wednesday November 18

Bruce Ellis (University of Arizona): The Meaningful Roles Intervention: An Evolutionary Approach to Reducing Bullying and Increasing Prosocial Behavior.

Bullying is a problem that affects adolescents worldwide. Efforts to prevent bullying have proven to be modestly successful, at best, or iatrogenic, at worst. We offer an explanation for this limited success by employing an evolutionary-psychological perspective to critique bullying interventions. We argue that bullying is a goal-directed behavior that is sensitive to benefits as well as costs, and that interventions must address these benefits. This perspective led us to develop a novel anti-bullying intervention, Meaningful Roles, which offers bullies prosocial alternatives—meaningful roles and responsibilities implemented through a school jobs program—that effectively meet the same status goals as bullying behavior. We describe this new intervention and how its theoretical, evolutionary roots may be applicable to other intervention programs.

Bruce J. Ellis is Professor of Family Studies and Human Development and the John and Doris Norton Endowed Chair in Fathers, Parenting, and Families at the University of Arizona. He co-developed the theory of Biological Sensitivity to Context and its recent extension the Adaptive Calibration Model, which have been influential in guiding research on stress-health relations. His research leverages knowledge from both evolutionary biology and developmental science to address core issues in developmental psychopathology, especially in relation to child and adolescent health. That work examines the impact of family relationships, peer relationships, and socioecological conditions on children's biological stress responses, pubertal development, risky adolescent behavior and cognition, and related health outcomes. Dr. Ellis' work involves both basic research and real-world applications in the form of theoretically-based interventions.

Thursday October 15

Antonie Knigge (Utrecht University): Sources of Sibling Similarity. Status Attainment in the Netherlands during Modernization

An old Dutch proverb says, "If you're born a nickel, you'll never become a dime," meaning it is difficult to escape the social class into which you are born. The fact that siblings often attain a similar occupational status shows that there is at least some truth in this. A classic sociological theory—modernization theory—claims that while family origin largely determined status attainment in traditional societies, modernization processes such as industrialization and educational expansion have increased the scope for social mobility. In the present study, Antonie Knigge has designed an original way to test whether this claim is true. Using digitized information from Dutch marriage certificates from the nineteenth century, he has measured the similarity of status between siblings to indicate lack of social mobility. His results show that social mobility did indeed increase in the period in which the Netherlands transitioned from a traditional to a more modern society. However, the results also indicate that it was not necessarily the modernization processes that caused this decrease in sibling similarity. Using a model that simulates competition for status in the labor market, the author argues that to understand patterns in social mobility many aspects need to be considered, including societal inequality and inequality within families. By investigating these sources of sibling similarity, his research offers new insights into the status attainment process in general, and into the different ways it may be affected by modernization in particular.

Antonie Knigge is an Assistant Professor at the Sociology Department of Utrecht University and the ICS. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in sociology at Utrecht University, graduating cum laude. He conducted the presented work as part of this Ph.D. research. His dissertation resulted in publications in the *American Sociological Review* and the *American Journal of Sociology*.

Thursday September 17

Wojtek Przepiorka (Utrecht University): The Production of a Reputation Premium: Bargain Hunting and Herding in eBay Auctions

Reputation matters in online auction markets. Sellers with more positive and fewer negative customer ratings receive higher bids and attain higher sales. It has been shown theoretically and empirically that buyers produce this reputation premium by trading off prices against the uncertainty they face with regard to sellers' trustworthiness. However, finding a good bargain at a low risk of being cheated (or otherwise dissatisfied) is time consuming and therefore costly. Buyers may thus resort to "cheaper" strategies and simply join auctions which have received a bid already. Although such herding will necessarily lead to higher bidding competition, it may be rational if the presence of other bidders is a sign of good item quality and seller reputation. Based on a large sample of eBay auctions of a homogenous good ($N \sim 91,000$), we investigate whether buyers' herd behaviour could undermine eBay's reputation mechanism. First, we find evidence for herding. The lower the initial price of an item and the earlier an item receives its first bid, the more bidders bid on that item driving up the item's final price. Second, the herding we observe might be rational because sellers with a better reputation set lower initial prices and receive their first bids earlier. Finally, even after controlling for herding in our statistical analyses, we find a significant and substantial effect of a seller's reputation on an item's final price.

