



A Symbiosis: Social Structure and personal Values in the Netherlands

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Abstract

I examine the role of personal values in the reproduction of social structures in the Netherlands. Previous research failed to distinguish values from culture, neglected self-transcendence and self-enhancement values and the life-course. I use the life-course perspective to investigate how gender and social class interact with personal values to produce behavior and inequalities. Chapter 2 provides the psychological theory on values and their role in behavior. Chapter 3 describes the association between personal values and age, cohorts, occupations, and households using the European Social Survey. In Chapter 4, I construct a value measure using the Longitudinal Internet study for Social Sciences and the theory of basic human values. In Chapters 5 to 7, I use these value measures and the dual process theory of cognition, status characteristics theory and doing gender to frame the analysis. I show that theoretically informed value measures substantively improve our understanding of value's relationship to social structures and behaviors. Using longitudinal data, gender is found to effect self-transcendence and self-enhancement values and their in application in choices of fields of study, occupational socialization, the probability of marriage and the production of inequalities in household division of labor.

Jury

Prof. Hans-Peter Blossfeld (formerly EUI), Prof. Juho Härkönen (EUI, internal member), Prof. Aart C. Liefbroer (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Prof. Daniela Grunow (Goethe Universität Amsterdam)

Bio

Oscar Smallenbroek is a post-doctoral researcher at the LIEPP, Sciences Po, where he investigates the construct and criterion validity of social class schema. He wrote his Ph.D. on the interplay between personal values, gender, and stratification over the early life-course. Before the EUI, he obtained his MSc in Sociology from Tilburg University in the Netherlands and a BA in psychology at Carleton University, Canada. His interdisciplinary research combines the strengths of sociology and psychology and focuses on the effects of stratification on personality.