

PhD student: Hanne Wolthuis, UU

Title: Inter-minority contacts in Western-Europe

My PhD project is part of the overarching INTER-MIN project that takes a broader perspective on social cohesion. INTER-MIN goes beyond the commonly studied relations between ethnic majorities and ethnic minorities and offers a first systematic investigation of inter-minority relations in Western Europe. The main aims of INTER-MIN are to map inter-minority relations across a large number of ethnic groups in the Netherlands, Germany, and the UK and reveal the underlying mechanisms that explain inter-minority relations.

My PhD project focuses specifically on **contacts** between different minorities and relies primarily on **sociological** literature and theorizing. Relatively few studies have examined contact between minorities, and these existing studies mostly focus on only two specific minority groups in a given context. For this project my overarching aims are to 1) descriptively map the quantity and quality of contact across multiple minority pairings in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK, and 2) explain the variation in inter-minority contacts by considering explanations at the level of the participant (e.g., migration generation, migration motive, socio-economic status, ethnic identification and perceived acceptance by the host society), the level of the neighborhood or municipality (ethnic composition), and the level of the minority dyad (characteristics specific to each combination of two minority groups). I will take into account objective dyad characteristics (e.g. same vs. different religion, same vs. different skin color) as well as perceptions (e.g. perceived cultural similarity). In terms of methods, I will design survey questionnaires and, via research agencies and municipal registers, collect representative samples of minorities living in large urban regions. To tease out explanations at the level of the participant, neighborhood/municipality, and the minority dyad, I will make use of multilevel analysis. This will be complemented with focus group discussions to learn about bridges and barriers to inter-minority contacts based on people's lived experiences. This innovative multiple-ingroup multiple-outgroup framework will advance our understanding of social cohesion in Western Europe.

Supervising Team: Borja Martinović, Meta van der Linden, Stefanie Sprong

Location: Utrecht University, Utrecht, Department of Interdisciplinary Social Science