

COLLOQUIA 2009 - University of Groningen, Department of Sociology

November, 19, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Sabine Otten (University of Groningen): Individuality and Group Membership: Self-Anchoring and Self-Stereotyping as Cognitive Routes Towards Group Identification

Group identification is a prominent feature in social life. People do a lot of things, both good and bad, because they are member of and feel committed to certain groups. Hence, understanding the basic processes and determinants underlying group identification is a highly relevant endeavor. In my talk, I will focus on the cognitive processes underlying group identification, namely self-stereotyping and self-anchoring. Both processes assume that group identification implies that there is an overlap between the cognitive representation of the group, and the cognitive representation of the self. The "I" and the "We" are, to a certain extent, the same, which signals both belonging and relevance. A lot of research, unfortunately, does not distinguish how the mental overlap between self and group comes about; it remains unclear whether the self-representation is assimilated to the group-representation (self-stereotyping) or vice versa (self-anchoring), or both. I will argue, however, that distinguishing these cognitive processes is worthwhile, as they have quite different implications for the harmony or tension between individuality and group membership.

Sabine Otten is Professor of Intergroup Relations and Social Integration at the University of Groningen, Department of Social Psychology. She received her PhD from the University of Münster. Besides in Münster, she held positions at the University of Jena, and she spent a year as visiting researcher at the University of Princeton and the University of Massachusetts. Since 2002, she works in Groningen, where she is involved in a research program about cultural diversity at work and its consequences for social trust at the Institute of Integration and Social Efficacy.

November, 5, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Ted Mouw (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): Occupations and The Structure of Wage Inequality in the United States

Occupations have long been regarded as central to the stratification systems of industrial countries, but have played little role in empirical attempts to explain the well-documented increases in wage inequality that occurred in the United States in the 1980s and 1990s. We address this deficiency by assessing occupation-level effects on wage inequality using data from the Current Population Survey for 1983-2008. We model the mean and variance of wages for each occupation, controlling for education and demographic factors at the individual level, in order to test three competing explanations for the increase in wage inequality: the growth of between-occupation polarization, changes in education and labor force composition, and "residual" inequality unaccounted for by occupations and demographic characteristics. After correcting for a problem with imputed data that biased recent results by Kim and Sakamoto (2008), we find that between-occupation changes explain 66% of the increase in wage inequality from 1992-2008, although 23% of this is due to the switch to the 2000 occupation codes in 2003. Sensitivity analysis reveals that 18% of the increase in inequality from 1983-2002 results from changes in just three occupations: managers "not elsewhere classified," secretaries, and computer systems analysts.

Ted Mouw is an associate professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He earned his B.A. in English Literature at Oberlin College, and his M.A. (Economics) and Ph.D. (Sociology) at the University of Michigan. His current research projects are on (1) social mobility, labor markets and working poverty in the United States; (2) the economic and social impact of globalization in Indonesia and Mexico; (3) immigration and the labor market for Hispanic immigrants in North Carolina. He published in major scientific journals including *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Demography*, and *Social Forces*. This presentation is a co-production with Arne L. Kalleberg.

October, 16, 2009, 15:30-17:00 (Kouwerzaal, Muntinggebouw):

Tom DiPrete (Columbia University): Segregation in Social Networks based on Acquaintanceship and Trust

Using recently collected data from the 2006 General Social Survey, we compare levels of segregation by race and along other dimensions of potential social cleavage in the contemporary United States. Americans are not as isolated as the most extreme recent estimates suggest. However, hopes that "bridging" social capital is more common in broader acquaintanceship networks than in core networks are not supported by the GSS data. Instead, the entire acquaintanceship network is perceived by Americans to be as segregated as the more restricted and much smaller network based on trust. People do not always know the religiosity, political ideology, family behaviors, or socioeconomic status of their acquaintances, but perceived social divisions on these dimensions are high and in some cases rival the extent of racial segregation in acquaintanceship networks. The major challenge to social integration today comes less from the risk of social isolation -- complete isolation is rare -- than from the tendency of many Americans to isolate themselves from others who differ on race, political ideology, level of religiosity, and other salient aspects of social identity.

Tom DiPrete is professor of Sociology at Columbia University.

