

DAG VAN DE SOCIOLOGIE 2026

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS	1
9:00 – 10:20.....	11
Openingsceremonie	11
10:30 – 11:45.....	12
Migration & Ethnicity I (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Devos – Lokaal: C.204.....	12
Migrant-related inequalities in preventive healthcare and the role of inclusive health and integration policies	12
Politicising death: How Muslims burial plots in Western Europe are contested and negotiated.....	12
Suited for the job? Job finding methods and employment quality among ethnic minorities in Flanders	12
Anti-Institutionalism, Sovereign Citizens and State Response (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stefan Manser-Egli, Emma van der Tak, Sem Oosse – Lokaal D.011.....	14
Caught in Construction: Why Dutch Sovereign Citizens Challenge the Bureaucratic State.....	14
Understanding Anti-Institutional Extremism in the Netherlands.....	14
Sovereignism as Privilege: Sovereign Citizens and State Response	14
Narrating and Performing Legality among Dutch Sovereign Citizens	15
Family Sociology I: Reproduction (English) – Voorzitters: Dimitri Mortelmans & Elke Claessens – Lokaal D.017.....	15
Parental Death in Childhood and Family-Life Transitions in 21 Countries.....	15
Societal Pessimism plays a supportive and secondary role in the intentions of Dutch adults to remain childfree.....	15
The cost of uncertainty? Fertility expectations and life satisfaction of parents	16
Tussen samenwerking en begrenzing - Maternal gatekeeping en de ouderschapsbeleving van vaders binnen verblijfsco-ouderschap.....	16
Sustainable Employability in the Creative Sector I (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Janna Besamusca & Wike Been – Lokaal D.019	17
“Don’t Assume; Don’t Overthink” Vrouwelijke stage managers in de muziekindustrie over....	17
Sustaining Creative Careers: A Realist Synthesis on Interventions for Sustainable Employability of Self-Employed workers in the Cultural and Creative Sectors.....	18
Voices at Risk: Voice Actors’ Experiences of Generative AI and Threatened Employability	18
Woorden wegen. Hoe verantwoordingen in subsidieaanvragen door kunstenaars de kans op succes beïnvloeden.....	18
Education I: Inclusion & Diversity (English)– Voorzitter: Tomas Bilevicius –Lokaal E.201	19
Public Opinion towards Sexuality Education in Belgium: A Latent Profile Analysis	19
PRR Ideology and Attitudes towards Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Belgium	19
A Textbook Case? The Symbolic Grammar of Gender and Ethnicity in Flemish Primary School Textbooks.....	20
Beelden die Bekennen: Representatie en Diversiteit in Vlaamse Schoolboeken.....	20

Youth (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Bram Spruyt – Lokaal E.207	21
Does ability grouping invoke essentialism in adolescence?.....	21
Exploring the Relationship Between Family Structure and Educational Trajectories of Adolescents in Pakistan.....	21
Vrijetijdschansen van jongeren in Vlaanderen en Brussel: van een toeleidingsvraagstuk naar een leefwereldperspectief op de vrijetijdsbesteding van jongeren.....	22
Social differences in youth volunteering in an increasingly diverse society: an intersectional approach	22
Zorg & Gezondheid (Nederlands) – Voorzitter: Jorik Vergauwen – Lokaal A.205	23
Religious influence on abortion attitudes in Europe: a multilevel analysis.....	23
Educational Spillover Effects and Influenza Vaccination Uptake in Europe: The Role of Adult Children’s Educational Attainment	23
Improving access to care for people living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances: a process evaluation of the COMPASS trial	24
Persoonsgerichte zorg in actie: De rol van ervaringsdeskundigen in Vlaamse ziekenhuizen	24
Political Sociology (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206	25
(De)constructing the boundaries of solidarity : How Reddit users frame solidarity toward different social groups.....	25
“A Duty to Disrupt?” Climate Activists’ Legitimising Claims for the Use of Disruptive Protest	26
Network Heterogeneity in European Multiparty Contexts: Direct and Secondary Associations with Ideology-based Affective Evaluations.....	26
Klonters in de woordensoep : een analyse van 86 jaar aan parlementaire tussenkomsten in de Belgische Kamer met een neurale topic model.....	27
Decentralising Humans (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Frédéric Vandermoere – Lokaal Scaldis (Hof van Liere)	27
The Forest Shaping Everyday Life: An Ethnographic Study of Forest villages.....	27
Qualifying Water, Valuing Price : How Consumers Evaluate the Fair Price of Tap Water	28
Thinking from the other: Multispecies studies as an epistemological perspective	28
Werk & Arbeid: Toegang of Verlaten van Arbeidsmarkt (Nederlands) –Voorzitter: Dries Lens – Lokaal Prentenkabinet	28
Entering childcare: The role of practicum experiences within a Job Demands-Resources framework.....	28
Waarom verlaten werknemers met een flexibele arbeidsrelatie hun werkgever: eigen keuze of beslissingen van de werkgever?	29
Work-family life courses and psychological well-being in later life : A comparison of Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain	29
Pathways to labour market exit in Belgium and the link with employment history.....	30
12:30 – 13:45.....	31
Migration & Ethnicity II (English) – Voorzitter: Andrey Tibajev – Lokaal C.204.....	31

Gender Differences in Immigrants' Pursuit of Credential Recognition: Individual and...	31
Suited for the job? Job finding methods and employment quality among ethnic minorities in Flanders.....	13
In which sectors are minorities better off? Evidence from Dutch population data.....	31
Do Recognition Characteristics Matter? Evidence on the Labour Market Returns to Foreign Qualification Recognition	31
Urban Sociology (English) – Voorzitter: Stijn Oosterlynck – Lokaal D.011	32
Age-inclusive urban health through community-based housing: a governance perspective	32
At home in the park: conceptualizing affective ties to green neighbourhood spaces.....	33
Rising Demands for Community Space in the Context of Financial Constraints: Maintenance Challenges of Mixed-Use Infrastructures in Three Belgian Cities.....	33
Moving outside the metropolis: assimilation theory and place-belongingness of newcomers in Brussels' periphery.....	34
Family Sociology II: Gender (English) – Voorzitters: Dimitri Mortelmans & Elke Claessens – Lokaal D.017	34
Life Course Timing and Loneliness: Gendered Age Norms and De-standardization across Europe.....	34
Working fewer hours than preferred: A couple-level perspective on underemployment across major life events	35
Unknown (dyadic gender attitudes).....	35
Cognitive household labour and mental load in the digital space	36
Sustainable Employability in the Creative Sector II (English), Thematische sessie– Voorzitters: Janna Besamusca & Wike Been – Lokaal D.019	37
Boundary setting strategies in the creative industries.....	37
Not all multiple jobholding is the same: motivations, identity alignment, and wellbeing outcomes among artists	37
Recognition as infrastructure and the elastic politics of scale: how grassroots cultural ...	38
Education II (English) – Voorzitter: Timo Van Canegem – Lokaal E.201.....	38
Second Time's the Charm: Second Chance Education and Labour Market Outcomes	38
Animal allure and classroom companionship: exploring teachers' experiences in the multispecies classroom.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
In what ways are teacher expectations and recommendations on tracking and grade retention biased? A quasi-experimental video vignette study in Flemish secondary education.....	39
Jeugd (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Susan Lagaert – Lokaal E.207	39
De belofte van vrijheid. Participatief werken met jongeren binnen artistieke vrijplaatsen.	39
Navigate or Hesitate? Youth Workers and the Relational Risk of Intervention	40
Rebooting NEET youth: early sociological insights into Defence's societal role within a Belgian public-private partnership.....	40
From Information to Empowerment: Experimental and Natural Exposure of Vote Advice Applications on Internal Political Efficacy.....	41

Care & Health: Medicalisation & Pharmaceuticalisation (English) – Voorzitter: Jolien Inghels – Lokaal A.205	41
Parental psychotropic medication use, risk and intensive parenting ideology: A critical discourse analysis	41
Making Sense of Birth: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Medicalized Discourse in Flemish Women’s Birth Narratives	42
Articulating and Negotiating Medicalized Female Genital Cutting: Practitioner Perspectives on FGC in Narok County, Kenya	42
Politieke sociologie I (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206	43
What you don’t see, you don’t get? Socio-demographics and politicized distrust in climate and nitrogen policy preferences.....	43
Polarization of confidence in science during COVID: the interaction of elite cueing and grievance effects.....	43
Surface Tensions: Public Responses to Great Replacement Narratives.....	44
“I have always felt distant from society”: How experienced deviance shaped dissenters’ belief change during covid pandemic	44
Work & Employment I: Family and Employment (English) – Voorzitter: Dries Lens– Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere)	45
How Flexible Work Time Arrangements Affect the Relationship Between Transition to Parenthood and Their Working Hours.....	45
Women’s motives for part-time employment in the Netherlands: an analysis of survey data from 2008 to 2024.....	45
Unequal acces to unequal labour market segments: Entry into white- and blue collar employment for women with a migration background.....	46
Influence of Individual Digital Skills and AI Management on Acceptance of AI Technologies among European Employees	47
13:50 – 15:05	48
Observed versus perceived ethno-racial discrimination I (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Sanne van Oosten – Lokaal C.204	48
A global comparison of hiring and housing discrimination across five groups	48
Racial regimes in Europe and North-America: how and why countries differ in the nature of their structural racism	48
What you see is (not) what you get? Testing the moderating role of racial regimes in the association between observed and perceived discrimination	48
Attributing Discrimination at Work: Survey-Experimental Evidence on Situational and Sociodemographic Factors	49
Stratification & Class (English) – Voorzitter: Stijn Oosterlynck – Lokaal D.011	49
Wie is écht duurzaam? Grenzenwerk rond duurzaamheid binnen de jonge, hoogopgeleide middenklasse.....	49
The Human Capital effect of reducing the disadvantage among the disadvantaged - evidence from a German welfare reform	50

Fifty years of occupational status attainment and intergenerational occupational mobility among ethnic groups in Suriname at labour market entry: Patterns and trends, cohorts 1960– 2010.....	51
Singlehood as an emerging field in social demography (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Elke Claessens, Dries Van Gasse & Dimitri Mortelmans – Lokaal D.017	52
Flying Solo for Life: Unpacking the Rise and Realities of Lifelong Singlehood.....	52
Stereotypes or New Narratives? An Exploration of Changing Frames of Singlehood in Belgian Newspapers and Magazines	53
More Than Just Single: The Relationship between Self-Defined Singlehood and Singlehood Satisfaction.....	53
Single, but not singular: Young adults’ diverse experiences of singlehood	54
Sociology of Music (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Pauwke Berkers & Julian Schaap – Lokaal D.019.....	54
Breaking Ground: The early days of Hip-Hop in 1980s Rotterdam	54
Take a song and make it better: How music shapes young adults’ wellbeing across social....	54
“Does it offend you, Robot?”: Making sense of AI in live music-making.....	55
What musicians do all day? Results from the artist monitor 2025	55
Gender & Sexuality I: Safety & Solidarity (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Van de Velde – Lokaal E.201	55
Adolescent girls and physical activity in public spaces: Insights from the city of Antwerp.....	55
Is it socially safe enough to be myself? How LGBTIQA+ employees navigate social (un)safety through intersectional identity management.	56
“You (do not) Recognize Queers”: A Community-Led Research and Action (CLRA) Approach to Strengthen Solidarity in Queer Communities.....	56
Sociology of work: The sustainability of employer involvement in collective bargaining (English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr – Lokaal E.207 ..	57
Wat willen werkgevers? Vijftig jaar collectief onderhandelen door georganiseerde werkgevers ..	57
Stable as a rock or crumbling beneath the surface? A micro-level analysis of collective interest representation among small and medium-sized enterprises in the Netherlands.....	57
Wage Bargaining in the Context of Liberalization of Industrial Relations in Europe: A comparison of nine countries and four sectors.....	58
Social Networks: Family involvement and impact (English) – Voorzitter: Tijs Laenen – Lokaal A.205	59
Family First? Preferences for Family Involvement in Mental Health Decision-Making in Belgium..	59
Suspect families: Exposure to the Dutch childcare benefits scandal in kinship networks.....	59
Exposure to diabetes and own diabetes status using a whole population network of the Netherlands.....	60
Politieke Sociologie II (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206	60
Wat is er christelijk aan het christelijk nationalisme? Een onderzoek naar christelijk nationalisme en de invloed op stemgedrag in Nederland	60
“I’m not the only one with such views”: How normalization of anti-immigration stances	

stimulates populist radical-right voting.....	60
Far-right capture of civil society: The contestation of the social-cultural sector in Flanders, Belgium	61
Understanding feeling unheard and the relationship with political recognition and voting behaviour in the Netherlands: Data from two representative surveys after the 2025 national elections.....	61
Milieu & Klimaat: Percepties & Actie (Nederlands) – Voorzitter: Kris Bachus –Lokaal Scaldis	63
What does Climate Change mean to Italians? A Focus Group Study in Italy	63
Exploring the different meanings ascribed to climate change in the Netherlands.....	63
The Carbon Emissions of Everyday Life: From Individual Outcomes to Social Practices	64
Ben je voor of tegen ons? Vrijwilligerswerk doen op gepolariseerde thema’s.....	64
Work & Employment II: Technology and employment (English) – Voorzitter: Dries Lens – Lokaal Prentenkabinet.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Shades of Income Dependence in Datawork	84
15:10 – 16:25.....	66
Observed versus perceived ethno-racial discrimination II (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe – Lokaal C.204	66
Education and Perceived Discrimination Among Jews: A Paradox?	66
The Integration Paradox: Drivers of Awareness.....	66
Mobilizing Lived Experience in the Fight against Racism: The Case of the Amsterdam Municipality	67
Who benefits from participation in introduction programs? A conjoint experiment into....	67
Homelessness and other forms of precarity I: Survival strategies (English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stef Adriaenssens & Koen Hermans – Lokaal D.011	67
In-work Poverty as Idiosyncratic Unluck; The articulation of in-work poverty dynamics by people with lived experience themselves.	68
The reference address as an administrative survival strategy.....	69
Het kraakt in de marge. Een sociaal-etnografische verkenning van kraken in de sociale hoogbouw in Nieuw Gent	69
Culture I (English) – Voorzitter: Lisa Suckert – Lokaal D.017	70
Wardrobes Under Regulation: How Iranian Women Balance Constraint and Expression in Everyday Dressing	70
Tastes That Divide: Lifestyle as a Moral Repertoire of Boundary-Making in Superdiverse Cities....	74
Talking Culture: Dyadic Similarity, Tie Strength, and Cultural Inequality.....	71
Informal Care I: Household, Family and Work (English), Thematische sessie –Voorzitters: Marjolein Broese van Groenou – Lokaal D.019	71
Staying Employed or Stepping Back: Effects of Workplace Support on the Labor Supply of Informal Caregivers.....	71
FAMCARE - The Role of Family in Care Networks and Wellbeing of the Elderly – A Knowledge Synthesis	72

Combining work and informal care from the perspective of informal caregivers, employers, and other stakeholders.....	72
When parents take up additional informal care: How becoming sandwiched caregivers....	73
Gender & Sexuality II: Cross-country comparison (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Van de Velde – Lokaal E.201	73
Uneven support for women’s employment? A cross-national analysis of perceived ideal working hours for mothers and fathers	73
Experiences of prosperity and persecution among disabled queer people: A comparison of 30 European countries.....	74
Gendered cohort differences in contemporary sexism across educational backgrounds and national gender equality contexts in 28 European countries.....	74
The gender revolution: Stalled or still unfolding? Changes in gender role ideology across Western and Islamic countries, cohorts 1942-1995.....	75
Class bias and socio-economic inequalities in schools I (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Fenella Fleischmann & Sara Geven - Lokaal E.207	75
The allocation of students into within-class ability groups	75
Unequal Returns to Non-Cognitive Skills: How Socioeconomic Background and School Context Shape Educational Attainment	76
Navigating the Dutch Educational System: A Study of Inequality in Student Trajectories	76
Parenting and Family Life after Divorce (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Bieke Maes - Lokaal A.205	77
Halftijds aanwezig, voltijds ouder: ouderlijke agency binnen een gelijkverdeelde verblijfsregeling na scheiding	77
Verblijfsco-ouderschap onder druk: werk-privébalans van alleenstaande ouders met verblijfsco-ouderschap	77
Plusouderschap in hedendaagse gezinnen. Nood aan een wettelijk kader?.....	79
Als ouders scheiden: de ervaring van het kind.....	79
Politieke Sociologie III (Nederlands), thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers - Lokaal A.206	78
Justifying EU immigration policy at home: Citizens’ conditional support for national ...	79
Shaping events: perspectives from within Dutch journalism and politics	79
Young, single, and divided? Exploring the gender gap in work–family attitudes across German cohorts	79
Responsibility, Performance, Trust and Spending: A Correlational Class Analysis of Social Policy Perceptions	80
Environment & Climate: Politics & Governance (English) – Voorzitter: Kris Bachus - Lokaal Scaldis	80
Dirty work, clean narratives: exploring managerial narratives in Belgian waste management.....	80
Situating the politics of extended urbanisation: the ecological compensation landscapes in the port of Antwerp, Belgium.....	81
From ambition to action in support of socio-ecologically just climate transitions. A scoping review	

of the EU's New European Bauhaus program	82
Sociology of Work: Worker agency & voice (English), thematische sessie –Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr - Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere).....	82
Migrant labour in Dutch supermarket logistics from 1960-2025: transformations in jobs, autonomy, control and voice.....	82
Resisting AI Replacement: AI Exposure and the Willingness to Join Labor Protest and Strikes.....	83
Workers' strategies in low-pay occupations in the Netherlands and Italy	83
Shades of Income Dependence in Datawork.....	85
16:40-17:55	85
Discrimination & Integration (English) – Voorzitter: Gert Verschraegen - Lokaal C.204	85
Majority Acculturation Expectations and Support for Integration Policies: Correlational and Experimental Evidence from Belgium	85
De werking van dualiteit in het Rotterdamse inburgeringsbeleid: een reconstructie van de beleidstheorie	85
When Is a Victim "Immoral"? Legal Ambiguity, Gender Norms, and Judicial Bias.....	86
Homelessness and other forms of precarity II: Different Data Sources (English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stef Adriaenssens & Koen Hermans - Lokaal D.011	87
How begging functions as a strategy among the homeless: an analysis based on outreach data...88	
From eviction to homelessness: what can economics add?	87
Housing affordability crisis, relationship formation and gender inequality: back to dependency?. 87	
Culture II (English) – Voorzitter: Lisa Suckert - Lokaal D.017	88
Visual Self-Presentation and Cultural Patterning in Online Dating.....	88
LinkedIn Portrait Analysis of self-representation of looking good and right among online elites of Accra, Ghana.....	88
Constructing professional identity: a mixed-method study on sociology graduates' self-presentation in LinkedIn.....	89
Informal Care II: Different policy contexts (English), Thematische sessie –Voorzitter: Marjolein Broese van Groenou - Lokaal D.019.....	89
Care economies for sustaining life: Women caregivers' informal entrepreneurship in Chile	89
The gender gap in informal caregiving: Contrasting impacts of long-term care policies.....	90
Better understanding, addressing and preventing loneliness among informal caregivers: overarching insights from multi-method research in Flanders	90
Unpaid caregiving during heat waves: A forgotten group not able to adapt?.....	91
Social Policy (English) – Voorzitter: Tijs Laenen - Lokaal E.207	91
Emotions and Inequalities in Citizen Participation: How Public Officials Deal With Citizens' Emotional Expressions.....	91
Legitiem beleid maken in gemeentelijke netwerksamenwerkingen: eerste bevindingen van een etnografisch onderzoek in Tilburg West.....	92
Beyond Collaborative Innovation? Power, Asymmetries and Institutional Steering in Local Care Governance.....	92

Methods (English) – Voorzitter: Anna Wallays - Lokaal Scaldis (Hof van Liere)	93
Revealing Cross-National Differences and Similarities in Relations between Human Values and Climate Policy Support by Mixture Multigroup Structural Equation Modeling: A New Tool for Comparative Research.....	93
Mandatory pre-abortion counseling: an observational study	93
Werksociologie: Collectieve arbeidsverhoudingen in transitie (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr - Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere).....	94
Daling van cao-dekking en vakbondslidmaatschap: twee zijden van dezelfde medaille?	94
Het einde van het Nederlandse corporatisme? De verzwakking en uitholling van het Poldermodel in de 21ste eeuw.....	94
Consensual bargaining of collective labour agreements in the Netherlands.....	95

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

9:00 – 10:20

Openingsceremonie

Welkomstwoordje

De rector van Universiteit Antwerpen, Herwig Leirs, en de voorzitter van het organisatiecomité van deze editie, Sarah Van de Velde, zullen de dag openen een klein welkomstwoordje.

Keynote: Lisa Suckert

Since 2024 Lisa Suckert is associate professor at University of Antwerp's department for sociology. Before, she worked as Senior Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne and was a Visiting Fellow at Universität Wuppertal, the London School of Economics and Sciences Po Paris. Her research is situated at the intersection between economic, political and cultural sociology and explores the political and social constitution of contemporary capitalism. Current research interests are: imagined futures and temporal orientations; dynamics of crisis; decarbonization/climate change; political discourse and nostalgia; social theory and transformation.

Prijsuitreiking

Uitreiking van de NSV Masterthesisprijs, de NSV Research Masterthesisprijs en de Vlaamse Scriptieprijs Sociologie.

10:30 – 11:45

Migration & Ethnicity I (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Devos – Lokaal: C.204

Migrant-related inequalities in preventive healthcare and the role of inclusive health and integration policies

Sarah Devos* (University of Ghent), Sorana Toma (University of Ghent), Cornelia Wagner (University of Fribourg, Swiss Center of Expertise in Life-course Research), Vladimir Jolidon (University of Fribourg, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, University of Sheffield), Bernadette van der Linden (University of Fribourg), Claudine Burton-Jeangros (University of Geneva), Stéphane Cullati (University of Fribourg), Piet Bracke (University of Ghent) en Katrijn Delaruelle (University of Ghent)

Preventive healthcare plays a crucial role in improving health outcomes, yet disparities in access and engagement persist among migrants and ethnically minoritized groups. These inequalities are often attributed to individual-level barriers such as language proficiency or health literacy, obscuring the institutional conditions that shape opportunities to engage in prevention. Moreover, migrant populations are heterogeneous; inequalities reflect the intersection of migration status with gender, age, and socioeconomic position. While research shows that inclusive healthcare and integration policies influence migrant health and access to care, less is known about how such policies shape intersectional inequalities in preventive healthcare. This study combines data from the European Health Interview Survey (EHIS 3; N = 313,105; 254,282 native-born, 30,578 first-generation, 28,245 second-generation) with the Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX). The MIPEX health strand specifically measures formal entitlements, service accessibility, and targeted strategies that facilitate migrants' access to healthcare. We examine participation in recommended preventive practices—such as cancer screenings and cardiometabolic blood tests—using multilevel analysis of individual heterogeneity and discriminatory accuracy (MAIHDA). This approach allows us to assess inequalities across national policy contexts and across intersecting strata defined by migration status, gender, age, and socioeconomic position. Descriptive analyses indicate modest differences in cardiometabolic monitoring, with slightly lower uptake among first-generation migrants compared to native-born individuals. In contrast, age-eligible cancer screening participation appears broadly similar across groups, suggesting that preventive inequalities may be outcome-specific. Building on this, we will examine whether migrant–non-migrant differences vary across national contexts with migrant-inclusive policies, and whether these patterns differ across intersecting social positions. We hypothesize that differences will be smaller in more inclusive policy contexts, particularly for first-generation, non-European origin, and socioeconomically disadvantaged migrants. By framing migrant inequalities as products of institutional opportunity structures, this study advances an institutional and intersectional understanding of prevention.

Politicising death: How Muslims burial plots in Western Europe are contested and negotiated 'on the ground'

Eva Verschueren* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

This presentation, based on an ongoing research article, explores how Muslim burial plots in municipal cemeteries have become contested sites where debates on multiculturalism, neutrality, and belonging are negotiated. While extensive scholarship has addressed the public visibility of Islam through issues such as mosque construction or headscarves, Muslim burials in Western European countries remain comparatively understudied, despite cemeteries being highly symbolic public spaces where identities and claims to belonging are materially inscribed. Focusing on Flanders (Belgium), a context marked by both a model of state-recognised religion and intense politicisation of Islam, the article analyses how actors in the funerary sector negotiate the accommodation of dedicated Muslim burial plots. Drawing on 21 semi-structured interviews with cemetery managers, municipal officials, alderpersons, funeral sector representatives, and Muslim advocates, the study shows how these negotiations are structured through three interrelated moral grammars. First, a moral grammar of equality and neutrality frames Muslim burial plots either as legitimate inclusion within a state that recognises religion, or as unlawful exceptions that violate equal treatment. Second, a moral grammar of (the crisis of) multiculturalism mobilises cemeteries as microcosms of society, where Muslim burials are alternatively framed as markers of recognition and belonging, or as signs of segregation and failed integration. Third, these debates

are intensified through a grammar of moral panic, in which Muslim burial plots are linked to imagined futures of Islamisation and demographic 'takeover'. By analysing how death becomes politicised through these moral grammars, the article demonstrates how processes of minoritisation persist beyond life itself, positioning Muslims as 'citizen outsiders' even in death, and highlights the importance of connecting studies of multiculturalism with research on death, burial, and public space.

Suited for the job? Job finding methods and employment quality among ethnic minorities in Flanders

Luna Verdickt* (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Dries Lens (Universiteit Antwerpen)

This study examines how different job finding methods (personal networks, employment agencies, advertisements, and direct applications) are associated with job quality among ethnic minorities in Flanders. While informal methods are known to facilitate faster job entry, their implications for job quality remain ambiguous and may vary across outcomes. Moreover, existing research suggests that their effectiveness depends on individual characteristics, yet empirical evidence for ethnic minorities remains limited. This study contributes to the literature in two ways. First, it introduces a more fine-grained distinction between job finding methods by differentiating not only between formal and informal channels, but also between minority and majority referrals. This allows us to assess how the composition of social networks shapes employment outcomes. Second, it examines multiple dimensions of job quality, including overqualification, non-standard employment, job satisfaction, and workplace inclusion. Using a unique survey representative of six ethnic minority groups in Flanders, we analyze both the determinants and the consequences of job finding methods. The results show that both human and social capital strongly shape their use, with more integrated individuals relying less on minority networks. Moreover, the association between job finding methods and job quality differs markedly across dimensions: minority referrals are linked to higher risks of overqualification, while employment agencies are associated with non-standard employment, and job finding through advertisements is generally associated with more favorable job quality outcomes.

Anti-Institutionalism, Sovereign Citizens and State Response (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stefan Manser-Egli, Emma van der Tak, Sem Oosse – Lokaal D.011

Caught in Construction: Why Dutch Sovereign Citizens Challenge the Bureaucratic State
Emma van der Tak* (University of Amsterdam) en Jaron Harambam (University of Amsterdam)

Governments and scholars worldwide have raised alarm about the increasing popularity of sovereign citizen movements, whose adherents rely on conspiratorial narratives to declare their governments illegitimate and themselves sovereign. While a sovereign citizen movement emerged in the Netherlands in recent years, it has not yet received much scholarly attention. Moreover, numerous studies on sovereign citizen narratives emphasize etic perspectives and suggest an image of sovereign citizens as dangerous or irrational. Studying the Dutch sovereign citizen movement ethnographically, we aim to gain a more nuanced understanding of their experiences, motivations, and practices. We find that Dutch sovereign citizens feel trapped in the bureaucracies of “the system” and reject these either through retreat or by constructing alternative legal realities. Their desire for ultimate freedom, however, hinders community building: what society can function without at least some rules and institutions? We therefore conclude that sovereign citizens’ effort to live in full autonomy is based on a sociological illusion.

Understanding Anti-Institutional Extremism in the Netherlands

Sem Oosse* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Kjell Noordzij (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Willem de Koster (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Jeroen van der Waal (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Recently, the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) observed an increase in ‘anti-institutional extremism’, which centers on the narrative that the Netherlands is ruled by a malevolent elite that wants to subjugate and exploit the rest of the population. This narrative exemplifies the anti-institutionalism that continues to characterize many Western democracies today, including the Netherlands. Despite increased attention to this phenomenon, we lack an in-depth understanding of the diversity of perspectives present within anti-institutional extremism. Our study addresses this gap in the literature by conducting in-depth interviews that place the perspectives of people typically labelled as anti-institutional extremists at the center of inquiry. Our analysis reveals two central axes structuring the diversity among this group: whether individuals think the system should be corrected (replacing officials) or transformed (altering institutional structures); and whether they pursue change horizontally (focusing on society) or vertically (focusing on the state). These axes generate four distinct narratives of anti-institutional extremism – revolutionizing, reforming, campaigning, and converting – illustrating that the milieu encompasses a broad array of political orientations and strategies. This study concludes by presenting a conceptual alternative to anti-institutional extremism that better fits the empirical reality it aims to describe: subversive anti-institutionalism.

Sovereignism as Privilege: Sovereign Citizens and State Response

Stefan Manser-Egli* (University of Amsterdam)

Since the pandemic, the phenomenon of ‘sovereign citizens’ has gained both popularity and attention worldwide. Depending on national contexts, the terms used to describe the phenomenon include state deniers, citizens of the Reich, self-governing citizens, sovereign citizens, or freemen. This designation is usually an external ascription and only in some cases self-ascribed. For various reasons and with different justifications – for example, with reference to earlier forms of state government, conspiracy theories, international law, pseudo-law or natural law – sovereign citizens reject the existence and legitimacy of the state and thus also of democracy and the legal system. This article draws on qualitative fieldwork among sovereign citizens and state authorities in Switzerland and in the Netherlands to challenge often prevalent victim/villain narratives and tendencies of criminalization, victimization or pathologization of the phenomenon in the literature and in public discourse. The article introduces sovereignism as practice and ideology since the pandemic, the reactions by politicians and state authorities, and the profile, arguments and social networks of the scene. The subsequent analysis illustrates the extent to which sovereign citizens often act from a social position of relative privilege. This sovereignism as

privilege is analysed along four different axes: privileged positionalities (e.g. race, class, gender), privileged state presence/absence, privileged state response, privileged utopias. In conclusion, the paper discusses what an understanding of sovereignty as privilege entails for the sociological analysis and the political debate on the phenomenon.

Narrating and Performing Legality among Dutch Sovereign Citizens

Anne Jonker* (Leiden University) en Itai Siegel (Leiden University)

How do people make sense of law when they deny the legitimacy of the Dutch legal order itself? This paper examines the legal consciousness of Dutch sovereign citizens: individuals who claim that state law does not apply to them, while simultaneously engaging legal and administrative institutions through highly formalized forms of argumentation. Based on multiple in-depth interviews with four adherents of sovereign citizen arguments and six courtroom observations, the paper explores how participants narrate, perform, and recalibrate their relationship to law across different settings. Rather than treating sovereign citizen claims simply as legal misunderstanding or extremism, the paper approaches them as expressions of alternative legal consciousness: socially situated ways of interpreting authority, institutional power, and the self. Using the Dutch case, the paper shows that legal consciousness is not stable or uniform, but relational, situational, and formed in interaction with institutions. By examining a marginal case, it offers broader sociological insight into how legitimacy, recognition, and authority are contested in contemporary society.

Family Sociology I: Reproduction (English) – Voorzitters: Dimitri Mortelmans & Elke Claessens – Lokaal D.017

Parental Death in Childhood and Family-Life Transitions in 21 Countries

Yuxuan Jin* (Netherlands Demographic Interdisciplinary Institute), Matthijs Kalmijn (Netherlands Demographic Interdisciplinary Institute)

Parental death in childhood is known to have adverse consequences for children's education and mental health outcomes. Yet, less is known about how it affects later family-life transitions. Our study examines how parental death before age 18 affects three key transitions to adulthood: leaving home, forming a first partnership, and entering parenthood. We focus on whether the effects of parental death vary by the deceased parent's gender and the country context. We derive hypotheses from three theoretical perspectives regarding the economic resource, the household resource, and the quality. Using retrospective data from the Generations and Gender Survey across 21 European countries, we analyzed 154,575 children, of whom 7,432 children lost their father and 2,318 children lost their mother before age 18. We use discrete-time event-history models at the individual level and meta-regression models at the country level. Our results show that children who experienced early parental death were more likely to leave home and form a first partnership earlier than those who did not, but no accelerating effect for entering parenthood. In line with the household resource and quality perspectives, mother's death had a stronger accelerating effect on home-leaving than father's death. Moreover, the effects of mother's death on home-leaving were weaker in countries with more egalitarian gender norms, supporting the household resource perspective. In contrast with the economic resource perspective, the effects of father's death on family-life transitions were not weaker in countries with more social security and higher female labor force participation rates.

Societal Pessimism plays a supportive and secondary role in the intentions of Dutch adults to remain childfree

Nola Cammu* (Tilburg University), Katya Ivanova (Tilburg University), Mirthe Megens (Tilburg University) en Elizabeth Young (Tilburg University)

This paper focuses on the potential role of societal pessimism in the intentions of Dutch adults of prime reproductive age (aged 25–45) to remain childfree. 'Societal pessimism', defined as the broad sentiment that

society is developing in a negative direction, has increasingly been cited in public and academic debates on declining and postponed fertility. While prior research suggests that environmental and societal concerns may influence reproductive intentions, their relative importance compared to personal motivations remains unclear.

Drawing on 38 in-depth interviews with Dutch voluntarily childless individuals, who were recruited via the Dutch longitudinal LISS panel, we inductively discerned approximately 20 different childfree rationales in the narratives of our participants. Most participants listed multiple (two to six) reasons, which they discussed during the interview. These form a personal 'entity of reasons', or 'a set of interrelated motivations' underlying one's intention to remain childfree. In a subsequent phase, we probed the role of societal pessimism in our participants' 'entities of reasons'.

Our results indicate that although societal pessimism plays a role in childfree rationales, childfree intentions are still primarily driven by more personal motivations, including the desire for autonomy and flexibility, feelings of being unfit for parenthood, and a lack of desire to become a parent. Although societal pessimism, including concerns about environmental change, future quality of life, and (geo)political developments, was frequently mentioned, these concerns generally functioned as secondary or tertiary considerations rather than core motivations. In other words, they were found to reinforce or legitimize already established (and more important) personal rationales. Overall, our findings suggest that societal pessimism plays a supportive rather than decisive role in the childfree rationales of Dutch adults of prime reproductive age. However, in the context of recent world events and global turbulence, motivations linked to societal pessimism appear to have become a more important consideration.

