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   Expected Spring 2026
PhD Student in Sociology
Thesis (working title): *Social Influences as Determinants of and Pathways for Changing Interethnic Relations: Evidence from Systematic Reviews, Agent-Based Modelling, and Social Network Experiments*
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

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

[6] **Simons, J.-W.**, Jaspers, E., & van Tubergen, F. (2026). Media influences on ethnic majority attitudes toward ethnic minorities: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations, 110*, Article 102320. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijintrel.2025.102320

[5] Heo, I., **Simons, J.-W.**, & Liu, H. (2025). A tutorial on Bayesian model averaging for exponential random graph models. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology.* 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. *Social Inclusion, 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. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 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. *PloS One, 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 attituden in West-en Oost-Europa. *Mens & Maatschappij, 99*(1), 33-61. https://doi.org/10.5117/MEM2024.1.003.GOOS

PREPRINTS	[1] Ciorda, A., Lubbers, M., Jaspers, E., & **Simons, J.-W.** (2025). Not All Political Topics Are Created Equal: How Issue Polarization Shapes Partner Selection in Informal Political Discussion. https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/zauq4_v1
	[2] Schäfer, L., F., Tausch, N., Bukowski, M., Jaspers, E., Lubbers, M., J., Van Zalk, M., Ciorda, A., Potoczek, A., Estevan-Reina, L., Shani, M., **Simons, J.-W.**, Friehs, M., T., Gurbisz, D., Middendorf, W., M., Schäfer, S., J., Ullenboom, J., Graf, S., Hjerm, M., Lavest, C., Jasinskaja-Lahti, I., Kende, A., Petkanopoulou, K., Prati, F., & Christ, O. (2025). Associations Between Inclusivity Norms and Tolerance, Contact, and Cooperation Amid Polarization: Evidence From 12 European Countries. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/9gh6k_v2

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	[5] Heo, I. (presenter), **Simons, J.-W.**, & Liu, H. *A Bayesian multi-model inferential approach to exponential random graph modeling* [Poster Presentation]. 133rd Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association. Denver, The United States of America. August, 2025.
	[4] **Simons, J.-W.** (presenter), Tolsma. J., Jaspers, E. *On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model* [Conference Presentation]. 5th ISA Forum of Sociology. Rabat, Morocco. July, 2025.
	[3] **Simons, J.-W.** (presenter), Tolsma. J., Jaspers, E. *On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model* [Conference Presentation]. Interdisciplinary Conference 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* [Conference Presentation]. 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* [Conference Presentation]. European Conference of Social Networks. Online. September, 2021.

RESEARCH VISITS	**Autonomous University of Barcelona**	Barcelona, Spain
	Visiting PhD Researcher, COALESCE Lab	April – July 2023
	Collaborator: Professor Miranda Lubbers	

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION	**Ad-hoc Peer Review**
	PLOS ONE (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, 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