

COLLOQUIA 2005 - University of Groningen, Department of Sociology

December, 15, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Frank Weerman (NSCR Leiden): Friendships and Delinquency

The role of peer friendships in the development of criminal behavior is a key issue in criminology. Studies consistently report that there is a strong correlation between one's own level of criminal behavior and friends' level of delinquency. However, in the past indirect measures of peer delinquency were used, in which respondents were asked to report about the behavior of their friends. This may have led to an overestimation of the correlation because adolescents probably tend to project their own behavior on their peers. The NSCR-schoolproject is a longitudinal study in which a large number of low educated students (originally 12-16 years of age) are surveyed. This study collected social network data (networks of regular school contacts and best friends in one school year) to study the friendship and delinquency theme. This results in a more accurate and detailed picture of the link between peers and criminal behavior. Several analyses using the social network data will be shown during the presentation. Firstly, a comparison will be made between findings based on network data and findings that result from the traditional, indirect method. Secondly, peer networks in schools and the position of non-, light and serious delinquent students in it are described and illustrated by network figures made with the use of the software program Drawnet. If possible, the issue of causality (which comes first, delinquent friends or delinquent behavior) will be discussed also, using a few preliminary results from the longitudinal network data.

Frank Weerman is a senior researcher at the NSCR (Netherlands Institute for the study of Crime and Law Enforcement) in Leiden. He studied sociology (free doctorate program in Criminology) in Groningen. He has published in, amongst others, *Criminology* and *British Journal of Criminology*, about youth crime, peers and delinquency, co-offending, and troublesome youth groups and gangs.

November, 17, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Jacob Dijkstra (Department of Sociology, University of Groningen): Externalities in Exchange Networks: An Adaptation of Existing Theories of Exchange Networks

The present presentation extends the focus of network exchange research by examining the problem of *externalities* in exchange networks. The aim is to analyze existing theories in the field with an eye to whether and how these theories can deal with the problem of externalities. Externalities in exchange networks exist if after an exchange of two actors the profit of the third actor is affected as well. Existing theories in the field of network exchange do not inform us on how externalities are predicted to affect actors' behavior in exchange networks. The aim of the present presentation is to adapt and apply each of the theories while not changing their basic assumptions. That is, modifications or extensions of the theories in order to apply them to exchange with externalities should not affect the theories' predictions regarding exchange *without* externalities. The presentation shows how the core solution, exchange resistance theory and power dependence theory can be fruitfully adapted to the problem of externalities in exchange networks, yielding new, testable predictions. Moreover, for the core solution a general result is derived and proved.

Jacob Dijkstra is a PhD student at the ICS and a lecturer at the Department of Sociology. This project is financed by NWO.

October, 20, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Menno Reijneveld (Department of Health Sciences, University Medical Center Groningen): The Changing Impact of a Severe Disaster on the Mental Health and Substance Misuse of Adolescents: Follow-up of a Controlled Study

Disasters have large effects on the mental health of children and adolescents, but there are no studies with prospective pre- and post-disaster data on affected and control populations. We examined the short- and medium-term effects of the Volendam disaster on the mental health of adolescents using such data. The disaster concerned a café fire that wounded 250 adolescents and killed 14. Fifteen months before the disaster, all grade 2 students of the most affected secondary school (n=124, of whom 31 were in the café) and of two other schools (n=830) had been included as control group in a planned study. They had provided self-report data on behavioural and emotional problems and on substance use. We collected follow-up data five and thirteen months after the disaster. Short-term effects of the disaster concerned an increase in behavioural and emotional problems and in excessive use of alcohol, but not in smoking and in other substance misuse. Effects were mostly similar among victims and their classmates but larger for girls. In the medium-term, after 13 months, effects generally decreased. They remained significant for excessive use of alcohol. Post-disaster interventions should address anxiety, depression, thought problems, aggression and alcohol abuse of victims and their peer group. In the longer term, effects seems to decrease but do not completely resolve.

Menno Reijneveld is full professor at the University Medical Center Groningen and chair of Department of Health Sciences. His research focuses on the mental health and development of children and adolescents, and the opportunities for prevention in this area as well as the contribution of deprivation. Previously, he headed the department of Quality of Life, division of Child Health at TNO in Leiden, and co-ordinated the national monitoring of child and public health by public health services (GGD-en and Consultatiebureaus). He is associate editor of the *European Journal of Public Health*, past-president of the Netherlands Epidemiological Society, and referee of various journals in the domains of public health, pediatrics and psychiatry, and of various programs of ZonMw and NWO.