The cost of uncertainty? Fertility expectations and life satisfaction of parents

Katya Ivanova* (Tilburg University)

Research on unintended or unplanned pregnancies has long highlighted the adverse consequences such events can have for adults and children. In contrast to this extensive literature, the present study investigates how individuals' expectations about future childbearing relate to their life satisfaction after becoming parents. Drawing on prospective data from the Dutch Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences (LISS) panel, it examines whether entering parenthood following negative or uncertain fertility expectations affects new parents' well-being, and whether these effects differ between mothers and fathers. Importantly, the focus is not on unplanned pregnancies as reported at pregnancy or birth — which are often associated with at-risk populations (Enthoven et al., 2022) — but on how pre-parenthood expectations shape the transition experience among Dutch men and women.

Analyses focus on respondents who were childless at panel entry but subsequently became parents. Fertility expectations were measured at the initial observation, while life satisfaction was assessed both at baseline and in the year of transition to parenthood. A conditional change score model estimates whether changes in life satisfaction differ by fertility expectations, net of partnership status, age, education, income satisfaction, personality traits, and time to transition.

Preliminary results indicate that respondents with positive fertility expectations experience a significant increase in life satisfaction after becoming parents, whereas those with negative or uncertain expectations do not. These findings suggest that generalized expectations about one's future life course - reported well before a major transition occurs - can meaningfully shape how that transition is ultimately experienced.

Tussen samenwerking en begrenzing - Maternal gatekeeping en de ouderschapsbeleving van vaders binnen verblijfsco-ouderschap

Gwen Ceulemans* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

In recent decades, shared physical custody has increasingly been promoted as an egalitarian post-separation parenting arrangement. While legal frameworks in Belgium emphasise formal equality between parents, existing

research suggests that lived experiences within shared physical custody may diverge from this ideal, particularly for fathers. Compared to the extensive literature on child outcomes and maternal perspectives, fathers' experiences remain relatively underexplored, and quantitative findings point to less uniform positive effects for fathers than mothers.

Drawing on the theoretical framework of maternal gatekeeping, this study conceptualises maternal gatekeeping as a set of maternal behaviours through which fathers' involvement in parenting is (un)consciously facilitated or restricted. The study aims to examine how such processes shape fathers' subjective experiences of parenting, their perceived parental role and their well-being within shared physical custody arrangements.

The analysis is based on in-depth interviews conducted by the Universiteit Antwerpen. From this dataset, fathers with shared physical custody arrangements were selected for further analysis. This qualitative approach allows a nuanced exploration of fathers' interpretations of post-separation parenting dynamics and ongoing relational dependencies with their ex-partners.

The study is expected to demonstrate that, despite legal equality, fathers' parenting experiences are strongly influenced by the quality of the co-parenting relationship and by perceived maternal gatekeeping behaviours. These findings emphasise how shared physical custody can simultaneously facilitate paternal involvement while also generating new vulnerabilities. By focussing on fathers' experiences, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of shared physical custody and underscores the importance of relational processes in shaping post-separation fatherhood.

Sustainable Employability in the Creative Sector I (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Janna Besamusca & Wike Been – Lokaal D.019

“Don't Assume; Don't Overthink” Vrouwelijke stage managers in de muziekindustrie over autoriteit en genderstereotypes

Marjan Wynia* (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Ondanks decennia van academisch onderzoek naar genderongelijkheid in de muziekindustrie, toenemende publieke aandacht en pleidooien voor structurele hervormingen, blijken patriarchale structuren hardnekkig. In mijn proefschrift onderzoek ik de structurele ongelijkheden in de sector vanuit het perspectief van vrouwelijke muziekprofessionals, met bijzondere aandacht voor de manier waarop zij bestaande machtsverhoudingen en genderbarrières bevragen en uitdagen.

Onderdeel van mijn onderzoek is de positie van de vrouwelijke stage manager, een rol die een cruciaal, maar veelal onderbelicht knooppunt vormt in de productie van livemuziekoptredens en -evenementen. De positie verdient extra aandacht omdat het voor menig professional een mogelijke opstap is tot een professionele loopbaan in de muziekindustrie. Wie slaagt als stage manager, bewijst onder druk te kunnen werken en kan een uitgebreid netwerk opbouwen. Desondanks blijft de genderdynamiek van de backstage als werkomgeving en de heersende werkpraktijken grotendeels buiten wetenschappelijk bereik. Bestaande publicaties over stage management zijn overwegend praktisch-normatief van aard en richten zich primair op de praktische kanten van het vak.

Mijn onderzoek toont aan dat vrouwelijke professionals structureel worden benadeeld door genderstereotypen en vooroordelen die de professionele identiteitsvorming van vrouwelijke stage managers conditioneren: kernkwaliteiten als autoriteit, (technische) expertise en leiderschapskwaliteiten worden nog steeds vooral geassocieerd met mannen. Vrouwelijke professionals die zich in de backstage begeven worden regelmatig geconfronteerd met het groupiestereotype en moeten eerst hun professionele status bewijzen. De respondenten hebben evenwel strategieën ontwikkeld om hun professionele identiteit op de voorgrond te plaatsen: zij claimen gezag en demonstreren hun expertise, terwijl zij tegelijkertijd als vrouwelijk gecodeerde eigenschappen strategisch inzetten. Dit duidt op een fijnmazig navigatieproces tussen structurele beperking en

tactisch handelen.

Sustaining Creative Careers: A Realist Synthesis on Interventions for Sustainable Employability of Self-Employed workers in the Cultural and Creative Sectors

Olga van den Brandt* (Utrecht University), Jantien van Berkel (Utrecht University), Janna Besamusca (Utrecht University) en Mara Yerkes (Utrecht University)

Sustaining a career in the cultural and creative sectors (CCS) can be challenging. The CCS are characterized by precarious working conditions such as high levels of self-employment, income insecurity, limited social protection, a blurred separation between self and work, and elevated mental and physical health risks. Extant research has largely focused on demonstrating these challenges for creative workers in early career stages. This paper extends our understanding of careers in the CCS by examining the tangible opportunities and conditions that enable workers to sustain their work over time while safeguarding health and welfare. Specifically, the study investigates how self-employed workers in the CCS can best be supported in maintaining a sustainable career by asking how different types of interventions improve sustainable employability in the creative sector, for whom, and under which circumstances.

This paper presents the findings from a realist synthesis, a methodological approach that combines a review of academic evidence and stakeholder experiences to co-create hypotheses (initial program theories) about context-specific mechanisms that can improve sustainable employability in the CCS. Initial program theories were developed based on four expert stakeholder conversations, and further developed using the 66 articles and reports from scientific and grey literature (published since 2010), and approximately 30 hours of participant observation and background discussions with cultural workers. Based on these insights, the authors propose a set of theoretical and empirical mechanisms that help explain under which conditions interventions may support sustainable employability across micro-, meso-, and macro-level contexts.

Voices at Risk: Voice Actors' Experiences of Generative AI and Threatened Employability

Wike Been* (University of Groningen)

The rapid rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to reshape labor markets. Its expected impact on the cultural and creative sector is particularly significant, as AI systems are increasingly capable of creative tasks, such as producing text, images, videos and sound. As a result, creatives fear that their work may be replaced by AI, with voice actors among those directly affected. While job displacement caused by technological innovation is not a new phenomenon, voice actors occupy a distinct position. Like many workers in contemporary labor markets, they are solo self-employed. This status shapes both their vulnerability to AI-driven replacement and the range of responses available to them. This study examines their experiences and reactions to better understand what the potential disappearance of one's profession means for voice actors in particular and for self-employed workers more generally.

Drawing on preliminary findings from 18 semi-structured interviews with professional voice actors, the study shows that the consequences of AI are experienced directly and personally due to the absence of organizational or institutional buffers. Many interviewees report a decline in assignments, alongside widespread concern that work opportunities disappear altogether. For many, these developments are accompanied by a strong sense of loss, as voice acting is work they feel passionate about. In response, coping strategies are largely aimed at sustaining their professional practice for as long as possible. An unintended side effect is an increased sense of competition, leading many to view individual agency as more feasible than collective forms of action.

Woorden wegen. Hoe verantwoordingen in subsidieaanvragen door kunstenaars de kans op succes beïnvloeden

Henk Roose (Universiteit Gent), Julia Peters (Erasmus MC) en Erin Maussen* (Universiteit Gent)

Deze studie onderzoekt of de discursieve rechtvaardigingen die beeldende kunstenaars gebruiken in

subsidieaanvragen invloed hebben op hun kans om overheidssteuning te ontvangen. Op basis van een steekproef van 494 aanvragen die tussen 1965 en 2015 in Vlaanderen (België) werden ingediend, combineren we kwalitatieve inhoudsanalyse met logistische regressie om de impact te beoordelen van zes types legitimaties—reputationeel, esthetisch, romantisch, sociaal, academisch en ondernemend—met controle voor reputatie en demografische kenmerken van de kunstenaar. Onze bevindingen tonen aan dat discursieve strategieën slechts een minimale invloed hebben op de uitkomst van subsidiebeslissingen. Enkel romantische rechtvaardigingen, die emotionele moeilijkheden en persoonlijke opoffering benadrukken, verlagen significant de slaagkans. Reputatie, gemeten via tentoonstellingsgeschiedenis en eerdere subsidies, blijft de sterkste voorspeller van toekenning. De resultaten geven aan dat expertenpanels vooral vertrouwen op symbolisch kapitaal in plaats van discursieve overtuiging, waardoor bestaande hiërarchieën binnen het artistieke veld worden bestendigd. De studie benadrukt zo de beperkte rol van narratieve framing in institutionele besluitvorming en de blijvende kracht van reputatie in artistieke consecratie.

Education I: Inclusion & Diversity (English) – Voorzitter: Tomas Bilevicius – Lokaal E.201

Public Opinion towards Sexuality Education in Belgium: A Latent Profile Analysis

Lise Rosquin* (KU Leuven), Cecil Meeusen (KU Leuven), Nina Van Eekert (KU Leuven), Kristien Michielsen (KU Leuven) en Tara De Laet (KU Leuven)

Objective: School-based sexuality education (CSE) promotes young people’s sexual health and well-being and is supported at the highest political levels. However, resistance to CSE is growing in Belgium. In 2023, a new law mandating four hours of CSE (EVRAS) across primary and secondary education in Wallonia sparked widespread vocal protests and even led to arson in primary schools. This study examines public opinion on CSE to address the following research questions: To what extent does the general population support or oppose CSE? How do attitudes towards CSE relate to individual-level factors and in what way are they embedded in broader ideologies?

Design and Method: This research draws on both primary and secondary data from a probability-based survey of Belgian citizens aged 16 and above, collected in October 2025 (The Social Study; $n \approx 4000$). To explore which narratives resonate most with the public, the survey includes (1) statements on CSE to rate according to level of (dis)agreement and (2) respondent-characterising questions to contextualise attitudes towards CSE. Using Latent Profile Analysis, a person-centered approach, we identify subgroups – referred to as ‘latent profiles’ - of individuals with differing attitudes towards CSE. Next, we map determinants of support and opposition to investigate the breeding ground for attitudes towards CSE.

Results: We will present the current state of public attitudes toward school-based CSE, in a nuanced, person-centered way, and how they relate to opposition to gender ideology, anti-woke and populist rhetoric.

Conclusions: In light of recent opposition to school-based CSE in Belgium and similar developments internationally, this study offers timely insights into the current landscape of attitudes towards CSE. We assess the depth and distribution of opposition and support, with careful attention to the impact of anti-gender campaigns that have increasingly targeted sexuality education as part of their broader agenda.

PRR Ideology and Attitudes towards Comprehensive Sexuality Education in Belgium

Marjolein Heylen* (KU Leuven), Cecil Meeusen (KU Leuven) en Lise Rosquin (KU Leuven)

In recent years, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) has become increasingly contested and politicised in Europe and the United States, which affects its effective implementation in schools. This increasing opposition against CSE can be understood within the broader international mobilisation against “gender ideology”, in which the populist radical-right (PRR) has emerged as a central actor. Scholars increasingly argue that, in addition to nativism, PRR positions on gender and sexuality also play an important role in their rising political appeal. The

growing support for PRR thinking is understood as a reaction to cultural and economic transformations that have produced feelings of marginalisation among certain groups in society due to a perceived decline in social status. PRR actors address these feelings of marginalisation by portraying these policies on gender and sexual diversity as culturally liberal reforms that are imposed against the will of the people. In this perspective, increasing gender and sexual diversity is seen as a threat to the traditional gender order and the national identity.

This thesis examines the relationship between PRR attitudes and attitudes towards CSE in Belgium. Previous research has mainly focused on factors such as parental attitudes and religiosity in shaping attitudes towards CSE, whereas the role of PRR attitudes remains underexplored. Using recent survey data from The Social Study (October 2025), I test the relationship between PRR attitudes and attitudes towards school-based CSE. An exploratory factor analysis was used to uncover underlying dimensions of attitudes towards CSE, including views on the role of schools, preference for free choice and culturally sensitive CSE, adherence to traditional values, and attitudes towards liberal sexuality. Subsequently, I examine the effect of PRR attitudes on these dimensions.

A Textbook Case? The Symbolic Grammar of Gender and Ethnicity in Flemish Primary School Textbooks

Tomas Bilevicius* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Marloes Hagenaars (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Dieter Vandebroeck (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Textbooks are rarely neutral. As cultural artefacts that are imbued with the symbolic authority of the educational system and distributed at scale, they constitute what this paper terms a structured symbolic field: a representational order in which the systematic positioning of characters in turn encodes and naturalizes principles of social classification. Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of symbolic violence, doxa, and principles of vision and division, we examine how Flemish primary school textbooks (re)produce social hierarchies not through explicit prescription, but through the taken-for-granted structuring of the social world they (re)present. Prior research has consistently documented the underrepresentation and stereotypical portrayal of female and non-white characters in educational materials. The study draws on a systematic content analysis of 7,550 characters across 135 textbooks from five major Flemish primary schoolbook publishers. Using Multiple Correspondence Analysis, we reconstruct the symbolic space of character representation, mapping how attributes including activity type, agency, and social role cluster into structured oppositions that mirror broader social divisions. This allows us to identify the dominant axes of differentiation structuring the symbolic space, revealing which character attributes consistently co-occur, which social positions are rendered central or marginal, and how the geometry of representation maps onto the geometry of social inequality. The central argument is that textbook characters do not merely reflect society; they enact a representational order that renders particular social positions natural, inevitable, and unworthy of question. The paper advances the theoretical claim that educational materials function as instruments of symbolic classification and violence whose efficacy derives from their apparent transparency. By integrating Bourdieusian sociology with visual semiotics and social cognition research, this paper contributes to cultural sociology's understanding of how institutions reproduce hierarchies through the seemingly mundane infrastructure of representation.

Beelden die Bekennen: Representatie en Diversiteit in Vlaamse Schoolboeken

Marloes Hagenaars* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Tomas Bilevicius (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Schoolboeken spelen niet alleen een centrale rol in het formele onderwijs, maar ook in de manier waarop kinderen de sociale wereld leren begrijpen. Het zien van zichzelf in educatief materiaal kan het gevoel van verbondenheid en de zelfontwikkeling van kinderen versterken, terwijl de afwezigheid of stereotypering van sociale groepen kan signaleren wie als "normaal" of waardevol wordt gezien binnen de maatschappij. Binnen het bredere landschap van socialisatiebronnen (familie, vrienden, televisie en sociale media) nemen schoolboeken een bijzondere positie in omdat hun autoritaire karakter hen symbolische macht geeft om te bepalen welke sociale groepen zichtbaar zijn in schoolboeken. Hierdoor kunnen ze bijdragen aan de constructie van sociale identiteiten en normen. Ondanks deze invloed is de representatie in schoolboeken binnen Vlaanderen nog niet eerder onderzocht. Internationaal onderzoek toont dat stereotypes aanwezig in schoolboeken op vlak van gender, etniciteit, sociaaleconomische status en handicap. Minderheidsgroepen zijn daarbij niet alleen

ondervertegenwoordigd, maar worden ook vaak stereotiep afgebeeld. Bovendien bestuderen voorgaande onderzoeken de identiteitskenmerken afzonderlijk, terwijl intersectioneel onderzoek benadrukt dat sociale identiteiten elkaar kruisen en samen ervaringen van inclusie en uitsluiting vormgeven. Deze studie biedt de eerste systematische intersectionele analyse van representatie in Vlaamse schoolboeken. We analyseerden 135 schoolboeken van de vijf grootste uitgeverijen, voor de vakken Nederlands, wiskunde en wereldoriëntatie in het 1e (groep 3), 3e (groep 5) en 6e leerjaar (groep 8) van het basisonderwijs. In totaal werden 7.550 personages gecodeerd en onderzochten we zowel de frequentie van representatie (hoe vaak) als de manier waarop personages worden afgebeeld (hoe). De resultaten tonen een ondervertegenwoordiging van minderheidsgroepen. De grootste ongelijkheden worden gevonden voor handicap en lichaamsvorm, de kleinste voor gender. De intersectionele analyse laat bovendien een bijzonder lage representatie zien van vrouwen met een donkere huidskleur uit lagere sociaaleconomische groepen. Deze bevindingen onderstrepen het belang van een meer inclusieve representatie in schoolboeken

Youth (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Bram Spruyt – Lokaal E.207

Does ability grouping invoke essentialism in adolescence?

Niels Vullings* (Utrecht University), Eddie Brummelman (University of Amsterdam), Stefanie A. Nelemans (Utrecht University) en Jellie Sierksma (Utrecht University)

Most educational systems group students based on their presumed ability – a practice known as ability grouping (Deunk et al., 2018). Research shows ability grouping does not always positively affect performance, particularly for students in lower ability groups. Less is known about how ability grouping affects how students perceive their peers. We theorize that ability grouping, like other forms of grouping, may breed essentialism, the idea that ability groups have a certain underlying essence that cannot be observed directly. Specifically, observers may infer that ability group membership is caused by stable internal factors (like ability), and that students in the same groups are similar to one another.

The current preregistered between-subject experiment tested this hypothesis (N = 359, 11-18 years). In the experiment, adolescents saw a list of hypothetical students and the grades they received on a test, ranked in descending order. In the ability-grouping condition, adolescents were informed that the top, middle, and bottom students were assigned to high-, middle, and low-ability groups, respectively. In the control conditions, adolescents received no such information. Using linear (mixed) models, we find that when the hypothetical students are assigned to ability groups (vs not assigned), adolescents perceive peers in the same ability group as more alike (i.e., similarity, commonality and closeness). Furthermore, when assigned to ability groups (vs not assigned), adolescents perceive the ability of students with high performance as more stable (i.e., developing early in life, expressed in future job). These results suggest that ability grouping might invoke essentialist thinking, indicating one's ability group determines how you are perceived at school, regardless of academic performance. The outcomes of this research are crucial for designing differentiation practices that reduce educational inequality and improve students' wellbeing.

Exploring the Relationship Between Family Structure and Educational Trajectories of Adolescents in Pakistan

Akbar Ali* (Universiteit Gent)

Family structure is a fundamental social reality that significantly influences adolescents' academic progress and life adjustment; however, it has been largely overlooked in educational research, receiving substantially less attention. The aim of this research is to investigate the impact of family structure on educational trajectories and overall academic outcomes of adolescents in Pakistan. Using a qualitative approach, data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with adolescents and their teachers. The study also considers parental practices, student gender, and the social and economic capital of parents, alongside family structure, to assess their combined impact on educational trajectories. Furthermore, it investigates gender differences in academic

achievement across different family types. Study findings suggest that adolescents in single and step-parent families face unique adjustment, economic, and social support challenges depending on family structure. Gender also plays a key role in determining the effect of family structure. Parental practices within non traditional families can either hinder or enhance students' learning progress and academic outcomes. This study also focuses on the intermediary role of school teachers in integrating such students to improve their academic performance. This study also provides sufficient research-based evidence for policy interventions aimed at enhancing the academic performance of adolescents by supporting and integrating them in families and schools.

Vrijetijdskansen van jongeren in Vlaanderen en Brussel: van een toeleidingsvraagstuk naar een leefwereldperspectief op de vrijetijdsbesteding van jongeren

Susan Lagaert* (Universiteit Gent)

Onderzoek toont systematisch verschillen in de vrijetijdsbesteding van jongeren naargelang hun sociaal-economische en -culturele achtergrond. Omdat deelname aan georganiseerde vrijetijdsactiviteiten belangrijke voordelen biedt, bestaat er beleidsmatige bezorgdheid over de beperkte participatie van jongeren in maatschappelijk kwetsbare situaties aan jeugdwerk en sportverenigingen. Beleidsinitiatieven zoals doelgroepgerichte verenigingen en buurtsport trachten deze drempels te verlagen, vaak met de impliciete verwachting dat jongeren later doorstromen naar het reguliere, zogenaamd inclusieve vrijetijdsaanbod. Dit leidt tot spanningen tussen georganiseerde en ongeorganiseerde vrije tijd, en tussen doelgroepgerichte en algemene werkingen, waarbij het klassieke jeugdwerk vaak als norm blijft gelden.

Dit aanbodgerichte denken staat in contrast met een sociaal-pedagogisch perspectief dat vertrekt vanuit de betekenis van vrije tijd voor jongeren zelf, ingebed in hun leefwereld en noden. In plaats van te focussen op 'betere' of 'slechtere' vrije tijd, stellen wij het concept 'vrijetijdskansen' voor: in welke mate groeien jongeren kansrijk op wat vrije tijd betreft, en hoe hangt dit samen met hun context? Welke werkelijke vrijheden hadden jongeren om hun vrije tijd in te vullen?

Binnen het Jeugdonderzoeksplatform ontwikkelden we, in overleg met jeugdwerkactoren, een vragenbatterij om vrijetijdskansen in kaart te brengen, vanuit een leefwereldperspectief en gelinkt aan de capabilities approach. De gemeten dimensies omvatten autonomie en aansluiting bij eigen wensen, beschikbaar aanbod en infrastructuur, veiligheid, en tijdsdruk en rust. We rapporteren resultaten van meer dan 5.000 secundaire scholieren in Antwerpen, Brussel, Gent en niet-grootstedelijk Vlaanderen via multilevel lineaire regressies, en bespreken de vastgestelde ongelijkheden en hun implicaties voor onderzoek, beleid en jeugdwerk.

Social differences in youth volunteering in an increasingly diverse society: an intersectional approach

Fien Pauwels* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Volunteering offers young people valuable opportunities for personal and social development, yet social inequalities in access and participation persist. This study examines how ethnicity/migration background, gender, and social class shape formal volunteering among Flemish youth, with special attention to how these characteristics intersect. Using large-scale survey data from students in the second and third grades of secondary education in urban areas and a rural control group (n = 2354), we apply multilevel logistic models to analyse both individual and interaction effects. The dataset offers a unique opportunity to disentangle how migration background effects differ depending on young people's country of origin. Results show clear differences in formal voluntary engagement by social class and ethnicity/migration background, but not by gender. However, intersectional analyses nuance this general pattern, revealing barriers that remain hidden when characteristics are studied separately. Gender does effect volunteering, but only for those with a Turkish background or in technical education. By highlighting these intersectional dynamics, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of social inequalities in youth volunteering and underscores the importance of moving beyond single-axis analyses. Furthermore, our study shows that other forms of (social) engagement strongly influence young people's engagement.

Zorg & Gezondheid (Nederlands) – Voorzitter: Jorik Vergauwen – Lokaal A.205

Religious influence on abortion attitudes in Europe: a multilevel analysis

Famke Bogaerts* (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Sarah Van de Velde (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Although sexual and reproductive health is widely recognized as a fundamental human right by the WHO, abortion remains a contested issue across many European societies. This study examines public attitudes toward abortion across 12 European countries, analysing regional variation at the NUTS-2 level using data from 6,300 respondents in the CRONOS-2 panel.

Existing research highlights religiosity as a key determinant of abortion attitudes, with higher levels of religiosity typically associated with less permissive views. Drawing on a Durkheimian framework, we expect that both individual religiosity and the contextual religiosity of the environment influence these attitudes. This reflects two core Durkheimian concepts: the *sui generis* effect of contextual religiosity and the idea of *homo duplex*, reflecting the individual agency to interpret social facts constructed by collective representations.

Using multilevel analysis, we hypothesized that both individual and contextual religiosity negatively affect abortion attitudes, with a reinforcing interaction effect. The results show a significant negative effect for individual religiosity on abortion attitudes, which remains robust after controlling for additional individual-level variables. A significant negative effect of contextual religiosity is also observed, supporting the *sui generis* nature of religion. This effect remains significant even after controlling for regional GDP per capita and regional gender equality.

However, no significant interaction effect is found between individual and contextual religiosity, suggesting that these factors operate as independent predictors rather than mutually reinforcing influences. Overall, the findings highlight the importance of considering both individual and contextual dimensions of religiosity in explaining variation in abortion attitudes across Europe.

Educational Spillover Effects and Influenza Vaccination Uptake in Europe: The Role of Adult Children's Educational Attainment

Valentien Taeldeman* (Universiteit Gent) en Katrijn Delaruelle (Universiteit Gent)

Introduction

While previous research has predominantly examined the impact of parental education on their children's preventive health behaviours, fewer studies have explored the reverse relationship. This study analyses the upward spillover effect of adult children's education on older adults' influenza vaccination uptake. Theoretically, longer-educated children may provide informational, motivational, and instrumental support that promotes preventive health behaviours in their parents, whereas weaker access to such resources may reflect what recent life-course literature refers to as "unlinked lives". Importantly, given well-documented sex differences in preventive health behaviours and intergenerational support patterns, we place a particular focus on sex-specific mechanisms in the association between children's education and parents' vaccination uptake. We additionally consider cross-country institutional differences.

Methods & Results

Data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) were used, including 41,991 adults aged 50 and above across 27 European countries. Preliminary two-level binomial logistic regression models were estimated to explore both individual-level and macro-contextual influences on influenza vaccination uptake. Preliminary results reveal (1) a positive association between adult children's education and parents' vaccination uptake, with parents of longer-educated children showing a greater likelihood of being vaccinated than those with shorter-educated children; (2) strong sex differences, with this association primarily observed among older women; and (3) substantial cross-country heterogeneity, suggesting the role of institutional configurations in shaping intergenerational patterns.

Discussion

Anchored in fundamental cause theory, this study highlights the intergenerational educational gradient in health inequalities, and that these processes differ clearly between women and men. By integrating sex-specific analysis with cross-national contexts, the study advances understanding of how intergenerational social processes underly health inequalities in later life.

Improving access to care for people living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances: a process evaluation of the COMPASS trial

Laura Vroonen* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Josefien van Olmen (Universiteit Antwerpen), Edwin Wouters (Universiteit Antwerpen), Caroline Masquillier (Universiteit Antwerpen), Nick Verhaege (Universiteit Gent), Tijs Van Iseghem (Universiteit Gent), Emilie Op de Beeck (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Hilde Bastiaens (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Introduction

Community health workers (CHWs) are increasingly recognised as a key strategy to address health inequalities, yet they remain underutilised in European health systems. Lessons can be learned from decades of experience in low- and middle-income countries, but more research is needed on how such interventions can be effectively adapted and transferred across contexts. This study evaluates the implementation of an adapted CHW intervention designed to improve access to primary care for people living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances in Antwerp, Belgium.

Methods

A mixed-methods process evaluation was conducted alongside the COMPASS cluster-randomised controlled trial implemented between December 2024 and March 2026 in Antwerp, Belgium. Eighteen general practitioner (GP) practices participated, and 367 patients were enrolled in the trial. Six CHWs, supported by an outreach coordinator, were embedded in GP practices and provided support to patients through monthly contacts throughout the trial. The process evaluation was guided by the UK Medical Research Council framework. Quantitative data were collected through structured diaries completed by CHWs documenting patient contacts and activities. Qualitative data consisted of semi-structured interviews with CHWs (n=6), the outreach coordinator (n=1), representatives of GP practices (n=X), and 34 clients. Data were analysed using thematic analysis.

Results

The analysis will examine key dimensions of implementation, including fidelity, dose, reach, and adaptations made during intervention delivery. It will also explore mechanisms through which CHWs may influence access to care, for example by supporting patients in navigating healthcare services and mediating interactions between patients and primary care providers. Particular attention will be paid to contextual factors—at the level of patients, GP practices, and the wider healthcare system—that shape how the intervention is implemented and experienced in practice.

Conclusion

By examining the implementation of a CHW intervention in a European urban context, this study contributes to understanding how community-based health interventions may improve access to primary health care for people living in socio-economically vulnerable circumstances and offers insights into the cross-contextual transfer of CHW models.

Persoonsgerichte zorg in actie: De rol van ervaringsdeskundigen in Vlaamse ziekenhuizen

Eva Bamps* (KU Leuven), Shauni Van Doren (KU Leuven), Trefpunt Zelfhulp vzw en KU Leuven

Ondanks alle medische expertise die aanwezig is in algemene ziekenhuizen, missen professionele zorgverleners vaak een cruciaal perspectief: dat van de patiënt zelf. In de evolutie naar een meer persoonsgerichte zorg, levert

het integreren van dit perspectief in het zorgproces nochtans een belangrijke bijdrage aan het verhogen van de zorgkwaliteit. Patiënten bezitten unieke kennis over hoe het is om te leven met een bepaalde aandoening. Wanneer deze kennis gedeeld, verbreed en verwerkt wordt, spreken we over ervaringsdeskundigheid. Deze ervaringsdeskundigheid is complementair aan professionele kennis. Het inzetten van ervaringsdeskundigen op afdelingen in algemene ziekenhuizen is een manier om het patiëntenperspectief structureel in te bedden en meer persoonsgerichte zorg mogelijk te maken.

De haalbaarheid van het inzetten van ervaringsdeskundigen in algemene ziekenhuizen werd in 2018 onderzocht door Castro et al. met een pilootproject op vier afdelingen in UZ Leuven. Sindsdien wordt dit co-design-project verdergezet in zes Vlaamse ziekenhuizen (15 afdelingen) onder begeleiding van Trefpunt Zelfhulp vzw en ZOPP vzw. Aangezien de interventie, naast het engagement van het ziekenhuispersoneel, aanzienlijke inspanningen vraagt van de ervaringsdeskundigen, wilden we de ervaringen van deze laatste groep in kaart brengen. Aan de hand van een online vragenlijst bevroegen we percepties over de opgenomen rollen en verwachtingen, patiëntencontacten en de relatie met het zorgpersoneel en andere ervaringsdeskundigen.

In totaal namen 34 ervaringsdeskundigen uit vier ziekenhuizen deel. Via descriptieve en thematische analyses stelden we vast dat er een grote algemene tevredenheid is over de interventie. De ervaringsdeskundigen benadrukten de gepercipieerde meerwaarde van hun aanwezigheid voor de patiënten. Een terugkerende bezorgdheid was dat ze verwacht hadden om een groter aantal patiëntencontacten te hebben.

Samenvattend biedt deze interventie een structureel kader waarin ervaringsdeskundigheid op de afdeling een eigen plaats krijgt, met respect voor alle actoren in het zorgproces en een duidelijke meerwaarde voor de patiënten.

Political Sociology (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206

(De)constructing the boundaries of solidarity : How Reddit users frame solidarity toward different social groups

Anouk Luypaert* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

While much research has examined how political elites justify solidarity in institutionalized settings, less is known about how the public articulates and justifies solidarity in everyday discourse. This paper fills the gap by examining how users on Reddit, a large online platform for public discussions structured around topic-specific communities (“subreddits”), dynamically construct and contest solidarity toward different social groups. Drawing on over three million interactions from country-specific subreddits in Belgium, Sweden, and the United States between 2008 and 2024, the study examines (1) which solidarity frames users use to justify solidarity, (2) how these frames relate to social groups, (3) how framing develops throughout interactions, and (4) how these patterns vary over time and across ideologically more or less homogeneous communities.

The analysis builds on a political solidarity framework distinguishing four types of solidarity: identity-based, compassionate, exchange-based, and empathic. It also integrates boundary-making perspectives, conceptualizing solidarity expressions as symbolic acts of inclusion and refusals of solidarity as mechanisms of exclusion. Combining these approaches allows me to examine not only how solidarity is justified, but also how these justifications draw and contest the boundaries of solidarity. Methodologically, posts are annotated for solidarity frames and referenced social groups using large language models, validated against a manually coded benchmark.

The study advances solidarity, boundary-making, and polarization research by 1) demonstrating how interactional and computational approaches can be used to analyze public discourse at a large scale and 2)

providing insight into how solidarity framing can reduce polarization and shape the boundaries of solidarity.

“A Duty to Disrupt?” Climate Activists’ Legitimising Claims for the Use of Disruptive Protest Tactics

Janneke Drent* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Over the past few years, we have seen an increase in the use of disruptive protest (e.g., roadblocks, site occupations and acts of vandalism) by climate action groups. Whilst such protest actions are more likely to draw mass attention than conventional, non-disruptive protest, they also run the risk of enticing public ire, scaring off potential supporters or damaging a social movement’s reputation. How do climate activists balance these negative effects? How do they attempt to convince the public of the legitimacy and necessity of their disruptive protests? Citizens are after all unlikely to support protest which they believe violates basic societal norms, or that is simply ‘too extreme’ or ‘illegitimate’. Yet, we know surprisingly little of how disruptive climate activists’ aim to legitimise their actions. To fill this gap, this study will investigate the legitimising claims activists themselves make in defence of their protests. Potential ways of legitimising disruptive tactics could for example be to highlight the effectiveness of such actions for historically successful movements such as the civil rights and suffragette movements, to emphasise the urgency of climate change as a ticking time bomb, or to highlight the importance of the climate action to prevent widespread climate catastrophes. For this study, a series of around twenty interviews will be conducted with the members of Flemish disruptive climate groups such as Code Rood and Extinction Rebellion. During the interviews, participants will be asked to reflect on how their organisation claims legitimacy for its actions. Which arguments do they make to legitimise their action, and why? And who do they hope to reach when making such claims? This will result in a first-hand account of the strategic and ideological legitimising claims of disruptive action within these disruptive climate groups.

Network Heterogeneity in European Multiparty Contexts: Direct and Secondary Associations with Ideology-based Affective Evaluations

Gaetano Scaduto* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Tom Nijs (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Willem de Koster (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Fedra Negri (University of Milan)

A growing body of work shows that politically heterogeneous personal networks are associated with reduced affective polarization. However, this relationship has been studied almost exclusively in the two party U.S. context, limiting our understanding of how network composition relates to political affect in other political systems. This study focuses on ideological groups and investigates how ideological network heterogeneity—both direct and indirect—relates to citizens’ affective evaluations of ideological outgroups across four European countries: Czechia, France, Italy, and Sweden.

