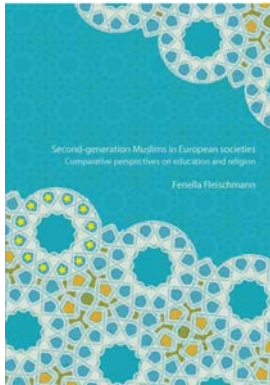


# Dissertations MERM



## Second-generation Muslims in European societies: Comparative perspectives on education and religion

By Dr. Fenella Fleischman

### **Abstract:**

In light of current societal debates about the integration of Muslim minorities into European societies, this dissertation analysed structural integration and religion among the Turkish and Moroccan second generation. Throughout, a comparative perspective was taken by studying two second-generation groups in several local and national receiving contexts in North-Western Europe. Two broad questions guided the dissertation, namely (i) does religion function as a bridge or barrier for the inclusion of Muslim minorities in European societies?, and (ii) to what extent is religion a source of disadvantage among the second generation?

These broad questions were answered through six empirical studies based on multi-level analyses of Belgian Census data and multi-group analyses of new primary survey data on the Turkish and Moroccan second generation (TIES, The Integration of the European Second generation, cf. Crul & Schneider, 2010). The dissertation incorporates different explanatory approaches derived from social and cross-cultural psychology as well as sociology in order to study two explananda: structural integration and religion. Concretely, I drew on comparative stratification (Erikson & Goldthorpe, 1993; Shavit & Blossfeld, 1993) as applied to ethnic minorities (cf. Heath & Cheung, 2007) to explain structural integration in terms of educational attainment of the second generation (Esser, 2000, 2001). When linking structural integration to religiosity among the second generation, I looked at national opportunity structures in terms of the institutional accommodation of Islam (cf. Koopmans, Statham, Guigni, & Passy, 2005) as contextual moderator. Muslim minorities in Europe are acculturating groups due to their migration background, which raises interesting questions about the role of acculturation orientations (cf. Berry, 2001; Bourhis, et al., 1997) in the process of intergenerational religious transmission (cf. Nauck, 2001; Phalet & Schönplflug, 2001). Finally, focusing on religion as a social identity (Verkuyten, 2007; Ysseldyk, Mathson, & Anisman, 2010), I studied identity multiplicity (Brown, 2000; Roccas & Brewer, 2002) and politicisation (Simon & Klandermans, 2001; Van Zomeren, Postmes, & Spears, 2008), asking in which intergroup contexts Muslim identity is compatible or conflicting with civic identities and when and why it is politicised or de-politicised.

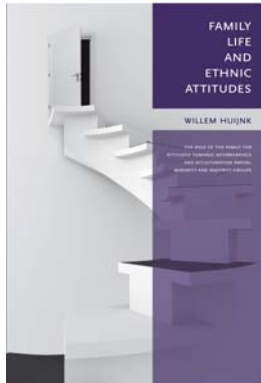
Summarising the findings across the six chapters, there is little evidence that Islam is a barrier to the integration of the second generation per se, because Islamic religiosity was found to be decoupled from structural integration (chapter 4) and from adoption of the host culture (chapter 5) in most contexts. However, these findings need to be assessed against the background of severe disadvantage in educational attainment among the Turkish and Moroccan second generation (chapters 2 and 3). Moreover, the comparative perspective highlights contextual differences in these relationships. Thus, structural integration and

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religiosity were found to be inversely related in contexts where Islam as a minority religion is not recognised and accommodated institutionally (chapter 4). In addition, different modes of incorporation (cf. Portes & Rumbaut) of the Turkish and Moroccan second generation were revealed in terms of different effects of ethnic density on school attainment (chapter 3) and more effective intergenerational transmission of religion (chapter 5) among Turks in line with more social cohesion and cultural continuity in the latter group (cf. De Valk & Liefbroer, 2007; Phalet & Heath, 2010). Finally, the quality of intergroup relations, particularly experiences of personal discrimination, explained differential patterns of identification and politicisation. Thus, higher levels of personal discrimination were found to go together with more identity conflict (chapter 6) and more readiness to take political action to defend Islam – but decreased support for political Islam (chapter 7).

In conclusion, the results of this dissertation provide little evidence for the notion that Islam is a barrier to the integration of the second generation or that Islamic religiosity is mainly a response to societal exclusion – despite persistent disadvantage in education and on the labour market (cf. Heath & Cheung, 2007; Heath, Rothon, & Kilpi, 2008). Instead, Islamic religiosity is mainly (re-)created within immigrant families and communities as a crucial element of cultural maintenance in acculturating contexts. However, Islam may be a barrier for civic integration in more hostile intergroup contexts where Muslim identity and civic identification are in conflict and the second generation mobilises around religious group goals.