October, 16, 2009, 13:30-15:00 (Kouwerzaal, Muntinggebouw):

Katherine Ewing (Duke University): Negotiating Migration Honorably: The Secular Subject, Sexuality, and Islam

As Muslim minorities in Europe have expanded, so has public concern about Muslim values. Muslim minorities have been accused of intolerance toward women, gays, and others whose sexual freedoms and orientations threaten family honor and the principles of Islam. This public discourse often juxtaposes idealized attributes of the western secular

subject such as autonomy or gender equality with representations of the Muslim as a stigmatized other whose possibly violent concerns with honor, tradition and Islam are antithetical to modern ideals. Based on ethnographic research primarily among Muslims in Germany, Turkey and Pakistan, I demonstrate how human rights discourse and the identity politics often associated with it naturalize reified identities such as the "oppressed woman" or the "homosexual." This reification generates seemingly fundamental incompatibilities between modernity and traditional Islam. It produces for many young diasporic Muslims unlivable subject positions that result from the collision of distinct, misrecognized, and politically polarized—but, I argue, not necessarily incompatible—notions of an authentic self.

Katherine Pratt-Ewing is professor of Anthropology at Duke University.

October, 15, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Daive Barrera (Utrecht University): Ostracims in Small Groups: A Theory of Hostile Ties

Ostracism in small groups, characterized by apparently coordinated hostile attitudes and actions of multiple members of the group directed against one individual group member (or against a small minority), is a widespread phenomenon occurring in various types of groups (e.g., organization units, school classes, prisons, religious groups, hunting-gathering tribes). Nevertheless, the existing relevant literature has focused mainly on psychological antecedents, causes, and consequences of ostracism while a sociological analysis of the determinants of ostracism is still missing. In this paper, I propose to adopt a social network approach to analyze the individual ostracizing decisions: each ostracizing decision can be represented by the creation of a negative tie and the social conditions in which negative ties emerge can be captured by the personal networks of positive relationships in which both the ostracizer and the victim are embedded. Furthermore, I develop an integrated framework combining theoretical arguments from two different research traditions: sociological literature on emergence and enforcement of social norms and social psychological literature on the "black sheep" effect. Finally, I present a preliminary test of the main hypotheses using intra-organizational network data collected in a Dutch non-profit organization.

Daive Barrera obtained his PhD at the ICS / Department of Sociology, Utrecht University in 2005. Since September 2009 he is an assistant professor at the Department of Methods and Statistics, Utrecht University. His areas of research interests include social mechanisms, behavioral game theory, cooperation problems, and social networks. He published especially on the effects of social networks in trust and cooperation problems. His work is generally interdisciplinary, and applies various research techniques like surveys, vignette experiments, and, especially laboratory experiments.

September, 17, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Frans Stokman (University of Groningen): Climate Change and Fundamental Solutions: Experiences from a Learning Journey to Greenland

According to Lovelock's Gaia Theory, the present favourable conditions for life result from an instable equilibrium, caused by negative interactions between living organisms and material environment. If such equilibrium is disturbed, the negative interactions may shift into positive interactions, resulting in a non-linear transformation towards a new, for life very unfavourable, equilibrium. As these interactions are not taken into account in the IPCC reports, his predictions of the consequences of our present interventions, are much more alarming than those of IPCC. Gaia Theory is based on broad insights from Earth and Life sciences. Whereas Lovelock bases Gaia Theory and its predictions on scientific insights, he does not derive solutions from a scientific theory that includes insights from behavioural and social sciences. That implies that his solutions are not very convincing and mainly focused on Britain rather than Gaia itself. Fundamental solutions need to change our institutions in such a way that short-term goals are forced to be in line with long-term ones. Moreover solutions should solve not only energy problems, but also other urgent problems in a proactive way. Three of such solutions are elaborated:

- Regional organizations for solar energy plants in deserts and a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) grid and a worldwide ban on unsustainable electricity use after 2050;
- Local cooperative organizations for the production of decentralized sustainable electricity, heating, and cooling;
- A sustainable economic growth index.

Frans Stokman is a Professor of Social Science Research Methodology at the University of Groningen. He is the author of many books and articles and his research interests include social network analysis, political analysis, decision making and the exertion of power. See also: his website.

June, 18, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Ernst Wit (University of Groningen, Department of Statistics and Probability): Network Modelling in Genomics

Gene networks are mathematical abstractions for a variety of interactions -- such as binding or transcription -- of a variety of genetic material, such as proteins or RNA. In this talk we discuss two types of examples: network identification via penalized graphical models and network dynamic estimation via statistically embedded differential equations.

