

Neighbourhood Histories and Individual Outcomes:

The Cyclical Nature of Opportunities and Choices

Keywords: neighbourhood effects, social inequality, life course, neighbourhood histories, selection bias, space-time paths

OTB Department / Urban Renewal and Housing

Area of Research: Social Geography



Research Summary: Neighbourhood effects – the idea that the social composition and environmental factors in a neighbourhood influence the individual socioeconomic and health outcomes of its inhabitants - have been studied extensively since decades, partially because of the interest from policymakers seeking to decrease social inequality. However, only in the recent years developments in data and methods made it possible to contextualise these effects by focusing on longitudinal measurements and the complicated interplay between different variables. This PhD project aims to build upon these developments by studying the influence of full neighbourhood histories, rather than of single time-point predictors, on individual socioeconomic status. Furthermore, the neighbourhood selection, the mediation by social networks and the effects of spatial contexts beyond the home neighbourhood will be researched. Through these studies, we can understand better how the socio-spatial inequality is reproduced by neighbourhood choice and neighbourhood effects, which is necessary for providing equal opportunities in our society.

Research Methodology: The data are taken from the Dutch Social Statistical Database (SSD), a registry covering the entire population of the Netherlands from 1999 until now. These individual data are merged with neighbourhood-level variables from the Statistics Netherlands dataset *Kerncijfers Wijken en Buurten* (statistics about districts and neighbourhoods) and possibly survey and social media data in later papers. Programmes such as Stata, Mplus and QGIS are used for analyses.



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Main Question: *To what extent is socioeconomic inequality reproduced through neighbourhood selection and neighbourhood effects (neighbourhood histories), including the spatial contexts beyond the home neighbourhood?*

Deliverables: *PhD thesis consisting of five articles in peer reviewed journals.*

Updated: March 5, 2019