What is the role of the city in dealing with diversity?

Fenella Fleischmann
How many people in Utrecht have a migration background*?

* born abroad or local-born with at least one foreign-born parent
And what does that figure look like for the Netherlands as a whole?
Share of people with a migration background

Source: CBS Statline, 2017 data
Share of people with a migration background

Source: CBS Statline, 2017 data
Share of people with a migration background

Source: CBS Statline, 2017 data
Cities as ports of entrance

Ethnic enclaves
Ethnic ghetto’s
Ethnic communities
(Logan, Alba & Zhang, 2002)

Chain migration
Transplanted communities
(Lesthaeghe, 2000)

Sites of inter-ethnic encounters: Chicago School
Classic assimilation theory

Race relations cycle
(Park & Burgess, 1921)
“a process of interpenetration and fusion in which persons and groups acquire the memories, sentiments, and attitudes of other persons and groups and, by sharing their experience and history, are incorporated with them in a common cultural life”

Definition of assimilation by Park & Burgess
New assimilation theory

Socio-economic assimilation as basis for assimilation in other domains

Immigrant assimilation = upward social mobility
• higher attainment over time and across generations
• result: parity = same attainment distribution as mainstream

(Alba & Nee, 2003)
The Process of Assimilation
Immigrant integration: inequality and cohesion

integration

cohesion

prejudice

contact

culture

inequality

schooling

work

segregation

...
Ethnic inequality → Ethnic distance

Mutual influence
Close connections & multiple feedback loops
What is the role of the local context for immigrant integration?
Neighbourhood effects

Operate through
• Sharing of resources within local networks
• Role modelling
• Contagion

Hard to establish causal role of neighbourhood
• Context effect vs. selection: individual are not randomly allocated but sort themselves into neighbourhoods

(Leventhal & Brooks-Gunn, 2000), (Sampson, Morenoff & Gannon-Rowley, 2002)
Neighbourhood ethnic diversity: Hunkering down?

Putnam’s (2007) constrict theory
- Less social capital in neighbourhoods with more diversity
- Diversity = number of groups and their distribution
Socio-cultural integration

Less inter-ethnic contacts in neighbourhoods with more migrants

No effects of neighbourhood ethnic composition on attitudes

Source: SCP, Maakt de buurt verschil? 2010
Neighbourhood effects

Operate through
• Sharing of resources within local networks
• Role modelling
• Contagion

→ More likely among co-ethnics than across ethnic boundaries
→ Meeting opportunities are not enough
**Structural integration:**

- Positive effects of density on
  - School attainment (e.g. Fleischmann, Deboosere, Neels & Phalet, 2012)
  - Economic integration among the low-skilled (e.g. Edin, Fredriksson & Åslund, 2003)
How can cities make a difference?
Identity & social cohesion

Dual identity: ‘being both’, member of ethnic community and receiving society
Identity & social cohesion

But what is the relevant level of inclusion?
Levels of identification

Source: The Integration of the European Second generation (TIES 2007/08)
What is the role of the city in dealing with diversity?
Cities as forerunners of demographic changes, sites of encounters & inclusive categories of identification
“Being an Utrechter makes me part of this society”
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