Using original CAWI survey data collected in November 2024 from N=5,263 respondents we examine whether (1) having a higher proportion of ideological outgroup members in one’s personal network is associated with warmer affect toward members of ideological outgroups, and (2) whether befriending members of one ideological outgroup (a “mediating outgroup”) also increases positive affect toward another ideological outgroup (a “target outgroup”), consistent with the secondary transfer effect in intergroup contact theory. Ideological identities are measured on a left–center–right classification, and affect is captured via 0–10 feeling thermometers.

Regression analyses show that respondents with fully outgroup-composed networks report substantially more positive average evaluations of ideological outgroups (1.6–1.9 thermometer points), with group specific effects reaching 3–5 points. Path analyses provide nuanced evidence for secondary transfer effects. Among leftists and rightists, contact with mediating groups produces positive indirect effects—mediated by attitudes toward the mediating group—and non significant direct effects, supporting both H2 and H3. Among centrists, however, indirect effects are positive but outweighed by strong negative direct effects, yielding negative total effects.

These findings highlight that ideological network heterogeneity can reduce political animosity in multiparty

systems, but that its effects depend critically on individuals' own ideological identities.

Klonters in de woordensoep : een analyse van 86 jaar aan parlementaire tussenkomsten in de Belgische Kamer met een neurale topic model

Augustijn Van Rode* (Universiteit Gent), Henk Roose (Universiteit Gent) en Ronan Van Rossem (Universiteit Gent)

Traditionele kwantitatieve tekstanalyse in de sociologie besteedt geen aandacht aan de specifieke manieren waarop woorden met elkaar gecombineerd worden tot tekst. Ze vergelijken weliswaar documenten aan de hand van kenmerkend woordgebruik, maar doen dat wars van de functie of volgorde van die woorden. Neurale topic models, zoals BERTopic, komen aan die tekortkoming tegemoet. Vooreerst maken ze tekstuele representaties die niet louter de aan- of afwezigheid, maar ook complexe co-incidenties kwantificeren. Vervolgens reduceren ze die rijke representaties tot een beperkt aantal dimensies die er echt toe doen om de onderlinge relaties van documenten in de dataset te begrijpen. Op die manier kunnen opeenhopingen van documenten als clusters van elkaar onderscheiden worden.

We passen deze techniek toe op een grootschalig, rijk geannoteerd corpus van parlementaire tussenkomsten in de Belgische Kamer der Volksvertegenwoordigers, dat alle volledige naoorlogse legislaturen omvat. Zowel de articulatie van als de uitweiding over onderwerpen wordt longitudinaal in beeld gebracht. Naast de onderwerpen gaan we ook in op de omkadering ervan door politieke partijen. We beargumenteren dat die twee concepten – onderwerp en kader – in elkaars verlengde liggen: beide zijn complexe taalkundige co-incidenties die als clusters onderscheiden kunnen worden. Het verschil is er één van schaal: de relaties tussen de woorden van onderwerpen zijn meer duurzaam dan relaties tussen de woorden van kaders. Kaders zijn dan ook vaak terug te vinden als subclusters van onderwerpen.

Decentralising Humans (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Frédéric Vandermoere – Lokaal Scaldis (Hof van Liere)

The Forest Shaping Everyday Life: An Ethnographic Study of Forest villages

Sayari Roy Choudhury* (KU Leuven)

Stretching across the landscape of central India, the Barjhai forest serves as a vital source of life and sustenance for the surrounding tribal communities. It provides food, water, timber, and fodder, while also functioning as playground for children and a site of momentary respite for women from the demands of everyday life.

Drawing on six months of ethnographic fieldwork and oral histories collected from village elders in two forest-adjacent villages, this article examines how the forest shapes everyday practices, social relations, and ritual life, while simultaneously being shaped by them.

The forest is deeply embedded not only in daily subsistence but also in memory and temporality. Village elders recall different stages of their lives through changes in the forest, rendering it a living archive of personal and collective histories. In times of scarcity and hardship, the forest has long provided nourishment through diverse edible greens and other resources. However, with the growing penetration of capitalist economies into these regions, such traditional ecological knowledge is increasingly eroding among younger generations. Paradoxically, many of these forest foods are now being recognized in global markets as “superfoods,” consumed primarily by urban elites. Meanwhile, within the villages, these same foods are being abandoned, as they come to be associated with an “uncivilized” past.

This article explores these shifting meanings and practices, highlighting the dynamic interconnections between the forest and the rhythms of life in forest-based communities.

Qualifying Water, Valuing Price : How Consumers Evaluate the Fair Price of Tap Water

Lien Dieleman* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Frédéric Vandermoere (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Robbe Geerts (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Water can be qualified in multiple ways: as a basic need, a natural resource, a human right, an infrastructure, an ecosystem... At the same time, water for everyday household use is provided by water companies and sold at a price in a highly regulated market characterized by regional monopolies and limited exit options for consumers. Drawing on 39 in-depth interviews conducted across two research projects in Flanders, this study explores how households evaluate the price of tap water and what price they consider fair and acceptable. We argue that price evaluations of tap water are not primarily based on actual price levels, but are deeply connected to the ambivalent status of water in society. Using insights from convention theory, we analyse how households mobilize different qualifications of water when assessing its price, i.e. “processes of perceiving and defining water” (Valette, 2024, p.122). The analysis shows that these various qualifications create moral expectations regarding what tap water should cost, and consequently, what price is acceptable. For instance, the qualification of water as a basic necessity creates the expectation that it should be affordable, while its qualification as a natural resource implies that its price should discourage excessive consumption. These expectations do not replace one another but often coexist, resulting in ambivalent and negotiated evaluations of price.

Thinking from the other: Multispecies studies as an epistemological perspective

Ine De Parade* (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Frédéric Vandermoere (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Multispecies studies (or more-than-human studies) constitute an emerging interdisciplinary field that fundamentally challenges classical dualisms such as human/nature and culture/nature. Rather than approaching this field as a bounded research domain, this contribution puts forward multispecies studies as an epistemological perspective.

At the core is the idea of “thinking from the other”: an attempt to move beyond taking the human as the self-evident starting point of thought and knowledge, and instead to learn to think attentively and relationally with and from other living and non-living species. This perspective builds on key concepts such as the organism-in-its-environment, multiplicity of perspectives, and the principle of “becoming-with,” translating these into a methodological and epistemological stance.

This contribution argues that multispecies studies should be understood less as a delimited scientific specialization and more as a lens that interrogates and reconfigures existing modes of knowledge production. By shifting the focus from representation to relation, and from observation to engagement (“arts of attentiveness”), this perspective opens up new ways of thinking about coexistence, responsibility, ethics, and knowledge in a multispecies world.

Werk & Arbeid: Toegang of Verlaten van Arbeidsmarkt (Nederlands) –Voorzitter: Dries Lens – Lokaal Prentenkabinet

Entering childcare: The role of practicum experiences within a Job Demands-Resources framework

Lisa Grielens* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Sara De Bruyn (Universiteit Antwerpen), Koen Ponnet (Universiteit Antwerpen), Edwin Wouters (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Jochen Devlieghere (Universiteit Gent)

Staff shortages in early childhood education and care (ECEC) remain a persistent challenge across Europe, including in Flanders (Belgium), the context of this study. These shortages are often linked to high turnover rates, reported to reach up to 30%. While existing research has predominantly focused on workforce exit, considerably less attention has been paid to entry into the sector. However, given that inflow is limited and often short-lived, understanding pre-service childcare professionals’ intentions to enter the sector is crucial. Beyond intention to

work, this study includes also occupational commitment as it provides additional insight into the extent to which future professionals are motivated to remain in the field. In doing so, this study aims to address both low entry and the short-lived retention of new personnel.

These two outcomes are examined in relation to practicum experiences, which are widely considered a key component of pre-service training, as it enables students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world practice. More specifically, drawing on the Job Demands–Resources (JD-R) model, this study investigates how perceived demands and resources during the practicum relate to both intentions to enter the profession and occupational commitment.

Data will be collected from April to June 2026 from students across three distinct educational pathways in Flanders: 7th-year 'childcare' (vocational secondary education), 6th-year 'Education and Guidance' (technical secondary education) and 'Childcare professional – babies and toddlers' (adult education). In this presentation, we will detail the development of our questionnaire and share preliminary findings from data collected to date. Our results aim to identify key barriers and facilitators within practicum experiences that influence pre-service professionals' intention to enter the ECEC workforce and their commitment to the occupation. This understanding is vital for developing targeted interventions to strengthen the ECEC workforce and improve retention.

Waarom verlaten werknemers met een flexibele arbeidsrelatie hun werkgever: eigen keuze of beslissingen van de werkgever?

Koen Steenks* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Stef Bouwhuis (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Dimitris Pavlopoulos (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) en Wendy Smits (CBS)

Werkgevers hebben verschillende motieven om flexibele arbeidskrachten in te zetten. Werkgevers met een organisatiegerichte strategie, gericht op langdurige arbeidsrelaties, gebruiken flexibele contracten vaak als screeningsinstrument. Zo kunnen zij beoordelen of werknemers aan de verwachtingen voldoen voordat zij een vast contract aanbieden. Werkgevers met een marktgerichte strategie, waarin arbeidsrelaties meer transactioneel zijn, zetten flexibele contracten vaker in om kosten te beperken en schommelingen in de vraag naar producten of diensten op te vangen. Tegelijkertijd hebben werknemers verschillende voorkeuren. Sommige werknemers met een flexibele arbeidsrelatie streven naar een vaste en langdurige arbeidsrelatie, terwijl anderen juist waarde hechten aan flexibiliteit. Wij beargumenteren daarom dat retentie van flexibele werknemers niet alleen wordt bepaald door werkgeversstrategieën of werknemersvoorkeuren afzonderlijk, maar door de interactie tussen beide.

Om dit te onderzoeken maken we gebruik van gegevens uit de Nationale Enquête Arbeidsomstandigheden 2018, gekoppeld aan Nederlandse administratieve registerdata (n=1.423). De afhankelijke variabele is retentie: een binaire indicator die aangeeft of een werknemer na 24 maanden nog bij dezelfde werkgever werkzaam is. De belangrijkste onafhankelijke variabelen zijn de intentie om te blijven (de voorkeur om vijf jaar bij de werkgever te blijven) en werkgeversoriëntatie, een typologie van zeven HR-systemen gebaseerd op contract- en beloningsbeleid.

Voorlopige resultaten laten zien dat de relatie tussen de intentie om te blijven en feitelijke retentie afhankelijk is van de werkgeversoriëntatie. In organisatiegerichte bedrijven blijven werknemers met de intentie om te blijven vaker daadwerkelijk bij hun werkgever. In marktgerichte bedrijven zijn daarentegen nauwelijks verschillen in retentie tussen werknemers met en zonder de intentie om te blijven. Deze bevindingen suggereren dat werkgeversoriëntaties een belangrijke poortwachtersrol spelen in de mate waarin werknemers hun voorkeuren kunnen realiseren. In een volgende stap zullen we event history-modellen schatten om retentie als duurproces te analyseren.

Work-family life courses and psychological well-being in later life : A comparison of Finland, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain

Mark Visser* (Radboud Universiteit)

Against the background of population aging and policies to stimulate longer working lives, it becomes increasingly relevant to study how the growing group of older people is faring. This study therefore examines psychological well-being among older individuals and retirees. It does so by taking a life course perspective and studying the interplay between work and family in early and midlife for both men and women and how their work-family trajectories are associated with psychological well-being later in life. By also taking a comparative perspective, a detailed analysis can be made of specific institutional arrangements in four countries (Finland, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands) that differ regarding their work-family policies, social security arrangements and pension system. Both panel and retrospective data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) are used. Psychological well-being is measured by depressive symptoms (EURO-D scale) and quality of life (CASP-12 scale). To construct work-family life courses from age 15 to 49, multichannel sequence and cluster analysis are applied to establish country-specific work-family trajectories. In a next step, OLS regression analyses per country have been performed to examine the relation between the work-family trajectories and psychological well-being. The (preliminary) results show that, across countries, remaining single and childless or being a homemaker with 3 or more children tends to be most detrimental for psychological well-being later in life. Moreover, work-family trajectories seem to matter the most in Germany when it comes to later-life psychological well-being and less so in the other countries.

Pathways to labour market exit in Belgium and the link with employment history

Daniela Skugor* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Population ageing is driving the need for longer working lives. Yet, when and how we exit the labour market differs greatly across socioeconomic groups. Diverse employment histories shape individuals' opportunities and constraints to remaining economically active in later life, leading to divergent patterns of labour market exit. This study examines the pathways through which Belgian individuals aged 65 and over exit the labour market, and analyses the relationship between these exit pathways and prior employment histories.

Using retrospective data from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), the study applies sequence analysis and cluster analysis to derive a typology of labour market exit pathways among 2,408 Belgian respondents age 65 and over in Wave 9 (2021/22). Then, the study applies multinomial logistic regression to estimate to what extent the types of exit pathways are associated with various characteristics of the respondents' employment histories.

The preliminary findings reveal substantial heterogeneity in exit patterns. Five types of pathways to labour market exit between age 50 and 65 were found, which can be labelled as follows: (1) on-time retirement or 'later' early retirement, (2) early retirement around age 60, (3) social security exit, (4) mostly inactive throughout, and (5) part-time work throughout. The findings show that the prior career leaves a lasting mark, as labour market patterns before age 50 largely appear to persist in the final years of the career. Furthermore, differences by industry and by gender are found.

The study underscores the importance of adopting a life course perspective to understand the processes that shape labour market exit and the socioeconomic inequalities embedded within exit pathways.

12:30 – 13:45

Migration & Ethnicity II (English) – Voorzitter: Andrey Tibajev –Lokaal C.204

Gender Differences in Immigrants' Pursuit of Credential Recognition: Individual and Contextual Factors across 17 Destination Countries

Andrey Tibajev* (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Immigrants' labour market behaviour is shaped by an interplay between individual characteristics and contextual conditions. Gender is central to understanding this process, as ethnic stratification and the gendered division of labour affect women and men differently. The present study examines how gender differences in applications for recognition of foreign credentials are jointly shaped by individual traits and destination-country contexts. Credential recognition offers a distinct lens for analysing how immigrants navigate national opportunity structures, as it reflects a proactive individual strategy that is less dependent on employer decisions than employment or occupational attainment.

The analysis draws on data from the 2021 European Union Labour Force Survey, combined with comparative indicators of destination-country contexts. A sample of approximately 20,000 immigrants across 17 Western European destination countries is analysed using random-slope multilevel models. Immigrant women apply for recognition more often than immigrant men across all included countries. This gap is mediated by differences in educational background, with women more often educated in healthcare fields where recognition is frequently required. Immigrant women are additionally more likely than men to pursue recognition in countries with narrower gender gaps in labour force participation. In these contexts, women are expected to participate in the labour market, making credential recognition a more attractive strategy for labour market integration. The results highlight how expectations of women's labour force participation, together with institutional requirements for credential recognition, produce gendered differences in immigrants' pathways into employment.

In which sectors are minorities better off? Evidence from Dutch population data

Katia Aviles* (Utrecht University), Floris Peters (Utrecht University), Deni Mazrekaj (Utrecht University) en Tanja van der Lippe (Utrecht University)

Minority groups such as migrants, women and sexual minorities, have been found to be disadvantaged in the labor market, with overall lower wages compared to natives, men and heterosexual individuals, respectively (Blau & Kahn, 2017; Drydakis, 2022; Hermansen et al., 2025). Literature investigating the inequalities of these minority groups have often focused on individual characteristics (Fleischmann & Höhne, 2013) and structural barriers such as discrimination to explain such wage disparities (Badgett et al., 2024; Blau & Kahn, 2017). However, minority groups may face larger or smaller disadvantages in some parts of the labor market compared to others. Although, research on labor market context has focused on firms or workplaces as sources of disadvantages (Tomaskovic-Devey et al., 2015), it may be missing how they are also shaped the sector level. In this study, we analyze whether the sector of employment plays a role in the wage disadvantages of migrants, sexual minorities and women. Understanding the context in which wage disadvantages occur is crucial, as these can differ across sectors, as some sectors may be more likely to discriminate minority individuals than others. We argue that minority wage disadvantages may be smaller in sectors that are more regulated and have larger proportion of minority employees. We use administrative population data from the Netherlands, which allows for a large enough sample across labor market sectors and minority groups.

Do Recognition Characteristics Matter? Evidence on the Labour Market Returns to Foreign Qualification Recognition

Saena Chakkar* (Maastricht University) en Wendy Smits (Maastricht University)

Immigrants educated abroad tend to face lower returns to their qualifications than similarly educated natives or domestically educated immigrants. The recognition of foreign qualifications, an official statement of equivalence, facilitates the interpretation of these credentials and improve employment outcomes. Empirical studies show that employment returns of recognition differ by jobseeker characteristics. However, we lack insight into how different features of the recognition itself shape labour market returns. Different dimensions of recognition such as type, field or level, may reduce uncertainty to varying degrees, which is central to understanding how recognition works. At the same time, institutions often make fine-grained distinctions (e.g. in type of recognition), but it remains an empirical question whether employers actually use this information. Examining heterogeneity in recognition characteristics therefore allows us to assess whether these distinctions are meaningful or largely ignored in practice. To do so, we exploit the unique institutional features of the Flemish foreign qualification recognition system. By leveraging institutional variation that is rarely observable elsewhere, we provide insights into how recognition reduces employer uncertainty. These are relevant across a wide range of national contexts. We use administrative data on highly educated non-EU immigrants from the Flemish public employment service (VDAB) for our discrete event history models. We find that recognition significantly increases the probability of transitioning to employment for jobseekers who will eventually receive a recognition. However, we find no evidence that this effect differs by recognition type or level, nor that downward rescaling negatively affects outcomes. We also find that employment returns do not systematically differ for non-regulated fields of study. Overall, our findings suggest that the value of recognition lies less in its formal characteristics and more in how it reduces uncertainty as a general signal.

Urban Sociology (English) – Voorzitter: Stijn Oosterlynck – Lokaal D.011

Age-inclusive urban health through community-based housing: a governance perspective

Luise Stoisser* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Chris Philipson (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Many cities worldwide are facing ageing populations, making access to adequate care and supportive living environments an increasingly central issue of urban inequality. This is particularly true for older people who

cannot afford homecare or who lack informal support networks. In response, community-based housing developments have emerged in various urban contexts. These developments combine independent living, care and support, and an intentional community, and are co-produced with residents. As such, they represent an alternative form of urban care provision situated at the intersection of housing and care policy, as well as public care provision and community support. However, many of these projects remain socially exclusive, often failing to provide housing and support to people with fewer financial resources. Inequalities also persist in terms of where within cities, and in which cities, such developments emerge. This paper examines Vienna, a city where community-based housing for older people is co-produced by older adults and public authorities, and where affordability of community-based housing is explicitly addressed through public funding. Based on an analysis of (1) interviews with key stakeholders, including public administration officials and founders and managers of community-based housing developments, and (2) the city's care strategy and urban planning documents, the paper investigates the role of urban governance in supporting community-based housing for financially disadvantaged older people. By situating community-based housing within broader debates on urban health governance and inequality, the paper contributes to understanding how cities and citizens co-produce housing with care.

At home in the park: conceptualizing affective ties to green neighbourhood spaces

Cecile Ikink* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Beitske Boonstra (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Vivian Visser (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Arwin van Buuren (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Urban green spaces (UGSs) have been proven to offer a variety of benefits for the well-being of urban residents. However, use of these spaces differs throughout cities, often connected to socio-economic inequalities in neighbourhoods (De Haas et al., 2021; de Vries et al., 2020). To increase usage of green spaces, researchers and civil servants alike advocate for (community) ownership (Cronin-de-Chavez et al., 2019; Gidlow & Ellis, 2011; Park, 2017). However, the concept of ownership is highly ambiguous as well as understudied in the context of urban green space usage.

This paper aims to deepen the understanding of ownership and how it manifests in green space utilization. Literature in the social sciences most often views 'ownership' as a mere legal claim over property. The concept of 'psychological ownership,' however, explores ownership as an experience of the relationship between an individual and an object (Pierce et al., 2003), in line with concepts such as 'place attachment' or 'sense of belonging,' that describe emotional relationships between people and their environment. Based on these concepts, an affective view of ownership can be constructed. We conceptualize affective ownership to consist of certain feelings, behaviours and interpretations that shape a person's individual connection to a space. Ethnographic observations notice expressions of ownership such as decorating the curb in front of houses or repeatedly sitting on the same bench leading to it being known in the neighbourhood. Interviews with residents and green space users in the Rotterdam neighborhood Lombardijen, give insight in the feelings and meanings relevant in ownership. The paper results in a typology of ownership, which captures different manifestations of the concept.

Rising Demands for Community Space in the Context of Financial Constraints: Maintenance Challenges of Mixed-Use Infrastructures in Three Belgian Cities

Stijn Oosterlynck* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

This paper engages with the infrastructural turn in the study of urban social life by focusing on community infrastructures. As key forms of social infrastructure, these spaces provide a platform for encounter, civic engagement and community as urban practice. Moving beyond the civic-liberal framing, we approach them as ambivalent and uneven because they typically serve specific social groups. As they reflect differentiated and sometimes conflicting social relations, and require ongoing labour for their maintenance, their governance proves to be complex and demanding amid urban austerity.

Our central research question is which governance challenges are faced by urban governments and non-profit organizations who own or provide community infrastructures and how do they respond to them? The research is based on a document analysis and in-depth interviews with 32 representatives of non-profit organizations, policy-makers and real estate companies in Brussels, Antwerp and Ghent.

We observe growing demand for community infrastructures, mainly directed at public and non-profit organisations, and linked to the increasing social diversification in these cities. At the same time, financial constraints are prompting these actors to restructure their real estate portfolios and experiment with new governance approaches. A key alternative involves mixed-use strategies, which, however, requires organisations to experiment with new forms of ‘maintenance labour’, particularly in coordinating and managing relations among different users. These findings highlight that their governance cannot be separated from maintenance work, which we conceptualize more broadly as continuous technical, social and affective labour.

Moving outside the metropolis: assimilation theory and place-belongingness of newcomers in Brussels’ periphery

Anke De Malsche* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Contributing to recent debates on assimilation theory, this presentation questions the supposedly apparent link between migrant socio-economic attainment, residence mobility and belonging to the place of relocation. It remains unclear how so-called ‘hard’ indicators of assimilation – like moving out of ethnically segmented neighborhoods – relates to a sense of belonging into the imagined community of dominant society (Drouhot, 2024). Using a framework that builds on the concepts of place-belongingness, place attachments and imaginaries (Antonsich, 2010; Scannell and Gifford, 2010; Watkins, 2015), we present findings from qualitative research with households with migration background who moved into the periphery of Brussels. While we find that relocation was driven by a desire for assimilation and households stress their deservingness to belong to the metropolitan periphery, cultivating attachments into the new locality proved difficult. Consequently, while having an ambivalent relationship with it, previously held attachments to the metropolis remain strong.

The case study for this research is Aalst: a medium-sized city located in the Denderregion – a well-connected region in the periphery of Brussels. In the past two decades, a growing number of households with migration background have decided to move from Brussels and into the Denderregion, which has led to a sharp increase of right-wing sentiments in the region (Schyvens et al., 2024). Methodologically, we draw from 23 in-depth interview with households with migration backgrounds, as well as informal conversations and observations at the administrative center and in civil-society activities in Aalst. Our findings show that although aspirations for assimilation strongly shaped the residential mobility decisions of these households, these aspirations are only partly fulfilled.

Family Sociology II: Gender (English) – Voorzitters: Dimitri Mortelmans & Elke Claessens – Lokaal D.017

Life Course Timing and Loneliness: Gendered Age Norms and De-standardization across Europe

Maaïke Paredis* (Universiteit Gent), Melissa Ceuterick (Universiteit Gent) en Katrijn Delaruelle (Universiteit Gent)

Loneliness is the unpleasant feeling that arises when there is a perceived discrepancy between one’s actual relationships and relational expectations, which are shaped by social norms. Deviating from these norms may therefore increase the risk of loneliness. Age is an important dimension of social normativity: not only the transitions people experience, but also the ages at which they occur, carry social meaning. From a life course

perspective, loneliness can thus be understood as a potential consequence of being “off time.” Research indicates that individuals who are late in establishing family roles report higher levels of loneliness.

Age norms are embedded in broader societal contexts. The Second Demographic Transition describes increased diversity in the timing of life course transitions, referred to as the de-standardization of the life course. This development has unfolded unevenly across countries. In contexts where life course timing has become more flexible, deviations from age norms may be less strongly sanctioned. De-standardization may moderate the relationship between off-time transitions and loneliness.

This study examines whether country-level de-standardization shapes the loneliness consequences of delayed parenthood and considers that age norms are gendered: expectations surrounding the timing of parenthood are often more rigid for women than for men. It is hypothesized that delayed parenthood is associated with higher loneliness, that this association is weaker in countries with more flexible age norms, and that women are more strongly affected in contexts with stricter age norms.

Analyses focus on adults aged 45 to 65, a group that has largely completed family transitions and experienced societal changes associated with the Second Demographic Transition. Using data from the European Social Survey Round 11 (2023), two-level binomial logistic regression models are estimated with individuals nested within countries. Preliminary analyses show meaningful variance in loneliness across countries, underscoring that societal contexts shape individual experiences of loneliness.

Working fewer hours than preferred: A couple-level perspective on underemployment across major life events

Silke Kageenaar* (Utrecht University), Andrea Forster (Utrecht University) en Vincent Buskens (Utrecht University)

In 2024, on average 33.9% of Dutch people worked part-time, compared to 15.1% across OECD countries. At the same time, 518.000 people in the Netherlands want to work more hours than they currently do, also known as underemployment. This raises the question why they do not manage to increase their hours, particularly in light of the concerns about current labor market shortages. Although underemployment has been attributed to home or family care responsibilities, and work hours are often negotiated within households, few studies examine how partners influence each other’s underemployment. This study takes a couple-level perspective on underemployment by focusing on two key mechanisms: partners’ relative labor market resources (e.g., income) and the alignment of gender role ideologies within couples. It also considers how these mechanisms operate around major life events, as research shows that events such as changing jobs and having children affect the extent to which individuals can realize their preferred work hours. Therefore we pose the following research question: How do individuals’ and their partners’ relative labor market resources and gender role ideologies affect their underemployment and how does this relate to major life events? We use the LISS panel, a representative sample of Dutch individuals based on a true probability sample of households. The sample is restricted to respondents with partners who experience life events such as having children and children starting school, pooling waves from 2007 to 2025. Descriptive analyses across the 18 waves indicate that approximately 15-25% of individuals are underemployed, reporting fewer work hours than preferred. Further analyses will be performed using longitudinal multilevel techniques that account for the nested nature of the data.

Unknown (dyadic gender attitudes)

Katia Begall* (Radboud Universiteit)

A growing body of research on gender attitudes adopts a dyadic perspective, combining information from both partners in a couple to assess (dis)similarity in their views. The degree to which spouses hold similar gender attitudes has been proposed as an explanation for a variety of outcomes, including housework sharing, relationship quality, fertility, and separation. While this dyadic perspective offers a promising avenue for understanding how couple dynamics shape individual and couple outcomes, empirical operationalizations have

often been limited to difference scores on separate items or the categorization of single items into divergent and concordant stances. These approaches disregard the multidimensional structure of gender attitudes and obscure how partners' views jointly configure at the couple level. The current study aims to provide a more detailed and nuanced account of dyadic gender attitude combinations by applying latent class analysis to data from approximately 6,000 male-female couples drawn from the German FReDA panel (aged 18–45). The gender attitude profiles are estimated from four items capturing: (1) the ideal division of paid work between parents of a small child; whether (2) paid work and (3) care are viewed as gendered or shared domains; and (4) perceived conflict between maternal employment and care for young children. Compositional differences between profiles are then examined using multinomial logistic regressions. Finally, the association between dyadic gender attitude profiles and relationship satisfaction, household task division and satisfaction and fertility intentions is assessed. Preliminary results confirm the multidimensional nature of contemporary gender attitudes established in prior research. Besides two profiles espousing gendered respectively egalitarian views on all indicators, three profiles reflect combinations of gendered and egalitarian views across indicators. While partners show a substantial degree of attitudinal similarity overall, several profiles reveal meaningful intra-couple divergence, with male partners tending to endorse more gendered views than their female partners.

Cognitive household labour and mental load in the digital space.

Paulina Pankowska* (Utrecht University), Ruben Bach (Mannheim University) en Andreas Haupt (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology)

Cognitive household labour can be defined as the tasks related to organizing and maintaining a household, and includes such activities as planning meals, organising household finances, and maintaining the household's social calendar. The gender distribution of this household labour has been shown to be highly unequal, with the majority of the burden falling on women and the resulting mental load from this division leading to high stress. This, in turn, is associated with gender inequality within families and the labour market.

Given its implications, it is important to have high-quality measures of cognitive household labour. However, the work available to-date relies predominantly on survey-based measures, which are arguably limited in their capacity to fully and accurately capture cognitive household labor. The tasks related to it are often small, fragmented, and can be performed on-the-go; therefore, self-reported measures are likely to suffer from recall bias and lead to high respondent burden.

Digital trace data offers a promising new alternative to surveys in this context. The information derived from web tracking, for instance, offers higher levels of granularity, is less bound by temporal restrictions, and can be collected unobtrusively. The use of digital trace data in this context is particularly relevant as individuals increasingly rely on digital devices, services, and apps to plan, organize, and carry out household tasks.

In this project, we apply LLMs to web tracking data from the German GESIS panel.dbd to classify the URLs/domains visited by 700 panelists between June and October 2025 into broadly-defined categories of websites, including categories relevant to cognitive household labour. We then use this classification to derive task measures of cognitive household labour and analyze gender differences of this phenomenon on the task level. Finally, we compare these measures to survey data containing (imperfect) measures of cognitive household labor from the same panel.

Sustainable Employability in the Creative Sector II (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Janna Besamusca & Wike Been – Lokaal D.019

Boundary setting strategies in the creative industries

Petar Marceta* (Tilburg University)

Existing literature on work in the creative industries is often based on theories of ideology and post-structuralism, arguing that celebratory narratives about creativity, autonomy, and passion mask the stark realities of precarious work. In line with this approach, the narratives are often seen as internalized, meaning that creative workers themselves (re-)produce them.

Through an empirical case of designers and architects, in this paper I will argue that while understanding work as “passion” is common in the creative industries, workers are often aware of the mismatch between the ideology of creative work and its realities – the more pertinent question thus becomes: how does this awareness affect ones’ relationship towards work, and how are the dominant narratives re-written as a consequence?

This question is approached through 21 interviews conducted in 2022-2023 with employed and self-employed architects and designers in the Netherlands and the UK. Through a thematic analysis of interview data, the findings are organized around the process of boundary making. I discuss how creative workers actively try to define the boundaries between their work and their passion, often in response to adverse working conditions. This process unfolds either as a mental strategy and a change of attitudes towards working time, or as a strategy beyond paid work, by seeking different outlets for creative work. The boundary making process has consequences for the meaning of work on the paid-unpaid work continuum as well as workplace politics, indicating both the current shortcomings of collective organizing and its potential to transgress individual strategies.

Not all multiple jobholding is the same: motivations, identity alignment, and wellbeing outcomes among artists

Yooniung Kang* (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Ellen Loots (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Artists typically work independently, driven by intrinsic motivation, passionate work, and a commitment to creating art for art’s sake (Caves, 2000). Although artistic careers are often considered precarious, there is growing recognition of new opportunities within so-called portfolio careers (Menger, 1999). While traditionally sectors such as hospitality and education have been key sources of income for artists, other sectors increasingly seek creative input, offering opportunities and more diverse career pathways for cultural professionals. Recently, Loots and Van Anandel (2025) emphasized the role of artists as agents of change, increasingly drawn to addressing major societal challenges, such as social inclusion, poverty alleviation, and climate change. The academic literature has yet to reach a consensus on why artists work outside their field of study: whether primarily out of economic necessity, as a deliberate choice to enhance skills, job satisfaction, and overall wellbeing (Throsby & Zednik, 2011), and/or “linked to visions of ‘another world’” (Gawell, 2013: 1086).

We argue that multiple jobholding does not have uniform effects on artists’ careers; its consequences depend on how and why artists engage in it and how well these roles align with their artistic identity. Our research question thus reads as follows: How do artists’ motivations for multiple jobholding and their identity alignment shape the relationship between multiple jobholding and job satisfaction and overall wellbeing? Our data are collected through a questionnaire targeting artists in South Korea, a country characterized by weak social security for artists and high levels of self-employment yet underrepresented in CCI research.

Recognition as infrastructure and the elastic politics of scale: how grassroots cultural collectives construct 'recognition from below'

Kristina Kolbe* (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

This paper examines how grassroots cultural collectives engage in recognition work from positions of marginality within increasingly unequal and precarious creative industries. Rather than treating recognition as a primarily symbolic struggle over visibility or representation, the paper argues that grassroots actors build alternative infrastructures through which recognition and redistribution are jointly enacted. Drawing on multi-sited ethnographic research and 50 semi-structured interviews with six music collectives across Berlin, London, Edinburgh and Paris, the article develops the concept of recognition from below to describe a bottom-up, prefigurative politics that seeks to widen cultural participation while reorganizing the material and organizational conditions of creative work. The analysis shows that recognition from below operates across three interrelated domains: inclusive network-building, resource redistribution and care-based working relations. Across these sites, collectives do not simply seek admission into existing institutions; they create alternative arrangements through which marginalized artists can be supported, connected, valued and their careers sustained. In doing so, the paper demonstrates that recognition is inseparable from questions of labor, funding, cultural legitimacy and infrastructural continuity. However, efforts to extend this work generate persistent tensions around scale. Institutional partnerships, funding regimes and organizational formalization can broaden recognition, yet they also risk creative standardization and the erosion of grassroots autonomy. To capture how collectives navigate these ambivalences, the paper introduces the concept of a politics of elasticity as a mode of strategic expansion, recalibration and selective withdrawal through which actors engage institutions without becoming fully absorbed by dominant logics. The paper thus reframes recognition as an infrastructural and contested process, showing how arts and culture function not only as sites of symbolic production but as key terrains of institutional transformation and movement building.