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### **Family Life and Ethnic Attitudes. The role of the family for attitudes towards intermarriage and acculturation among minority and majority groups.**

By Dr. Willem Huijnk

#### ***Abstract:***

Over the last decades, the population of most Western European societies has become culturally much more diverse. This resulted in strong cultural and social boundaries between ethnic groups. It is of societal importance to enhance our understanding of the factors which influence these boundaries. The research presented in this book therefore examines the boundaries between ethnic Dutch and the four largest ethnic minority groups in the Netherlands. The focus is on the resistance to interethnic marriage of ethnic Dutch and ethnic minority groups, and on the acculturation attitudes of the latter. The aim of the present research is to increase our understanding of the ways in which the family context relates to these ethnic attitudes. This dissertation consists of five empirical chapters focusing on the role of different aspects of the family for ethnic attitudes. Analyses are based on data from the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS). The results show that family life in adulthood is a neglected but relevant factor in understanding and explaining ethnic attitudes.

In addition, this dissertation demonstrates the important role of the family of origin for ethnic attitudes of adults through the transmission of attitudes between family members, and, indirectly, via the transmission of social and cultural positions.

Finally, the results show that family relationships in adolescence and adult life matter for immigrants' attitudes towards sociocultural maintenance and the attitude towards socio-cultural adaptation.

# Dissertations MERM



## **Interethnic Contacts: A Dynamic Analysis of Interaction between Immigrants and Natives in Western Countries**

By Dr. Borja Martinović

### ***Abstract:***

This book studies social integration of immigrants (i.e. contacts between immigrants and natives in leisure time) from a dynamic perspective. The central objective is to examine how such interethnic contacts change during the immigrants' stay in the host country (do they increase, stagnate or decrease over time?), and to explain why some immigrants integrate socially at a faster pace than others. An additional aim is to specify the conditions under which natives are more likely to engage in contact with immigrants.

Throughout the book a theory of preferences, opportunities and third parties is used for deriving hypotheses about the determinants of interethnic contacts (e.g. education, language proficiency, age at migration). These hypotheses are then tested with data from three Western countries: the Netherlands, Germany and Canada. By applying a dynamic framework and relying on longitudinal surveys, more confident conclusions can be drawn about the causes of social integration.

The main finding is that immigrants get increasingly socially integrated during the time spent in the host country. However, the pace of integration is on average rather slow. Immigrants who migrate at a younger age, as well as those who have a higher level of education and better language proficiency, tend to acquire more native friends over time. The same holds for immigrants inhabiting ethnically mixed, as opposed to segregated, neighborhoods. Interestingly, higher educated natives tend to have less contact with immigrants. This contrasting finding underlines the relevance of studying immigrants and natives alike.

## Dissertations MERM



### **Culture, self-understanding and the vicultural mind: a study in Greece and the Netherlands**

By Dr. Katerina Pouliasi

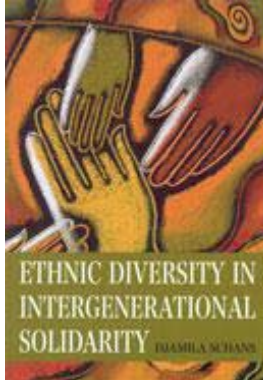
#### ***Abstract:***

To understand the impact of culture, cross-cultural psychology addresses questions such as: Do individuals in one society make sense of themselves and their lives in different ways than individuals in other societies? Are there aspects of self-understanding specifically emphasized in one cultural context, but not in the other, and, if so, how can these differences be related to psychological well-being? Are certain values more important in the one compared to the other cultural context? Do people from different cultures differ in the ways they reason about social behavior? How do individuals experience their own culture in our rapidly globalizing world? How do individuals enculturated in two cultures deal with different and even conflicting cultural meanings? How does a bicultural mind guide cognition and behavior?

The present dissertation investigates these issues by comparing the Dutch and the Greek culture in various psychological domains at three different levels: between cultures, within cultures and within individuals.