Wojtek Przepiorka is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology at Utrecht University and the ICS. After studying sociology (with computer science and economics) at the University of Bern, Wojtek did his doctorate in sociology at ETH Zurich in 2009. From 2010 to 2014, he was a Research Fellow at Nuffield College and the Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford. Wojtek has published articles in disciplinary (*American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *European Sociological Review*) as well as in cross-disciplinary outlets (*Scientific Reports*, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, *PLOS ONE*). His research and teaching interests are in organizational behaviour, game theory, analytical and economic sociology, and quantitative methodology, in particular experimental methods. In his current research, he investigates mechanisms of reputation formation in online markets, the signalling benefits of "altruistic" acts, and the emergence and maintenance of norms of cooperation by means of laboratory and field experiments.

Thursday June 11

Adam Rutland (Goldsmiths, University of London): Intergroup Social Exclusion and Inclusion in Childhood and Adolescence

Evidence suggests that intergroup social exclusion develops early in childhood and results in many negative psychological consequences. First, studies will be presented which suggest that from middle childhood into adolescence individuals develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of intergroup social exclusion, with simultaneous consideration of issues surrounding morality, group dynamics and personal autonomy. Second, research will be presented suggesting that intergroup social inclusion (i.e., contact and friendship) is related to positive intergroup attitudes amongst majority status children, whereas with minority status children it buffers them against the negative psychological consequences of discrimination. Overall this talk will highlight important developmental and contextual factors in how children and adolescents experience intergroup social exclusion and inclusion.

Adam Rutland is professor at Goldsmiths, University of London. His research interests focus on social-cognitive development, particularly the early development of children's intergroup attitudes and identities. His recent research has examined when and how children's prejudice is influenced by self-presentation, how intergroup contact can reduce childhood prejudice, the social and cognitive basis to children's evaluations of peers within intergroup contexts (the development of subjective group dynamics), and ethnic identification and acculturation amongst ethnic minority and majority children.

Thursday, June 4

Katariina Salmela-Aro (University of Helsinki / University of Jyväskylä, Finland): School Engagement and Disengagement: Developmental-Contextual Approach

FinEdu longitudinal study has examined the profiles and longitudinal trajectories of emotional engagement and school burnout among Finnish adolescents from 9th to 11th grades and during their transition to further education and work life. Taking a developmental-contextual approach, the results show that the more resources the students have the more engaged they are, whereas the more demands they have the more they suffer from burnout. School engagement and burnout spills over to other life domains later on. However, students are not homogeneous group but different profiles can be identified: engaged, engaged-exhausted, cynical, and burnout students. Specifically, Finnish adolescents found school less enjoyable and less valuable, becoming more overwhelmed and anxious about school with the passing years. In addition, emotional engagement and school burnout had distinct trajectories and longitudinal associations with academic and psychological well-being. Finally, the developmental context of peers, teachers and parents also play a key role in engagement. These findings underscore the importance of examining both positive and negative emotional processes in interpersonal in order to improve understanding of student emotional engagement and its differential effect on adolescent development.

Katariina Salmela-Aro is professor in the Institute of Behavioral Sciences, University of Helsinki and in University of Jyväskylä and Visiting professor in the Institute of Education, University College London, UK. She is incoming President of the European Association for Developmental Psychology and Past Secretary general of the international Society for Behavioral Development. Together with her colleagues she has created Pathways to Adulthood International interdisciplinary post-doctoral fellowship program funded by the Jacobs Foundation. Recently she has studied (using FinEdu longitudinal data) the development of engagement and motivation during the transition to adulthood in several projects funded by the Academy of Finland.