Education II (English) – Voorzitter: Timo Van Canegem – Lokaal E.201

Second Time's the Charm: Second Chance Education and Labour Market Outcomes

Emanuel Hentes* (Utrecht University), Deni Mazrekaj (Utrecht University) en Tanja van der Lippe (Utrecht University)

Early school leaving is a pressing issue due to its long-term consequences in terms of earnings, employment, and physical and mental health. As a solution, many countries offer second chance education, enabling early school leavers to obtain a high school diploma later in life. This study examines whether second chance education in the Netherlands improves labour market outcomes and for whom it is most effective. We build on prior economic research and employ a sociological, theory-driven approach to test previously unexplored mechanisms. Using longitudinal administrative data for the full Dutch population, we track early school leavers' employment and earnings for ten years from age 25. We find that obtaining a second chance education diploma increases earnings compared to remaining an early school leaver, especially for women and ethnic minorities, with effects growing with age and in more recent cohorts.

Animal allure and classroom companionship: exploring teachers' experiences in the multispecies classroom

Marie Verstraete* (Universiteit Gent), Jannick Demanet (Universiteit Gent) en Mieke Vanhoutte (Universiteit Gent)

Keeping companion animals in classrooms is an increasingly better-known practice. Scholars have focused on the impact of these companion animals on pupils. Inquiries into teachers' experiences found that classroom animals can improve relationships at school and improve the school environment, that these nonhuman animals can teach pupils and that keeping companion animals comes with challenges and risks. However, the existing literature does not focus on the factors impacting these experiences and the antecedent decision-making

processes. This contribution addresses these issues from a sociological perspective through focus groups and interviews with 15 Belgian preschool and primary teachers who are responsible for a classroom or school animal. Through a thematic analysis, the findings suggest that teachers see classroom animals as an added value in the contemporary classroom. Teachers are thoughtful when deciding to take in a classroom animal, but they need more information about classroom animals. Further, the way of introducing the animals and the focus on the animals' well-being is imperative to later experiences. Experiences from both teachers and pupils are impacted by a multitude of factors, resulting in various experiences. By bringing in sociological theories and concepts – among others the bounded rationality model, the morphogenetic approach, speciesism and ignorance – these findings provide opportunities to further explore the practice of keeping classroom animals and their introduction in the classroom. At the same time, bringing in classroom animals in sociology can broaden up the research field, its knowledge and assumptions. This way sociology can be expanded to comprehend our multifaceted society and *all* its relations.

In what ways are teacher expectations and recommendations on tracking and grade retention biased? A quasi-experimental video vignette study in Flemish secondary education.

Timo Van Canegem* (Universiteit Gent; Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Joana Pipa (ISPA-Instituto Universitário Lisbon), Francisco Peixoto (ISPA-Instituto Universitário Lisbon), Mieke Van Houtte (Universiteit Gent) and Jannick Demanet (Universiteit Gent)

Underperforming students with an ethnic minority status or a socio-economically disadvantaged background are more likely to repeat a grade or switch programs compared to similarly performing peers. As gatekeepers, teachers play a crucial role in altering students' trajectories by recommending interventions such as grade retention and tracking. This study examines how teacher expectations and recommendations reproduce social inequalities in secondary education. Drawing on literature linking student sociodemographic characteristics to biased teacher judgements, we investigate whether these biases shape expectations for higher education enrollment and how these expectations impact recommendations. Using a factorial video vignette experiment among 1,012 in-service teachers in 46 schools, respondents evaluated fictive students varying in SES, ethnicity, name, and language proficiency, while holding academic performance constant. Multilevel regression showed higher expectations for more privileged students. SES and ethnicity emerged as predictors, with high-SES and ethnic majority students receiving more optimistic expectations. Name cues and language proficiency also influenced expectations. Remarkably, the most privileged students were most likely to be recommended a program change, with no differences between profiles for grade retention. It may be that teachers assume underprivileged students to be in a lower track, as expectations about past performance were similarly biased. Implications are discussed.

Jeugd (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Susan Lagaert – Lokaal E.207

De belofte van vrijheid. Participatief werken met jongeren binnen artistieke vrijplaatsen.

Mart Willekens* (Universiteit Gent)

Het stimuleren van artistieke praktijken bij jongeren vormt een belangrijk aandachtspunt binnen diverse beleidsdomeinen, waaronder cultuur, jeugd en welzijn. Veel van deze initiatieven beogen het creëren van zogenaamde 'artistieke vrijplaatsen': omgevingen waarin jongeren zelf initiatief nemen tot artistieke expressie, ondersteund door jeugdwerkers, kunstenaars of artistiek begeleiders. Deze praktijken zijn doorgaans participatief opgezet, vertrekken vanuit de leefwereld van jongeren en benadrukken dialoog en co-creatie.

Het ideaal van zelforganiserende jongeren is historisch geworteld in zowel het open jeugdwerk als in de opkomst van jeugdculturen sinds de jaren zestig, waarin jongeren zich buiten het formele aanbod organiseerden rond artistieke expressievormen en muziekgenres. Wanneer dergelijke praktijken echter worden ingebed in beleidskaders en gekoppeld aan maatschappelijke doelstellingen zoals persoonlijke ontwikkeling, burgerschap en inclusie, ontstaan spanningsvelden rond begrippen als vrijheid, zelforganisatie en inclusie. Zo roept de institutionalisering van participatieve werkvormen vragen op over de verhouding tussen autonomie en

beleidsmatig opgelegde instrumentele doelen, evenals over mogelijke nieuwe exclusiemechanismen door (sub)cultureel kapitaal. Daarnaast stelt zich de vraag in hoeverre hedendaagse ‘jeugdculturen’ nog representatief zijn voor de leefwereld van jongeren.

Op basis van 26 diepte-interviews met betrokken actoren brengt deze studie de uiteenlopende doelstellingen, spanningen en strategieën thematisch in kaart en vergelijkt deze over verschillende types artistieke vrijplaatsen voor jongeren heen.

Navigate or Hesitate? Youth Workers and the Relational Risk of Intervention

Charlotte van Tuijl* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Jeroen van der Waal (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Milene Gonçalves (TUDelft) en Lysanne te Brinke (Erasmus Univeristy Rotterdam)

Youth workers are often expected to intervene when young people display harmful or boundary-crossing behaviour. Yet in practice, such interventions are frequently delayed or avoided. Drawing on interviews and ethnographic observations with youth workers, this paper examines how youth workers navigate intervention as a perceived moment of perceived relational risk.

Preliminary findings show that especially youth workers who are new to the profession are hesitant to intervene in harmful behaviour. They often fear that doing so may damage the relationships they are trying to build with young people. Intervention is frequently framed as something that becomes possible only once a sufficiently strong relationship has been established. In contrast, more experienced youth workers appear more willing to rely on their professional authority when addressing harmful behaviour, allowing them to intervene earlier while maintaining relationships with young people.

The paper situates these practices within the historical development of youth work in the Netherlands as a relational profession grounded in voluntary engagement and trust. Through ethnographic observations of intervention, we analyse the micro-dynamics of stepping in: hesitation, timing, phrasing, and the careful calibration between addressing harmful behaviour and preserving relational trust.

We argue that intervention in youth work is experienced as a moment of relational risk, in which youth workers must weigh the potential impact of correction on trust, credibility, and future influence. By foregrounding these relational dynamics, the paper contributes to debates on boundary-setting, and the everyday negotiation of influence in youth work.

Rebooting NEET youth: early sociological insights into Defence’s societal role within a Belgian public–private partnership

Wendy Gomes* (Royal Military Academy) en Delphine Resteigne (Royal Military Academy)

Young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) remain a central concern in sociological research on social inequality, youth transitions and activation policies. They face persistent structural barriers to labour-market participation and are at heightened risk of social disengagement. While public–private partnerships are increasingly promoted as innovative responses, limited empirical research examines how such collaborations function in practice.

This paper presents early findings from an ongoing study of Reboot4You, a six-month programme developed by the Belgian Defence in collaboration with private sector partners. In this initiative, Defence takes on a broader societal role beyond its traditional military mandate by providing structure, routine, discipline and a supportive environment, elements often identified in sociological research as protective factors for vulnerable youth. The programme combines personal development, competence building and practical work experience to strengthen participants’ social and professional readiness.

Drawing on repeated surveys and in-depth interviews with a cohort that began in November 2025, the study traces participants’ evolving trajectories throughout the programme. Preliminary findings examine which

components appear to foster socio-emotional development, vocational skill acquisition and the formulation of realistic study or career plans, and how Defence's institutional culture shapes these processes. Situated within sociological debates on youth precarity, activation and institutional collaboration in Belgium, these early results offer an initial empirical insight into how a Defence-led public–private partnership may support the reintegration of NEET youth.

From Information to Empowerment: Experimental and Natural Exposure of Vote Advice Applications on Internal Political Efficacy

Joke Matthieu* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

This study examines the effect of exposure to the Vote Advice Application (VAA) on internal political efficacy (IPE) using a preregistered randomized experiment conducted among young voters in Flanders. While previous research has primarily focused on VAA effects on political knowledge and vote choice, less is known about whether VAAs affect citizens' subjective sense of political competence. Using data from a panel study, we assess both experimental and natural VAA exposure on IPE. Before the VAAs were publicly launched, Flemish youngsters (N= 2308) were randomly assigned to a control group, a generic VAA condition (De Stemtest), or a youth-oriented VAA condition (De Jongerenstemtest). IPE was measured immediately after exposure and again after the election campaign (Wave 4). Experimental results show a modest increase in IPE among respondents exposed to a VAA compared to the control group. Disaggregating the treatment conditions reveals that the youth-oriented VAA primarily drives this effect. In contrast, exposure to the generic VAA does not produce a meaningful difference relative to the control group.

Longitudinal analyses (N= 2013) indicate that IPE increases over the course of the campaign for all respondents. Still, experimentally exposed participants reach levels comparable to those who naturally used a VAA during the campaign. Moreover, the effect of VAA exposure is strongly conditioned by prior political knowledge. Respondents with lower baseline political knowledge exhibit clear gains in internal political efficacy following VAA exposure, while no comparable effects are observed among highly knowledgeable respondents.

Taken together, these findings suggest that VAA exposure can modestly strengthen IPE among young voters, particularly when the tool is tailored to its target audience and among those with a lower baseline of general political knowledge

Care & Health: Medicalisation & Pharmaceuticalisation (English) – Voorzitter: Jolien Inghels – Lokaal A.205

Parental psychotropic medication use, risk and intensive parenting ideology: A critical discourse analysis

Nora Louwagie* (Universiteit Gent), Melissa Ceuterick (Universiteit Gent) en Katrijn Delaruelle (Universiteit Gent)

High psychotropic medication prevalence has increasingly been observed as ambiguous. It is a relatively low-cost and widely available mental health intervention for those who need it. However, its prevalence also constitutes an indication of overprescribing habits and risks of unnecessary prolonged use. In Belgium, where access is gatekept by GPs, DDD (defined daily dose) of psychotropics is among the highest in the world. Research points to pharmaceuticalisation trends since not all use can be explained by need, and social patterns are revealed.

Existing research on pharmaceuticalisation has focused on feelings which are also prevalent during the transition into parenthood. This transition is associated with greater responsibility, causing stress and even post-partum depression, often addressed through psychotropic medication use. Simultaneously, consuming psychopharmaceuticals as a parent elicits reproach, since children are seen as 'at risk' of certain parental behaviours. With parental medication use, possibilities arise for the intersection of stigma surrounding "good parenting" and psychotropic medication use. However, there is a lack of research on how social norms and

expectations coalesce in parents' decisions surrounding psychotropic medication.

To address this gap, our research examines how parental psychotropic medication users and their (future) children are depicted within the perinatal timeframe. A selection of Belgian Dutch-language documents from relevant civil society and government organisations will be gathered. The selection will be guided by two main criteria: (1) their audience, parents in the perinatal phase, and (2) topic, parental mental health and psychotropics. The documents will be analysed using critical discourse analysis, specifically Fairclough's framework, which considers how the language in these texts reflects and shapes social power dynamics and ideologies in society.

The analysis investigates the social norms and expectations surrounding parental psychotropics consumption in Belgium. In this way, the study contributes to the understanding of decision-making processes of parents concerning their medication use.

Making Sense of Birth: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Medicalized Discourse in Flemish Women's Birth Narratives

Emilie Gillain* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Jolien Inghels (UAntwerpen), Sarah Van de Velde (UAntwerpen)

Over the past century, childbirth practices and discourse in the Global North have undergone substantial transformation. Once predominantly a domestic event, birth now tends to take place primarily in hospital settings under medical supervision, with the notion of risk often functioning as a central organizing principle of care, social roles, and power dynamics among actors.

While medicalization literature provides a valuable framework for understanding these changes, it simultaneously reveals theoretical shortcomings. More recent scholarship has pointed out that literature on medicalization has paid inadequate attention to its multidimensional nature and the way in which it may operate as a relational act, leaving unresolved how pregnant women simultaneously occupy passive and active subject positions within the micro-level medical encounter. These theoretical gaps become especially visible in the domain of childbirth. Despite second-generation medicalization theory anticipating a shift toward more active patient roles, ideals of woman-centered care persistently struggle to take hold in clinical practice. The question of how women themselves discursively navigate medicalized discourse in their birth narratives remains empirically underexplored.

Through a critical discourse analysis of thirteen in-depth qualitative interviews with Flemish women who recently gave birth, this study examines how women integrate, negotiate and contest medicalized discourse in their birth narratives, along with the subject positions and power dynamics that arise. The analysis identifies three analytically distinct patterns of interdiscursivity. Across these patterns, medicalized discourse remains dominant, but it is integrated in qualitatively different ways, with corresponding differences in subject positioning and practical care choices. Across most narratives, embodied knowledge was interactionally and institutionally positioned as secondary to medical-scientific knowledge, contributing to an epistemic hierarchy underpinning uneven influence in clinical decision-making.

As this study is part of a master's thesis, results and discussion will be finalized in May.

Articulating and Negotiating Medicalized Female Genital Cutting: Practitioner Perspectives on FGC in Narok County, Kenya

Jolien Inghels* (Universiteit Antwerpen; FWO), Susan Bell (Drexel University), Samuel Komani (University of Nairobi; Kenyatta National Hospital), Nina van Eekert (KU Leuven) en Sarah Van de Velde (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Introduction - Medicalization theory has largely been developed in contexts characterized by consolidated biomedical authority and highly institutionalized health systems. Less attention has been paid to how

medicalization unfolds in plural health care landscapes where biomedical knowledge and authority may be fragmented, differently organized, or negotiated alongside other forms of care. Female genital cutting (FGC) in Kenya provides a revealing case. Although criminalized, the practice persists in regions including Narok County, where medical involvement is reportedly increasing. FGC situates medicalization at the intersection of criminalization, professional jurisdiction, gender norms, and global human rights discourse. This study examines how medicalization is articulated and negotiated among practitioners involved in FGC in Narok County.

Methods - We conducted 26 in-depth interviews with healthcare professionals and traditional practitioners involved in performing FGC. Interviews were analyzed using reflexive thematic analysis informed by a constructionist epistemology.

Results - Medicalized framings of FGC were continuously produced across technical, moral, and legal dimensions. First, medicalization was commonly articulated as technical optimization aimed at managing health risks. Biomedical involvement, such as the use of gloves, sterile equipment, anesthetics, or in-facility performance, was framed as harm reduction. Second, medicalization was negotiated through shifting moral and professional boundaries. While some practitioners rejected any medical involvement as unethical, others justified selective engagement, particularly for consenting adults. Informal networks enabled circulation of biomedical materials and knowledge beyond formal channels. Third, criminalization fostered clandestine arrangements and black-market exchanges, resulting in fragmented forms of medical involvement. Under such conditions, some practitioners explicitly problematized medicalization, highlighting its potential to generate new, iatrogenic risks when biomedical tools and medicine circulated outside professional oversight.

Discussion - In this context, medicalization does not entail full institutional incorporation or professional monopolization. Rather, it emerges as a partial, relational, and situational process shaped by moral negotiation, legal constraint, and therapeutic plurality.

Politieke sociologie I (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206

What you don't see, you don't get? Socio-demographics and politicized distrust in climate and nitrogen policy preferences

Kristof Jacobs* (Radboud University), Jetske Bouma (Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving), Niels Spierings (Radboud University) en Tjeu Groothuijsen (Radboud University)

Nitrogen management is rapidly becoming a major policy issue. Nevertheless, the topic remains predominantly studied from a natural science perspective, while the social and political dimensions of support for and opposition to nitrogen policies e.g. among citizens have received comparatively limited scholarly attention. This matters, as mitigating nitrogen pollution currently entails far-reaching social, political, and economic transformations. As evidenced by climate policy debates and studies, public support for far-reaching policies cannot be assumed, particularly once an issue becomes politicized. A deeper understanding of the drivers of public opposition to nitrogen policies is therefore badly needed. This paper offers such a deeper understanding based on a mixed-methods approach combining cluster analysis and regression analysis of the 2023 Dutch national election survey (NKO2023) with focus groups held with 20 participants of the NKO2023. We find that Nitrogen and climate attitudes are related but that there are nevertheless differences in the effects of trust in science and trust in politics as well as income levels. Here Nitrogen policy-specific factors seem to be at play.

Polarization of confidence in science during COVID: the interaction of elite cueing and grievance effects

Tjeu Groothuijsen* (Radboud University)

Public scrutiny of the regulatory role of science gained increased attention during the COVID pandemic, mainly through the marked political division over containment policies and vaccines. Polarization of attitudes towards science along political lines has been observed as a trend in multiple countries, with right-wing populist voters having lower confidence in science than centrist or left-wing voters on average. Notably, Dutch right-wing populists as a group also hold more heterogeneous attitudes towards science than their centrist and left-wing counterparts do. In order to explain this pattern, I propose that the effect that political parties' elite cues have on their adherents' confidence in science is conditional, with people becoming more susceptible to anti-science cues if they belonged to groups which experienced relative deprivation as a result of COVID containment policies, in this case young people and workers under temporary contracts or self-employment. These hypothesized conditional effects were tested using panel survey data of Dutch households from 2017 through 2025. Results show that heterogeneous confidence in science among Dutch right-wing populist voters can indeed be partially attributed to significant decreases in confidence experienced by young people within this group, as well as those under temporary contracts and self-employment. Such differences are either absent or much smaller outside the right-wing populist voter base, providing a partial explanation for the different levels of heterogeneity of confidence in science between voting blocs. These findings lend credence to the proposition that anti-science elite cues from political figures do not affect their voters in a uniform manner and that their effect is conditional upon the existence of relative deprivation related to regulatory science, while also showing that these interrelations of effects may be more complex than expected, specifically when it comes to differences between age groups.

Surface Tensions: Public Responses to Great Replacement Narratives

Hanneke van der Linden* (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

This study explores how the Dutch public responds to 'above the surface' (legal, democratic) and 'below the surface' (illegal, extremist) expressions of Great Replacement conspiracy narratives. Drawing on a Qualitative Content Analysis of X responses to news articles from four major Dutch newspapers, the study identifies four types of public support: active, defective, indirect, and ambiguous, and two types of public sanctioning: ideology-focused and actor-focused. These types are expressed differently in response to 'above the surface' and 'below the surface' narratives, respectively. Additionally, emotions such as anger, fear, and resentment appear to play a role in both public support and sanctioning of Great Replacement narratives. The study contributes to the literature on radicalization through its focus on the understudied concepts of public sanctioning and public support of radicalization, and the distinction between 'above the surface' and 'below the surface' expressions.

"I have always felt distant from society": How experienced deviance shaped dissenters' belief change during covid pandemic

Lotte Schrijver* (Wageningen University & Research, Erasmus University Rotterdam), Sanne Tamboer (Wageningen University & Research) en Rens Vliegthart (Wageningen University & Research)

During the Dutch covid pandemic, there was a strong consensus in politics and media on the necessity of drastic containment measures (Harambam, 2023). Critics felt there was little room for their views (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau, 2023). We understand this group as dissenters, defined as people who have political beliefs that are perceived to deviate from the mainstream (e.g., conspiracy theorists). Social relations and identities play an important role in the development of political beliefs (van den Haak & Grusauskaite, 2025). Social pressures for conformity can stop people from engaging with narratives that deviate from the mainstream (Jetten & Hornsey, 2014). Therefore, the question arises: why do dissenters develop their beliefs in spite of these social norms? We answer the following research questions: How did critics of the covid measures experience the deviance of their beliefs? What role does this experience play in the development of their beliefs and engagement in public debates? By answering these questions we aim to contribute to literature on dissenters' responses to stigmatization (e.g., Switzer, 2025), and shed light on the role of social relations and identity in processes of political belief change (van den Haak & Grusauskaite, 2025). We conducted semi-structured interviews with 17 Dutch people who were critical of the covid measures. We asked participants to narrate the development of their ideas throughout and after the pandemic.

Preliminary analyses show that the experience of deviance can be both a driver and barrier for belief change. Interviewees often saw themselves as autonomous thinkers, and reported assessing information based on its deviance from mainstream narratives. However, some interviewees experienced doubts as a result of the deviance of their beliefs. Interviewees' group identities often shifted in response to these doubts. Thus, our study sheds light on the important role of group identities in political belief change.

Work & Employment (English) – Voorzitter: Dries Lens – Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere)

How Flexible Work Time Arrangements Affect the Relationship Between Transition to Parenthood and Their Working Hours

Juliët van Herpen* (Utrecht University), Tanja van der Lippe (Utrecht University), Anna van der Put (Utrecht University) en Weverthon Barbosa Machado (Utrecht University)

Flexible Work Time Arrangements (FWTAs) can aid new parents in restructuring their time division of paid and unpaid work. This could ensure their continued participation in paid work, which is important in combatting the consequences of labor market shortages and the ageing society. However, it is unclear to what extent these arrangements are actually helpful to parents and what the exact effects are on their work hours. This paper aims to explore whether and how FWTAs affect the work hours of parents after transitioning to first-time parenthood. Additionally, we will look into how FWTAs affect parents' work hours beyond the first year of parenthood.

We theorize that traditional norms shape mothers' decisions to decrease work hours, and fathers' decisions to spend most time in paid work (Gender Role Theory). The availability of FWTAs can counteract the influence of these norms by offering parents who wish to do so the opportunity to participate in both paid and unpaid work more equally. Additionally, FWTAs can be seen as a positive signal from organizations to parents (Signaling Theory), to which parents can respond with increased commitment to their job (Social Exchange Theory), which may result in more work hours. Alternatively, parents can interpret the signal as allowing them to care more about family without the need to increase commitment to work, thus possibly resulting in less work hours.

We will use data from the Netherlands Working Conditions Survey (NWCS) and supplement this with register data. The NWCS is a cross-sectional survey that collects data on the work conditions of employees in the Netherlands. By supplementing this with register data on parental status and work hours, we will show the impact of FWTAs on the relationship between transition to parenthood and work hours for both short-term effects and consequences further down parents' career trajectories.

Women's motives for part-time employment in the Netherlands: an analysis of survey data from 2008 to 2024

Rosa Glijn* (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute), Lonneke van den Berg (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute) en Kène Henkens (Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)

Women spend substantially fewer hours in paid employment than men and more hours on unpaid household and care work. Many studies have looked at determinants of working hours of women, pointing to institutional, occupational, and individual factors. Next to looking at determinants of women's working hours, another approach to understand women's part-time employment is looking at the motives reported by women themselves for working part-time. Using the life-course perspective, we distinguish four dominant motives: unavailability of part-time work, care for children and other significant others, health conditions, and leisure time. Studying these motives is informative for understanding women's employment patterns, as it provides insight in women's lived experience in shaping their employment and consequently which restrictions they might experience in doing so. In this study, we look at the aforementioned motives to working part-time, and whether they differ by educational attainment, household composition (children, partner), and age. Furthermore, we research how motives and their determinants have developed between 2008 and 2024, in light of economic,

cultural and institutional developments in this period. The research takes place in the context of the Netherlands, the country with the highest prevalence of part-time employment among women in Europe. We use pooled cross-sectional data from the LISS (Longitudinal Internet Studies for the Social Sciences) panel, including 17 waves (2008-2024). Preliminary findings show a high prevalence of motives of care, leisure and unavailability of full-time work. Over the years, we see the most change in the prevalence leisure motive (increase), the family situation motive (decrease) and the unavailability of full-time work motive (increase-decrease).

Unequal access to unequal labour market segments: Entry into white- and blue collar employment for women with a migration background

Hannes Lenaerts* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Julie Maes (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Karel Neels (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Women with a migration background, and particularly those with a non-EU background, are more often found in labour market segments characterized by low wages, part-time employment and unstable employment spells (Pichler, 2011; OECD, 2023). This gap in labour market participation already emerges at the initial labour market entry (Baert et al., 2016; Zwysen & Longhi, 2018; Belfi et al., 2022). As labour market trajectories tend to be path dependent, these disadvantages might be perpetuated and exacerbated throughout the life course, affecting their chances on the labour market as well as their social security situation later in life (Goos et al., 2009; Kil et al., 2018; Neels et al., 2018; Peeters et al., 2018).

Understanding the causal processes of labour market entry into different labour market segments is crucial to understand how the weaker labour market position of women with a migration background specifically, and labour market segmentation more generally, arises. In this paper, we use longitudinal linked administrative and employment office data on the employment positions of individuals in each quarter from 2005 up until 2016 ('MIA Panel') and innovative Fine-Gray subdistribution competing risks modelling to study the labour market entry of women with migration background compared to peers without a migration background on a segmented labour market. Our goal is to answer the following research questions: (1) to what extent does the incidence of labour market entry into white-collar and blue-collar employment over time differ for migration background groups compared to women without a migration background and (2) to what extent can this difference in labour market entry incidence be explained by individual-level, household-level and parental characteristics.

Influence of Individual Digital Skills and AI Management on Acceptance of AI Technologies among European Employees

Mattia Quinto* (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

The growing integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in workplaces represents a key stage in the broader process of digitalization. While AI systems are often praised for their potential to increase efficiency and optimize human processes, their implementation also raises concerns, particularly regarding the acceptance of AI among employees. Existing research has primarily examined individual attitudes toward AI and the dynamics of human-AI collaboration, but important gaps remain regarding the role of employees' digital skills and employers' management of AI implementation in shaping AI acceptance. My study investigates how individual digital competencies and organizational practices influence employees' acceptance of AI technologies in the workplace. In particular, it analyzes the effects of employees' digital skills, employers' transparency about AI use, and employer-provided training for AI-related technologies. Additionally, my study adopts a cross-national perspective by examining how national levels of digital competence influence AI acceptance across European countries. Using cross-sectional data from the 2024 Eurobarometer 101.4 survey, covering over 26,000 respondents across the 27 European Union member states, the research employs multilevel regression analysis to assess both individual- and country-level determinants of AI acceptance. By integrating organizational and societal dimensions, the study contributes to the literature on workplace digitalization and provides insights

relevant for policymakers, employers, and labor organizations seeking to foster responsible and effective AI adoption.

13:50 – 15:05

Observed versus perceived ethno-racial discrimination I (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Sanne van Oosten – Lokaal C.204

A global comparison of hiring and housing discrimination across five groups

Louis Lippens* (Universiteit Gent) en Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

While extensive empirical research documents discrimination in labour and housing markets, comparative insights across these domains remain limited. This metastudy addresses this gap by juxtaposing levels of discrimination across five legally protected grounds—ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, and wealth—in both markets. We apply unrestricted weighted least squares and Bayesian meta-regression to global data from correspondence audit studies conducted between the 2000s and 2020s. In the process, we control for potential publication bias and account for the multilevel structure of the correspondence audits, including temporal, geographical, and other study features. Our meta-analytic results uncover structural differences in discrimination, with racial and ethnic discrimination being greater in the labour market and discrimination based on wealth and social class being higher in the housing market. We attribute these discrepancies to a heightened focus on productivity-related features of racialised and ethnic applicants in labour contexts and on the financial solvency of tenants in housing contexts.

Racial regimes in Europe and North-America: how and why countries differ in the nature of their structural racism

Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Erdem Yilmaz (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Although numerous studies examine various dimensions of racism, cross-national comparative research on structural racism remains limited, particularly in the European context. We conceptualize racism as the racial ideologies and practices operating at the micro-, meso-, and macro-levels that sustain a historically entrenched system of disadvantage for racialized ethnic groups. This study compares nation-states across Europe and North America to investigate differences in structural racism at the macro-level. We theorize that both racial ideologies and practices vary socio-historically across time and space, shaped by specific trajectories of colonialism, nation-building, imperialism, and (racial) capitalism. Within each context, the interplay of racial ideologies and practices constitutes a distinct ‘racial regime.’

To test this framework, we triangulate data from diverse sources and methods, including field experiments on discrimination, IATs measuring implicit bias, surveys on prejudice and beliefs about inequality, and indicators of integration and migration policies. This dataset, encompassing more than twenty dimensions of racism, captures both ideological and practical components. Cluster analyses identify three racial regimes: (1) West- and North-European countries characterized by colour-blind racism; (2) East- and Central European countries exhibiting more overt racism; and (3) North America, combining elements of both. Yet, these broad regimes are accompanied by nationally specific articulations and racial subclusters. Finally, we explain the formation of these regimes by drawing on insights from postcolonial studies as well as scholarship on (post-socialist) nation-building and collective trauma.

What you see is (not) what you get? Testing the moderating role of racial regimes in the association between observed and perceived discrimination

Lore Verfaillie* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Previous research on racism has identified two large racial regimes within Europe: a regime with more open racism in East-, Central- and South-Europe on the one hand, and a regime with more colour-blind racism in West-

and North-Europe on the other. It is, however, unknown how these racial regimes relate to perceptions of personal discrimination among racialized groups. This study aims to empirically examine what the relationship is between aggregated levels of discriminatory behaviour (observed discrimination) on housing and labour markets as measured with field experiments and the perception of discrimination by racialized people living in those societies. As well as, to what extent the effect of observed discrimination on the perception of personal discrimination depends on the racial regime at the macro-level. Data from the Second European Union Minorities and Discrimination Survey (EU-MIDIS II) is combined with data from meta-regressions of field experimental evidence on discriminatory behaviour on housing and labour markets in 13 European countries. In general, preliminary multilevel results suggest that observed discrimination and perceived discrimination are only very weakly correlated. However, the association appears to depend on the racial regime at the macro-level. While there is no significant relationship within the regime with colour-blind racism, there is a positive association between observed and perceived discrimination within the racial regime with open racism. These results stayed robust after controlling for the educational level of migrants.

Attributing Discrimination at Work: Survey-Experimental Evidence on Situational and Sociodemographic Factors

Lex Thijssen* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) en Nella Geurts (Radboud University)

Discrimination remains a persistent issue in the labor market. While most research focuses on targets, this study examines bystanders, asking who attributes workplace events to discrimination. Efforts to combat discrimination often assume a shared understanding of what discrimination is, yet this assumption is rarely tested. This is consequential: public debates are polarized, and bystander inaction may reflect differences in bystanders' willingness or ability to recognize discrimination.

Using a survey experiment, we investigate how situational and sociodemographic factors shape discrimination attributions. Building on research on prototypical images of discrimination, we hypothesize that more prototypical situations – e.g., involving power asymmetries – are more likely to be labeled as discrimination. We also expect variation in attributions across gender, ethnic background, education, and age, reflecting cognitive (e.g. awareness through personal discrimination experiences) and motivational mechanisms (e.g. defending existing hierarchies).

The survey experiment (N = 1,500) was fielded in the Dutch LISS panel. Across three vignettes based on real-life incidents, we manipulated ambiguity (high vs. low), perpetrator status (peer vs. supervisor), and intersectional target identity (white woman, Muslim man, Muslim woman). Multilevel models assess two outcomes: whether the situation is perceived as problematic and whether it is attributed to discrimination.

Preliminary results show that respondents are more likely to recognize discrimination in less ambiguous scenarios and when the target is Muslim, regardless of gender. Perpetrator status has little effect. Women, ethnic minorities, older respondents, and those with tertiary education are more sensitive to discrimination. Open-ended responses are analyzed to contextualize and explore reasoning behind these findings.

Stratification & Class (English) – Voorzitter: Stijn Oosterlynck – Lokaal D.011

Wie is écht duurzaam? Grenzenwerk rond duurzaamheid binnen de jonge, hoogopgeleide middenklasse

Robine Horckmans* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) en Bram Spruyt (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

De transitie richting een duurzame samenleving vormt een van de grootste uitdagingen van onze tijd en heeft een ingrijpende invloed op de levensstijlen, dagelijkse praktijken en leefomstandigheden van mensen. Sociale verschillen in levensstijl, praktijken en leefomstandigheden vormen daarbij een voedingsbodem voor potentiële

spanningen tussen én binnen sociale groepen. Dit roept de vraag op of duurzaamheid het voorwerp van grenzenwerk tussen groepen wordt.

Ondanks uitgebreid onderzoek naar symbolische grenzen blijft het onderzoek specifiek gericht op grenzenwerk rond duurzaamheid schaars. Het bestaande onderzoek richt zich voornamelijk op grenzenwerk tussen groepen die op sociaal en politiek vlak relatief sterk van elkaar verschillen (bv. lagere klasse versus middenklasse, liberalen versus republikeinen). Minder aandacht gaat uit naar hoe sociaal gelijkende groepen, zoals verschillende fracties van de middenklasse, symbolische grenzen construeren rond duurzaamheid. Deze studie vult deze leemte op door te onderzoeken hoe de economische en culturele fractie van de middenklasse zichzelf en anderen evalueert in termen van duurzaamheid.

22 diepte-interviews met jonge, hoogopgeleide middenklassers (binnen de economische en culturele fractie) tonen dat bij het evalueren van anderen op basis van duurzaamheid, het intentioneel kiezen voor duurzame acties belangrijker is dan de concrete uitkomsten van deze acties. Bijkomend zijn dergelijke evaluaties niet uniform in de middenklasse: de culturele en economische fracties hanteren verschillende criteria bij het beoordelen van duurzaamheid. Deze studie toont zo aan dat duurzaamheid niet klasse-neutraal is, maar eerder fungeert als een voedingsbodem waarop symbolische grenzen en sociale hiërarchieën binnen de hoogopgeleide middenklasse bestendig worden.

The Human Capital effect of reducing the disadvantage among the disadvantaged - evidence from a German welfare reform

Nicola Ceccarini* (Institute for Employment Research), Pascal Heß (Institute for Employment Research) en Harald Pfeifer (Institute for Employment Research)

The attainment of a vocational degree is a key milestone in the transition from school to work, particularly for youth with low levels of general education (Riphahn & Zibrowius, 2016). However, despite the overall expansion of education in recent decades, educational chances remain strongly stratified by household resources (Dodin et al., 2024). Teenagers from economically disadvantaged families are substantially less likely to enter apprenticeships than equally educated peers from more affluent backgrounds (Lindemann & Gangl, 2019; Holleitner et al., 2026). Although existing research has largely focused on individual-level mechanisms behind the intergenerational transmission of disadvantages, the complex role of institutions remains less well understood.