Findings in the present thesis have shown the ways that a northern European individualist culture -the Dutch-and a southern, more collectivist one - the Greek - differ in self-understandings, endorsement of values, social explanations and semantic networks of associations. It is the specific aspect of self-understandings emphasized in each culture that contributes to psychological well-being. In addition, Dutch-Greek bicultural individuals demonstrate that they are able to shift perceptions and behavior in a manner appropriate to each cultural setting. Last, but not least, the importance assigned to the relational self in both cultures may enlighten how important it is for all of us to be related to significant other(s). In short, culture matters in how all of us make sense of ourselves and our lives.

## Dissertations MERM



### **Ethnic diversity in intergenerational solidarity.**

By Dr. Djamila Schans

#### ***Abstract:***

In this dissertation, a comparative perspective on intergenerational solidarity in different ethnic groups in the Netherlands is offered. By systematically comparing different aspects of intergenerational solidarity among immigrants and Dutch natives, theoretical ideas about family decline in Western families and collectivist family ideals in immigrant families are questioned. By focusing on immigrants who have parents in the country of origin, we add a transnational perspective to the study of intergenerational solidarity. Besides the native Dutch, this study includes immigrants and their children from the four largest immigrant groups in the Netherlands: Turks, Moroccans, Surinamese and Antilleans. A mixed-methods approach, combining in-depth qualitative data and large-scale quantitative data, is used. Analyses are based on data from the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS). Results show that although ethnic differences in attitudes are large, differences in actual behavior are less pronounced.

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## Dissertations MERM



### **Socio-cultural factors and school engagement: A study among Turkish, Moroccan, Assyrian and native Dutch youth in the Netherlands.**

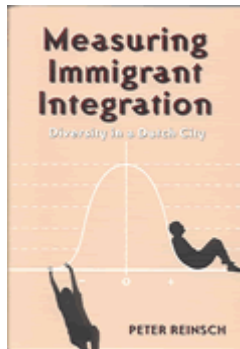
By Dr. Iris Andriessen

#### ***Abstract:***

In contrast with the present social-political climate in the Netherlands, which focuses mostly on the negative aspects of immigration and integration, data on school achievement show educational progress of minority groups over the recent years. Academic results of Turks and Moroccans, which traditionally lagged seriously behind, have improved on most indicators of school achievement over the past 10 years. Their relative position compared to native Dutch students has however not improved, as Dutch students have also increased their own academic performances (Herweijer, 2003). Less data are available on refugee students, due to a lack of targeted national policies. However, monitoring the educational results of refugee students seems warranted, as demographic figures suggest that their numerical presence in classrooms will increase in the near future (Dagevos, Gijsberts & Praag, 2003). Research on school achievement of ethnic minority children has focused on four types of factors to explain their academic achievements: structural factors, social factors, cultural factors, institutional factors. Structural factors refer to conditions through which individuals and groups obtain positions within the social structure of a society (Sackmann, 2003; Vermeulen, 2000). More specifically, we refer to family resources, such as the socio-economic status of minority families and migrants' social capital. Social factors refer to the degree and quality of social interaction between minorities and natives (van Tubergen, 2004).

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## Dissertations MERM



### **Measuring Immigrant Integration Diversity in a Dutch City**

By Dr. Peter Reinsch

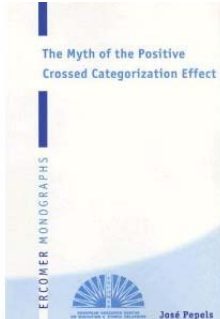
#### ***Abstract:***

How do social researchers - and other observers - recognize successfully integrated immigrants? What presumptions are made to detect and clarify individual differences in integration?

In this study Dr. Peter Reinsch develops a conceptual model that outlines the numerous normative, theoretical and methodological issues bound to the measurement of immigrant integration. He then uses it to order and interpret survey data gathered in the city of Haarlem. Dr. Reinsch takes an essentially normative step by ranking Haarlem residents according to their success at achieving a distinct set of personal goals: self-reliance, contentment and sociability. This combination of goals presumably reflects local objectives characteristic of the tolerant vision so often propagated in Dutch debates and policies. A broad selection of survey measures is subsequently reviewed that represent divergent theoretical clarifications for individuals' integration. Differences in migration age, gender, educational background, labor market position, housing situation, ethnic affinities, language capabilities, local contacts and many others are considered. While evaluating these measures for their potential to qualify the successfully integrated Haarlemmer, the author reveals methodological barriers to more adequate survey instruments. The study provides social observers with numerous guidelines to help systematize and ameliorate their analyses of the integration process, a process crucial for the future of European cities. Dr. Peter Reinsch, an American-born sociologist, has conducted research on Dutch ethnic relations the past twenty years. He has been affiliated with Utrecht University since 1993.