September, 15, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Bernhard Kittel (University of Amsterdam): A Crazy Methodology? On the Limits of Macro-quantitative Social Science Research

Despite the great popularity in the social sciences of macro-quantitative, comparative research during the last two decades, and despite the hope that this would allow more careful testing of theories about social macrophenomena, such research has had only limited lasting impact on theory building. Symptomatic is the lack of robustness of findings. The cause of this problem is the difficulty of dealing with complex macro-phenomena by means of statistical analysis. If between-country comparative research concerns independent and identical behavior of individuals which can be portrayed at the macro level by the idea of the representative agent, then the analysis is tricky but not impossible. For macro-level characteristics of social systems, however, this road is closed, because the model cannot be based on assumptions about modal behavior of individual agents. In this case, the only solution is to accept the limits of small numbers and to improve the elaboration of implications from theoretical considerations.

Bernhard Kittel is a professor of sociology with special attention to methods and techniques of social science research at the University of Amsterdam. He studied political science at the University of Vienna and at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna. He also holds an MA in Social Science Data Analysis from the University of Essex. Previous positions include a lectureship at the Departments of Sociology and Government of the University of Vienna, a scholarship at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, and a junior professorship in social policy at the University of Bremen. He has published, i.a., in *European Journal of Political Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Work and Occupations*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, *European Journal of Industrial Relations*.

June, 9, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

René Bekkers (Utrecht University): Learning to Care: Explaining the Effect of Education on Prosocial Behavior

Why do people contribute resources to the benefit of others, when there is no clear chance of being repayed? And why are such contributions more often made by people with a higher level of education? This project studies donations to charitable causes, volunteering, blood donation and postmortem organ donation as forms of prosocial behavior that are not easily explained by expectations of reciprocity or other self-interested motives. I propose a theory integrating insights from various disciplines, decomposing decisions about prosocial behavior in three stages: (1) being asked for a contribution by others; (2) being able to contribute; (3) being motivated to contribute. A higher level of education increases a positive outcome in all stages: a higher level of education increases the likelihood of being asked, decreases the net costs of a contribution, and increases contributions in three different ways: by providing a longer time perspective, socializing postmaterialistic value orientations, and by increasing beliefs in the efficacy of contributions. The project will use data from three prospective panel surveys to disentangle causes and effects of prosocial behavior with longitudinal analyses.

René Bekkers is an assistant professor at ICS/Department of Sociology, Utrecht University. In September 2004 he defended his dissertation 'Giving and Volunteering in the Netherlands: Sociological and Psychological Perspectives'. Recently, NWO awarded a 'Veni'-grant for his new research 'Learning to care: explaining the effect of education on prosocial behavior'.

May, 26, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Henk de Vos (University of Groningen): Is Community Good for Your Health? It Depends ...

(1) Two kinds of *research findings* attest to the positive health effects of community-like social environments. First, correlational as well as longitudinal studies strongly suggest that people derive direct positive health effects from receiving as well as providing social support, from being socially integrated in a social network and from social participation. Also there is a lot of evidence about the underlying physiological processes (avoidance of "stress" or "type II allostatic overload"). Second, mortality in countries with a lower income inequality is lower than in countries with more inequality. This is probably so because more equal societies are more socially cohesive and less competitive, with less distrust, interpersonal violence and hostility. The underlying physiological mechanism might be the same.

(2) Another set of *findings* suggests that two different kinds of social aspirations have specific health concomitants: people with more community-related aspirations ("having good relationships with family and friends", "helping others in need") report less health complaints than people with more statuscompetitive aspirations ("financial success", "have a job with high status", "be famous"). A plausible interpretation is that people with statuscompetitive aspirations lead a more stressful life.

(3) The combination of findings (1) and (2) raises the question why there are people who "choose" to involve themselves into the competition for status, although this seems to be detrimental to their health.

(4) A potential answer to this question is provided by the "Dual Mode"-theory of human social nature. This theory consists of two main assumptions:

- *Assumption I.* There exist two, mutually incompatible, behavioral patterns ("modes" or "strategies") that humans easily learn and perform: status competition behavior and community behavior,
- *Assumption II.* Both modes are characterized by frequency dependency: the more frequent a mode is in a person's social environment, the more probably and thoroughly this mode is learned and the more probably it is performed by that person.