To fill this gap, we exploit a major reform of the German social assistance system — the 2023 Bürgergeld reform — which adjusted benefit reductions when a household member under 25 earns income from an apprenticeship. Specifically, the reform raised the threshold of non-deductible income from €100 to €540 for apprentices, while leaving other forms of labour income unchanged. This increased the relative financial attractiveness of apprenticeships for young people from welfare-receiving households. Using rich administrative data from the Institute for Employment Research (IAB), we compare apprenticeship take up among low educated youth from welfare households (welfare receiving youth) and non-welfare households (non-welfare receiving youth).

Event study results reveal a large and persistent pre-reform (2014-2022) gap in apprenticeship participation between the two groups of youth. Controlling for observable individual characteristics as well as time and district fixed effects, welfare receiving youth were around 50 percentage points less likely to start an apprenticeship within one year after leaving secondary school. The gap shrinks but remains large and significant even four years after the end of school. Following the reform, we observe a substantial relative increase in apprenticeship participation among welfare receiving youth, reducing the gap by approximately 6 percentage points. A small positive effect already appears in 2022, consistent with possible anticipation effects. Moreover, responses differ markedly by nationality and parental labour market attachment.

Overall, the findings highlight i) the strong intergenerational transmission of socio-economic disadvantage in Germany ii) the important role of institutions in shaping the school to work transition of youth, and ultimately, educational and labour market inequality. thus,

offering relevant implications for the design of social welfare policies. More specifically, while financial incentives can increase investments in education among youth with a low socioeconomic background, their limited impact among foreigners and the most economically disadvantaged households suggests that monetary incentives alone are insufficient. Complementary policies addressing information barriers, discrimination, and broader social constraints are likely necessary to reduce educational inequality more effectively.

Income, Wealth, and Generosity: Evidence from the Giving in the Netherlands Panel Study

Marlou Ramaekers* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Wahideh Achbari (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), René Bekkers (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) en Max Little (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

It has been well established that household income and household wealth are negatively correlated with the proportion of household income and wealth that Dutch households donate to charity (generosity). Yet do these negative income and wealth gradients in generosity originate from stable characteristics of these households, or from changes within these households, such that households become less generous as their income and wealth increases? Both explanations have been argued to be plausible, with studies arguing that the negative gradients can be explained by differences in religious belonging and birth cohort and with studies arguing that increases in income and wealth offset changes in prosocial preferences, resulting in the negative gradients. However, it has been difficult for prior research to disentangle these explanations, as most studies have relied on cross-sectional data. The current study adopts a longitudinal perspective, which allows us to examine both differences between households as well as the relationship between changes in household income and wealth and generosity over time. We use data from the Giving in the Netherlands Panel Survey (2002-2025), a unique panel dataset that includes extensive information about (changes in) households' charitable giving as well as their sources of income and wealth over a period of 23 years. We will perform hybrid fixed-effects models that decompose within-household changes over time and stable between-household differences in generosity. These analyses will shed new light on the association between household income, wealth and generosity, the mechanisms through which this association arises and the theoretical explanations from the literature that are most plausible. In doing so, the results from our study can give new directions for theory building on the topic of generosity. Furthermore, the study provides insight into the prosocial preferences of households across the income and wealth distribution.

Fifty years of occupational status attainment and intergenerational occupational mobility among ethnic groups in Suriname at labour market entry: Patterns and trends, cohorts 1960–2010

Tamira Sno* (Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) and Harry Ganzeboom (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Entry into the labour market constitutes a pivotal moment in the social and economic life course of men and women. The level at which individuals enter the labour market is strongly influenced by gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and level of education. In the Surinamese context—where gender, ethnic and socio-economic inequalities intersect—the paper studies changes in the OED model among men and women in Surinamese seven major ethnic groups.

Method: This study draws upon the SURMOB2012 dataset, which collected career and background information on 5,100 Surinamese individuals who entered their first occupation between 1960 and 2010. OED patterns are estimated using OLS regression.

Main findings: Over this 50-year period, Surinamese men and women entered the labour market at ever higher occupational levels. This trend rose more rapidly for women than for men. Women lagged behind men in occupational status in 1960; by 2010 they had more than closed this gap.

1. Parental occupational status is a moderately strong predictor of occupational status at labour market entry. The intergenerational correlation is lower than observed in other (ISSP) countries, and weakens across cohorts. Suriname appears to be a relatively open society, with openness increasing over time.
2. The picture changes when education is taken into account as an intervening variable. Educational attainment is a strong determinant of level of occupation, but is considerably stronger for women than for men. At the same time, the returns to education are declining: educational credentials yield diminishing advantages. This growing credential inflation accounts for the weakening of intergenerational reproduction of occupational status.
3. There are substantial differences in occupational levels between ethnic groups; however, these differences can be traced almost entirely to disparities in educational attainment across groups.

Conclusion: These findings cast doubt on the effectiveness of the educational expansion, widely advocated in Suriname.

Singlehood as an emerging field in social demography (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Elke Claessens, Dries Van Gasse & Dimitri Mortelmans – Lokaal D.017

Flying Solo for Life: Unpacking the Rise and Realities of Lifelong Singlehood

Naji Anfar* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Over the past decades, patterns of family formation across Europe have undergone substantial transformation. Later entry into first unions, rising union instability, and the diversification of intimate relationships have altered partnership trajectories and contributed to a growing number of individuals who remain unpartnered into midlife. Despite these demographic developments, lifelong singlehood has often been treated as a residual category in demographic research and remains relatively underexplored as a distinct object of study. This paper seeks to contribute to the emerging field of singlehood studies by approaching lifelong singlehood not simply as the absence of partnership, but as a meaningful life-course trajectory in its own right.

In this exploratory and theoretical contribution, lifelong singlehood is defined as never having married or cohabited by age 40. Drawing on existing demographic and sociological scholarship, the paper develops a conceptual framework that brings together insights from the various perspectives, offering complementary ways of understanding the structural, cultural and individual dynamics that shape pathways into lifelong singlehood. The Second Demographic Transition situates lifelong singlehood within broader processes of individualisation and changing family norms. Within this context, Gender Revolution Theory highlights how shifting gender relations reshape expectations around partnership and family formation. The Life Course Cube perspective integrates these dynamics by emphasising how life trajectories emerge through the interaction of timing, life domains, and institutional contexts.

Building on this synthesis, the paper argues that lifelong singlehood is a socially structured outcome shaped by cumulative life-course processes. Educational and career paths, gendered partnership markets, and institutional contexts such as welfare regimes and housing systems influence partnership opportunities, leading some individuals to remain single into midlife. The paper introduces a conceptual model and outlines a research agenda that moves beyond couple-centred perspectives, positioning lifelong singlehood as a significant and emerging focus in contemporary demographic research.

Stereotypes or New Narratives? An Exploration of Changing Frames of Singlehood in Belgian Newspapers and Magazines

Margot Bracke* (Universiteit Antwerpen), Dries Van Gasse (Universiteit Antwerpen) en Dimitri Mortelmans (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Singlehood is on the rise, with more than one-fifth of the European adult population living alone (with or without children). Along with this social and demographic trend, single people still experience negative stereotyping and discrimination towards their relationship status on various domains, coined by DePaulo and Morris (2005) as singlism. While contemporary society remains relationship-centered, a growing single culture emerged, reflected in online communities and social events, a growing body of literature focusing on singlehood, and more visibility of single individuals in print and popular media. Moreover, single people are increasingly portrayed as independent and socially fulfilled rather than simply awaiting romantic partnership. This study will explore these portrayals of single individuals, as media play a crucial role in shaping public perceptions, with cultivation theory suggesting that repeated exposure to media representations influences societal norms and beliefs. However, little research has examined how newspapers and magazines frame singlehood over time. This study addresses this gap by analysing how single individuals are framed in Belgian newspapers and magazines over time. Using SAS Viya Visual Text Analytics, we examined 7,744 articles published between January 1, 2000, and January 31, 2025, filtering for those that included the word “single” in the title or introduction. In our analysis we identified dominant frames and counter-frames surrounding singlehood. Our findings contribute to the theoretical discourse by expanding the focus beyond film and television portrayals, which often centre on single women. Moreover, this research has social relevance, as media framings of singlehood may influence public perceptions and reinforce—or challenge—stereotypical narratives about single or family life.

More Than Just Single: The Relationship between Self-Defined Singlehood and Singlehood Satisfaction

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Global rising rates of singlehood have intensified scholarly interest in how individuals experience and evaluate being single. Moving beyond a purely status-based understanding of singlehood, this study examines how subjective self-definitions of singlehood and loneliness shape satisfaction with being single, and how singlehood satisfaction, in turn, relates to overall life satisfaction. Using data from the 2024 wave of the Gender and Generations Survey (GGS-II), this paper offers a nuanced investigation of the experiential dimension of singlehood. With loneliness conceptualised as a multidimensional latent construct, individuals' underlying experiences of emotional and social disconnection are captured. Structural equation modelling is employed to examine the relationships between loneliness, self-defined singlehood, singlehood satisfaction, and life satisfaction. Results indicate that higher levels of loneliness are associated with significantly lower satisfaction with being single, as well as lower overall life satisfaction. Importantly, self-definitions of singlehood reveal substantial heterogeneity in these experiences. Individuals who define themselves as “actively looking” for a partner report the lowest levels of singlehood satisfaction, whereas those identifying as “convinced singles” display the highest satisfaction levels. Intermediate self-definitions, including openness to a relationship without active pursuit or involvement in friends-with-benefits arrangements, are associated with intermediate levels of satisfaction. Singlehood satisfaction emerges as a key mediating factor, strongly predicting life satisfaction even after accounting for loneliness. This finding underscores the importance of subjective interpretations of singlehood in shaping broader well-being outcomes. Overall, the study demonstrates that singlehood is not a monolithic state but a differentiated social position, experienced and evaluated in markedly different ways depending on individuals' self-definitions and emotional contexts. By foregrounding subjective meanings and emotional experiences, this research contributes to a more refined understanding of contemporary singlehood and its implications for well-being.

Single, but not singular: Young adults' diverse experiences of singlehood

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Singlehood has become an increasingly common and enduring life course position, yet it is still often conceptualized as the absence of a romantic partnership and treated as a largely homogeneous relationship status. Even more differentiated approaches, such as distinctions between voluntary and involuntary singlehood, risk obscuring the diversity in singles' experiences of singlehood. The aim of this study is to move beyond such categorical frameworks by centering singles' own perspectives on what singlehood entails. Drawing on mixed-methods survey data from young adults (aged 18-25), it will examine how individuals make sense of and experience being single. In doing so, this study sets out to contribute to a more nuanced, experiential understanding of contemporary singlehood.

Sociology of Music (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Pauwke Berkers & Julian Schaap – Lokaal D.019

Breaking Ground: The early days of Hip-Hop in 1980s Rotterdam

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This paper examines the emergence of Hip Hop in the postcolonial port city of Rotterdam during the first decade of its spread across Europe (across 1980s and 1990s). While Hip Hop is often understood as a socially conscious and resistant response to the racialized urban politics of the Reagan era, this paper asks how such sensibilities were rearticulated within the specific social, cultural, and political context of postcolonial Rotterdam. The city occupies a symbolic place in Dutch Hip Hop history, with community narratives emphasizing diversity, creativity, and street-level authenticity central to its identity as a "Hip Hop stad," yet shaped by politicized migration debates, the limits of multicultural policy, and post-industrial urban polarization.

The paper first traces the concrete sites of performance, such as youth centres, nightclubs, and open-air events, and then observes their interactions with mediated representations in newspapers, reviews, and cultural commentary. Empirically, the study combines a systematic analysis of newspaper archives (events, workshop and concert announcements and cultural agendas) with mapping and demographic and socio-economic data on the neighbourhoods where events took place. Comparing areas with differing income levels and migrant compositions reveals how inequality and postcolonial diversity shaped Hip Hop's urban geography. The paper argues that Hip Hop in Rotterdam generated an alternative urban imagination that articulated new geographies of belonging within both the city's built environment and its mediated public sphere.

Take a song and make it better: How music shapes young adults' wellbeing across social groups

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While it is known that music affords subjective wellbeing and that musical tastes are shaped by group-level differences, it has so far remained unclear how and why these two phenomena might be connected. This study aimed at exploring how and why music affords subjective wellbeing differently across social groups. As part of a larger research project on the topic, seven in-depth interviews were conducted with young adults from Rotterdam between the ages of 18 and 24. The results revealed that this demographic actively makes use of music's affordances to feel better. However, the way in which music affords subjective wellbeing is strongly socially differentiated; this process and its outcomes are shaped by young adults' environments and backgrounds. Dispositional factors related to gender, race and social class seem to play a significant role here, albeit in a more nuanced way than would be assumed based on previous research about cultural taste. The

insights gained from these findings can be used to inform future initiatives aimed at improving wellbeing among young adults through music.

“Does it offend you, Robot?”: Making sense of AI in live music-making

Yosha Wijngaarden* (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Generative AI is increasingly integrated into creative work, yet sociological research has largely focused on its economic, legal, or discursive implications rather than on how creative workers engage with AI in their creative processes. This paper investigates how musicians make sense of and adapt to interacting with generative AI in live music, and how these processes reshape creative practices during live music-making.

The study draws on Weick’s enacted sensemaking framework to analyze how musicians interpret, respond to, and enact strategies in the face of technological disruption. Empirically, the paper is based on an ethnographic project conducted in collaboration with an AI innovation lab in the music industry. Over a seven-month period, the research followed the development and use of an experimental AI system designed for live musical improvisation. Data include sustained participant observation during recorded jam sessions involving human musicians and AI agents, detailed fieldnotes of rehearsals and public performances, meetings with musicians and developers, and prospective and retrospective semi-structured interviews with participating musicians.

This multi-sited and longitudinal design allows close analysis of musicians’ real-time interactions with AI, as well as their evolving interpretations, expectations, and adaptation strategies. The findings show that musicians must learn the “languages” and behavioral logics of AI systems, adjust to latency and unpredictability, and negotiate shifting boundaries of control, authorship, and professionalism. Sensemaking is enacted not only through technical experimentation but also through humor, anthropomorphization, and embodied negotiation during performance.

What musicians do all day? Results from the artist monitor 2025

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While sociologists of jobs and occupations are able to use well-established census data from CBS to describe a range of sectors, this data is often not useful for understanding the working lives of popular music artists in the Netherlands. Simply put, these creative workers go unidentified by publicly administered surveys and subsequent datasets. Because of this, we know less about the working lives of musicians, the kinds of challenges they face, and how they navigate recent developments in artificial intelligence. This matters because popular musicians are often at the forefront of cultural and technological developments, while wrestling with precarity. To address this, we conducted a first-of-its-kind survey of Dutch musicians (n=273). In this talk we present our early findings, looking at i) career metrics and inequality, ii) how mental well-being in the popular music sector compares to others, and iii) AI adoption and potential anxieties.

Gender & Sexuality I: Safety & Solidarity (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Van de Velde – Lokaal E.201

Adolescent girls and physical activity in public spaces: insights from the city of Antwerp

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Physical activity in adolescence is a key determinant of long-term health, yet teenage girls remain consistently less active than boys. Urban public spaces play a central role in facilitating everyday opportunities for physical

activity, from informal play to organised sport. However, these spaces are not equally accessible or welcoming to all. They are sites where gendered hierarchies and norms surface, but also where other intersecting structures of inequality — such as socioeconomic background, migration status, dis/ability, and religion — shape who feels entitled to participate and who does not. This study explores how different factors intersect to influence teenage girls' participation in physical activity in the urban areas of Antwerpen-Noord and Borgerhout. Based on 32 interviews with policymakers, youth workers, and local organisations, we apply an adapted socio-ecological framework to analyse the interplay of individual, sociocultural, built environment, and policy dimensions. The findings show how political choices such as disinvestment in youth services limit access to activities, while the absence of inclusive design in the built environment reinforce these inequalities. At the sociocultural level, gender stereotypes shape expectations about who belongs in public space, which in turn feeds into individual-level concerns about body image amongst adolescent girls. These intersecting barriers show how physical activity opportunities are mediated not only by individual factors but by systemic forms of exclusion embedded in the urban fabric. To counter this, inclusive policies and participatory approaches to urban planning are needed to create public spaces that actively support girls' engagement in physical activity and their health and wellbeing.

Is it socially safe enough to be myself? How LGBTIQ+ employees navigate social (un)safety through intersectional identity management.

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Social movements such as #MeToo and Black Lives Matter have increased awareness of sexual and racial harassment, including in the workplace. This has led to the emergence of a new discourse of 'social (un)safety' in the Netherlands. Social unsafety provides a holistic framework that integrates an array of interconnected socially undesirable behaviors typically examined in isolation, and can refer to both organizational and interpersonal issues. Thus far, the concept of social unsafety has received remarkably little scientific attention.

Social unsafety disproportionately affects historically underrepresented groups, such as LGBTIQ+ individuals. This group is frequently subjected to undesirable workplace behaviors, including jokes, incivility, bullying, violence, and sexual harassment. In response, LGBTIQ+ employees engage in a continuous process of identity management, deciding whether to disclose their sexual or gender identity at work.

Prior literature on identity management of LGBTIQ+ individuals in the workplace largely lacks an intersectional perspective. This is problematic, as sexual and gender identities intersect with other identities to uniquely shape experiences of social unsafety. Moreover, it overlooks that people also manage the presentation of identities beyond sexual and gender identity, such as ethnicity, age, social class, disability, or neurodiversity.

To overcome these shortcomings, the current study explores the interrelation between social (un)safety and intersectional identity management at work. Drawing on in-depth interviews with a diverse sample of LGBTIQ+ individuals in the Netherlands, this study provides deeper understanding of what social (un)safety entails and how it shapes the management of intersecting identities. First insights will be presented at the conference.

“You (do not) Recognize Queers”: A Community-Led Research and Action (CLRA) Approach to Strengthen Solidarity in Queer Communities

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Queer communities can provide vital support for people with diverse genders and sexualities. At the same time, many queer-identifying people experience exclusion, stigmatization, or feelings of “not being queer enough” within these spaces. A sense of belonging is especially important in the current socio-political climate, where increasing recognition of gender and sexual diversity coincides with growing social and political resistance. These tensions are visible not only in Dutch society but also within the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU), highlighting

the need to strengthen solidarities within and beyond campus-based queer communities. Using the participatory method Community-Led Research and Action (CRLA), this project explores how solidarity is understood and how it can be strengthened at the VU. Our project is student-led: four Sociology students work together with one teacher-researcher. We collaborate with student organisations and queer community members inside and outside the VU, drawing on shared experiences and situated knowledges. Throughout the research process, we reflect on our own positionalities within academia and emphasize the importance of gender and sexual minorities taking the lead in research concerning queer communities. Our methodology brings diverse and intersectional experiences to the forefront, moving beyond fixed LGBTQIA+ labels. We show that queer communities are not uniform; their norms and dynamics continually shift and shape who is recognized as part of these communities. We found that feelings of inclusion and of “being queer enough” are tied to changing expectations about how a queer person should look or behave, as well as to safety individuals experience to be openly queer in broader social and political contexts. When safety feels uncertain, visibility feels more risky, and the focus often shifts toward protection rather than inclusion within queer communities. We argue that solidarity should be seen as an ongoing practice requiring continuous reflection, negotiation, and commitment to inclusivity. Together with student-led organisations and wider queer communities, we translate these insights into actions aimed at strengthening solidarity from within.

Sociology of work: The sustainability of employer involvement in collective bargaining (English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr – Lokaal E.207

Wat willen werkgevers? Vijftig jaar collectief onderhandelen door georganiseerde werkgevers
Saskia Boumans* (Burcht van Berlage)

In dit onderzoek staat de rol van georganiseerde werkgevers in de reorganisatie van de Nederlandse politieke economie en in het bijzonder arbeidsverhoudingen centraal. Dankzij onderzoek hebben we een vrij gedetailleerd beeld van de herstructurering van de Nederlandse politieke economie sinds de jaren zeventig. Lange tijd leek het stelsel van arbeidsverhoudingen immuun te zijn voor de deregulering en marktwerking. De institutionele stabiliteit van dit stelsel, de hoge cao-dekkingsgraad en de praktijk van het algemeen verbindend verklaren van cao's, maskeerde lang substantiële verschuivingen in de distributieve resultaten.

Door empirische analyse van beleidsdocumenten en cao's vanaf midden jaren 1970 tot begin jaren 2020 laat dit onderzoek zien hoe werkgeversorganisaties decennialang een coherent beleid van individualisering en decollectivisering van arbeidsverhoudingen hebben nagestreefd. Het onderzoek betoogt dat ook het stelsel van arbeidsverhoudingen een neoliberale transformatie heeft ondergaan, maar niet door corporatistische structuren af te breken, zoals we omringende landen vaak is gebeurd, maar door ze ideologisch een nieuwe invulling te geven.

Stable as a rock or crumbling beneath the surface? A micro-level analysis of collective interest representation among small and medium-sized enterprises in the Netherlands

Rein de Sauvage Nolting* (Burcht van Berlage) ; Wike Been (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) ; Remko Voogd (Radboud Universiteit) ; Alex Lehr (Radboud Universiteit)

As trade unions face increasing difficulties in mobilizing workers, the responsibility for maintaining socio-economic coordination has increasingly shifted to employers' organizations (EOs) and their engagement in collective bargaining. Yet, large firms have been argued to dominate EOs, to the detriment of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). These intra-capital divisions remain poorly understood, largely due to a lack of direct, systematic evidence on SME representation. Using data on SMEs in the Netherlands (N=901) from the Sustainable SME Representation Survey (SSMERS), this study therefore first addresses the following descriptive question: *To what extent are SMEs in the Netherlands members of EOs, and how do they evaluate collective interest representation?* Second, we addresses the following explanatory question: *To what extent can differences in collective interest representation among SMEs in the Netherlands be explained by (a) the perceived*

need for and quality of representation, (b) organizational resources and constraints, and (c) competitive pressures? We find that the perception of EO representation by SMEs mildly positive in absolute terms, but decidedly less positive when evaluated relative to large, multinational and export-oriented firms. The explanatory analyses suggest that among SMEs, size and resources have very limited explanatory power regarding EO-membership, nor do experienced competition, the difficulty to find and retain employees, and sensitivity to production stoppages. We do, however, find fairly clear evidence that the probability of EO-membership increases the older the company is, and that the evaluation of interest representation by EOs also matters, as EO-membership is less likely when representation is more poorly evaluated.

Wage Bargaining in the Context of Liberalization of Industrial Relations in Europe: A comparison of nine countries and four sectors

Janna Besamusca* (Utrecht University) ; Marta Kahancová (University of Leeds)

Collective bargaining is an institutionalized pathway to wage coordination that meets both organized employers' needs to manage the risk of being undercut by low-wage competitors and trade unions' preferences for enforceable wage levels (c.f., Ceccon et al. 2023; Hayter & Visser, 2021). At the same time, employers increasingly seek to retain discretion over pay and thereby wish to exercise more control over wage-setting rather than strictly adhering to collectively bargained provisions (c.f., Baccaro & Howell, 2017). This paper examines wage bargaining practices to evaluate shifts towards and away from market-oriented practices in collective bargaining. Studying the co-existence of bargaining coordination and employer discretion in wage setting, we ask to what extent bargaining actors prefer to, and succeed in, limiting or creating wage setting coordination vis-à-vis discretionary space in collective bargaining.

The paper is based on original empirical evidence on wage provisions in collective agreements and in-depth interviews with trade union and employer negotiators in four sectors (construction, hospitality, urban public transport, and urban waste management) in nine countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain) in 2023-2024. The paper argues that while bargaining decentralization affects all countries, discretionary space in wage setting may be created both through changes in the structure and procedures of collective bargaining. These include, i.e., reductions in bargaining coverage or provisions included in collective agreement texts, like less detailed pay rates and the fragmentation of wage components.

Staying relevant in a neoliberal era: Strategies of employers' organizations to attract and maintain membership

Wike Been* (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Employers' organizations involved in collective bargaining (hereafter EOs) have long occupied a paradoxical position. Historically, they emerged as a countervailing force to increasingly powerful trade unions. In many coordinated and corporatist market economies, this division of labour between trade unions and employers' organizations turned them into the two supporting pillars of sectoral collective bargaining systems. For much of the twentieth century, this arrangement proved remarkably stable. However, the past decades have witnessed pronounced declines in trade union membership in many countries. Remarkably, membership in EOs has remained largely stable in many coordinated market economies. This is not the case everywhere. Recently, EO membership appears to be declining in the Netherlands, following earlier developments in the United Kingdom and Germany. This trend puts pressure on EOs to remain relevant, raising the question of how EOs can remain relevant, legitimate, and organizationally viable under conditions of declining employer interest in collective organization.

This paper uses semi-structured interviews with representatives of 16 EOs to gain insight in their strategies to remain relevant. Preliminary results show that EOs have adopted a wide range of strategies: from expanding individual service provision to active door-to-door recruitment. Inaction can also be interpreted as a deliberate strategy: when parts of a sector expand into digital domains, some EOs choose not to incorporate these activities in order to preserve internal cohesion. As a result, existing membership remains relatively stable, but EOs are less likely to expand into new segments of the economy, thereby effectively representing a declining share of firms.

Social Networks: Family involvement and impact (English) – Voorzitter: Tijs Laenen – Lokaal A.205

Family First? Preferences for Family Involvement in Mental Health Decision-Making in Belgium

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This study examines how migration background and religion shape preferences for family involvement in mental health decision-making in Belgium. While patient autonomy is a central principle in Western healthcare systems, mental health care often involves greater uncertainty, stigma, and relational complexity, which may increase the role of family in decision-making.

Using data from The Social Study, a representative survey of the Belgian population (N = 5,485), we analyse responses from a vignette module on depression alongside a comparison with cancer scenarios (n = 1,324). Participants evaluated cases varying in illness severity and indicated their preferences regarding family involvement in medical decision-making.

The findings show that preferences for family involvement differ across social groups. Respondents with a migration background and those with a religious affiliation are more likely to favour family involvement, particularly in cases of mild depression. In contrast, non-religious and higher educated respondents more often prefer patient autonomy and direct communication between physicians and patients, with limited family involvement. Satisfaction with the healthcare system is associated with greater openness to both physician guidance and family involvement.

Preferences also differ between mental and somatic health contexts. Family involvement is more widely accepted in depression than in comparable cancer scenarios, especially in less severe cases, suggesting that uncertainty and stigma shape decision-making preferences in mental health care.

Overall, the findings highlight that preferences for family involvement in mental health decision-making vary across social groups and depend on illness severity and type. Recognizing this variation is essential for understanding how decision-making unfolds in practice and for supporting care that is responsive to diverse social and cultural contexts.

Suspect families: Exposure to the Dutch childcare benefits scandal in kinship networks

Nicolas Soler* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Gabriele Marie (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Wim van Lancker (KU Leuven)

States increasingly allocate rights, resources, and sanctions on the basis of predictions made by algorithmic decision-making systems (ADMS). Previous work portrays ADMS as a new technology of governance that shapes lifecourses at the micro level and (re)produces structural inequalities at the macro level, often through considerable violence. Current work aims to better connect the micro-level decisions made by ADMS to their emergent macro-level consequences. We argue that key to this effort is studying how algorithmic decisions affect not only those targeted, but also their social networks, especially their close and extended kin. The exposure of kin to ADMS conditions not only the capacity of those targeted to recover from state violence but also whether ADMS have network effects (e.g., spreading mistrust, debt, or exclusion from welfare) with emergent macro-level consequences. We articulate this network perspective on ADMS by studying the Dutch childcare benefits scandal of 2013-2019, in which the tax authorities used statistical modelling and racist profiling to wrongly accuse over 40,000 parents of fraud. We 1) estimate the number of close and extended kin that were indirectly (and cumulatively) exposed to the "scandal", 2) study whether exposure clusters in the kinship network of the country, and 3) describe how (cumulative) indirect exposure varies across countries of birth. To do so, we use population-scale kinship network data and a dataset that identifies the parents directly targeted by the tax authorities, both sourced from the microdata registers of Statistics Netherlands. We discuss societal and theoretical implications

for studies of ADMS, the state, and family life.

Exposure to diabetes and own diabetes status using a whole population network of the Netherlands

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Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in the Netherlands: approximately 1.2 million people have diabetes, of which 1.1 million have type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is strongly related to lifestyle factors (e.g. unhealthy eating habits, being overweight and smoking), but also to ageing and it has a genetic component. An individual's social environment may influence their lifestyle (choices), and thus subsequently their chance of having diabetes. This study examines the relationship between an individual's social environment and diabetes with administrative data from the Person Network of Statistics Netherlands. The Person Network includes five different types of relationships, so-called network layers, of each inhabitant of the Netherlands in 2022: all household members, (extended) family members, colleagues, neighbours and classmates. Individuals' diabetes status was based on whether they were prescribed diabetes medication in 2022. An "exposure score" was calculated for each individual indicating to what extent diabetes was present in their (local) network. The exposure score was also decomposed to assess the distinct contribution of each network layer to the overall score. The population was limited to individuals aged 40 years and older as the prevalence of type 2 diabetes increases rapidly after age 40. Exposure to diabetes was higher for individuals who have diabetes than those who do not. Both before and after adjusting for individual background factors (e.g. age, gender, origin, income, social economic category, household composition, urbanity of the neighbourhood), individuals with relatively more network members who had diabetes were more likely to have diabetes themselves than those with fewer network members with diabetes. Exposure to diabetes was also higher for women than for men for ages up to 80 years. For individuals aged 80 and older, exposure to diabetes was higher among men.

Politieke Sociologie II (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers – Lokaal A.206

Wat is er christelijk aan het christelijk nationalisme? Een onderzoek naar christelijk nationalisme en de invloed op stemgedrag in Nederland

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Het beschermen van de judeo-christelijke oorsprong van Nederland en verwijzingen naar christelijke symbolen en tradities verschijnen regelmatig in de retoriek van rechts-populistische partijen, vaak in combinatie met anti-immigratiediscours. Onderzoek naar christelijk nationalisme heeft zich voornamelijk gericht op de Amerikaanse context (e.g., Gorski & Perry, 2022), terwijl empirisch onderzoek in West-Europese landen en specifiek Nederland beperkt is (e.g., Clingendael, 2026). Een directe vertaling naar de Nederlandse context is niet eenvoudig, onder andere wegens verschillen in de rol van religie in de publieke sfeer en de politieke betekenis van moreel conservatieve kwesties. Juist deze thema's hebben in de afgelopen decennia binnen het kader van identity politics aan electorale relevantie gewonnen. Op basis van de 'God in Nederland' data (2025), verzameld via het LISS Panel, gaan we daarom met behulp van latente klassenanalyse na of er in Nederland een groep christelijk nationalist kan worden geïdentificeerd, onderscheidend van andere vormen van nationalisme. Vervolgens gaan we in dit onderzoek in op de antecedenten van het aanhangen van deze ideologische stroming. Tot slot onderzoeken we de invloed op stemgedrag. We koppelen onze bevindingen terug aan de bredere debatten rond rechts-populistisch stemgedrag, en de stijgende interesse in religie in Nederland.

"I'm not the only one with such views": How normalization of anti-immigration stances stimulates populist radical-right voting

Tom Nijs* (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Willem de Koster (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Anti-immigration attitudes are the primary predictor of populist radical-right (PRR) voting. Therefore, political scientists were caught off guard by the exponential growth of PRR parties in recent years: this surge was not accompanied by a similarly rapid rise in anti-immigration attitudes. This suggests that voters have not become more opposed to immigration but have increasingly translated their already existing anti-immigration attitudes into PRR voting. Recent explanations point to the normalization of PRR support: as radical-right views become more socially acceptable, individuals who hold them may be more likely to act on them at the ballot box. The current research is the first to test whether normalization of anti-immigration attitudes can explain why some voters are more inclined to translate their anti-immigration attitudes into PRR voting than others. We examine whether voters with stronger anti-immigration attitudes are more likely to translate these attitudes into PRR voting when perceiving these attitudes to be widely shared. Such a perceived descriptive norm can be derived from various reference groups, including the general public, social ties, and other political parties. Using an original dataset of Dutch natives (n=881) and the Dutch Parliamentary Election Study 2023 (n=3,398), we find that voters with strong anti-immigration attitudes are more likely to translate these attitudes into PRR voting when they perceive strong ties (e.g., friends and family) and other right-wing parties to hold stronger anti-immigration positions. Perceived attitudes of the general public, weak ties, and left-wing parties did not play such a role. We conclude that the sense that “I’m not the only one with these views” can tip the balance in favor of PRR voting. More broadly, our finding that greater attitudinal proximity to a party’s stance may increase incentives to vote for another party, offers a novel perspective on classic theories of electoral choice.

Far-right capture of civil society: The contestation of the social-cultural sector in Flanders, Belgium

Lesley Hustinx* (Universiteit Gent) en Niko Vandebos (Universiteit Gent)

Far right nationalist parties are gaining influence in many democracies - also in Flanders, Belgium. This shift has intensified the politicization and contestation of Flemish civil society, particularly within the subsidized socio cultural sector. Over the past two legislatures (2014–2019 and 2019–2024), this segment of civil society has increasingly faced civil society capture (Simsa, 2019), far right contestation, and political scrutiny. Drawing on Flemish parliamentary debates and policy documents, this paper traces the evolution of political narratives and corresponding restrictive policy changes that have reshaped the framework conditions of the socio cultural sector. It demonstrates how far right discourse about civil society becomes normalized even in supposedly strong democracies, ultimately narrowing civic spaces and paving the way for democratic backsliding.

The 2017 Socio Cultural Decree introduced a ‘civil perspective’ as the sector’s foundation, emphasizing an open civic space in which organizations retain wide autonomy, grounded in the freedom of association (Socius, 2024). This perspective aligns with Lichterman and Eliasoph’s (2014) influential notion of ‘civic action’ as collective efforts to improve shared societal life according to actors’ own imaginaries—whether ‘civil’ or ‘uncivil’. While the Decree frames civic action as contributing to a sustainable, inclusive, and democratic society, far right actors have increasingly challenged this democratic vision.

The first major conflict concerned alleged ‘ethnic segregation’ within organizations serving specific ethnocultural groups. Despite sectoral resistance, ‘non segregation’ was added as a recognition and funding criterion in 2023. A second controversy occurred in 2023, when organizations were intimidated and put under heightened surveillance because of their pro-Palestinian advocacy. Ultimately, in 2025, several organizations lost funding following unfounded political accusations that they supported violent extremism and were thus branded as security risks. This paper analyses developments since the introduction of the 2017 ‘civil perspective’ by: (1) classifying far right discursive interventions, (2) tracing their normalization, and (3) investigating how they translate into restrictive policies.

