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# Introducing the Netherlands: Poverty

 Date: 13th October 2020  Time: 13:00 Location: [Online via Zoom, passcode 9812971985](#)

**Did you know there is a lot of hidden poverty in the Netherlands? In the week leading up to World Poverty Day, we reflect on the fact that almost one million people in the Netherlands experience the effects of poverty every day. Online via Zoom. (English /**

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**Time:** 13:00-14:30 hrs.

**Online event.** Are you participating by calling via phone, or are you having trouble joining the Zoom-meeting? Send an email to [studiumgenerale@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:studiumgenerale@tilburguniversity.edu)

**Admission** is free, no registration required. See also [Facebook](#) .

Join this event


## Poverty in the Netherlands

Although the Netherlands is one of the richest countries in Europe, there is poverty here, too. Research by the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) and Statistics Netherlands (CBS) shows that single-parent families, people with a non-Western background, welfare recipients, and single people under the age of 65 have a high risk of severe poverty. Poverty manifests itself in (very) limited financial resources, social exclusion, health problems, and limited access to education.

In 2018, 584,000 of the nearly 7.4 million households had to live on low incomes. This was as many as in the previous year.



Because of the social security safety net, poverty in the Netherlands is not a matter of physical survival. Rather, many live in relative poverty, in the sense that they cannot reach a minimal living standard, related to the general level of prosperity in society.



## Tilburg Quiet initiative

In this week, it is also five years ago that the Tilburg [Quiet](#)  initiative was started. Quiet dedicates itself to people in poverty situations in the Netherlands. They do this through community building (Quiet Communities), a Quiet fund and the 'poverty glossy' The Quiet 500.

As the organization says: *Wealth eroticizes and is celebrated. Poverty is suffered in silence. Hence the Quiet 500, a glossy magazine, highlights (silent) poverty from different angles. The editors have challenged the 500 richest Dutch people to participate in poverty reduction.*

## Speakers


[Ralf Embrechts](#)  is the co-founder of [Quiet](#) , a movement for more solidarity to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, to soften the poverty and to empower the people who lives in poverty.

Ralf is a social entrepreneur and director of [MOM Tilburg](#) , a social development company, working in the poorest area's of T of the resident themselves to ge Sustainability in Tilburg-West, a  he is the initiator of Double burg based on the principles of

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the basic income. Via innovation-labs he discovers every day new ways to make this world a better place, inspired by the people around him.

**Femke Roosma**  is Assistant Professor in Sociology at Tilburg University. Her research focusses on the welfare state, social policies and solidarity. She studies, among other things, (support for) minimum income guarantees (such as Universal Basic Income), welfare conditionality and the deservingness of welfare beneficiaries. As a city councillor in Amsterdam and spokesperson on employment and social benefits, she is also familiar with the 'policymaking' side of provisions to support people in poverty. In her introduction she will discuss trends in social policy in the Netherlands to support people with a minimum income level. Social policies have become increasingly conditional and restrictive, while the social benefit level has dropped. But there are signs that this trend is changing in favour of more unconditional support

## Introducing the Netherlands

This lecture is part of a series which will tell you everything about the Netherlands! The event is open to all students, faculty, and other interested parties.

### Suggestions for 'Introducing the Netherlands...'?

Do you have a topic or a professor in mind for this series of lectures? Please feel free to make a suggestion and contact [studiumgenerale@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:studiumgenerale@tilburguniversity.edu).

## General

This event is organized by [Studium Generale](#), [Quiet](#)  and [I\\*ESN](#) .

**Contact:** [Annelieke Koster](#) (Studium Generale).

Picture © Robin Utrecht (ANP)

*\* This event may count towards the [Studium Generale Certificate](#).*

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