

Jan-Willem Simons

Academic Curriculum Vitae in December 2025

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INTERESTS	Interethnic attitudes and behaviours; Socialisation effects; Media effects; Social influence; Social norms; Negative social relations; Systematic reviews and meta-analyses; Agent-based models; Social Network Analysis; Exponential random graph models; Hidden Markov models	
EDUCATION	Utrecht University , The Netherlands	October 2025 (Expected)
	PhD Student in Sociology	
	Thesis (working title): <i>Social Influences as Determinants of and Pathways for Changing Interethnic Relations: Evidence from Systematic Reviews, Agent-Based Modelling, and Social Network Experiments</i>	
	Advisors: Prof. Dr. Eva Jaspers (University of Utrecht) and Prof Dr. Frank van Tubergen (University of Utrecht)	
	Utrecht University , The Netherlands	July 2021
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	M.Sc. in Methodology and Statistics for the Behavioural, Biomedical, and Social Sciences	
	Thesis: <i>On the Analysis of a Sample of Exponential Random Graph Model Estimates</i>	
	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	
IN PRESS	Thesis: <i>Examining the Effect of Observation Sequence Variables on Hidden Markov Model Gibbs Sampler Inference</i>	
	Advisor: Dr. Emmeke Aarts (University of Utrecht)	
	Additional Activities: Honours College Faculty of Social Sciences	
	[5] Heo, I., Simons, J.-W. , & Liu, H. (2025). A tutorial on Bayesian model averaging for exponential random graph models. <i>British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology</i> . https://doi.org/10.1111/bmsp.70007	
	[4] Jaspers, E., Van Zantvliet, P. I., & Simons, J.-W. (2025). How Descriptive Norms and Peer Attitudes Shape Interethnic Dating Among Adolescents in Dutch Schools. <i>Social Inclusion</i> , 13. https://doi.org/10.17645/si.10034	
	[3] 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. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> , 51(11), 2669–2694. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818	
	[2] 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. <i>PloS One</i> , 19(12), e0314444. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314444	
	[1] Goossens, C., & Simons, J.-W. (2024). Overbruggen van denkbeelden en grenzen: De effecten van opleidingsniveau op anti-immigratie attitudes in West-en Oost-Europa. <i>Mens & Maatschappij</i> , 99(1), 33-61. https://doi.org/10.5117/MEM2024.1.003.GOOS	
	[1] Simons, J.-W. , Jaspers, E., & van Tubergen, F. (2025). Media influences on ethnic majority attitudes toward ethnic minorities: A systematic review and meta-analysis. <i>International Journal of Intercultural Relations</i> . https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2025.102320	

PREPRINTS	<p>[1] Ciorda, A., Lubbers, M., Jaspers, E., Simons, J.-W.. Not All Political Topics Are Created Equal: How Issue Polarization Shapes Partner Selection in Informal Political Discussion. https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/zaug4_v1</p>													
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>[5] Heo, I. (presenter), Simons, J.-W., & Liu, H. <i>A Bayesian multi-model inferential approach to exponential random graph modeling</i> [Poster Presentation]. 133rd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Denver, The United States of America. August, 2025.</p> <p>[4] Simons, J.-W. (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> [Conference Presentation]. 5th ISA Forum of Sociology. Rabat, Morocco. July, 2025.</p> <p>[3] Simons, J.-W. (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> [Conference Presentation]. Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Norms, Cohesion, and (De)Polarization. Utrecht, The Netherlands. May, 2025.</p> <p>[2] Simons, J.-W. (presenter), Jaspers, E. <i>Balance, Status, and Negative Tie Dynamics in A High Proximity Network Context</i> [Conference Presentation]. European Conference of Social Networks. Ljubljana, Slovenia. September, 2023.</p> <p>[1] Simons, J.-W. (presenter), Van Duijn, M. A. J. <i>On the Analysis of a Sample of Exponential Random Graph Model Estimates</i> [Conference Presentation]. European Conference of Social Networks. Online. September, 2021.</p>													
SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION	<p>Ad-hoc Peer Review</p> <p>PLOS ONE (2025)</p>													
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Tutorial group teaching October 2021 – October 2024</p> <p>Department of Sociology, Utrecht University</p> <p>Activities: Taught a tutorial group each second semester from 2021 to 2024 for the course "Social Networks in Theory and Empirical Research".</p> <p>Bachelor thesis supervision October 2022 – October 2025</p> <p>Department of Sociology, Utrecht University</p> <p>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.</p>													
SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES	<p>Statistical Software</p> <p>R (RStudio, Markdown, Shiny), NetLogo, Python, \LaTeX, Git, <i>Mplus</i>, SPSS</p> <p>Language Ability</p> <p>Native in Dutch, Near native in English, Beginner in French and German</p>													
RELEVANT COURSEWORK	<p>Utrecht University (M.Sc.)</p> <table><tr><td>Multivariate Statistics</td><td>Computational Inference with R</td></tr><tr><td>Fundamentals of Statistics</td><td>Survey Data Analysis</td></tr><tr><td>Multilevel and Structural Equation Modeling</td><td>Bayesian Statistics</td></tr><tr><td>Biomedical Statistics</td><td>Psychometrics</td></tr><tr><td>Statistical Analysis of Complete Social Networks</td><td>Meta-Analysis</td></tr><tr><td>Markup Languages and Reproducible Programming</td><td>Programming in Python</td></tr></table> <p>Utrecht University (B.Sc.)</p>		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
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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