For both assumptions there exist a considerable amount of empirical evidence. Also, both modes can be distinguished by specific physiological and neuroendocrinological processes and states. Building on AI and AII, the answer to question (3) can be provided in the following way.

First, people will tend to cluster: given a certain distribution of strategies in a local social environment, a process will start by which the more frequent strategy increases and the less frequent one decreases. An "ideal" state is the one with exclusively completely status competitive local environments and completely community local environments. Second, until this "ideal" state is attained, if ever, there will exist mixed local environments: ones with a status competitive majority and ones with a community majority (ignoring exact fifty-fifty cases). Third, the health effects of endorsing one or the other strategy (having status competitive aspirations versus having community aspirations) are predicted to depend on the nature of the local environment (cf (2) above). At the same time, the health effects of community-like social environments (cf (1) above) are predicted to depend on the nature of the person's own strategy. In other words: (with some additional assumptions) research findings (1) and (2) are conditioned by the following new hypothesis:

Main hypothesis: *Ceteris paribus*, people will be more healthy if they enact the community mode within a local community environment than if they enact the status competition mode within a status competition local environment; and people who enact the status competition mode within a status competition local environment will be more healthy than people with either a status competition mode within a community local environment or with a community mode within a status competition environment.

This main hypothesis is used for deriving several more specific predictions for a planned longitudinal project about healthy aging, about the health effects of paid work versus unpaid work and of television viewing (De Vos, 2004; Hillige, Peuchen, Wolffenbuttel, Stoffels, & Vuijk, 2004). Everyone is invited to suggest other predictions.

References:

□ De Vos, H. (2004). *Interactieve effecten van sociale aspiraties, gedrag en omgeving op de kans om gezond ouder te worden*. Rapport ten behoeve van een sociologische bijdrage aan de Groningen Biomedical Database on Common Multifactorial Diseases. Groningen: Vakgroep Sociologie.

□ Hillige, H., Peuchen, S., Wolffenbuttel, B., Stoffels, M., & Vuijk, G. (2004). *Groningen Biomedical Database on Common Multifactorial Diseases*. Interim report. Groningen: Rijksuniversiteit Groningen en AZG.

Henk de Vos is an associate professor at the Department of Sociology of the University of Groningen. His research interests are: (1) the biological foundations of human social nature - social needs and behavioral patterns; (2) the health, and other positive, consequences of community living; (3) the potentials, but especially the restrictions, for the emergence and maintenance of community in present society; (4) the history, and the future, of the sociological discipline. He published several book chapters and articles in amongst others *Evolution and Human Behavior*, *Rationality and Society*, *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, and *Analyse & Kritik*. He writes columns for *Facta*.

April, 21, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Arno Riedl (University of Amsterdam): Either All or No One! The Signing of Cooperation Agreements in Public Goods Experiments

When markets fail, the design of appropriate institutions is a key issue for economic analysis and policy. We analyze - theoretically and experimentally - the endogenous creation of a centralized punishment institution in a n-player public goods game. Under such an institution, individual agents commit themselves to contribute the welfare-maximizing quantity to the public good by voluntarily signing a binding agreement that transfers the right of punishment in case of defection to a central authority. We also present the results of a laboratory experiment designed to investigate the process of institution formation in a four-player public goods game. The experiment goes beyond the existing literature as it connects the classic social dilemma situation with an innovative element of political organization. Our main experimental findings are: (i) Players successfully form institutions; (ii) In contrast to the standard theoretical prediction most institutions that are formed are of full size, i.e., all players participate. (iii) The likelihood that an institution is implemented increases with the number of agents willing to participate. (iv) Compared to control treatments, the possibility of institution formation significantly increases total contributions to the public good. Our study provides important insights into the process of institution formation that are relevant for public policy. In particular, the results bring to mind the recent discussion of possible consequences of some nations' withdrawal from the Kyoto protocol on other nations' motivation to fulfill the agreement.

Arno Riedl is an assistant professor at the Center for Research in Experimental Economics and Political Decision-making (CREED). He defended his dissertation at the University of Vienna in 1997. He took part in the NWO-programme *Creations and Returns of Social Capital* (see the edited volume by Flap and Völker) and published in, amongst others, *Games and Economic Behavior*, *Public Choice*, and *European Economic Review*. This presentation is a joint production of Arno Riedl, Michael Kosfeld (University of Zurich), and Akira Okada (Hitotsubashi University Tokyo).