Understanding feeling unheard and the relationship with political recognition and voting behaviour in the Netherlands: Data from two representative surveys after the 2025 national elections

Emmy Hermans* (Tilburg University), Carla A. Roos (Tilburg University), Monique M.H. Pollmann (Tilburg University) en Juliette Schaafsma (Tilburg University)

In the Netherlands a growing number of people feel unheard, coinciding with a historical low level of trust in democracy in the Netherlands (Voogd et al., 2023) and increased voting for European populist parties (Rooduijn et al., 2023). What it means to feel heard politically and for politicians to 'truly listen to the people' remains unclear. We formulate a nuanced understanding of what feeling unheard entails and how it relates to (an) experienced (lack of) political recognition and (populist) voting behaviour in the 2025 Dutch national elections.

A recent longitudinal content analysis we conducted on news articles shows that various affective dimensions of feeling unheard are important to people, such as recognition or awareness and understanding of a group's experiences (Hermans et al., in prep). Which dimensions are relevant seem to differ between social groups. We also see that people feel less heard in comparison to others. So called 'recognition gaps' (Lamont, 2018) could strengthen this experienced competitiveness to feel heard. Additionally, emotions have increasingly become more influential in the Dutch political climate, with the risk of devaluing factual argumentation (Duyvendak, 2025). Feeling heard and affective dimensions such as experienced recognition seem to be different than objectively being heard. These affective dimensions may be of greater relevance in citizens' experience and engagement with politics as well, which are therefore key to better understand feeling heard politically.

We analyse data from two representative datasets of Dutch citizens eligible to vote (N=1.525, N=24.763), collected after the national elections in October 2025. We will examine to what extent participants feel (un)heard, the importance of the various (affective) dimensions such as awareness, recognition, and relative comparison with others, and the relation with trust in democracy and voting behavior. We assess differences based on demographic data on gender, education, and migration background.

Milieu & Klimaat: Percepties & Actie (Nederlands) – Voorzitter: Kris Bachus – Lokaal Scaldis

What does Climate Change mean to Italians? A Focus Group Study in Italy

Gaetano Scaduto* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Roy Kemmers (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Willem de Koster (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Climate change is among the most prominent political issues of the twenty-first century. Yet, we still know little about what ordinary citizens actually mean when they talk about “climate change” (CC) and about the “pictures in their heads” appearing when they think about it. Existing research has focused on attitudes, beliefs, levels of concern, and policy preferences, while what remained implicit is how ordinary people make sense of the issue. Indeed, similar attitudes can originate from very different meanings for very different people (e.g., poor, rural pensioners and young, affluent tech engineers can both be unconcerned about climate change).

Theoretically, we conceptualise “climate change meanings” as subjective definitions of what CC is (and is not) and the relational context in which people place it. We argue how this conception is analytically distinct from extant conceptualizations and studies of “climate change attitudes”, “understandings”, “beliefs”, “discourses”, “narratives”, and “issue frames”, and why meanings precede and structure the frames and attitudes that people recognise as legitimate. The study aims to uncover (1) which meanings can be observed in the Italian public opinion and (2) the worldviews, justifications, and experiences that sustain them.

Italy provides a particularly interesting context where public concern and policy support are rising after years of relative indifference, and extreme weather events have intensified media and political attention. Yet, qualitative public opinion research remains scarce. We conduct focus groups with Italian citizens, selected to maximise variation in age, gender, education, urban–rural location, regional identity, and political orientation. Transcripts are analysed with inductive thematic analysis, with the aim to uncover analytically distinct meanings and to relate them to social positions and life trajectories. Fieldwork will be completed in the spring, aiming to conduct around 12 focus groups with a total of around 60 participants.

Exploring the different meanings ascribed to climate change in the Netherlands

Marit van der Heide* (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Roy Kemmers (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Kjell Noordzij (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Willem de Koster (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Climate change is a hotly debated topic and has proven to be prone to polarization. There is a rich literature on the level of belief, concern, and policy support regarding climate change, as well as the factors that influence these attitudes. Prior work in this field has primarily focused on levels of concern and belief in climate change, without acknowledging that the same survey response can mean different things to different people. Yet, given that climate change is a complex issue with many facets, it is particularly challenging to determine what a score on a survey item represents. Therefore, a crucial knowledge gap remains: what does climate change actually mean to people? Our study deepens our understanding of climate attitudes by conducting in-depth focus group interviews to inductively unravel the meanings ascribed to climate change in the context of the Netherlands. We explore these different meanings using a newly designed method for elicitation and conversation facilitation. This novel method is designed to support participants in verbalising and explaining the meaning they ascribe to ambiguous themes such as climate change, while avoiding influencing or steering participant responses. Our

analysis reveals that various meanings are ascribed to climate change. We discuss the implications of these differing meanings for our understanding of climate attitudes, highlighting the importance of looking beyond levels of concern and belief when examining people's perspectives on climate change.

The Carbon Emissions of Everyday Life: From Individual Outcomes to Social Practices

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The climate crisis is intensifying, yet we still know remarkably little about how people's everyday activities translate into carbon emissions. Much of the existing research treats emissions as individual outcomes, estimating them by combining household expenditure data with information on how average men and women spend their time. However, this perspective often overlooks the social dynamics within households that shape time-use and emissions differently across societal groups. Factors such as income, work patterns, urbanity of living, and the gendered dynamics of care play an important role in shaping carbon inequalities within and across households.

To address these limitations, we have developed a new methodological approach to jointly estimate household carbon emissions and individual time-use patterns at the Dutch population level. This approach allows us to link carbon emissions directly to the social practices and activities that structure everyday life.

Investigating carbon emissions not as individual outcomes but as socially organized practices opens up a range of sociological questions that have so far been difficult to address empirically. It allows us to examine how emissions are shaped by the intersection of social characteristics such as gender, income, and life stage, and how these differences relate to dynamics within and between households. From a life-course perspective, we can investigate how emission patterns change across key transitions, such as parenthood or retirement, and how these transitions reshape the division of everyday activities. More broadly, it allows us to analyse how emission-relevant practices – such as mobility, care, and consumption – are distributed within households, and how this contributes to carbon inequalities. By making these dynamics visible, this study contributes to a more sociologically grounded understanding of carbon emissions and provides a starting point for future research on environmental inequality and everyday life.

Ben je voor of tegen ons? Vrijwilligerswerk doen op gepolariseerde thema's

Maikel Meijeren* (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Lucas Meijs (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

De laatste jaren zijn er wereldwijd veel zorgen over de uitholling van democratische processen en de democratie als geheel. De literatuur laat zien dat die democratische uitholling ook zijn weerslag heeft op de civil society. De maatschappelijke ruimte krimpt, ook wel aangeduid als 'shrinking civic space'. Regeringen gebruiken bijvoorbeeld wet- en regelgeving om financiering voor maatschappelijke organisaties te bemoeilijken of geplande demonstraties te verbieden.

Veel van deze onderzoeken richten zich op gevolgen voor instituties, zoals grote NGO's. Daarnaast wordt dit fenomeen vooral onderzocht in landen zonder een langdurige democratische geschiedenis, of zelfs helemaal geen democratisch bestel. Verder wordt shrinking civic space met name onderzocht op een groter institutioneel niveau, zonder dat er aandacht is voor hoe die shrinking civic space op individueel niveau ervaren wordt.

Daarom richt deze studie zich op individuele vrijwilligers die hun werkzaamheden verrichten op de meer gepolariseerde maatschappelijke thema's in Nederland. De voorlopige onderzoeksvraag is: in hoeverre ervaren vrijwilligers op gepolariseerde thema's in Nederland een shrinking civic space en in hoeverre ervaren zij dat die shrinking civic space aan het toenemen is?

We onderzoeken dit via focusgroepen en interviews met vrijwilligers bij drie organisaties die eenieder een thema vertegenwoordigen waar de samenleving verdeelt over is. Deze thema's zijn 1) klimaat, met als organisatie Extinction Rebellion (XR); 2) migratie/asiel, met als organisatie VluchtelingenWerk en 3) gender, met als organisatie COC Nederland. We beogen per organisatie 25 vrijwilligers te interviewen en twee tot drie focusgroepen te houden.

De voorlopige resultaten laten zien dat vrijwilligers inderdaad een shrinking civic space ervaren en die shrinking civic space ook zien toenemen. Vrijwilligers van XR, waar de dataverzameling begonnen is, durven zich steeds minder uit te spreken over hun vrijwilligerswerk naar anderen toe en ervaren steeds meer negatieve en fellere reacties vanuit de samenleving tijdens hun werkzaamheden voor XR.

15:10 – 16:25

**Observed versus perceived ethno-racial discrimination II (English),
Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Pieter-Paul Verhaeghe – Lokaal C.204**

Education and Perceived Discrimination Among Jews: A Paradox?

Frank van Tubergen* (Utrecht University) en Christian Czymara (Dutch Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)

Research on migrants and ethno-racial minorities documents that those with higher education often report more experiences of discrimination, usually attributed to heightened expectations of equal treatment, increased exposure to majority institutions, and greater awareness of subtle forms of discrimination. This process is referred to as the “integration paradox”. While this paradox has been examined extensively among migrants and ethno-racial groups, and recently among women, it remains unclear whether similar mechanisms operate among other minorities. Jews constitute a particularly interesting minority to test this phenomenon, as anti-Jewish hostilities and antisemitic incidents are frequent despite low public visibility and relatively high levels of education among Jews on average.

To fill this gap, this study examines the relationship between higher educational attainment and perceived personal discrimination on religious grounds among Jews in Europe and the US, based on data from the second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU 2018 and PEW’s Jewish Americans in 2020 survey. Our findings show that, unlike prior research on ethnic minorities and women, higher education is, on average, associated with lower levels of perceived discrimination among Jews. Deeper analyses reveal that this is mostly the case for those who are religious or visibly Jewish, e.g., by regularly wearing a Kippa. In contrast, there is no significant education effect for those who are not religious or not visible as Jews in everyday life. These findings hold across multiple European countries and the US.

The Integration Paradox: Drivers of Awareness

Sanne van Oosten* (University of Oxford), Paolo Velásquez (University of Oxford), Mariña Fernández-Reino (University of Oxford), Vasilena Lachkovska (University of Oxford) en Stefanie Sprong (University of Oxford)

The Integration Paradox refers to the recurring empirical finding that more “integrated” ethnic minorities, particularly those with higher levels of education, report more experiences of discrimination. The two main mechanisms are exposure and awareness. Explanations based on greater exposure to discrimination, that more integrated and educated minorities have more contact with the majority group and are thus discriminated against more, have largely been rejected. Researchers are now shifting attention toward differences in awareness of discrimination. We refine the awareness explanation by distinguishing between general knowledge of discrimination and the ability to recognise subtle, indirect, or ambiguous forms of bias. We propose that educational gradients in discrimination reporting arise partly because higher-educated individuals are better able to identify ambiguous discrimination, while lower-educated individuals may underreport experiences that do not fit narrow, overt conceptions.

Moreover, this paper advances the debate by introducing a third, largely overlooked mechanism: willingness to disclose discrimination. We argue that survey reports reflect not only what individuals experience or recognise as discrimination, but also their inclination to reveal these experiences in research contexts. We field a cross-national survey experiment with large oversamples of ethnic minority respondents in the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Our design combines direct survey questions on experiences of discrimination and political views, list experiments that ensure anonymity, and informational treatments describing either explicit or ambiguous forms of discrimination. By distinguishing between recognition, political views, and willingness to disclose discrimination, this study clarifies the micro-level processes driving the Integration Paradox.

Mobilizing Lived Experience in the Fight against Racism: The Case of the Amsterdam Municipality

Marcel Maussen* (University of Amsterdam) en Rosemarie van den Breemer (University of Amsterdam)

In this article, we explore how the City of Amsterdam sought to develop and enact a policy to fight discrimination and exclusion within its own organization by mobilizing its employees' lived experiences. Based on our analysis of the formats in which lived experiences became communicable knowledge and the epistemic norms, logics of inquiry, and communicative styles that characterize them, we identify essential challenges in the municipality's approach. First, we note how longstanding exclusionary mechanisms can resurface when employees with lived experience share their stories. The very dynamics at work in institutional racism, such as credibility prejudices toward people of color, may reappear in peer-group settings or dialogues, undermining the aim of inclusion. Second, and here we make a new contribution, we argue that the discursive formats used to mobilize lived experience may themselves pose obstacles. The transformation of experience into shareable knowledge follows prevailing epistemic norms and logics of inquiry that often sit uneasily with the embodied, subjective, and affective character of lived experiences of discrimination. Without critical reflection on the institutional norms, discursive formats and communicative practices that mold its uptake, there is a risk of undermining the very experiences the policy aims to honour.

Who benefits from participation in introduction programs? A conjoint experiment into employers' evaluations of ALMP participation by refugees

Ids Baalbergen* (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Agnieszka Ka (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Many European countries have implemented active labor market programs [ALMPs] to improve refugees' opportunities in the labor market. This study investigates which refugee groups benefit from participation in these programs by looking at the recruitment decisions of employers. We study recruitment decisions among 641 employers in the Netherlands through a conjoint experiment. In the experiment, we vary the background of individuals, their participation in ALMPs, and the job for which they are applying. Our results show that internships, language courses, volunteering, and credential recognition can have a positive effect on the likelihood of being invited for a job interview. However, we find differences in the returns to participation across refugees and employers with different backgrounds. Most ALMPs are only beneficial to refugees that did not participate in higher education, have no occupational experience, and apply for a less-skilled job. Credential recognition is an important exception as it improves the invitation likelihood of highly qualified refugees and refugees that apply for high-skilled occupations. Our findings also show that employers who have more experience with hiring migrants are more likely to value ALMP participation. Lastly, our results demonstrate that an employers' attitude toward migration plays a larger role in their invitation decision than refugees' ALMP efforts.

Homelessness and other forms of precarity I: Survival strategies

(English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stef Adriaenssens & Koen Hermans – Lokaal D.011

Kan de echte bedelaar nu opstaan aub? De superdiverse realiteit(en) van bedelen in Brussel

Pascal Debuyne* (Hogeschool Odisee), Mieke Schrooten (Hogeschool Odisee, Universiteit Antwerpen) en Harm Deleu (Hogeschool Odisee)

We onderzoeken de sociale constructie van "de bedelaar" in Brussel en bevraagt wie in het publieke en beleidsdiscours als de echte bedelaar wordt voorgesteld, en wie daardoor onzichtbaar blijft. Vertrekkend van

etnografisch veldwerk met 66 bedelaars en 16 sociaal werkers reconstrueren we de grote variëteit aan levenslopen, migratieroutes en overlevingsstrategieën achter het ogenschijnlijk eenduidige beeld van de bedelaar. Die variëteit omvat onder meer mobiele EU-burgers, vaak Roma uit Roemenië, Belgische staatsburgers, derdelanders, mensen met en zonder papieren, dakloze personen en circulerende gezinnen binnen transnationale familieverbanden.

De analyse toont hoe hardnekkige stereotypen – bedelen als product van georganiseerde bendes, verslaving of een bewuste keuze om niet te werken – zelden sporen met de empirische realiteit, maar wel diep ingrijpen in publieke perceptie, lokaal beleid en sociaalwerkpraktijken. Bedelen verschijnt in de empirische data in de eerste plaats als onderdeel van een bredere, vaak transnationale overlevings- en inkomensstrategie, waarin informele arbeid (zoals ramen wassen, straatmuziek of losse klusjes), kwetsbare formele tewerkstelling en sociale uitkeringen met elkaar verknoopt zijn.

De vijf uitgewerkte profielen tonen hoe mensen bedelen als enig inkomen, als tijdelijke crisisstrategie, als seizoenspraktijk binnen circulaire migratie, als aanvulling op andere inkomsten of als middel voor sociaal contact en erkenning. Door deze profielen te koppelen aan het spanningsveld tussen EU-burgerschaprechten, restrictieve verblijfsvoorwaarden en de erosie van sociale bescherming, betoogt de paper dat bedelen niet kan worden begrepen los van structurele uitsluiting en morele grenswerkpraktijken. In plaats van de vraag “waarom bedelen mensen?” centraal te stellen, schuiven we de vraag naar voren welke juridische, economische en beleidsmatige configuraties mensen op bedelen aangewezen maken.

In-work Poverty as Idiosyncratic Unluck; The articulation of in-work poverty dynamics by people with lived experience themselves.

Joris Beek* (Erasmus University Rotterdam) en Menno Fenger (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

In-work poverty is often explained through structural analyses of low pay, precarious employment, or insufficient social protection. While these perspectives are crucial, less is known about how people who simultaneously work and experience poverty themselves articulate the dynamics that place them in, and keep them in, situations of in-work poverty. And the role they attribute to (semi-)public institutions.

We examine in-work poverty as understood and narrated by people with lived experience, focusing on how they attribute causes, responsibilities, and how they understand pathways into, through, and out of poverty. Drawing on existing public publications, newspaper articles (n=106), books (n=20), and case descriptions of social initiatives (n=189), we systematically analyzed storylines in which paid work, household circumstances, and institutional arrangements intersect.

Our analysis shows that experiences of in-work poverty are like known poverty experiences, with the additional burden of (precarious) work related stress and the feeling that work does not pay compared to social welfare. Furthermore, people often have a complicated relationship with (semi-)public institutions, who help them. And on the other hand, (semi-)public institutions are, to their experience, the cause of their situation. Last, the collection of stories shows how in-work poverty may be an outcome of idiosyncratic unluck: a combination of life events, unstable employment relations, and institutional misfit within welfare and administrative systems. These narratives reveal how precariousness is experienced as a cumulative and relational process, extending beyond the labor market into domains of care, debt, and future orientation.

By foregrounding people’s own interpretations, this paper contributes to debates on precariousness and structural insecurity by showing how in-work poverty is experienced as a relational and collective inequality dynamic rather than an individual problem. Additionally, by highlighting how institutionalized forms of insecurity unfold we show current welfare experiences with implications for solidarity, representation, and democratic social policy.

The reference address as an administrative survival strategy

Adèle Pierre* (UC Louvain, Bruss'help)

Based on fieldwork conducted in 2025 with Public Centres for Social Welfare (CPAS) and municipal administrations in Brussels, this contribution analyses the reference address as a mechanism structuring the practices and survival strategies of people without stable housing.

This mechanism allows individuals without a fixed residence to establish an administrative anchor and receive official correspondence. Initially designed for diverse populations, it has become a key gateway to social rights for people experiencing homelessness. Without registration in the population registry, access to essential resources such as unemployment benefits, certain forms of social assistance, or full healthcare coverage is severely limited (Pierre, 2021). The reference address is therefore not a mere administrative formality, but a genuine and necessary survival strategy.

“This is why the reference address is really something very important for homeless people, because it is the first right, the right to be registered in an administrative register. It is extremely important. Administrative death creates many problems.” (Interview with Forum – Bruxelles contre les inégalités)

Drawing on qualitative data, the contribution examines how individuals navigate the requirements of this mechanism. Access depends on demonstrating a territorial link to a municipality and complying with administrative expectations that often conflict with trajectories marked by instability and mobility. Individuals thus develop practices aimed at proving a local connection, maintaining administrative visibility, and avoiding situations of “administrative disappearance”, revealing both forms of agency and institutional constraints.

Finally, variations between CPAS generate inequalities in access and contribute to structuring differentiated trajectories in relation to homelessness. The reference address thus appears as a mechanism producing uneven administrative inclusion (Lefebvre, 2009; Lammens & Robben, 2025; Robben et al., 2023).

Het kraakt in de marge. Een sociaal-etnografische verkenning van kraken in de sociale hoogbouw in Nieuw Gent

Jef Timmermans* (KU Leuven)

Deze studie onderzoekt, vanuit een sociaal etnografische insteek, hoe kraken vorm krijgt binnen de sociale hoogbouw van Nieuw Gent. Door enkele maanden onder te dompelen in het reilen en zeilen van mensen die kraken, buurtbewoners en sociale professionals, beoogt dit onderzoek niet alleen inkijk te geven in hun alledaagse, en tegelijk ambigue en gecontesteerde woon- en leefwerelden, maar vooral ook ruimte te scheppen voor een meer sociaal perspectief op kraken, met het recht op wonen als onmiskenbaar richtpunt.

Vertrekkend vanuit de perspectieven en ervaringen van de betrokkenen zelf, verschijnt kraken als een divers, gelaagd en complex fenomeen, vaak verbonden aan een langer traject van dak- en thuisloosheid. En ondanks het dominante repressieve discours in media, politiek en beleid over het zogezegde ‘kraakprobleem’, toont de praktijk een veel genuanceerder beeld, waarin ook vormen van empathie, solidariteit en weerstand zichtbaar worden. Meer nog, toont kraken zich niet als een probleem op zich(zelf), maar gelinkt aan bredere maatschappelijke ontwikkelingen, zoals de urgente woonnood, de uitdagingen in de sociale woonsector en de evolutie naar een strenger en criminaliserend (anti-)kraakbeleid. De kraakwestie weerspiegelt dan ook vooral een fundamenteel tekort aan menswaardige woonoplossingen en -alternatieven, zowel op individueel niveau, door de vele hulpverleningsgrenzen en -uitdagingen, als op structureel niveau, als gevolg van een onrechtvaardige woonorde en asociaal woonbeleid. Hierbij is een belangrijke rol weggelegd voor het sociaal werk, waarbij kraken niet enkel benaderd moet worden als een individueel en publiek probleem, maar ook als een precaire, doch betekenisvolle kans tot hulpverlening, sociale rechtvaardigheid en verandering.

Culture I (English) – Voorzitter: Lisa Suckert – Lokaal D.017

Wardrobes Under Regulation: How Iranian Women Balance Constraint and Expression in Everyday Dressing

Narges Pirhayati* (KU Leuven)

In contemporary Iran, where state-imposed dress regulations intersect with informal moral, gendered, and class-based norms, women's clothing choices become a field in which they must continuously navigate legality, respectability, and aesthetic expectations. This article examines how women in Tehran navigate this dense assemblage of formal rules and social expectations, and how, through selecting and adjusting their clothing, they shape everyday practices of managing visibility and beauty. Drawing on twenty-one wardrobe-based interviews (sixteen women and five men), the study demonstrates how women select, categorize, and situationally align their outfits with prevailing norms related to gender, class, age, and religiosity.

The article demonstrates that aesthetic sensibility operates as a language of virtue and social legitimacy, and that clothing choices are neither mere compliance nor straightforward self-expression, but rather an active process of navigating between repertoires of covering and revealing.

Empirically, this study presents one of the first systematic applications of the Wardrobe Method in Iran, demonstrating how women's wardrobes serve as a microcosm of gendered moral regulation. By foregrounding situational navigation, ambiguity, and multiplicity, the study challenges binary framings of "modest vs. revealing" dress. It provides a more nuanced understanding of embodiment, morality, and the politics of visibility in authoritarian contexts.

Tastes That Divide: Lifestyle as a Moral Repertoire of Boundary-Making in Superdiverse Cities

Hannah Weytjens* (KU Leuven, Université Libre de Bruxelles), Giseline Kuipers (KU Leuven, Université Libre de Bruxelles) en Laura Hanquinet (KU Leuven, Université Libre de Bruxelles)

Cities today are often celebrated as spaces of diversity—valued for their cosmopolitanism and inclusivity, yet shaped by the everyday negotiations of difference among its inhabitants. Indeed, everyday inclusion coexists with more subtle forms of exclusion. This paper theorizes lifestyle as a moral repertoire of boundary-making: a socially legitimate way of demarcating who belongs where at a time when race, ethnicity, and class have become normatively contested bases for exclusion. We examine how lifestyle-coded evaluations—of amenities, aesthetics, comportment, and "good" ways of living—are mobilized to justify distancing, sorting, and belonging in superdiverse urban contexts.

While racialized, ethnic, and classed boundaries remain significant, they are increasingly articulated through lifestyle. References to authenticity, civility, taste, or appropriate ways of living allow residents to classify others and establish hierarchies, producing distinctions that obscure but ultimately reproduce underlying inequalities. The central question guiding this paper is: How are lifestyle-based distinctions mobilized as moral boundaries in superdiverse cities, and how do they shape struggles over legitimacy, recognition, and inclusion?

Empirically, the analysis draws on walking interviews and ethnographic fieldwork in the Brussels neighborhoods of Lower-Molenbeek and Matonge—areas profoundly shaped by migration and diversity. By bringing together theories of cultural distinction, boundary drawing, and morality, the paper conceptualizes urban diversity as a crucial site for examining how lifestyle operates as a morally acceptable register for exclusion. In doing so, it shows how classed and racialized differences are reconfigured, legitimized, and contested through everyday judgments about what constitutes a "good" way of living in the city.

Talking Culture: Dyadic Similarity, Tie Strength, and Cultural Inequality

Roza Meuleman* (Radboud Universiteit)

Cultural talk, i.e. the use of popular culture and the arts as a topic of conversation, plays a central role in everyday social interaction. Through cultural talk, individuals communicate their tastes, signal their cultural capital, and draw symbolic boundaries between themselves and others. In doing so, cultural talk functions as a key interactional mechanism through which social position is expressed and negotiated. It shapes inclusion and exclusion in social networks, facilitates access to higher-status ties and resources, and contributes to the reproduction of social inequality. Understanding who engages in cultural talk, and with whom, is therefore essential for understanding how cultural capital operates in interaction.

Despite its importance, research on cultural capital has primarily focused on cultural tastes, participation, and consumption, rather than on how culture becomes visible in interaction. This paper shifts the focus from culture as a resource individuals possess to culture as something they do. While previous research shows that cultural talk is socially stratified, particularly by socioeconomic status (Lizardo, 2016), we know surprisingly little about how individuals attune their cultural talk to their interaction partners.

Therefore, this paper studies to what extent cultural talk is shaped by two key relational mechanisms: dyadic similarity and tie strength. Using data from the Dutch LISS panel, this paper examines whether individuals are more likely to engage in cultural talk when interacting with similar others, e.g. in terms of socioeconomic status. Moreover, it studies whether individuals might be more likely to engage in highbrow cultural talk with strong ties, whereas popular cultural talk is less constrained by tie strength and occurs more broadly across interaction partners. This interactional lens moves beyond static measures of cultural capital and instead examines how it is mobilized in concrete social contexts, reproducing inequalities through everyday interactions.

Informal Care I: Household, Family and Work (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Marjolein Broese van Groenou – Lokaal D.019

Staying Employed or Stepping Back: Effects of Workplace Support on the Labor Supply of Informal Caregivers

Kevin Peeters* (Radboud Universiteit), Klara Raiber (Radboud Universiteit) en Ellen Verbakel (Radboud Universiteit)

As populations age and welfare states retrench, a growing share of the world's labor force is expected to combine paid work with informal care, intensifying the prevalence of work-care conflicts. Work-care conflicts could compel caregivers to adapt their work by reducing work hours or leaving the workforce. These work adaptations exacerbate existing labor shortages and have lasting consequences for the income, career trajectories, pension accumulation, and economic security of informal caregivers. Supportive workplaces are known to relieve caregivers from work-care conflicts; however, their value in preventing work adaptations remains to be underexplored in previous studies. Workplace support includes understanding from supervisors, from colleagues, and flexibility at work. This research answers how workplace support is associated with informal caregivers' decisions to reduce work hours and to leave the workforce and whether this varies among caregivers. By applying multilevel logistic regressions on retrospective data of informal caregivers in the Netherlands (N = 3,673 caregiving episodes of 2,112 caregiving), we suggest that informal caregivers who report higher levels of workplace support have a reduced likelihood to decrease their work hours and to stop working. We expect that the effects of workplace support on adapting labour supply are higher for female caregivers and caregivers who are caregiving in their childhood, adolescence, and in the early family formation stage, as well as for carers who face higher caregiving demands. These amplifying effects would indicate that workplace support functions as a relieving resource for informal caregivers, whose protective value increases when role conflicts become more intense. Workplace support is relieving for informal carers whose work-care conflicts are heightened by

the complexity of caregiving and by cultural expectations to combine informal caregiving with additional roles beyond paid work. The findings focus on the need for workplaces that support specific groups of informal caregivers in maintaining employment.

FAMCARE - The Role of Family in Care Networks and Wellbeing of the Elderly – A Knowledge Synthesis

Marjolein Broese van Groenou* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Jens Abbing (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Joukje Swinkels (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) en Silvia Klokgieters (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Due to the increasing pressure on informal care in long-term care, the research project FAMCARE (NWO-OC 2023-2026) has focused on the importance of family for the care network and the wellbeing of the elderly. Two points were particularly important: a comparison over time and a comparison of the perspective of care recipients and caregivers. Data was collected from older adults in the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam during the period 1992-2022, and in 2002 and 2023 also from their partners and children. This contribution provides a summary of five key findings in this project. 1) Over a period of thirty years, older adults (ages 65-85) have used less informal care and more formal care, 2) compared to 2002, the gender gap in providing help to elderly parents by daughters and sons has decreased, 3) older adults who use formal care report lower well-being in all time periods because they are more often lonely and/or perceive the care as insufficient, 4) negative experiences in sharing care contribute more strongly to the care burden of children in 2023 than in 2002, and 5) for children, not only their own experience of the care situation is important for their well-being, but also how their parent experiences the (in)formal care. These findings imply that determinants of care and well-being are fairly robust over time. The scientific challenge lies in theoretically and empirically connecting the perspectives of caregiver and care recipient in understanding the relationship between care and well-being.

Combining work and informal care from the perspective of informal caregivers, employers, and other stakeholders

Amber Daniëlle Zegers* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Alice de Boer (Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau) en Marjolein Broese van Groenou (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

The Dutch healthcare system is under increasing pressure due to aging, declining birth rates, and staff shortages. At the same time, the government encourages both longer home living for those in need of care and higher and longer labor participation. Previous research warns of a growing imbalance between the number of people in need of care and the number of potential informal caregivers, as well as an increase in the intensity of caregiving tasks. Absenteeism among working informal caregivers has far-reaching consequences for employees, care recipients, employers, formal care, and society. This emphasizes the need to better understand to what extent work and informal care can be combined, who experiences bottlenecks, and what support is needed.

The research, conducted by VU Amsterdam and the SCP with funding from the Gak Institute, included two quantitative and three qualitative sub-studies (2024-2025). Quantitative analyses are based on the Informal Care 2019 datasets and the Labour Supply Panel 2012-2024 (SCP). In addition, 25 working caregivers and 17 managers were interviewed, and two dialogue sessions were held with various stakeholders.

The findings underline the diversity among working caregivers. For the majority, the combination of work and caregiving (for now) is manageable, provided the care situation remains stable and work offers flexibility. However, a substantial minority with more intensive care tasks experiences significant strain. Intensive caregiving leads to an average contractual reduction of two hours per week for women. Intensive caregivers need support in multiple areas, especially in making the care situation manageable. Employers place the responsibility for discussing caregiving on employees, while employees experience barriers in this, and employers identify a knowledge gap regarding support. Both employees and employers emphasize that the greatest bottlenecks lie in the organization of care and support. Stakeholders identified shared interests but struggle with an appropriate

division of responsibilities and lack of connection between domains: 'no sidewalk is laid; everyone stays on their own paving stone'.

When parents take up additional informal care: How becoming sandwiched caregivers changes couple's care division in Germany

Aysegül Güneyli* (Radboud Universiteit), Enrique Alonso-Perez (Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin) en Anette Eva Fasang (Humboldt University of Berlin)

Population aging is fundamentally changing care needs and intergenerational care provision, with significant consequences for gender inequality in caregiving. Drawing attention to sandwiched caregivers, who often face more negative employment and wellbeing outcomes compared to non-sandwiched caregivers, this study investigates how the division of childcare and total unpaid care changes for couples with minor children, when they start additionally providing informal care. We use 23 waves (2001–2023) of the German Socio-Economic Panel Study, covering 1,564 different-sex couples who start providing informal care while continuing to care for at least one minor child in the household. Using staggered difference-in-differences models (and parents of minor children without informal care onset as counterfactuals), we estimate changes in care hours for women and men, as well as within-couple changes in the division of unpaid care before and after the onset of informal care. Contrasting theories on gender norms and relative resources, we derive hypotheses on whether (gender) gaps in caregiving may widen or narrow with emerging care demands. Preliminary findings show that on average, gender gaps in total unpaid caregiving moderately increase as women take up larger shares of informal care on top of already higher childcare loads. Yet, women's higher relative resources buffer the widening of the gender care gap. Our results suggest that rising informal care needs may contribute to a widening of the gender care gap in Germany.

Gender & Sexuality II: Cross-country comparison (English) – Voorzitter: Sarah Van de Velde – Lokaal E.201

Uneven support for women's employment? A cross-national analysis of perceived ideal working hours for mothers and fathers

Julia Rokos* (Dutch Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute), Lonneke van den Berg (Dutch Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute) en Matthijs Kalmijn (Dutch Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute)

Despite an increase in egalitarian attitudes concerning family role divisions, gender inequalities persist in the home and labor market. In what has been termed a stalled gender revolution, women still spend fewer hours in paid work than men, while men continue to perform a smaller share of care work. This discrepancy can be explained by ambiguous attitudes which may support mother's employment but on the other hand also assign them as primary caretaker. To better understand this mismatch, we explore an additional attitudinal dimension: the ideal working hours of parents. Rather than focusing only on whether mothers should work, we explore individual's attitudes regarding how much both mothers and fathers should work.

We use a pooled dataset of six European countries from the Generations and Gender Survey which includes a question asking about respondent's opinion on ideal weekly working hours of a mother and father of a young child. Based on the numeric responses we created within-couple typologies of labor division: the male-breadwinner model, 1.5-earner model, and equal labor division model. Our aim is to understand how support of different family role division models diverges between countries and on an individual level by comparing these with 'classic' attitude measures.

Our preliminary findings show that support for the male-breadwinner and equal-division model align with more traditional and liberal countries respectively. This pattern holds on the micro-level, where more traditional individuals align more closely with the male-breadwinner model and vice-versa. The 1.5-earner model on the

other hand presents a more inconsistent picture on both macro and micro levels. In countries with a high convergence towards liberal attitudes, part-time hours are more likely to relate to individual values, implying a move away from the binary assessment of whether mothers should or should not work towards more individualized attitudes with regards to working hours.