Wednesday March 18

Debra Hevenstone (University of Bern & University of Zurich): Matching over Social Networks: Integrating Simulation and Empirical Data

In the real world social relationships are clearly limited by who we know. And yet, social science research often ignores this in both theoretical models and empirical analyses. In this project I examine the impact of limited information in friendship formation and dating. I begin by introducing a simulation in which dating and friendship formation are limited by pre-existing network structure. Results suggest that limited information might be an alternative mechanism to explain triad closure in friendship networks and spanning trees in high school dating histories. I then introduce two small new datasets including friendship and dating networks and discuss key problems of fitting simulation results to data (e.g. matching real time with simulation time and defining model fit statistics for parameter search).

Debra Hevenstone is a researcher in Sociology at the Universities of Bern and Zurich. She received her PhD in Sociology and Public Policy with a certificate in Complex Systems from the University of Michigan. Her current research interests include the use of simulation in empirical estimation, the incorporation of market-oriented designs in social policy (book forthcoming 2015), labor market mismatch (research grant from the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs 2015-2017), and the diffusion of organizational norms across business networks.

Thursday March 12

Wouter Steenbeek (NSCR, VU University): The Effect of Business Presence on Crime Occurrence: A Fixed-Effects Approach

Businesses are crime 'attractors' and 'generators': they attract (different mixtures of) offenders, guardians and targets to their location, and thus (indirectly) cause crime and disorder. However, most previous studies investigating crime attractors and generators have relied on cross-sectional data with which only correlations between businesses and crime rates can be established. I improve on these studies by using spatio-temporal data of both business presence (X) and crime (Y). To test hypotheses, I combine data spanning 10 years on the locations of about 50,000 business establishments with police-reported crime events in The Hague, The Netherlands, and use fixed effects models to control for time-invariant unobserved heterogeneity. Whereas cross-sectional analyses confirm previous findings, longitudinal analyses show strikingly different outcomes, questioning the hypothesized influence of businesses on the occurrence of crime.

Wouter Steenbeek is a researcher at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR, located at the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam). He received his PhD in Sociology from Utrecht University (ICS Graduate School) in 2011. His research interests are the spatio-temporal distribution of crime and disorder, businesses and facilities as crime generators and crime attractors, and the influence of 'neighborhood' on crime occurrence. His current main research project focuses on the effect of business presence on crime in the public space, supported by an Innovational Research Incentives Scheme (VENI 451-12-011) research grant from the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

Thursday February 12

Agnes Akkerman (VU University / University of Groningen): Spillover Effects of Workplace Conflict

Agnes Akkerman will introduce her research into the consequence of workplace conflict, and discusses her recent projects on the spillover effect of workplace conflict. The first spillover effect is the contagion of labor conflict between organizations. The current literature predominantly assumes that strikes are isolated events. However, strikes sometimes occur in wave-like patterns. This project studied how the dispersion of strategic information between negotiators, and employees affects the probability to spark off conflict in other organizations. The second project discussed concern the spillover of conflict within organizations and studies the effect of labor strikes (conflict between the management and employee's) on the social relations between groups of employees. Few case studies report highly detrimental consequences of conflict between strike participants and non-strikers on employee well-being and productivity, even long after the settlement of a strike work relations. This project studied the conditions under which industrial conflict affects long-term work relations.

Agnes Akkerman holds the James Coleman Chair in Sustainable Collective Employment relations. She is associate professor at the department of Sociology at VU Amsterdam and at the department of political science and public administration at Radboud Nijmegen. She holds a master's degree in sociology from the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, and a doctorate from the same institution upon completing the doctoral program in sociology at the Interuniversity Center for Social Science, Theory, and Methodology.

Thursday January 13

Justus Uitermark (University of Amsterdam / Erasmus University Rotterdam): Networked Social Movements

Recent years have seen massive protests around the world, ranging from the revolutions in the Middle East and the Spanish indignados movement to the global Occupy protests and the revolts in Turkey. These mobilizations have in common that they diffused with unprecedented speed in both urban and online environments. In this presentation, Justus Uitermark will sketch out a relational approach for understanding such waves of contention and present some initial findings.

Justus Uitermark is Associate Professor of sociology at the University of Amsterdam and professor of community development at Erasmus University Rotterdam. He published in Urban Studies, the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, and the American Sociological Review (with Jeroen Bruggeman and Vincent Traag).