March, 29, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Karl Aquino (University of Delaware): A Grotesque and Dark Beauty: How the Self-Importance of Moral Identity and Mechanisms of Moral Disengagement Influence Cognitive, Emotional, and Behavioral Reactions to War

Three studies examine the extent to which moral disengagement and moral identity jointly drive cognitive, emotional and behavioral reactions to war. Moral identity significantly decreased the negative relationship between moral disengagement and feelings of guilt and shame toward invading Iraq (Study 1). Two additional studies replicated this effect and showed that it was mediated by moral judgments about out-groups and in-groups involved in the conflict.

Moral identity decreased the positive relationship between moral disengagement and the perceived morality of vengeful responses toward out-group members responsible for the September 11th attacks, which lead to stronger feelings of pride, strength, determination and inspiration (Study 2). Moral identity decreased the positive relationship between moral disengagement and the perceived morality of supportive responses toward in-group members responsible for the Abu Ghraib prison abuse, which led to donating relatively more money to a U.S. military charity (Study 3). We discuss these findings in terms of theories of morality and the mitigation of inter-group conflict.

Karl Aquino's research specializes in the areas of interpersonal behavior and justice in organizations. He is particularly interested in understanding how people cope with negative work experiences resulting from perceived mistreatment. Currently, his research examines the two coping responses of forgiveness and revenge. Karl is also interested in studying why certain persons are more likely to become targets of mistreatment than others. This question is the focus of his research on workplace victimization. Lastly, Karl is interested in understanding how peoples' perceptions of justice and fairness in the workplace affect their attitudes and behaviors. He has published his research in, amongst others, *Academy of Management Journal*, *Journal of Applied Psychology*, *Journal of Management*, *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Organizational Science*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, and *Group and Organization Management*.

March, 17, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Gabriël van den Brink (NIZW, Utrecht): Voor een beschavingsoffensief

Gabriël van den Brink zal in het colloquium een pleidooi houden voor een nieuw beschavingsoffensief, wat gezien kan worden als een nieuwe fase in het proces van normalisatie. Hij pleit in de eerste plaats voor een normalisatie van onze gedragingen in die zin dat we onze eigen normen serieus nemen en ons feitelijk handelen daarop afstemmen. In de tweede plaats een normalisatie in die zin dat de verwachtingen die we de facto met elkaar gemeen hebben meer nadrukkelijk erkend worden. In de derde plaats een normalisatie in die zin dat de afstand tussen laagopgeleide en/of kansarme burgers tot de normen van de hogere middenklasse geleidelijk verkleind worden. Inhoudelijk gezien gaat het bij dit alles volgens hem om de beginselen van goed burgerschap. Het betekent niet dat alle burgers er dezelfde denkbeelden, waarden of idealen op nahouden. Verschil van mening op intellectueel, religieus of moreel gebied is in een moderne samenleving als de Nederlandse onvermijdelijk. Tegelijkertijd moet men wel een aantal spelregels aanhouden om te zorgen dat het maatschappelijk verkeer op een beschaafde manier verloopt, zoals gelijkwaardigheid, zelfwerkzaamheid, betrokkenheid en aanspreekbaarheid.

Daarbij moeten we volgens Van den Brink vasthouden aan het onderscheid tussen waarden en normen. Bij het debat over waarden komt men al snel terecht in levensbeschouwelijke, religieuze of morele overwegingen. In dat opzicht kent Nederland al sinds jaar en dag een grote diversiteit waardoor het niet waarschijnlijk is dat we het op korte termijn eens worden. Dat is eenvoudiger zodra het om normen gaat. Niet alleen omdat normen veelal met een specifieke situatie verband houden maar ook omdat er in Nederland over de regels van het samenleven meer overeenstemming bestaat. Vandaar zijn voorstel om bij een beschavingsoffensief van die praktische regels uit te gaan. Streven naar een soepele afwikkeling van het maatschappelijk verkeer lijkt misschien een tamelijk bescheiden ideaal maar het zou naar de overtuiging van Van den Brink toch een sterk beschavende werking kunnen uitoefenen.

