

# Jan-Willem Simons

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INTERESTS	Interethnic attitudes and behaviours; Socialisation effects; Media effects; Social norms; Negative social relations; 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	<b>Utrecht University</b> , The Netherlands	October 2025 (Expected)
	PhD Student in Sociology Thesis (working title): "On the Role of Social Influences in Structuring Interethnic Relations: Evidence from Systematic Reviews, Agent-Based Modeling, and Social Network Experiments" Advisors: Prof. Dr. Eva Jaspers (University of Utrecht) and Prof Dr. Frank van Tubergen (University of Utrecht)	
	<b>Utrecht University</b> , 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)	
	<b>Utrecht University</b> , 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	
ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS	<p>[5] Heo, I., <b>Simons, J. W.</b>, &amp; Liu, H. (in press). A Tutorial on Bayesian Model Averaging for Exponential Random Graph Models. <i>British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology</i>. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/bmsp.70007">https://doi.org/10.1111/bmsp.70007</a></p> <p>[4] Jaspers, E., Van Zantvliet, P. I., &amp; <b>Simons, J. W.</b> (2025). How Descriptive Norms and Peer Attitudes Shape Interethnic Dating Among Adolescents in Dutch Schools. <i>Social Inclusion</i>, 13. <a href="https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10034">https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10034</a></p> <p>[3] <b>Simons, J. W.</b>, Jaspers, E., &amp; van Tubergen, F. (2025). Socialisation and ethnic majorities' attitudes towards ethnic minorities: a systematic review and meta-analysis of correlational evidence. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i>, 51(11), 2669–2694. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818">https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818</a></p> <p>[2] <b>Simons, J. W.</b>, Boverhof, B. J., &amp; Aarts, E. (2024). The influence of observation sequence features on the performance of the Bayesian hidden Markov model: A Monte Carlo simulation study. <i>PloS One</i>, 19(12), e0314444. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314444">https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314444</a></p> <p>[1] Goossens, C., &amp; <b>Simons, J. W.</b> (2024). Overbruggen van denkbeelden en grenzen: De effecten van opleidingsniveau op anti-immigratie attitudes in West-en Oost-Europa. <i>Mens &amp; Maatschappij</i>, 99(1), 33-61. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5117/MEM2024.1.003.GOOS">https://doi.org/10.5117/MEM2024.1.003.GOOS</a></p>	
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>[4] <b>Simons, J.W.</b> (presenter), Tolsma, J., Jaspers, E. <i>On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model</i>. 5th ISA Forum of Sociology. Rabat, Morocco. July, 2025.</p> <p>[3] <b>Simons, J.W.</b> (presenter), Tolsma, J., Jaspers, E. <i>On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model</i>. Interdisciplinary Conference</p>	

on Social Norms, Cohesion, and (De)Polarization. Utrecht, The Netherlands. May, 2025.

- [2] **Simons, J.W.** (presenter), Jaspers, E. *Balance, Status, and Negative Tie Dynamics in A High Propinquity Network Context*. European Conference of Social Networks. Ljubljana, Slovenia. September, 2023.
- [1] **Simons, J.W.** (presenter), Van Duijn, M. A. J. *On the Analysis of a Sample of Exponential Random Graph Model Estimates*. European Conference of Social Networks. Online. September, 2021.

POSTER  
PRESENTATIONS

- [1] Heo, I. (presenter), **Simons, J. W.**, & Liu, H. *A Bayesian multi-model inferential approach to exponential random graph modeling*. 133rd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Denver, The United States of America. August, 2025.

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,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , Git, *Mplus*, 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