Developing future scenarios on social cohesion in the Netherlands

Joris Broere

@SCPonderzoek
About SCP

Professional government organisation which carries out its work independently and on a scientific basis

Monitors, explains and explores the social and cultural well-being of people living in the Netherlands
About SCP

› Conducts research into the social aspects of all areas of government policy

› Reports published by SCP are widely used by government, civil servants, local authorities and academics
Developing scenarios for 2050

› Assignment by the Dutch parliament
› Several knowledge institutes (e.g., CBS,NIDI,SCP)
› NIDI developed 9 scenarios on social demographic development\(^1\) \(^2\)


SCP: social cohesion in 2050

Social cohesion:
- Multi-dimensional concept
- Trust within and between different social groups

Social demographic development

Digitalisation

Complex system methods and agent based modelling
Main questions

› How can Agent Based Modelling be useful for answering policy questions concerning social cohesion/trust?

› What is the effect of digitalization (for instance: social media) on social cohesion/trust within and between social groups (for instance: ethnicity, education level, age) in the Netherlands? (most important question to be answered, preferably answered by ABM)

› Which other methods can be used to model the influence of (social) media use be modelled on cohesion/trust between social groups in the Netherlands?
Output

› Agent Based Model
› Explore future scenarios for social cohesion
› Modelling the (often suggested polarizing) effect of social media
› Not point prediction (unrealistic), but “what if” scenarios
Impact

- Part of an SCP publication to inform parliament and policy makers
- Article academic journal

**Important disclaimer:** SCP wants to maintain ownership over possible results of the project. It is important that publication of possible relevant results do not conflict with the SCP media strategy and can therefore only be made public at the appropriate times in line with the SCP media strategy.
Guidance from SCP

› Help with literature search (social cohesion, modelling, theory)
› Help with possible data sources (if needed)
› Invitation for tour at SCP in Den Haag
Thank you and hope to see you soon!

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