

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	Utrecht University , 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)	
	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	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> . In press.	
	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 .	
	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 .	
	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 .	
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	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 .	
	<i>On the Analysis of a Sample of Exponential Random Graph Model Estimates</i> . European Conference of Social Networks. Online. September, 2021.	
	<i>Balance, Status, and Negative Tie Dynamics in A High Propinquity Network Context</i> . European Conference of Social Networks. Ljubljana, Slovenia. September, 2023.	
	<i>On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model</i> . Interdisciplinary Conference on Social Norms, Cohesion, and (De)Polarization. Utrecht, The Netherlands. May, 2025.	

On the Design of a Social Norm Intervention to Promote Interethnic Cooperation through Tolerance: An Agent-Based Model. 5th ISA Forum of Sociology. Rabat, Morocco. July, 2025.

POSTER 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 **Tutorial group teaching** October 2021 – October 2024
EXPERIENCE 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 **Statistical Software**
PROFICIENCIES R (RStudio, Markdown, Shiny), NetLogo, Python, \LaTeX , Git, *Mplus*, SPSS
Language Ability
Native in Dutch, Near native in English, Beginner in French and German

RELEVANT **Utrecht University (M.Sc.)**
COURSEWORK 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