Jan-Willem Simons

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INTERESTS

Interethnic attitudes and behaviours; Socialisation effects; Media effects; Social norms; Negative social relations; Intergroup polarization; Systematic reviews and meta-analyses; Agent-based models; Social network experiments; Social Network Analysis; Exponential random graph models; Stochastic actor-oriented models; Hidden Markov models

EDUCATION

Utrecht University, The Netherlands   October 2025 (Expected)
PhD Student in Sociology
Dissertation: TBD
Advisors: Prof. Dr. Eva Jaspers (University of Utrecht) and Prof Dr. Frank van Tubergen (University of Utrecht)

Utrecht University, The Netherlands   July 2021
M.Sc. in Methodology and Statistics for the Behavioural, Biomedical, and Social Sciences
Thesis: "On the Analysis of a Sample of Exponential Random Graph Model Estimates"
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Marijtje van Duijn (University of Groningen)

Utrecht University, The Netherlands   July 2019
B.Sc. in Sociology with a Minor in Methods and Statistics
Thesis: "Examining the Effect of Observation Sequence Variables on Hidden Markov Model Gibbs Sampler Inference"
Advisor: Dr. Emmeke Aarts (University of Utrecht)
Additional Activities: Honours College Faculty of Social Sciences

PUBLICATIONS

Simons, J. W., Jaspers, E., & van Tubergen, F. (2025). Socialisation and ethnic majorities' attitudes towards ethnic minorities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of correlational evidence. Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 1–26. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818

Simons, J. W., Boverhof, B. J., & Aarts, E. (2024). The influence of observation sequence features on the performance of the Bayesian hidden Markov model: A Monte Carlo simulation study. PloS one, 19(12), e0314444.

Goossens, C., & Simons, J. W. (2024). Overbruggen van denkbeelden en grenzen: De effecten van opleidingsniveau op anti-immigratie attituden in West-en Oost-Europa. Mens & Maatschappij, 99(1), 33-61. https://doi.org/10.5117/MEM2024.1.003.GOOS

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

On the analysis of a sample of exponential random graph model estimates. European Conference of Social Networks. September, 2021.

Balance, Status, and Negative Tie Dynamics in A High Propinquity Network Context. European Conference of Social Networks. September, 2023.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tutorial group teaching   October 2021 – October 2024
Department of Sociology, Utrecht University
Activities: Taught a tutorial group each second semester from 2021 to 2024 for the course "Social Networks in Theory and Empirical Research."

Bachelor thesis supervision   October 2022 – October 2025
Department of Sociology, Utrecht University
Activities: Supervised groups of 3–5 sociology bachelor's students in writing their thesis projects during the second semester of the academic years 2022–2025.

Skills and Proficiencies	**Statistical Software**
	R (RStudio, Markdown, Shiny), NetLogo, Python, LaTeX, Git, M*plus*, SPSS
	Language Ability
	Native in Dutch, Near native in English, Beginner in French and German

Relevant Coursework

Utrecht University (M.Sc.)

Multivariate Statistics	Computational Inference with R
Fundamentals of Statistics	Survey Data Analysis
Multilevel and Structural Equation Modeling	Bayesian Statistics
Biomedical Statistics	Psychometrics
Statistical Analysis of Complete Social Networks	Meta-Analysis
Markup Languages and Reproducible Programming	Programming in Python

Utrecht University (B.Sc.)

Social Networks in Theory and Empirical Research	Measurement and Modelling with Social Data
Missing Data Theory and Causal Effects	Theory Construction and Statistical Modeling
Family Sociology	Conducting a Survey
Criminal Behaviour during the Lifecourse	Doing a Qualitative Research Project