Ernst Wit is Professor of Statistics and Probability at the University of Groningen since 2008. Before he held a Chair in Medical Statistics at the University of Lancaster. He holds Ph.D.s from the University of Chicago and Pennsylvania State University.

May, 14, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Linda Steg (University of Groningen, Department of Psychology): Values and Environmental Behavior

Studies on human values typically make a distinction between egoistic and altruistic values. Various scholars proposed that a third value orientation is highly relevant for explaining environmental behavior, reflecting biospheric values. We conducted a series of studies to examine whether egoistic, altruistic, and biospheric values can indeed be distinguished in different countries. We further examined the validity of this distinction by studying relationships between values and behavior-specific beliefs. Values are generally not very predictive of environmental intentions and behavior. We hypothesized that this relationship is partly mediated by behavior-specific beliefs, and found empirical evidence for this proposition.

Linda Steg is associate professor in environmental psychology at the University of Groningen. Her research focuses on measuring, explaining, and changing environmentally significant behavior, in particular household energy use and car use. She is particularly interested in the role of values, norms, and different types of motivations in influencing behavior. She is Fellow of the Energy Delta Research Centre of the University of Groningen, president-elect of Division 4 'Environmental Psychology', and treasurer of Division 13 'Traffic and Transport Psychology' of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP).

April, 16, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B136):

David Dunning (Cornell University): Why People Think They Are Better Than Other People: Wrong About Themselves or Wrong About Their Peers?

My social psychological work focuses on self and social judgment. In my most widely-cited work, I explore why people tend to have overly favorable and objectively indefensible views of their own abilities and character. For example, a full 94% of college professors say they do "above average" work, although it is impossible for nearly everyone to be above average. In particular, I struggle to determine whether these self-congratulatory views are produced by errors in self-judgment (thinking one is too good) or social judgment (overestimating how bad other people are). My work suggests an answer, and the psychological processes underlying that answer.

David Dunning is Professor of Psychology at Cornell University. A past associate editor at the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (Attitudes and Social Cognition), he is the executive officer of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, where he currently sits on the executive council. His area of expertise centers on accuracy and error in self-judgment, as well as on eyewitness identification, the psychology behind behavior in economic games, and the role of motives and desire on visual and auditory perception.

March, 19, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Ute Bültmann (University Medical Center Groningen, Department of Health Sciences): Mental Health and Work: Towards Work Disability Prevention and Sustainable Work Participation in Workers with Mental Health Problems

During the past decade, mental health problems, such as anxiety, adjustment disorders, and depression, have emerged as a major public and occupational health problem in many countries, including the Netherlands. In the years to come, mental health problems are expected to increase, partly because of the increasing work pressure in a 24/7 economy and the aging workforce. Mental health problems are highly adverse in themselves, contributing substantially to years lived with disability. Moreover, they also trigger severe negative consequences: on the societal level, mental health problems contribute to sickness absence, early retirement, and work disability. On the individual level, mental health problems cause not only suffering but have also a negative impact on social functioning, social relationships, and work functioning. Work participation is important for both the individual and society. Mental health problems, however, tend to affect sustainable work participation and may even marginalize or exclude the worker from the labor market. In the Netherlands, about one in every three new work disability benefit recipients are disabled for work because of mental health problems. Given the serious individual suffering from mental health problems and the high social and economic cost implications for the individual worker, the workplace, the employer, the (occupational) health system, the insurance system, and society, the prevention of work disability in workers with mental health problems and the promotion of sustainable work participation is of utmost importance. Findings from collaborative research projects in Denmark and Canada will be presented. Moreover, avenues for future research and development in work disability prevention will be pointed out.

Ute Bültmann is Associate Professor and Rosalind Franklin Research Fellow at the Department of Health Sciences, Section of Work & Health at the UMCG, University of Groningen. Her research interests include the epidemiology of work & health and the prevention of work disability. She received her Ph.D. from Maastricht University and worked from 2003 to 2007 at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment in Copenhagen, Denmark.