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## Dissertations MERM



### **The Myth of the Positive Crossed Categorization Effect**

By Dr. José Pepels

#### ***Abstract:***

Social anthropological studies into African loyalty structures have shown that multiple social group membership has a positive effect on intergroup conflict. It was here that social psychologists sought the key to a successful strategy for the reduction, even the elimination, of intergroup discrimination and interethnic conflict.

However, as this book shows, this presumed positive effect of multiple group membership is based on limited and even erroneous theoretical assumptions. Empirical studies on the effect of crossed categorization focus mainly on two distinctive patterns of intergroup discrimination. The author presents a theoretical classification that distinguishes 146 models of crossed categorization and does more justice to the reality of the diversity of patterns of intergroup discrimination; in doing so, it demonstrates the limitations of previous research. The results of two crossed categorization studies conducted in the Netherlands are presented in this book. These studies show that crossed categorization is not the key to the reduction, let alone the elimination, of intergroup discrimination it was once thought to be.

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## Dissertations MERM



### **National and Ethnic Stereotypes in Central and Eastern Europe. A Study among Adolescents in Six Countries.**

By Dr. Edwin Poppe

#### ***Abstract:***

This book deals with intergroup relations in some Central and Eastern European countries after the collapse of state socialism at the end of the 1980s. More than a thousand adolescents in Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were asked to attribute certain characteristics to their own national group, five fellow Central-Eastern European nationalities, three major Western European nationalities (German, English, Italian) and the largest ethnic minority with a history of ethnic antagonism in their country. The evaluative nature of the stereotypes could be subsumed into a competence-related and a morality-related dimension. National stereotypes reflect more or less realistic differences between nation states: national groups are perceived as competent when their national state is economic powerful and as immoral when their country is large and conflict prone. It was also apart that the participants in the survey did not blindly favor their ingroup over all foreign nationalities on competence or morality. Hence, the stereotype attributions were not completely biased effects of underlying psychological needs, but (also) constrained by social (or economic) reality. Ethnic minorities are scapegoats, they seem to be blamed for the deteriorated economic circumstances by dissatisfied Central and Eastern European youngsters, in particular when the parents are also dissatisfied with the country's economic situation. Nationalism of adolescents is more focused on positive stereotypes of their own national group than on exclusionism of ethnic minorities. Stereotypes of foreign nationalities became more negative after a year as a function of a worsening economic situation in the country of the perceiver. These are among the main results of the survey. The author examines whether social psychological and sociological theories such as social identity theory, self-categorization theory, relative deprivation theory and scapegoat theory are useful to understand the content of national stereotypes and changes in these stereotypes over time.

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## Dissertations MERM



### **Steadily Forward. Status Attainment of Surinamese in The Netherlands.**

By Dr. Pretty Liem

#### ***Abstract:***

The Dutch labor market has become more colorful over the last few years. More and more people belonging to ethnic minorities have joined the ranks of the working population, and slowly but surely some of them are climbing the social ladder. The dynamics of this process, until recently, have been studied mainly from a macro-perspective.

Not much is known about career patterns of individuals belonging to ethnic minorities, or about the choices they make when they are confronted with constraints of a personal and institutional nature. In research into social stratification this process is usually indicated by the term status attainment. This study charts the status attainment of Surinamese in the Netherlands. The following research question has been formulated: How does the process of status attainment of Surinam's in the Netherlands take place, what differences occur among Surinamese - with regard to sex and ethnicity -, and between Surinamese and indigenous Dutch people, and how can these differences be explained?

ISBN: 90-5170-463-1

# Dissertations MERM



## Nederlandse Politieke partijen over minderhedenbeleid, 1977-1995

By Dr. Alfons Fermin

### **Abstract:**

The thesis is a qualitative social scientific study of the Dutch political discourse on multi-ethnic society between 1977 and 1995. Dutch Political discourse on multi-ethnic society between 1977 and 1995.

The central questions are:

1. Have the Dutch political parties' views on minority policy generally changed between 1977 and 1995, and, if so, in what direction?
2. Was in the first half of the nineties more disagreement on this topic than in the eighties?
3. What exactly are the differences of opinion between the parties on the topic of integration of minorities?