Gabriël van den Brink doet onderzoek naar modernisering. In 1995 promoveerde hij cum laude aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam op het proefschrift *De grote overgang. Een lokaal onderzoek naar de modernisering van het bestaan. Woensel 1670-1920*. In 1997 trad hij als onderzoeker in dienst bij het NIZW, waar hij moderne ontwikkelingen binnen het gezin, de zorg en de opvoeding bestudeerde. Dat leidde tot drie publicaties: *Hoge eisen, ware liefde*, over de opkomst van een nieuw gezinsideaal in Nederland, *Een schaars goed*, over de betekenis van zorg in de hedendaagse levensloop, *Geweld als uitdaging*, over de betekenis van agressief gedrag bij jongeren. In 2002 verscheen in opdracht van de Wetenschappelijk Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid (WRR) een publicatie over de houding van burgers tegenover bestuur en politiek: *Mondiger of moeilijker? Een studie naar de politieke habitus van burgers*. Vorig jaar schreef hij *Schets van een beschavingsoffensief. Over normen, normaliteit en normalisatie in Nederland*, een studie voor het WRR-advies over waarden en normen.

February, 24, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Rutger Engels (Radboud University): Peer Influences on Young People's Involvement in Risk Behaviors. Findings from Survey and Observational Studies

There is a lively debate concerning the relative impact of peers on adolescent health behaviors. The quality of research projects on this topic has substantially improved in the past 10 years, in a way that multi-informant data on problem behaviors and social relationships in longitudinal designs are gathered. Moreover, instead of examining social influence processes in designs with large intervals between the waves, more often scholars try to follow the rise and fall of peer relationships on a micro level, with intensive measurements in periods of time adolescents experience substantial transitions in social relationships (e.g., first year students in secondary education, freshmen at university). Data will be presented of longitudinal analyses on the effects of behavior and norms of (reciprocal) friends, 'desired or unilateral friends', and peer group members, on initiation, and maintenance of adolescent health behaviors. It is however possible that survey research do not hold the appropriate way to gain full insight into (the results of) complex interaction processes in social groups. A couple of years ago, we decided to take a different approach to study peer influence processes by adopting longitudinal observational methods. We started research on social interactions in friendships and alcohol consumption in a bar lab setting installed at our faculty. This bar lab has been equipped with digital audio and video recording facilities. This provides the opportunity to examine real social interactions in a naturalistic setting. A total of 238 late adolescents, nested in existing peer groups, spent 2h at our bar lab.

Questionnaire data on social relationships and history of drinking were also gathered. In this presentation I will introduce this method and elaborate on fascinating findings regarding (a) the role of outcomes expectancies on drinking in a social context, (b) gender differences in susceptibility to peer influences, and (c) the impact of parents on social drinking of late adolescents.

Rutger Engels is a professor at the Radboud University, Nijmegen. He defended his dissertation, called *Forbidden Fruits. Social Dynamics in Smoking and Drinking Behavior of Adolescents*, at the University of Maastricht in 1998. He received a NWO-vernieuwingsimpuls in 2000, is an associate editor of the *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, an assistant editor of *Addiction*, and published in, amongst others, *Addiction*, *Addictive Behaviors*, *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, *Journal of Early Adolescence*, and *Preventive Medicine*.

January, 20, 2005, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Frank van Tubergen (Utrecht University): The Integration of Immigrants in Cross-National Perspective: Origin, Destination, and Community Effects.

Immigration is transforming Western societies rapidly. How do immigrants integrate in their host countries? Previous research has answered this question by looking mainly at the influence of immigrants' individual characteristics, such as education, length of stay, and gender. Yet immigration research has paid little attention to the question whether societal circumstances also affect the integration of immigrants. This study examines the role of immigrants' country of origin, immigrants' country of destination, and the combination thereof (i.e., the immigrant community or setting). It surveys these three groups of macro differences in a variety of domains: language proficiency, religious affiliation and attendance, labour-force participation, unemployment, occupational status, and self-employment. Relying on theories from sociology and economics, this study proposes a series of macro-level factors that are related to immigrants' country of origin (e.g., religious, economic and political conditions), the country of destination (e.g., immigration and integration policy), and immigrant communities (e.g., group size, ethnic capital). A unique cross-national data set was compiled, which contains information on immigrants from 180 countries of origin, in 19 countries of destination, and in 1,000 communities. In order to test the hypotheses, the study uses advanced cross-classified multilevel techniques. The result is a study rich of empirical findings on the influence of the country of origin, the country of destination, and the community on immigrants' integration.

Frank van Tubergen conducted the present study at the Interuniversity Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology (ICS) in Utrecht. As of September 2004, he is an assistant professor at the Department of Sociology/ICS at Utrecht University and a research fellow of the European Research Centre on Migration and Ethnic Relations (ERCOMER).