March, 5, 2009, 12:00-13:00 (Room B128):

Stuart Sweeney (University of California at Santa Barbara): Shifting Regional Patterns of Mexican Maize Production: Understanding the Context of Livelihood Risks from International Market Integration, Climate Change, and Domestic Government Policies

One of the primary challenges in evaluating the implications of global environmental change for food systems is the high uncertainty associated with the interaction of climate variability, markets, public policy, cultural priorities and social values in production and consumption choices. Today these issues are central to international debates on future food availability and food security, with the recognition that policies promoting biofuels, the threat of climatic change, and the rising cost of petroleum, transport and agricultural inputs (including land and water) may well undermine future food availability. It is well recognized that food system vulnerability varies substantially across space

and time, and that optimism regarding national food security may mask important socioeconomic vulnerabilities and negative environmental outcomes at finer scales of analysis. This presentation documents spatial and temporal patterns of economic and climatic risk at diverse scales through an analysis of the drivers and evolving social outcomes one of the world's most important food systems: the Mexican maize system. I use household surveys and three case studies to improve the understanding of recent land use and livelihood change associated with the response of Mexican maize system to market liberalization, rural labor migration, environmental shocks and degradation and the changing producer and consumer values. Furthermore, I use national and county geospatial, climatic and economic data to evaluate how the maize system's sensitivity to environmental and market shocks varies across space and had changed over time as a result of these coupled land/livelihood changes.

Stuart Sweeney is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of California at Santa Barbara. His education was cross-disciplinary blending urban studies, demography, economics, and statistics. He holds a BA in Urban Studies and Planning (UC San Diego, 1990) and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning (UNC Chapel Hill, 1999). His research is topically broad ranging and is characterized by careful empirical analysis using both spatial and non-spatial statistics. His most recent work has focused on changing regional patterns of maize production in Mexico and the associated household livelihood risk from economic and climate shocks, regional fertility analysis in Guatemala, space-time patterns of the sea urchin fishing fleet in the Santa Barbara channel, developing new small area population and migration forecasting methods for Los Angeles, California planning region, and intraurban industrial location. Over the last decade, he has been actively involved in diffusing spatial analytic methods to the social sciences; serving on the Executive Committee of the NSF-funded Center for Spatially Integrated Social Sciences (CSISS) and running training workshops funded by NSF and NIH. He also created, and currently teaches, one of the most popular undergraduate courses at UCSB, The Geography of Surfing.

February, 26, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Daniela Grunow (University of Amsterdam): Career Consequences of Mother's Time Out in Cross-National Perspective

Effects of parental leave policies on mother's time away from the job and on their subsequent careers have been discussed until now mainly as hypotheses and suggested consequences. This paper provides a concrete empirical analysis of how different types of welfare states produce and institutionalize distinct patterns of return to the labor market after childbirth and how these structures stratify the subsequent career trajectories of mothers. We compare three countries with distinct policies towards the dilemma of combining motherhood with an employment career: the United States, Germany and Sweden. We investigate how the parental leave policies in these countries work with regard to (a) fostering mother's labor market attachment; (b) securing mother's status as labor market insiders during employment interruption; and (c) buffering the negative career consequences resulting from mothers' time out. The presentation draws on a collaborative project with Silke Aisenbrey (Yeshiva College, New York) and Marie Evertsson (Stockholm University, Stockholm).

Daniela Grunow is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Her research addresses the interaction of market work, domestic work and gender relations in different welfare regimes from a life-course perspective. She received her Ph.D. from the Otto-Friedrich University Bamberg in 2006 and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Research on Inequalities and the Life Course, Yale University, from 2006-2008.

January, 22, 2009, 13:00-14:15 (Room B128):

Kathryne Grace (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock): Contraceptive Use in Guatemala

Guatemala is characterized by low contraceptive use rates and one of the highest fertility rates in the Western Hemisphere. These rates are particularly extreme for the poorest segment of the population and for the Indigenous population. The purpose of this research is to develop current models of contraceptive use and intent and to compare historical patterns in use and intent with modern patterns. Using data from the 1987 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) and the 2002 Reproductive Health Survey (RHS) classification trees, an analysis approach that identifies at-risk sub-groups of contraceptive use and intent to use, are constructed. The results highlight the significant role of socio-demographic factors across time, they also document a large increase in contraceptive use for the entire population and intent to use among the Indigenous population. The findings suggest that economic rather than cultural changes have likely spurred the recent increase in contraceptive use and intent.

Kathryne Grace obtained her PhD at UCSB (University of California at Santa Barbara) in Geography and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research.