The research proceeds upon the theoretical assumption that three concepts - including their counterparts - play a central role in the political discourse on the multi-ethnic society: socio-cultural diversity (or homogeneity), socio-economic equality (or inequality), and political-juridical unity (or fragmentation). It is assumed that the perspectives on multi-ethnic society will be seen to differ in the political parties' interpretation and application of these concepts. The object of the research is approached in two ways. First the attitudes towards multi-ethnic society and minority policy are investigated for each political party separately. Next, the viewpoints of the parties are contextualized by examining the standpoints of the parliamentary groups of the parties in parliamentary debates on important government documents concerning minority policy. In addition the reactions of major minority organisations on these government documents are analyzed. A short answer to the first question is, that in general the viewpoints of the major political parties has shifted from a preference for a multicultural and group-oriented policy of emancipation in the eighties, to a preference for a more obligatory and individual-oriented policy of socio-economic integration in the nineties. An reply to the second question is, that in the political discourse under scrutiny, the consensus between the main political parties about the minority policy has increased rather than decreased. In order to answer the third question, in the conclusion a classification is made of the political parties' perspectives on integration that stresses the socio-economic, the socio-cultural and the political-juridical dimensions.

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# Dissertations MERM



## Nationality Stereotypes in Europe: Content and Change

By Dr. Hub Linssen

### **Abstract:**

Stereotypes are shared assumption about the personality, attitudes, and behaviours of people based on group membership (Hogg & Vaughan, 1995). In this thesis the content and the change of European nationality stereotypes will be discussed. The emphasis will be primarily directed at the descriptive aspects of the nationality stereotype. One exception to this is the second chapter, which deals with the evaluative aspects of nationality stereotypes.

The aim of the second chapter is to distinguish between perceived national characteristics and national stereotypes. The criterion used is that full consensus between all perceivers, including the target population, on the image about a nationality refers to characteristics of the target culture, while dissensus refers to the perceiver and therefore indicates national stereotypes. Subjects in the research were 277 students of the two highest grades of seven secondary schools giving access to university in Denmark, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy. Consensus/disconsensus on 22 attributions of characteristics to nationalities was determined using univariate analysis of variance with 6 nations as factor levels. It appeared that there existed consensus between the external and internal observers on about one third of the 154 characterisations of nationalities. The remaining attributions have to be considered national stereotypes. The possible determinants of -evaluative- national stereotypes are discussed.

The third chapter deals with the determinants of the content of descriptive European nationality stereotype. The content of the stereotypes was reflected in four dimensions namely, attributed efficiency, emotionality, empathy, and dominance. Attributed efficiency appeared to be determined by social factors, such as perceived economic development and social security, along with the geographical location of the stereotyped nation. Attributed emotionality was solely related to the north-south location of the stereotyped nation. Attributed empathy and dominance related to perceived political power and nationalism and the geographical size of the stereotyped nation. The effects of the geographical factors are interpreted in terms of cultural, economical, and historical factors associated with or relating to these geographical factors. The research and its results are placed in the framework of Von Ehrenfels' thesis of a north-south polarisation effect in nationality stereotypes and are related to self-categorization theory.

The fourth chapter addresses the stability of relative stereotype content over time by comparing the nationality stereotypes held by two cohorts (1989 and 1991) of European secondary school pupils. It was hypothesised that the ingroup as well

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as outgroup stereotype content would be stable over time. Furthermore it was hypothesised that, when the first hypothesis had to be rejected, changes in the stereotype content would be caused by changes in the structural features of the stereotyped nation. Through a multiple target comparison procedure, implemented by means of an ANOV A-approach which controls for the relative ingroup homogeneity and outgroup heterogeneity distribution as well as for the meta-contrast ratio, typical and a-typical aspects of the content of a stereotype were analysed. The first hypothesis was in general confirmed by the results. Those instances in which the first hypothesis had to be rejected were corroborated by the second hypothesis, in that the interim growth of the German country-size - due to the re-unification- caused a change in their in- and outgroup stereotype content. The same was true for the Belgian in- and outgroup stereotype content which changed after the -interim- federalization Belgium.

The fifth chapter the contact hypothesis was tested in a study in which 416 secondary school pupils from 11 ED-countries participated. It was hypothesised that voluntary, informal, frequent and cooperative contact between members of different nationalities would reduce only those nation-to-nation stereotypes whose content was induced by an intermediate -supra national- level of categorization.

Furthermore it was hypothesised that this change would be limited to the nation with which the contact was made. The contact hypothesis was tested by means of a within-subject repeated measurement|between- subjects treatment design. The results, in general, showed that the intermediate-level-categorization stereotypes, of emotional, hedonistic, assertive, or aggressive, changed in a positive way. The effects were limited to the contacted nationality, and no generalization toward similar nationalities occurred.