Experiences of prosperity and persecution among disabled queer people: A comparison of 30 European countries

Saskia Glas* (Radboud Universiteit)

We are currently witnessing worrying spikes in queerphobia across Europe. Those developments are begging the question how lgbtqia+ people are faring, especially as to their experiences of exclusion and wellbeing. A wealth of (psychological) work on minority stress has detailed how lgbtqia+ people's wellbeing is precarious and severely limited by discrimination, but this literature tends to spotlight particular segments of lgbtqia+ communities (e.g., able-bodied homosexual cisgender men) and overlook others, particularly those in more precarious situations who face layered stigma (e.g., disabled nonbinary people).

This study unravels experiences of exclusion and wellbeing among an overlooked segment of lgbtqia+ communities: disabled queer people. While disabled people are overrepresented in queer communities, scarce research centers the experiences of disabled lgbtqia+ people, even though they might qualitatively differ from enabled queer people's. At its core, this study argues that both queerness and disability are socially constructed, which means that disabled queer people's experiences might be context-dependent. Using the FRA's 2023 LGBTIQ Survey and multilevel analyses, I systematically compare how the experiences of 17,000 disabled queer people vary across thirty European country contexts.

Preliminary results show, in line with current understandings, that wellbeing among disabled lgbtqia+ people is limited and lowered by experiences of exclusion. On a scale from 0 to 10, average wellbeing among disabled queer people does not reach a sufficient grade across Europe (5.4) and is particularly low among those who experience much queerphobic exclusion (4.2). At the same time, in line with my framework, experiences starkly differ between countries; relatively speaking, the Netherlands does well (average wellbeing being 6.1 and exclusion only 1.4), while Albania does dismally (wellbeing of 4.1 and exclusion of 2.8). These findings underscore how disabled queer people's experiences are shaped by contextual forces, further calling our attention to the recent rise of queerphobic climates.

Gendered cohort differences in contemporary sexism across educational backgrounds and national gender equality contexts in 28 European countries

Koen Lucas* (Radboud Universiteit), Margriet van Hek (Radboud Universiteit), Roza Meuleman (Radboud Universiteit) en Gerbert Kraaykamp (Radboud Universiteit)

This article examines gendered cohort differences in three distinct forms of contemporary sexism – hostile, benevolent, and modern sexism – and whether these vary by educational attainment and countries' gender equality context. Modernisation theories suggest that younger cohorts increasingly adopt gender-egalitarian attitudes, yet recent research points to increasing traditional gender role attitudes among young men. We argue that these gendered patterns reflect distinct socialisation dynamics: women increasingly and uniformly reject sexist attitudes, whereas men's attitudes are shaped by processes of cultural liberalisation but also cultural backlash to women's emancipation. While some men adopt more egalitarian views, others express backlash-driven sentiments in response to (perceived) threats to traditional male privileges and identities. We argue that such threats are most salient among lower-educated young men, who may be especially vulnerable to status loss, and in more gender-egalitarian countries, where gendered threats may be more conspicuous. We use the most recent round of the European Social Survey (ESS 2024), covering 31,993 individuals across 28 countries. Preliminary results show that, among both men and women, older cohorts report higher levels of hostile sexism than younger cohorts, which is most pronounced among men. Cohort differences are further dependent on

education: differences between older and younger generations of both men and women are smaller among the lower-educated. While for men this aligns with cultural threat arguments, this is unexpected for women, as younger cohorts were anticipated to be uniformly less sexist. Interestingly, both men and women from younger cohorts exhibit higher levels of modern sexism, which is most pronounced among men. For women, differences in modern sexism are smaller among the lower-educated, whereas cohort patterns do not vary by education among men. We find no cohort differences in benevolent sexism, and, although we observe cross-national variation in cohort effects, this is not explained by countries' gender equality context.

The gender revolution: Stalled or still unfolding? Changes in gender role ideology across Western and Islamic countries, cohorts 1942-1995

Saba Aslam Khan* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Ineke Nagel (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) en Harry Ganzeboom (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

Prior literature suggests that there is an increase toward egalitarian values about gender roles but that this upward trend has stalled among recent generations. This claim is based on limited evidence from developed Western societies. It is questionable whether this claim can be upheld globally. The literature suggests that in Islamic countries -- including the ones that are developed -- the trend towards egalitarian gender values is less steep. In this paper we examine whether the trend in gender role ideologies is a global phenomenon or to what extent there are variations across countries including non-Western and developing countries. This paper studies the over-time trends in gender role ideology by drawing a comparison between Islamic and Western countries. Our analysis is based on repeated cross-sectional data sets of WVS and EVS [IVS] over the period of past two decades (2005-2022). Following Gerling et al. (2019) the concept of 'fractured modernization' that due to religiosity support for egalitarian ideologies would be lower in countries with an Islamic civilization. This paper extends their study by following the stages of reconstruction, replication and generalization – stepwise extending the original research by adding more countries, waves and variables and new conceptualizations. We find number of variations across western and Islamic countries. On average an upward linear trend over cohorts for western societies starts levelling off in most recent cohorts. However, the developments in trends towards egalitarian gender ideology is levelling off much steeper in Islamic societies.

Class bias and socio-economic inequalities in schools I (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Fenella Fleischmann & Sara Geven - Lokaal E.207

The allocation of students into within-class ability groups

Elke Buschman* (University of Amsterdam) en Sara Geven (University of Amsterdam)

Selection is a crucial element of virtually all educational systems. Most studies focus on sorting children into groups in secondary education (between-school tracking), showing how this between-school ability tracking can induce educational inequalities. For example, they find teacher biases in the assignment of students to different ability tracks (Batruch et al., 2023). Selection, however, already occurs before this formal moment as within classrooms, students with similar abilities are often placed in similar groups. While in the Netherlands between-school tracking is formalized, schools and teachers have considerable autonomy in shaping within-school grouping practices. Little is known about how within-class grouping practices take shape. How do Dutch teachers select students in such within-class ability groups? Which factors do they consider in the decision-making process, which criteria or underlying mechanisms play a role, and which beliefs guide their practices? Understanding these factors is important as they can lead to crucial differences between schools and teachers in grouping practices and subsequent inequalities in students' careers. Hence, we investigate these questions by interviewing about 30 teachers from primary schools in Amsterdam from which we know their student composition and grouping practices vary. We focus on teachers in Grade 2 up to 5, who are not directly involved with formulating final grade-6 track recommendations. We provide insight into the more subtle and informal ways in which the daily practices of teachers shape and sustain inequalities in education.

Socioeconomic biases in late childhood: Friendship preferences, trait evaluations, and expected interpersonal teacher behavior

Iris Boer* (Utrecht University)

Socioeconomic segregation is increasing, also in the Netherlands, the context of this study (Statistics Netherlands, 2023). Socioeconomic biases may further increase this segregation (Shutts et al., 2016) and thus exacerbate socioeconomic educational inequalities (Batruch et al., 2017). We aimed to address the research gap of children's (aged 9-12) biases toward different socioeconomic groups. Across multiple studies, we disentangled biases related to parental education and income, within friendship preferences, trait evaluations, and expected interpersonal teacher behaviour. Eighty-nine students (five classes, Grade 4-6) were asked how much they would like to befriend fictitious peers with different parental SES, and why. Another sample of 1,168 students (68 classes, three-waves within one schoolyear) was asked how smart and nice they believed fictitious peers with different SES (parental education and income) were. Further, we conducted a conjoint experiment with the same sample to assess the impact of migration background and various SES indicators on student-expected interpersonal teacher behaviour. A general pattern that we found is that parental income is a source of mixed stereotypes, whereas a high parental education is perceived as unequivocally positive. That is, children with high- educated parents - versus low-educated parents - were preferred for friendships, perceived as smarter and nicer, and expected to receive more positive interpersonal teacher behaviours. These biases emerged independently of children's own SES, implying that they concern social representations rather than ingroup-outgroup thinking. This is consistent with increasing evidence that especially education has become a social boundary in the Netherlands (SCP, 2021; Kuppens et al., 2018).

Unequal Returns to Non-Cognitive Skills: How Socioeconomic Background and School Context Shape Educational Attainment

Nathalie Aerts* (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Thijs Bol (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Eddie Brummelman (Universiteit van Amsterdam) en Mélanie Monfrance (Maastricht Universiteit)

As educational policy increasingly prioritizes the development of non-cognitive skills alongside educational achievement, understanding how these traits translate into long-term success is crucial. However, there is a substantial caveat on whether the return to perseverance differs across socioeconomic (SES) backgrounds. This preregistered study aims to address this gap by using a unique data linkage to analyse the complex interplay between students' perseverance and socioeconomic status (SES) in determining educational outcomes. We focus on secondary school diplomas, final exam grades, and enrolment in tertiary education. We integrate two rich, previously separated datasets: the OnderwijsMonitor Limburg (OML), which provides longitudinal survey data on non-cognitive development measured at the end of primary school (Grade 6) and the third year of secondary school (Grade 9), and the Netherlands Initiative for Educational Research (NCO), which contains national administrative register data from Statistics Netherlands regarding student trajectories and SES. By combining these sources, we examine whether the returns to perseverance vary for students from diverse SES backgrounds. Drawing on a functional approach, we argue that lower returns for disadvantaged students are not an individual deficit but a consequence of unequal societal structures. We, therefore, exploratorily investigate whether school characteristics, such as school types, explain this SES discrepancy in returns. By demonstrating that rewards for non-cognitive skills are stratified by SES, our findings provide insight into structural inequalities and how the education system selectively rewards specific student traits. These insights are important for policymaking aimed at reducing inequality in Dutch education and beyond.

Navigating the Dutch Educational System: A Study of Inequality in Student Trajectories

Lisanne van Dam* (Utrecht University), Antonie Knigge (Utrecht University), Ineke Maas (Utrecht University) en Susanne Rijken (Inspectie van het Onderwijs)

Inequality of educational opportunity is widespread and persistent and this inequality is especially large in educational systems with early tracking, such as the Dutch educational system. These systems often offer some flexibility options (e.g. switching between tracks), which can repair misallocation of students and possibly

mitigate the consequences of early tracking. However, whether flexibility options actually decrease educational inequality is, among other things, dependent on which children make use of these options. Therefore the central questions in this study are: What are the pathways used by students in the Dutch educational system? And how does the use of possible pathways differ with regards to background characteristics of the students, such as gender, parental SES, and migration background? Prior studies often focus on studying one specific flexibility option or on one part of the educational trajectory. However, school careers consist of longer routes through secondary and tertiary education in which multiple flexibility options might be used. Little is known about how children combine these different forms of flexibility and which students use these different routes. We use longitudinal data of student enrolment, based on the Dutch 1-cijferbestanden, to provide insight into student trajectories. First, we use sequence analysis to show the full range of possible pathways. In a second step, we use cluster analysis to distinguish meaningful subgroups of similar pathways. Finally, multinomial logistic regression is used to analyse the relationship between students' background characteristics and the participation in different pathways.

Parenting and Family Life after Divorce (English/Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Bieke Maes - Lokaal A.205

Halftijds aanwezig, voltijds ouder: ouderlijke agency binnen een gelijkverdeelde verblijfsregeling na scheiding

Ine Vanden Plas* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Binnen hedendaagse samenlevingen worden partnerrelaties steeds vaker beëindigd, terwijl ouderschap doorgaans als een blijvende verantwoordelijkheid wordt opgevat. Deze spanning wordt zichtbaar na een scheiding, wanneer het partnerschap volledig eindigt, kinderen hun tijd verdelen tussen beide ouders en ouders hun ouderlijke verantwoordelijkheid onverminderd blijven opnemen. In België resulteert een aanzienlijk deel van deze relatiebreuken in een gelijkverdeelde verblijfsregeling, die wettelijk als standaardregeling is vastgelegd. De overgang naar twee afzonderlijke huishoudens leidt tot een ingrijpende herorganisatie van het gezinsleven. Ouders moeten hun dagelijks leven opnieuw vormgeven, hun ouderrol invullen binnen kortere contactmomenten en blijven samenwerken met hun ex-partner. Hoewel gelijkverdeeld verblijf gepaard gaat met positieve effecten op de ouder-kindrelatie, brengt het ook organisatorische, emotionele en financiële uitdagingen met zich mee. De combinatie van halftijdse fysieke aanwezigheid en blijvende ouderlijke verantwoordelijkheid roept vragen op over hoe ouders hun ouderrol in deze context vormgeven. Deze studie richt zich op de agency van ouders na een scheiding en onderzoekt hoe zij hun ouderrol invullen binnen een gelijkverdeelde verblijfsregeling. Aan de hand van een kwalitatieve benadering wordt inzicht verkregen in de ervaringen van ouders die hun weg zoeken tussen ex-partnerschap, gelijkverdeeld verblijf en voltijds ouderschap.

Verblijfsco-ouderschap onder druk: werk-privébalans van alleenstaande ouders met verblijfsco-ouderschap

Caro Vanheuckelom* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Verblijfsco-ouderschap is de voorbije decennia uitgegroeid tot een veelvoorkomende verblijfsregeling na een scheiding in België. Hoewel deze regeling voordelen biedt voor zowel kinderen als ouders, brengt zij voor ouders die na een scheiding alleen komen te staan ook specifieke uitdagingen met zich mee in de combinatie van werk en gezin. In het bijzonder kan het afwisselende karakter van zorgverantwoordelijkheden invloed hebben op de organisatie van arbeid en gezinstaken, waardoor de werk-privébalans van ouders in deze specifieke verblijfsregeling onder druk kan komen te staan.

Een evenwichtige werk-privébalans is van groot belang voor het welzijn van ouders, aangezien een goede balans bijdraagt aan een betere fysieke en mentale gezondheid, minder stress en een grotere tevredenheid in zowel het werk- als het gezinsleven. Wanneer deze balans verstoord raakt, kan dit leiden tot verhoogde tijdsdruk, stress en overbelasting, met mogelijke gevolgen voor het functioneren op het werk, het gezinsleven en het algemeen welzijn van ouders. Voor alleenstaande ouders met verblijfsco-ouderschap kunnen deze risico's verder worden

versterkt door de wisselende zorgverantwoordelijkheden.

Dit onderzoek heeft als doel inzicht te verwerven in hoe alleenstaande ouders met verblijfsco-ouderschap de combinatie van werk en gezin ervaren. Daarbij wordt aandacht besteed aan de manier waarop zij hun dagelijkse leven organiseren, welke moeilijkheden zij ondervinden en welke strategieën zij hanteren om een evenwicht te behouden tussen professionele en familiale verplichtingen. Het onderzoek vertrekt vanuit een kwalitatieve benadering, waarbij de focus ligt op de subjectieve ervaringen van alleenstaande ouders met verblijfsco-ouderschap.

Plusouderschap in hedendaagse gezinnen. Nood aan een wettelijk kader?

Bieke Maes* (KULeuven), Jan Van Bavel (KULeuven)

In België is het kerngezin nog in grote mate de norm in het familierecht, met weinig wetgeving voor plusouders. In een context van een groeiend aantal nieuw samengestelde gezinnen, argumenteren experts steeds vaker voor maar ook tegen een wettelijk kader voor plusouders. Maar wat vinden gezinsleden daar nu zelf van? Ervaren plusouders (praktische) hiaten in de wetgeving? En indien dat het geval is, zijn juridische ouders en kinderen het daarmee eens? Bovendien, hoe kijken mensen die geen deel uitmaken van een nieuw samengesteld gezin naar het thema? In deze studie gebruiken we data van de tweede ronde van Scheiding in Vlaanderen (SiV, 2024-2025) om inzicht te vergaren in de visie van gezinsleden in diverse gezinsvormen. De resultaten tonen een diffuus beeld, met bij elke respondentengroep (bv. alleenstaande ouder, juridische ouder in nieuw samengesteld gezin ...) zowel duidelijke voorstanders als sterke tegenstanders van een wettelijke kader voor plusouders. Het minste enthousiasme is te vinden bij alleenstaande ouders. Om deze resultaten beter te begrijpen, bekeken we ook mogelijke voorspellers aan de hand van cumulatieve logit-modellen per respondentengroep. We keken daarbij naar demografische kenmerken, familiale relaties en ervaringen, en kenmerken van het huishouden. Dat biedt een genuanceerd inzicht in hoe persoonlijke ervaringen de houding ten opzichte van een mogelijk wettelijk kader mee vormen en voegt het perspectief van familieleden toe aan het huidige debat.

Als ouders scheiden: de ervaring van het kind

Romy De Laet* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Wanneer ouders uit elkaar gaan, ligt de focus in het publieke debat en in professionele praktijken vaak op de juridische en praktische aspecten van de scheiding. Voor kinderen begint het verhaal echter op een heel ander niveau. Zij ervaren een scheiding niet als een abstract juridisch gegeven, maar als een ingrijpende verandering in hun dagelijkse leefwereld. Relaties, routines en gevoelens van verbondenheid komen onder druk te staan. Daarom is het essentieel om te vertrekken vanuit hun beleving en om hun positie centraal te stellen in sociologische analyses van gezinsveranderingen.

Deze bijdrage maakt gebruik van de studie Scheiding in Vlaanderen, een grootschalig cross sectioneel onderzoek dat met een eerste dataverzameling in 2010 en een tweede golf in 2025 unieke inzichten biedt in de leefwereld van kinderen na scheiding. Door deze twee meetmomenten te combineren, wordt het mogelijk om verschuivingen in gezinsstructuren, opvoedingsarrangementen en ouder-kindrelaties over tijd in kaart te brengen. Daarbij wordt bijzondere aandacht besteed aan hoe kinderen verschillende gezinssituaties ervaren, zoals co-ouderschap, eenoudergezinnen en nieuw samengestelde gezinnen.

Het centraal stellen van kinderervaringen maakt duidelijk dat scheiding niet enkel een gebeurtenis is tussen volwassenen, maar een proces dat diep ingrijpt in de leefwereld van kinderen. Hun perspectieven tonen hoe zij omgaan met continuïteit en verandering binnen het gezin, en waarom deze inzichten essentieel zijn voor een bredere sociologische duiding van gezinsveranderingen.

Politieke Sociologie III (Nederlands), thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Willem de Koster, Niels Spierings & Marc Lubbers - Lokaal A.206

Justifying EU immigration policy at home: Citizens' conditional support for national implementation

Thijs Lindner* (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam), Agnieszka Kanas (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam) en Asya Zhelyazkova (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam)

How do citizens respond to governmental efforts to justify the domestic implementation of contested supranational policies? While research shows that strategies such as blame shifting or policy defense can shape public legitimacy, little is known about how these effects vary across social groups. This paper examines conditional legitimacy responses to governmental justifications for implementing European Union (EU) immigration policy, focusing on the social and cultural bases of contestation.

Drawing on a preregistered survey experiment in the Netherlands and Germany ($n = 2,279$), we compare three strategies: blame-shifting to the EU, responsibility-based defense, and responsiveness-based defense. Informed by theories about the unequal economic and political consequences of globalization, we analyze variation in responses across citizens by their material circumstances (income and education) and their cultural beliefs (trust in the EU and immigration attitudes).

Results show that more competitive groups of globalization – higher-income citizens with positive views on cultural diversity – are particularly receptive to governmental justifications, especially responsibility-based framing that presents implementation as a moral commitment to long-term societal goals. In contrast, their less affluent counterparts – the more vulnerable groups of globalization – respond less consistently positive. Moreover, surprisingly, even EU-skeptical citizens who view cultural diversity positively are receptive to all justification strategies.

By integrating political sociology with research on multilevel governance, the paper shows that legitimation of a highly contested supranational policy implementation hinges on unequal social consequences of globalization and cultural frames shaping interpretations of political justification, with implications for accountability, democratic legitimacy, and polarization in Europe.

Shaping events: perspectives from within Dutch journalism and politics

Thijs van Dooremalen* (Leiden University)

Even though most sociologists agree that the public meanings and significance of events (terrorist attacks, extreme weather, wars, and so on) are socially constructed, we know little about the perspectives of those actors who are actually involved in this construction process, such as journalists, politicians, spin doctors, and talking heads. What criteria do they have for considering an occurrence an important event? Where is, according to them, the 'definition power' of events (e.g., in institutions, the cultural context, the momentum, specific individuals)? This paper answers these questions by using data from interviews that I am currently conducting with actors working in Dutch journalism and politics. Theoretically, it combines a sociology of valuation and evaluation perspective (Lamont, 2012) with insights from literature on the signification of events, to get to an in-depth understanding of how events do (not) come about.

Young, single, and divided? Exploring the gender gap in work–family attitudes across German cohorts

Quita Muis* (Tilburg University), Katya Ivanova (Tilburg University)

Public debate has increasingly emphasized a widening gender gap in political preferences among young people, with claims that young women are moving to the left while young men either lag behind or even shift to the right. Scholars and commentators alike have suggested that such polarization may have far-reaching social consequences, particularly for relationship formation and singlehood. Yet, evidence on whether these dynamics can be observed in empirical data remains mixed, partly because the left–right dimension of political preferences

encompasses a wide range of issues whose salience varies across countries and over time. In this study, we turn to gender attitudes about work and family as one central cultural dimension that may underpin political polarization between young women and men. Drawing on data from the German Family Panel (pairfam, release 14.2), we employ a cohort-sequential design that follows respondents from four birth cohorts (1971–1973, 1981–1983, 1991–1993, 2001–2003) across three life stages: youth (16–18), early adulthood (26–28), and established adulthood (36–38). Our primary focus lies on German youth, though comparisons with older cohorts allow us to assess whether any observed patterns are unique to young people or extend into adulthood. We examine three questions: (1) whether a gender gap in gender-related attitudes is present among youth; (2) whether this gap has widened across successive cohorts; and (3) whether the gap is more pronounced among single than partnered youth, as a proxy for whether polarization may act as a barrier to romantic relationship formation.

Responsibility, Performance, Trust and Spending: A Correlational Class Analysis of Social Policy Perceptions

Anne Van Doore* (Universiteit van Amsterdam) ; Matthijs Gillissen (KU Leuven)

Much research has examined public support for social policies, highlighting that this support cannot be understood as a single, uniform attitude. Individuals can have diverging judgements regarding the performance of policies, the state's responsibility to uphold certain policies, the trustworthiness of political institutions to implement policies, and their spending preferences for these policies. This implies that social policy perceptions should be understood in the context of broader belief systems. While social policy researchers are increasingly aware of this, in practice, studying social policy perceptions in such a holistic manner has mainly remained restricted to the study of welfare deservingness perceptions. Moreover, cross-national research into social policy belief systems remains limited due to a lack of rich survey data on social policy perceptions across countries. This article fills this gap by examining the belief systems that structure attitudes towards social policies across eight European countries using Correlational Class Analysis. Specifically, using novel survey data that contains rich information on social policy perceptions, five clusters of similar country-specific correlational-classes are identified. These clusters differ in the associations between trust judgements, performance evaluations, responsibility perceptions, and spending preferences. These 'attitudinal network' clusters reflecting distinct welfare belief-systems are discussed using network-centrality statistics, outlining the importance and role of specific attitudes for certain belief-systems. Moreover, to underscore that these are attitudinal networks and not response classes, the means and deviations to selected items per identified cluster are discussed. In a last step, the socio-demographic and socio-economic basis of these belief-systems are examined using Multinomial Ordinal Logistic regression analyses. In all, this article underscores the necessity to understand social policy perceptions in a multi-dimensional and holistic manner, rather than something reducible to support for or opposition against government intervention.

Environment & Climate: Politics & Governance (English) – Voorzitter: Kris Bachus - Lokaal Scaldis

Dirty work, clean narratives: exploring managerial narratives in Belgian waste management

Elena Pease* (UCLouvain)

The distribution of waste and waste work is unequal both within societies and between countries. Waste management facilities, including collection hubs, sorting centers and landfill sites, are frequently located near or in marginalized communities. Moreover, waste work is often performed by marginalized groups. Globally, the Global North disproportionately produces three times more waste than the Global South, which it often exports to the Global South disguised as donations or as trade. What is categorized as waste is furthermore dependent on societal norms, which are subject to change over time. Discourses have been demonstrated to possess considerable potency in their capacities to reproduce established power structures, whilst simultaneously unveiling wasting relationships: who and what is valued, and who and what is wasted. Therefore, this research employs a critical socio-linguistic discourse analysis to illuminate the social reproduction of power relations in waste management facilities.

A wide range of companies, each with distinct profit and social missions, are involved in the management of waste streams. Scholars describe Social and Solidarity enterprises (SSEs) as an alternative to business as usual and as offering a solution for a just transition towards a circular economy. Considering this in the context of a neoliberal regime however, where relationships between SSEs and governments are weakened, other scholars question SSEs as the absolute solution. As demonstrated in extant literature, it is anticipated that SSE managers will exhibit narratives that prioritize employees' well-being and more thorough just transition ambitions than organizations with a profit mission. This hypothesis is examined through a critical analysis of 60 interviews conducted with managers of as well for-profit as not-for-profit waste organizations in Belgium, where we explore their narratives on the waste their companies manage, their position in the global waste chain, and on waste work in their companies.

Situating the politics of extended urbanisation: the ecological compensation landscapes in the port of Antwerp, Belgium

Yannis Tzaninis* (Universiteit Antwerpen)

Where exactly is the politics in the politics of extended urbanisation? While work on extended (and planetary) urbanisation has demonstrated how it unfolds across hinterlands and logistical corridors, their political content is often framed through abstract, deterritorialised accounts of global capitalism. In this paper we aim to locate the politics of extended urbanisation by examining ongoing struggles on urban-nature relations between the port authorities, local farmers and rural village communities and environmental movements in and around the port of Antwerp in Belgium. We approach the port of Antwerp as hinterland defined by Brenner and Katsikis (2023) as non-city spaces of globalised commodity production and transnational supply chains. We follow Brenner and Katsikis in pursuing a relational approach to the hinterland by analysing it as a continuously (re)produced, contested and fought over socio-spatial formation rather than as a static spatial 'container' of social relations.

To locate the politics of extended urbanisation in Antwerp's hinterland, we focus on two main processes: a. the port-city interface as the outcome of relational geometries of 'continuous (re)alignments and (de)couplings of interests, assets and activities within actor-networks' (Van den Berghe et al., 2018: 56), revolving around port operations, agricultural activities, rural community life and environmental protection, and b. the concomitant production of 'nature compensation areas', engineered landscapes produced through negotiation to offset environmental destruction through port development under EU environmental regulation.

Specifically we empirically analyse the political struggles surrounding the Port of Antwerp's expansion on the river Scheldt's left bank since the early 2000s. Large scale port expansion in the Antwerp hinterland started in the 1950s, but ran into increasing opposition, reaching a peak in the 1990s when expansion affected the village of Doel with depopulation and demolition, while requiring the creation of extensive nature compensation areas. Drawing on policy and planning documents, expert interviews, environmental impact assessments and public discourse, we trace the political struggles between the Port Authority and local government, the local rural community of Doel and surrounding polder villages, and the environmental and agricultural organisations mobilised at the time. In that way we demonstrate how the hinterland emerges as a negotiated, political terrain where local community, global supply chains and different and conflicting visions of nature intersect.

We locate the politics of extended urbanisation on the one hand in concrete institutional mechanisms like environmental law and nature compensation planning, and on the other in regional struggles of urban-nature relations and the hybrid infrastructural landscapes produced, rather than only in the abstract processes of global spatial capitalism. We thus revisit the hinterlands as politically produced 'compensation landscapes', showing how 'nature' becomes a governance technology used to reorganise regional space. Lastly we demonstrate how port expansions produce fragmented socio-ecological territories, where villages and logistics zones are bound together through nature 'compensations'. In this way, the hinterland emerges not simply as an operational landscape of global logistics, but as a locally significant terrain where the port-city interface is materially negotiated.

From ambition to action in support of socio-ecologically just climate transitions. A scoping review of the EU's New European Bauhaus program

Elieen Stouten* (FWO, KULeuven), Sayari Roy Choudhury (KULeuven), Karin Hannes (KULeuven)

In 2020, the European Commission launched the New European Bauhaus (NEB), a policy and funding program aimed at creating more sustainable, beautiful and inclusive living environments. Framed within the EU's Green Deal, the NEB supports local projects by offering policy tools and funding for enacting a climate transition that is not only ecologically but also socially just. In total, more than 850 million euros have been allocated to the program (European Commission, n.d.).

Although ambitious in values (i.e., sustainable, beautiful and inclusive) and working principles (i.e., participation, trans disciplinaryity and multi-level engagement), the extent to which these ambitions are met in practice on a program rather than individual project level remain relatively unexplored.

We conducted a scoping review (a) to gain insight into how NEB-inspired interventions currently are conducted and, (b) to increase our understanding about the socio-spatial impact these programs generate in society. The review informs an FWO research project exploring ecologically and socially just mobilities futures in European metropolitan cities.

Preliminary scoping review results suggest that reporting across projects is irregular in terms of public accessibility and types of sources, as well as extensiveness and coherence of reporting. Moreover, inclusivity of participant sampling, participatory process and reported outcomes are often conflated – mostly embedded in Western and anthropocentric conceptualizations of 'social justice'. Lastly, the measurement of reported outcomes is relatively limited, providing no insight into the underlying theories of change. Final results will be presented alongside an argument for the potential of scoping reviews to inform policy and practice.

Sociology of Work: Worker agency & voice (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr - Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere)

Migrant labour in Dutch supermarket logistics from 1960-2025: transformations in jobs, autonomy, control and voice

Lisa Berntsen* (De Burcht, Scientific Research Institute for the Dutch Labour Movement) en Rosa Kösters (IISG, Institute for Social History)

This paper examines the transformation of work in Dutch supermarket logistics through a company case study of a large supermarket chain. We trace the changes in work and workforce composition from the first days of migrant labour recruitment till the present day, where the majority of the workers in the warehouses are migrants working on temporary agency contracts.

With this case study we contribute to the literature on labour market segmentation and migrant labour regimes, showing how company and sectoral industrial relations, regulations regarding flexible employment and migration, and worker representation mechanisms impact conditions of migrant work over time. Specifically, the temporal dimension of this paper, tracing developments over a period of 60 years, extends more contemporary and comparative perspectives on sectoral transformations in the use and conditions of migrant labour (Keizer et al. 2023; Marino and Keizer, 2022).

In this paper we specifically discuss developments in employer strategies of recruitment and retainment, transformations in the organization and fragmentation of work, and trade union strategies to represent migrant workers. Our analysis shows that increasing automation of the logistics process, combined with rising flexibilization and precarization of the workforce through temporary agency contracting, decreases worker

autonomy and increases employer control. Yet also in this context, worker protests are present, even in its most visible form as collective strike actions. We discuss similarities and differences in collective action motivations and repertoires with migrant strike examples from 1980, 2013 and 2023. Our paper draws on both archival research and interviews with trade unionists and migrant workers conducted in past and present research projects.

Resisting AI Replacement: AI Exposure and the Willingness to Join Labor Protest and Strikes.

Giedo Jansen* (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

The rise of AI in organizations may be a source of labor conflict and worker unrest. While AI promises substantial productivity gains, it also raises concerns about its impact on employment, wages, and workers' well-being. In particular AI-driven job replacement has become an emerging issue for labor unrest. There have been reports of AI-related worker protests and strikes in a variety of industries, most notably in the United States creative sector (e.g., the strike by the Writers Guild of America in 2023).

Although the academic interest in the relationship between workplace automation and labor unrest predates the recent rise of AI, there is surprisingly little research studying workers' fear of automation and their intention to resist technological displacement via collective action. This study examines whether workers' exposure to and perceptions of AI in the workplace are linked to worker' willingness to join labor protest and strikes.

Drawing on a novel survey conducted among working people in the Netherlands in 2024 (N=2,115), the study tests hypotheses based on two theoretical approaches. First, the egocentric risk-insurance framework assumes that individuals participate in protest through a self-interested risk-assessment, predicting that those who feel most at risk of AI are most willing to join protest addressing these risks. Second, the alternative 'sociotropic' model suggests that the willingness to join AI-related labor protest is also driven by collective concerns, considering harms related to society as a whole.

Workers' strategies in low-pay occupations in the Netherlands and Italy

Jane Siwa* (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), Wike Been (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) en Rafael Wittek (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Structural changes in the world of work that led to flexibilization had an enormous impact on working conditions, resulting in a general process of decentralization and individualisation. In this context, we witness, on the one hand, diversifying forms of individual responses to poor working conditions—exits, multiple-job-taking, self-employment or neglect—and on the other hand, the persistence of collective actions—industrial strikes, rights-based collective solidarity, and representative claims. While the historic decline of trade union membership in Europe indicates that fewer workers are turning to unions to improve working conditions, there are indications of diverse forms of workers' agency— whether individual or collective. However, literature on individual and collective strategies of workers has diverged into a distinct set of research, neglecting the fact that they constitute a palette of options workers can deploy. Moreover, these studies have largely investigated how structures influence workers' agency but have left the interplay between structure and subjectivity, implicit or hidden. To better understand the changing patterns of workers' agency in contemporary labour markets in Europe, we investigated individual and collective strategies together, focusing on work histories of workers in retail and healthcare sectors in the Netherlands and Italy. Based on Archer's theory of reflexivity, we unpacked the interwovenness of material conditions (contexts) and workers' subjectivity (concerns) as they develop a practicable and sustainable way of going through their working life. We conducted 75 semi-structured interviews with qualitative vignettes and from here, derive logics behind workers' action patterns as they navigate increasingly precarious work environments.

Shades of Income Dependence in Datawork

Luisa Burchartz* (Utrecht University) en Floor Fiers (University of Amsterdam)

For platform workers, income made on platforms can take different roles in their lives. Some platform workers use this income as a primary source, while others use it to supplement income from more standard employment. For microworkers, as platform workers who train AI and complete microtasks (e.g., on MTurk), full dependence on this work is usually impossible within the EU. Still, there are different shades in the dependence that becomes evident in how microworkers describe their work and income. In this paper, we extend the concept of income dependence by formulating different shades of dependence. Here, we draw on 137 in-depth interviews with microworkers in the EU and a quantitative survey with approximately 3000 microworkers. With the qualitative component, we connect and identify factors that impact dependence in the descriptions of interviewees (e.g., being an immigrant and not being able to speak the local language, anxiety to work in standard employment) to experiences and perspectives on microwork. Here, one key way of understanding dependence is also how the microworkers discuss their own liberty to reject tasks, as well as their emotional connection to their work. After identifying multiple dimensions and shades of dependence, we then conduct a quantitative survey to understand the multiplicity of income dependence that microworkers experience. We are currently analysing the interviews with a focus on this concept and plan to conduct the survey in March.

