

# Jan-Willem Simons

Academic Curriculum Vitae in August 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 experiments; Social Network Analysis; Exponential random graph models; Hidden Markov models	
EDUCATION	<b>Utrecht University</b> , 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)	
	<b>Utrecht University</b> , The Netherlands	July 2021
PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC 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)	
	<b>Utrecht University</b> , The Netherlands	July 2019
	B.Sc. in Sociology with a Minor in Methods and Statistics	
PREPRINTS	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., <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> , & Liu, H. (2025). 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>	
	[4] Jaspers, E., Van Zantvliet, P. I., & <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>	
PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS	[3] <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> , 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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818">https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2025.2472818</a>	
	[2] <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> , 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. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314444">https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0314444</a>	
	[1] Goossens, C., & <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>	
	[1] Ciorda, A., Lubbers, M., Jaspers, E., <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> . Not All Political Topics Are Created Equal: How Issue Polarization Shapes Partner Selection in Informal Political Discussion. <a href="https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/zauq4_v1">https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/zauq4_v1</a>	

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<p>[5] Heo, I. (presenter), <b>Simons, J.-W.</b>, &amp; 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] <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> [Conference Presentation]. 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> [Conference Presentation]. Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Norms, Cohesion, and (De)Polarization. Utrecht, The Netherlands. May, 2025.</p> <p>[2] <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> (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] <b>Simons, J.-W.</b> (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	<b>Ad-hoc Peer Review</b> PLOS ONE (2025)																					
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Tutorial group teaching</b> <span style="float: right;">October 2021 – October 2024</span> 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".  <b>Bachelor thesis supervision</b> <span style="float: right;">October 2022 – October 2025</span> 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	<b>Statistical Software</b> R (RStudio, Markdown, Shiny), NetLogo, Python, $\LaTeX$ , Git, <i>Mplus</i> , SPSS  <b>Language Ability</b> Native in Dutch, Near native in English, Beginner in French and German																					
RELEVANT COURSEWORK	<b>Utrecht University (M.Sc.)</b> <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> <b>Utrecht University (B.Sc.)</b> <table><tr><td>Social Networks in Theory and Empirical Research</td><td>Measurement and Modelling with Social Data</td></tr><tr><td>Missing Data Theory and Causal Effects</td><td>Theory Construction and Statistical Modeling</td></tr><tr><td>Family Sociology</td><td>Conducting a Survey</td></tr><tr><td>Criminal Behaviour during the Lifecourse</td><td>Doing a Qualitative Research Project</td></tr></table>		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	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
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