16:40-17:55

Discrimination & Integration (English) – Voorzitter: Gert Verschraegen - Lokaal C.204

Majority Acculturation Expectations and Support for Integration Policies: Correlational and Experimental Evidence from Belgium

Defne Aksit* (KULeuven) en Cecil Meeusen (KULeuven)

Majority group members' expectations towards immigrants critically inform both wider intergroup relations and immigrants' successful integration into society (Berry, 1997). Across two studies utilizing data from a large-scale probability survey of Belgian citizens (BNES), including an embedded video experiment (Nstudy 1 = 1477, Nstudy 2 = 530), we investigate majority group members' acculturation expectations (i.e., affordances of heritage culture maintenance and demands for majority culture adoption, respectively), and their support for various immigration policies. We focus on majority perceptions of how immigrants acculturate as one explanatory ground which informs majority expectations of immigrants' acculturation. In Study 1, we aim to cross-sectionally replicate earlier findings that perceptions of immigrants' acculturation practices inform majorities' acculturation expectations, as mediated via perceived symbolic threat. This replication is timely given the current political backlash against migration and increasingly negative discourse and restrictive integration policies in Belgium. In line with earlier work, we expect that the more majority group members perceive immigrants as adopting to the mainstream culture, the less threatened they should feel, and consequently be more open to immigrants' culture maintenance. Since majority perceptions of immigrants' acculturation practices do not necessarily reflect the reality of how immigrants actually acculturate, Study 2 utilizes a new survey experiment presenting accurate information on Moroccan and Turkish immigrants' acculturation – based on Belgian Ethnic Minority Election Study (BEMES) survey data – as a rigorous test of informational impact on majority group members acculturation expectations and support for various immigration policies. Participants were assigned to one of three contrasting conditions, where they received selective information on Moroccan or Turkish immigrants' actual acculturation: (1) highlighting that immigrants engage with Belgian culture and society, (2) emphasising strong(er) orientations towards the heritage culture, or (3) control (reading test). The two immigrant groups were randomized in the experiment. We expect exposure to the first frame to reduce restrictive acculturation expectations as well as increase support for inclusive integration policies compared to the second frame. Data is already collected. Analyses are ongoing and will be completed well in advance of the conference. Implications for theory and practical applications of the findings will be discussed.

De werking van dualiteit in het Rotterdamse inburgeringsbeleid: een reconstructie van de beleidstheorie

Roxy Damen* (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam), Jaco Dagevos (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam en Sociaal Cultureel Planbureau) en Meghan Rens (Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam)

Met de inwerkingtreding van de nieuwe Wet inburgering in januari 2022 beoogde de overheid eerdere tekortkomingen te adresseren. Gemeenten kregen opnieuw de regie over het inburgeringsaanbod en de monitoring daarvan, en er werden drie inburgeringsroutes geïntroduceerd om beter aan te sluiten bij de capaciteiten en behoeften van nieuwkomers.

De wet is ingestoken als 'lerend en adaptief', wat ruimte laat voor tussentijdse bijsturing. Tegen die achtergrond doen we in Rotterdam vier jaar lang (2022-2026) onderzoek naar de opzet, uitvoering en resultaten van het nieuwe inburgeringsbeleid.

In de afgelopen onderzoeksperiode (2024–2025) voerden we, aan de hand van focusgroepen met professionals en individuele interviews met inburgeraars, verdiepend onderzoek uit naar de werking van dualiteit: het combineren van taal leren en participeren. Dualiteit is een belangrijk subdoel binnen de nieuwe wet en wordt verwacht verscheidene positieve gevolgen te hebben voor de inburgering. Uit eerder onderzoek blijkt echter dat dualiteit nog verschillende uitdagingen oplevert. Om de veronderstelde werkzame mechanismen systematisch in kaart te brengen, reconstrueerden wij de beleidstheorie rondom dualiteit en toetsten deze aan de Rotterdamse inburgeringspraktijk.

Onze bevindingen laten een duidelijke spanning zien tussen beleidstheorie en uitvoering. Zo concluderen we dat een duidelijke beleidsdoelstelling rondom dualiteit ontbreekt, zowel landelijk als op het niveau van de gemeente. In de praktijk wordt vooral dualiteit in ruime zin gefaciliteerd, waarbij taal leren en participeren naast elkaar, in plaats van gelijktijdig, plaatsvinden. Bovendien blijkt dat dualiteit niet voor iedereen haalbaar of wenselijk is en sterk afhankelijk blijkt van contextuele randvoorwaarden. In sommige gevallen kunnen taalverwerving en participatie elkaar zelfs belemmeren in plaats van dat de combinatie positieve gevolgen heeft voor inburgeraars.

Deze resultaten onderstrepen het belang van explicitering van beleidsdoelen, maatwerk en bieden aanknopingspunten voor sociologisch onderzoek naar de werking en verbetering van (inburgerings-)beleid, zowel in Nederland als daarbuiten.

When Is a Victim "Immoral"? Legal Ambiguity, Gender Norms, and Judicial Bias

Alina Ibragimova* (University of Vienna)

Research in sociology of law consistently shows that judges rely on cognitive shortcuts and cultural stereotypes, especially gender stereotypes, when formal legal criteria are unclear. This study examines one such mechanism: the recognition of "victim's immoral behavior" as a mitigating circumstance, a provision that reduces the perpetrator's sentence when the victim's prior conduct is deemed morally culpable. Russian criminal law offers a particularly explicit case of this: Article 61 formally codifies this category without defining its boundaries, making it a productive empirical site for studying how gender stereotypes operate within legal institutions. Similar doctrines exist in other countries: provocation, victim contribution, shared fault, and share a common feature — interpretive openness that allows cultural norms to enter formal legal reasoning.

The empirical analysis draws on a corpus of 4,533 court verdicts for intentional serious bodily harm from 2020–2021. Computational text analysis was used to identify behavioral categories attributed to victims: verbal provocation, alcohol intoxication, alcohol abuse, and jealousy-provoking behavior. Then regressions were applied to examine which behaviors predict judicial recognition of "immorality", and whether this varies by victims' sex and judges' sex.

Verbal provocation is the strongest predictor of recognized immorality across all subgroups, for both male and female victims, and for both male and female judges. Gender differences emerge specifically when judge sex and victim sex are analyzed together. Female judges are significantly less likely to recognize jealousy-provoking behavior as immoral for female victims, consistent with in-group solidarity. They are more likely to treat male victims' alcohol abuse as immoral, reflecting anchoring on gendered social statistics.

These findings illustrate how legal ambiguity creates a structural opening for gender stereotypes to shape formal decisions. The study contributes to sociological debates on institutional discrimination, victim blaming, and the reproduction of gender inequality in legal institutions.

Homelessness and other forms of precarity II: Different Data Sources (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Stef Adriaenssens & Koen Hermans - Lokaal D.011

How begging functions as a strategy among the homeless: an analysis based on outreach data
Stef Adriaenssens* (KULeuven), Mieke Schrooten (Odisee Hogeschool en Universiteit Antwerpen) en Bert De Bock (Diogenes)

The lives of people in precarious situations are often poorly documented. Consequently, authorities and organisations lack reliable information to develop policies that meet these groups' needs. This certainly applies to people living on the streets. Some of them may beg for survival. Although this activity is highly controversial, it has hardly been the subject of quantifying scientific research. We analyse six years of individual records kept by Diogenes, a non-profit providing outreach services to homeless people in Brussels. We aim to improve our understanding of the role that begging plays in the lives of street people.

The analyses show how the characteristics of this group living on the streets correlate with begging activity. Results indicate that certain forms of vulnerability or exclusion – such as the lack of an income, addiction issues or a Roma background – increase the likelihood of begging. This is especially the case among people with psychological or addiction issues, those who belong to the Roma minority, and above all, those who have no other source of income. In this context, begging appears to be mainly a survival activity: a flexible way of obtaining income when other options seem difficult to reach. We showcase how valuable the exploitation of existing but underused data can be for the development and evaluation of policy focused on the most vulnerable groups. Therefore, we advocate a systematic approach to data collection and analysis within social work and policy.

From eviction to homelessness: what can economics add?

Teodora Soare* (KULeuven)

Evictions are the removal of individuals or households from their residences, typically initiated by landlords or housing authorities for nonpayment of rent, lease violations, or other legal grounds. Current research perspectives argue that evictions reflect and reinforce social inequalities at the individual level, while also distorting housing market dynamics. Studies show that eviction rates are relatively higher among populations that are vulnerable and economically disadvantaged. A history of evictions is strongly associated with negative effects on labour market status, relationships, health, and welfare dependency.

Belgium ranks third among EU countries in terms of eviction rates. In Brussels, 3,908 judicial eviction orders were issued in 2018, with a higher incidence among individuals from vulnerable socio-economic backgrounds and of foreign origin.

One of the most critical risks associated with evictions is homelessness. The link between the two is generally acknowledged, yet very few studies have estimated a causal relationship between them. With a few exceptions (Collinson et al., 2024), the vast majority of the scholarship relies on descriptive analyses and correlational relationships. We reflect on how an economic approach could advance the study of evictions and homelessness and help understand the causal link between the two. We argue that this perspective would help identify which individual characteristics function as causal drivers and which emerge as consequences of evictions. This approach would not only inform policy but also deepen our understanding and study of homelessness.

Housing affordability crisis, relationship formation and gender inequality: back to dependency?

Agata Troost* (Tilburg University)

Despite the repeated calls for studying the sociology of housing from a gender perspective (Bartram & Brown-Saracino, 2025), there is a lack of research on how the housing affordability crisis affects relationship formation and how this influence could exacerbate gender inequality. Affordable housing scarcity leads to detrimental effects like postponing fertility decisions (Dewilde & Waitkus, 2023) and difficulties with escaping domestic abuse (Clough et al., 2014). The awareness of these and similar risks can play a role already at the stage of relationship formation, with the economic resources of potential partners determining its success. This paper theorises this process in the context of growing wealth inequality, highlighting how socioeconomic challenges constrain personal relationship choices by employing insights from social reproduction theory and social class research. I focus on the possible strengthening of the patriarchal function of relationship formation as an investment; at the same time, there are possibilities of gender role reversal due to women's increased earnings. These processes can affect women and men with far-reaching consequences for their well-being and socioeconomic outcomes. I analyse the changing patterns in relationship formation and housing situation in the 2010s and early 2020s using the LISS Panel data, which survey a representative sample of the Dutch population. The research questions centre around the socioeconomic background – including the housing situation, education, occupation, income and other assets – and family situation of people entering relationships. By bringing together and expanding on insights from the fields of family sociology and housing affordability studies, this project investigates an overlooked aspect of housing justice, with the hope of supporting gender inequality and emancipation through increased understanding and policy recommendations.

Culture II (English) – Voorzitter: Lisa Suckert - Lokaal D.017

Visual Self-Presentation and Cultural Patterning in Online Dating

Tobias Kamelski* (KULeuven)

Image-based online dating has become a routine part of contemporary social life and a key site of visual self-presentation. Profile images do not simply reflect individual preferences but document socially shared ways of anticipating and displaying attractiveness under platform-specific conditions. This paper examines how such visual self-presentation practices are patterned across geo-cultural location, gender, and sexuality, and what this reveals about cultural differentiation in digitally mediated settings. The analysis is based on 73,206 profile images from 13,000 user profiles collected across thirteen metropolitan locations. Treating images as documents of socio-culturally shared orientations, the study combines interpretive reconstruction with computational techniques to examine patterned similarities in visual self-presentation across locations. The findings show that geo-cultural location constitutes the primary structuring dimension of visual self-presentation. Gender operates as a strong axis of differentiation across locations, though its visual expression varies across geo-cultural spheres and remains patterned by proximate cultural clusters. Sexuality primarily shapes variation within locations and plays a minor role in differentiating between them. These patterns suggest that visual self-presentation in online dating is organised through culturally specific constructions of attractiveness rather than individual choice alone.

LinkedIn Portrait Analysis of self-representation of looking good and right among online elites of Accra, Ghana

Emmanuel Narh* (KULeuven), Outi Sarpila (University of Turku), Giselinde Kuipers (KU Leuven), Tobias Kamelski (KU Leuven)

With over 1 billion users including nearly 2.3 million Ghanaians, the LinkedIn platform offers a range of avenues where many things happen including beauty representation, boundary drawing and reinforcement of social inequalities. In this paper, we demonstrate that online elites strategically present themselves on LinkedIn through their profile pictures to communicate unspoken beauty/appearance norms in the professional fields through visual cues such as attire, grooming, and facial expressions. By this, we therefore wonder if looking good is the same as looking right on such digital platforms since they have such knowledge on what to put into their profile images. We therefore ask: is looking good the same as looking right across gender and different occupational fields and how does it lead to digital boundary drawing in Accra/Ghanaian digital societies? To

answer this question this paper adapted coding frameworks from Van Der Laan & Kuipers; and Tifferet & Vilnai-Yavetz; and theoretical concepts of looking good and right from De Keere, Sarpila and Vonk's, to conduct a quantitative visual content analysis of 160 LinkedIn profiles (80 male, 80 female), supplemented by ratings on looking good, looking right, and efforts from 10 expert coders in Accra. First, inter-class correlation co-efficient indicated high - moderate (Cronbach alpha) agreement between coders on what it means to look good and right suggesting that coders rate the images similarly however intraclass correlation (low scores) showed a contestation between the coders suggesting that they understand beauty differently. Our preliminary analysis. However these findings are not conclusive enough to show us what efforts are in the images. To therefore solidify these findings we resort to automated analysis with image embeddings which revealed five clusters that showed different representational styles. We expect to see efforts differ in gender and different occupational fields as the highest and lowest ranked images from the expert coders suggests so.

Constructing professional identity: a mixed-method study on sociology graduates' self-presentation in LinkedIn

Joram Pach* (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)

A well-developed professional identity (PI) provides individuals with a sense of purpose, direction, and belonging in their professional lives (Caza & Creary, 2016) and is a crucial element of professional self-presentation (Vähäsantanen, 2022). However, the conditions for this PI formation vary significantly by discipline (Nyström et al., 2008; Reid et al., 2011; Pach et al., 2025). Sociology provides a clear case of a discipline where graduates don't leave their education with a specific occupational perspective (Neumann, 2009; Reid et al., 2011). Consequently, unlike in medical or teaching education, sociology graduates must much more construct their own PI.

One important question then is to what extent the disciplinary background still plays a role in the PI of sociology graduates. Based on previous research (Pach et al., in press), we expect substantial differences between graduates. This raises the question what are factors that influence this.

In this study we employ a mixed-method approach. First, we explore how PI is expressed in an online context, through text analysis of nearly 3500 profiles of Dutch sociology alumni on LinkedIn. This will allow us to identify patterns in the extent to which alumni relate to sociology in their online self-presentation and if and how this connects to the program they followed, career stage, current occupation, and occupational trajectory. Additional qualitative interviews will provide deeper insight into how graduates in diverse occupations and career stages relate to their disciplinary background, how this evolves, and how different factors influence this.

This study contributes to the broader PI literature by elucidating PI construction when the link between discipline and profession is diffuse. Additionally, these insights hold practical value by providing guidelines for students and graduates navigating their own PI construction, and for educators seeking to support this.

Informal Care II: Different policy contexts (English), Thematische sessie – Voorzitter: Marjolein Broese van Groenou - Lokaal D.019

Care economies for sustaining life: Women caregivers' informal entrepreneurship in Chile

Maite Henriquez-Olivares* (Université Catholique de Louvain en MICARE)

This paper analyses the care economy from a feminist perspective by examining how unpaid care work and informal micro-entrepreneurship are articulated in the everyday lives of women caregivers in Santiago de Chile. Drawing on feminist theories of social reproduction and the care economy, I conceptualise both unpaid care and small-scale income-generating activities as interconnected forms of reproductive labour that sustain life and families in contexts of structural precarity and insufficient state provision of care. I ask how women who are primary caregivers of dependent relatives mobilise informal entrepreneurship to respond to the absence or weakness of public care infrastructures, and how this reconfigures their economic autonomy, family roles and

lived experience of care. Empirically, the paper builds on 10 in-depth interviews with low and lower-middle income women who combine intensive unpaid care with informal micro-enterprises. Through thematic narrative analysis, I explore the tensions they face between moral obligation, affective labour and the need to generate income, as well as the strategies they deploy to organise time, redistribute tasks within the household and negotiate uncertainty in informal markets. The paper contributes to debates on feminist and popular economics by showing how care economies are produced “from below” at the intersection of gender, class and informal work, and by highlighting the limits of familialised and market-based care arrangements in guaranteeing the sustainability of life.

The gender gap in informal caregiving: Contrasting impacts of long-term care policies

Ellen Verbakel (Radboud Universiteit) & Klara Raiber* (Radboud Universiteit)

Introduction

The provision of care to family members or friends with health problems or problems related to old age is historically a female domain. In the past, welfare states opened up the way for more gender equality in informal care provision as it freed women from (part of the) caring duties by the state provision of long-term formal care. In present-day societies, however, many governments are reducing the generosity or eligibility of formal long-term care provisions in response to the unsustainable costs resulting from the increasing need of care caused by population ageing. This background forms the rationale for this country-comparative study that examines whether the gender gap in informal caregiving is context-dependent.

Research questions

1. To what extent is there a gender gap in providing (intensive) informal care, and to what extent does this gender gap vary between European countries?
2. To what extent do countries’ formal long-term care provisions amplify or reduce the gender gap in (intensive) informal care

Hypotheses

Opposing hypotheses are formulated: with more limited long-term care provisions, the gender gap may be larger (as the state does not take over the typically female task of caregiving), or smaller (as absence of state support necessitates everyone -women and men- to provide care).

Methods and (preliminary) results

Preliminary results, based on logistic multilevel analyses on the European Social Survey (wave 11), replicated the gender gap in informal care, showed that countries vary in the size of the gender gap and that it was smaller in countries with generous formal long-term care provisions. These results tentatively suggest that with retrenching governments, the increasing demand for informal care may disproportionately will fall upon the shoulders of women.

Better understanding, addressing and preventing loneliness among informal caregivers: overarching insights from multi-method research in Flanders

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Informal caregivers are an essential partner in care. Yet today, 53.5% of them experience loneliness (Bracke et al., 2022). Because prolonged periods of loneliness can affect physical and mental wellbeing, it is crucial to reduce - or even prevent - loneliness among informal caregivers. In this study, we examine experiences of (social and emotional) loneliness among informal caregivers and explore their support needs. For this, we use a multi-method research design, building on two recent studies on loneliness among informal caregivers, namely (1) loneliness among members and volunteers of Samana and (2) loneliness among caregivers of people with dementia.

The first study comprises a representative survey (N = 981), in-depth interviews with members, including informal caregivers (N = 10), and focus groups with employees and volunteers (N = 36) of Samana, one of the largest Flemish volunteer organisations supporting people with a chronic illness and their informal caregivers. This unique context not only enables us to map loneliness among informal caregivers, but also provides insight into how volunteer organisations can help caregivers cope with loneliness.

The second study focuses specifically on informal caregivers of people with dementia. This study also combines a quantitative analysis based on a representative survey (N = 524) with focus groups with the target group (N = 19) and stakeholders (N = 21). Some findings show that loneliness is significantly higher when the person with dementia lives with the caregiver, and when physical and/or emotional burden is high. Cross-study analyses of support needs and practice-oriented guidance point to a lack of information and a need for recognition as informal caregivers, as well as the importance of peer contact and the supportive role of volunteers. We present results on informal caregivers' experiences of loneliness, outline their support needs, and formulate recommendations for practice and policy.

Unpaid caregiving during heat waves: A forgotten group not able to adapt?

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Young children and older people have been shown to be the group most affected by heat waves and those the least able to adapt to the changing climate. What has been mostly forgotten in this type of research is the role of those taking care of these vulnerable groups, namely, their caregivers. In this research, we argue that caring for young children (providing childcare) and people with health issues or due to old age (informal care) induces role conflict and makes it more difficult to adapt during a heat wave. Empirically, we test this assumption by combining data from 2024 from the regular LISS panel on childcare and informal care with a special module on 'Barriers and Constraints in Combating Urban Heat Exposure' (N~2,500). More specifically, in a first step, we correlate in an OLS whether those taking care of someone are less likely to adapt their daily activities to remain cool during a heatwave. As caregiving is part of daily activities, we assume that caregivers are hesitant or unable to adjust their caregiving due to the potential role conflict they experience, leaving them more prone to heat-induced health risks than those without caregiving duties. In a second step, we look at under what circumstances this relationship is stronger with two factors. First, providing both child and informal care likely amplifies role conflict, as time investments in these extra roles are adding up, making adaptation even more difficult. Second, employment can be similarly judged as amplifying a potential role conflict. Since work responsibilities continue amidst the heatwave, employed caregivers potentially face more difficulties in adapting compared to those without this additional role.

Social Policy (English) – Voorzitter: Tijs Laenen - Lokaal E.207

Emotions and Inequalities in Citizen Participation: How Public Officials Deal With Citizens' Emotional Expressions

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Citizen participation is often framed as an inclusive space aimed at democratizing public decision-making. However, existing literature argues that participatory processes often reproduce social inequalities. Sociological research has largely explained these inequalities in terms of individual or practical barriers, such as a lack of time or money (Dekker & Uslaner, 2001). However, such accounts tend to overlook that participatory settings are also deeply emotional arenas (Hattke, et al., 2019), in which not all citizens may feel equally comfortable or entitled to voice their emotions. Understanding inequalities in participation therefore also requires attention to how emotions are expressed, received, and evaluated in these settings.

Through my dissertation, I aim to provide insights into how emotions shape participation and, in doing so, influence inequalities in citizen participation by looking both at citizens and public officials. For the first study, I will examine how public officials in general deal with the emotions of citizens during participatory meetings. Participatory spaces may be governed by feeling rules, for instance reflecting ideals of Weberian rationality (Tong

et al., 2024) or more flexible modes of state-citizen interaction (Vigoda-Gadot & Meisler, 2010). Public officials may be expected to uphold these norms, while at the same time their own backgrounds, experiences, and socialization into municipal practices shape how they interpret and respond to citizens' emotions. Through practices such as *voorleven* (role-modelling) and *prijzen* (praising) (Tonkens et al., 2018), officials may (sub)consciously acknowledge, steer, or push particular emotional expressions, which in turn elicits specific reactions from citizens.

Empirically, this study draws on qualitative observations of participatory meetings. The analysis develops a typology of ways in which public officials deal with citizens' emotions. By foregrounding the emotional dimension of state-citizen encounters, this paper aims to contribute to a growing sociological and public administration literature that understands governance as emotional.

Legitiem beleid maken in gemeentelijke netwerksamenwerkingen: eerste bevindingen van een etnografisch onderzoek in Tilburg West

Joëlle Hulshoff* (Tilburg University)

In de Nederlandse, gemeentelijke beleidspraktijk is de 'bureaucratische' legitimiteit van beleid niet (meer?) vanzelfsprekend. Dit etnografisch onderzoek richt zich op hoe legitiem beleid tot stand komt in Nederlandse gemeenten, en specifiek Tilburg West. In Tilburg West zijn netwerksamenwerkingen georganiseerd op diverse beleidsniveaus om met alle betrokken organisaties, (gemeentelijke) departementen en inwoners beleid te ontwikkelen voor de wijk. Ik observeer bij vergaderingen op deze beleidsniveaus en voer daarnaast diepte-interviews uit met de aanwezigen om zicht te krijgen op factoren die van invloed zijn op de totstandkoming van legitiem beleid

Een invloedrijk fundament van de hedendaagse beleidscontext zijn de principes van New Public Management, die in de jaren '80 Nederlandse gemeenten ertoe aanzetten grote organisatorische veranderingen door te voeren. Veel overheidstaken werden uitbesteed aan (semi-)private organisaties, gemeentelijke departementen kregen meer autonomie en beleid werd in toenemende mate opgesteld en geëvalueerd volgens de maatstaven van efficiëntie en effectiviteit. Als gevolg van deze ontwikkelingen ontstond een gefragmenteerd beleidslandschap dat als een obstakel werd gezien voor de bureaucratie's legitimiteit van beleid. Om de fragmentatie tegen te gaan, en daardoor deze legitimiteit te herstellen, werden netwerksamenwerkingen opgericht waarin de gemeentelijke organisatie samenwerkt met andere betrokken organisaties om kennis te delen en beleid te creëren.

Inmiddels is gebleken dat ook netwerksamenwerkingen niet per definitie de beoogde legitimiteit van beleid tot stand brengen. Uit de eerste bevindingen van dit onderzoek blijkt dat de zoektocht naar de randvoorwaarden voor legitimiteit een belangrijke rol speelt in de vormgeving van netwerksamenwerkingen. Hierbij is niet enkel de vraag welke actoren betrokken moeten zijn in het beleidsvormingsproces van belang, maar ook op welke manier deze actoren betrokken moeten zijn. Vooral vraagstukken zoals de duurzaamheid van de samenwerking, het eigenaarschap over gezamenlijke acties en de mate van kennisuitwisseling blijken van betekenis te zijn. Dit onderzoek brengt deze aspecten in kaart en laat zien hoe deze al dan niet bijdragen aan de totstandkoming van bureaucratie's legitimiteit.

Beyond Collaborative Innovation? Power, Asymmetries and Institutional Steering in Local Care Governance

Anton Elosegí Villanueva* (University of Deusto)

Over the past decade, collaborative innovation has become an influential framework for addressing complex social problems through co-design, cross-sector coordination and the mobilisation of diverse actors. In the field of care, this literature has been particularly useful for understanding initiatives that seek to overcome fragmentation and promote more integrated, preventive and person-centred forms of support. At the same time, collaborative approaches often place strong emphasis on horizontal interaction and shared problem-solving, while giving less attention to the institutional asymmetries and power relations that shape these processes.

This paper critically revisits collaborative innovation by examining how power operates within emerging

arrangements of local care governance. It asks how and to what extent processes of social innovation reconfigure existing power relations, and how these arrangements are steered and structured by institutional actors across different levels of the welfare system. The paper draws on a qualitative case study of Local Care Ecosystems in the Basque Autonomous Community, Spain. Based on 32 semi-structured interviews with public officials, third-sector actors, health and social care professionals, and policy experts, it analyses how coordination is organised across social services, healthcare systems, community organisations and market actors.

Rather than approaching collaboration as inherently horizontal or empowering, the paper treats local care governance as a structured institutional field in which actors participate with uneven resources, authority and capacities for coordination. It argues that collaborative innovation in care must be understood in relation to broader dynamics of welfare restructuring, multi-level governance and institutional steering. In doing so, the article contributes to debates on social innovation and welfare governance by foregrounding the role of power and asymmetry in collaborative arrangements.

Methods (English) – Voorzitter: Anna Wallays - Lokaal Scaldis (Hof van Liere)

Revealing Cross-National Differences and Similarities in Relations between Human Values and Climate Policy Support by Mixture Multigroup Structural Equation Modeling: A New Tool for Comparative Research

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With growing availability of large-scale international surveys, social scientists are increasingly interested in comparing relations among latent variables, such as values and attitudes, across countries using Multigroup or Multilevel Structural Equation Modeling. However, these two methods require numerous pairwise comparisons to pinpoint which groups differ and which groups share similar structural relations. Mixture Multigroup Structural Equation Modeling (MMG-SEM) has recently been proposed as a novel alternative to identify clusters of groups with similar structural relations while accounting for measurement invariance and non-invariance. Despite its potential, a practical guide for applying MMG-SEM to cross-national survey data remains limited. This study provides a step-by-step tutorial to address this gap, illustrated by an analysis of the European Social Survey (ESS) Round 8 data on climate change attitudes. Our results reveal cross-national differences and similarities in how human values influence climate policy support, and how these relations are mediated by climate change beliefs across 23 countries. The clustering of the countries is primarily driven by differences in the effect of self-transcendence and conservation, whereas the self-enhancement effects are weak for all countries. In addition, the clustering results organize the countries into four types: value-driven but belief-cautious skeptics, value-driven and belief-amplifying advocates, paradoxical value-pathway actors, and value-detached pragmatists.

Mandatory pre-abortion counseling: an observational study

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Background: Mandatory pre-abortion counseling, or an intake, is a common provision in accessing abortion care in many contexts. Like legal limits and mandatory waiting periods, these legal requirements are often implemented as protective measures to confirm one's firm intention to terminate the pregnancy. As pre-abortion counseling is a mandatory part of obtaining abortion care, it is constructed as essential to women's abortion decision-making. Consequently, both abortion providers and those seeking abortion act accordingly. The question that arises here is how healthcare providers and patients navigate the intake process, which involves a complex interplay of practices such as informed consent and patient-centered care, mutual expectations, and legal provisions and restrictions?

Methods: We observed intakes within a single abortion center in Flanders, Belgium. Data collection proceeded through self-interviewing by the researcher after each observed intake, resulting in extensive field notes on each case. Observational data can provide unique insight into conversation processes and dynamics. The data were

analyzed guided by a flexible coding approach in a reflexive manner. This approach also enabled yielding analytical insights as a direct result of the specific method of data collection

Results: Preliminary findings provide insight into the (un)conscious strategies patients employ throughout an intake to arrive at their desired outcome. For providers, it becomes apparent how clinical rules or logic and legal restrictions are balanced with their responsibility or orientation to deliver to support and deliver patient-centered care.

Werksociologie: Collectieve arbeidsverhoudingen in transitie (Nederlands), Thematische sessie – Voorzitters: Wike Been & Alex Lehr - Lokaal Prentenkabinet (Hof van Liere)

Daling van cao-dekking en vakbondslidmaatschap: twee zijden van dezelfde medaille?

Paul de Beer* (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

In Nederland daalt zowel de cao-dekkingsgraad als het lidmaatschap van vakbonden. De cao-dekkingsgraad (percentage werknemers dat onder een cao valt) is afgenomen van 77% in 2010 naar 72% in 2024. De organisatiegraad van vakbonden (percentage werknemers dat lid is van een vakbond) daalt al veel langer en is afgenomen van 22% in 2010 naar 13% in 2025. In hoeverre hangen beide dalende trends met elkaar samen? Dat de cao-dekkingsgraad veel hoger is dan de organisatiegraad van de vakbeweging, laat zien dat een hoge organisatiegraad geen noodzakelijke voorwaarde is voor een hoge cao-dekking. De organisatiegraad van werkgevers is daarvoor belangrijker, want ook niet-vakbondsleden vallen onder een cao als de werkgever is aangesloten bij een werkgeversorganisatie die een cao afsluit of als een bedrijfstak-cao algemeen verbindend wordt verklaard. Niettemin kan daling van vakbondslidmaatschap wel bijdragen aan daling van de cao-dekking doordat werkgevers minder druk voelen om zich te organiseren en/of een cao af te sluiten. Op basis van gedetailleerde cao-data van het CBS en ledendata van de grootste vakbond FNV wordt onderzocht in welke mate (de daling van) cao-dekking en vakbondslidmaatschap in sectoren in Nederland met elkaar samenhangen. Er lijkt sprake van een toenemende dualisering van de collectieve arbeidsverhoudingen, met enerzijds sectoren met een hoge en stabiele cao-dekking en relatief hoge organisatiegraad en anderzijds sectoren met een steeds lagere cao-dekking en dalende organisatiegraad.

Het einde van het Nederlandse corporatisme? De verzwakking en uitholling van het Poldermodel in de 21ste eeuw.

Maarten Keune* (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Paul de Beer (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

In dit paper wordt een analyse gemaakt van de evolutie van het Nederlandse neo-corporatistische Poldermodel. Twee bewegingen worden aangegeven. De eerste beweging is het afbrokkelen van een aantal van de belangrijkste pijlers van het model. Hier gaat het voornamelijk om de organisatiegraad van zowel werknemers als werkgevers, en om de dekkingsgraad van cao's. Waar dit soort instituties lang stabiel leken is dit niet langer het geval. Dit brengt het voortbestaan van het Poldermodel in gevaar. De tweede beweging is dat ook het feitelijke functioneren van de Polderinstituties een geleidelijke transformatie heeft ondergaan, waardoor het systeem wezenlijk van karakter is veranderd en is uitgehold. Het gaat hierbij onder meer om een (contract)loonontwikkeling die ver achterblijft bij de productiviteitsgroei, het doorschuiven van risico's door bedrijven naar de werknemers, een groeiend aantal collectieve arbeidsovereenkomsten zonder de handtekening van de grootste vakbond(en), en een verminderde aandacht van de Sociaaleconomische raad voor traditionele kernthema's zoals loonontwikkeling en sociale akkoorden. Hoewel de formele spelregels grotendeels intact zijn gebleven, is de manier waarop de belangrijkste actoren het spel van de arbeidsverhoudingen spelen de afgelopen decennia drastisch veranderd. We verklaren deze twee bewegingen door zowel externe als interne factoren, onder andere de transitie van een Fordistische naar een post-Fordistische economie en een verschuiving in de machtsverhoudingen van vakbonden naar werkgevers. We concluderen dat waar het Nederlandse

neocorporatistische model in de jaren tachtig en negentig een belangrijke bijdrage leverde aan het economisch succes van Nederland in combinatie met goede sociale verhoudingen, is dit in de 21e eeuw steeds minder het geval en staat het voortbestaan van het model op het spel.

Consensual bargaining of collective labour agreements in the Netherlands

Roos Winter* (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) Wike Been (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), Selin Dilli (Utrecht University), Rafael Wittek (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Collective bargaining systems are under pressure, yet academic and policy literature mainly focus on their structural features and often overlook micro-level behaviour. Drawing on Goal Framing Theory and literature on consensual and adversarial bargaining, this study examines how negotiators' nature of cooperation affects the sustainability of collective bargaining. Although consensual bargaining is commonly assumed to produce more sustainable outcomes, limited empirical research leaves this unclear. Moreover, the lack of micro-level theory hampers understanding of why certain conditions foster consensual or adversarial attitudes and behaviour, and why these do (not) lead to sustainable outcomes. We theorise that joint production motivation, a core concept in Goal Framing Theory, underlies consensual bargaining and sustainable outcomes. Using this lens, this research aims to describe the nature of cooperation in collective bargaining in the Netherlands, and to understand which conditions drive consensual or adversarial processes and which processes are experienced as sustainable. We conducted four interviews with collective bargaining experts and 23 interviews with union and employer negotiators involved in industry-level agreements across seven industries: cleaning, greenhouse horticulture, hospitals, metal and electrical, municipalities, pharmacies, and supermarkets. Interviews explored the character of the bargaining process, behaviour, motivations, goals, and perceived and desired changes, and were analysed through a thematic analysis including inductive and deductive coding. Preliminary results indicate that many negotiators favour more consensual bargaining, which they perceive as more sustainable. Consistent with joint production motivation, they emphasise the importance of a shared industry vision, though industry- and process-related conditions often hinder its realisation in practice.