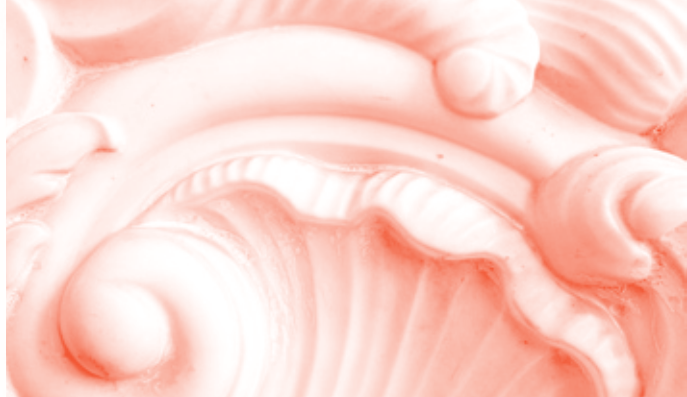




nidi

netherlands  
interdisciplinary  
demographic  
institute

# Pioneering in population studies



# NIDI research at the heart of science and policy

NIDI is proud to be an institute of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and to be affiliated with the University of Groningen/UMCG. After almost 10 years of very fruitful collaboration with the UoG/UMCG our alliance was renewed and this is a good reason to celebrate. Population issues are at the heart of policy more than ever it seems. The changing face of the Dutch population raises new questions and policy dilemmas. Well grounded scientific insights are needed to facilitate evidence-based policies. NIDI research has always aimed to be scientifically cutting edge while at the same time societally relevant. Sharing scientific knowledge with society and policy is of key importance. Scientific questions and policy issues don't stop at the border, NIDI research is therefore internationally connected and often comparative. As an institute NIDI is the spider in the web of population studies nationally and internationally. In this booklet we present a selected collection of our ongoing and new projects. But we also give a face to the people working at NIDI making all these research and data infrastructure projects possible. We hope you enjoy these snapshots of population studies and inspire you to think of how demography relates to your own life and work.



**Prof. dr. Helga A.G. de Valk**  
Director of NIDI

# Pioneering in population studies

**The Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute was founded in 1970 as an inter-university institute. From 1987 onwards, NIDI became an independent foundation with core funding from the government: 'interuniversity' was replaced by 'interdisciplinary' — an important characteristic of demographic research.**

Since 2003, NIDI is part of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences (KNAW) as the only social science institute. Since 2014, NIDI also has a long-term affiliation with the University of Groningen (RUG). NIDI researchers study population dynamics in relationship with social, economic and policy issues. Research findings and data are made available for the benefit of science, policy, and society. NIDI activities are focused in five theme groups: Families & Generations, Migration & Migrants, Work & Retirement, Aging & Longevity, and Data Infrastructure & Dissemination.

NIDI collaborates with national and international population research institutes and universities. It facilitates the Netherlands Demographic Society (NVD) and the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), is a member of the European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR), is a partner institute of Population Europe, the network of Europe's leading demographic research centers, and it contributes to the European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD), a joint initiative of European demographic institutes.

NIDI strives to conduct high-quality scientific research in the field of population, our core activity, and to unlock and translate demographic knowledge and information for users in science, policy, and society.

[nidi.nl](https://nidi.nl)





NEDERLANDS INTERUNIVERSITAIR DEMOCRATISCH INSTITUUT NIDI



# The generations and gender programme

**The Generations and Gender Programme (GGP) is an international research infrastructure on population and family dynamics. This means that we collect, document, and make available to researchers cross-nationally comparable data on families and the life course of individuals.**

These data cover topics such as the gender division of paid and unpaid work, work-life balance, union formation and dissolution, the decision to have children, and the relationships between generations. We collect these data using our own Generations and Gender Survey. Our current collection includes data spanning 30 years, more than 40 countries and 450,000 individuals. Our data are open-access and we count more than 5000 users worldwide.

The headquarters of the GGP has been located at NIDI since 2009. It is governed by a consortium composed of leading institutes and universities from eleven countries. The GGP is financed through a combination of support from its own Consortium (including NIDI), the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, and the European Commission.



The GGP data have been used to answer pressing scientific and societal demographic challenges for example on the reasons for the persistence of low fertility, on inequalities in the life course trajectories and opportunities of young adults, and on gender inequalities. The data can be browsed online, or can be accessed after registration.

In 2021, the GGP was included on the ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) Roadmap in recognition of its high scientific excellence and maturity. Principal investigator of the project is Prof. A.H. Gauthier.

More information:  
[ggp-i.org](http://ggp-i.org)



# I love interdisciplinary research

Lin Rouvroye

PhD Work & Retirement



*With my background in Social Sciences and Psychology, I was mainly interested in the development of young adults, between 18 and 35. I also found the interdisciplinary character of demography quite attractive. Issues in areas such as the labour market, health and aging are studied from multiple points of view.*

*My current research focuses on flexibilization of the Dutch labor market and what this means for employers and young adults. The labor market in the Netherlands has changed a lot over the past twenty years, due to the extensive use of short-term employment contracts and temporary staff. This development mainly affects young adults. I was curious how this affects young adults experiencing the process of becoming an adult.*

*The relevance of my research is easy to explain. Current Dutch society is aging. The pressure to pay for collective facilities therefore*

*rests on the shoulders of a shrinking group: today's young adults. As a society, you should therefore support and facilitate this group as best as possible. After all, it is their capacity that is being counted on. Developments in the labor market are actually working against this - assumed economic interests appear to outweigh social interests.*

*What I am particularly curious about is how this flexibilization of the labor market and the consequences for young adults will turn out in the longer term. For example, by conducting a follow-up study in 10 to 15 years to observe how the life course of today's young adults have actually developed.*

# Breaking the taboo around loneliness

**This 4-year project, starting in 2024, aims to generate groundbreaking scientific knowledge on the taboo surrounding loneliness and the diversity in forms and causes of loneliness among older adults with a non-European origin (older migrants). This new knowledge will be translated into practical tools and guidelines to reach more lonely older migrants and address their loneliness more effectively.**

Regarding taboo, this project is the first to quantify the variation in underreporting loneliness among older migrants. Additionally, using innovative qualitative methods, detailed understanding will be gained of the causes of older migrants' reluctance to talk openly about loneliness, the contexts in which this reluctance occurs, and how children and the larger community perceive the taboo and respond or might respond to it. These new insights will be applied in practice by developing a training program for professionals and volunteers.

Regarding diversity in loneliness, by innovatively reusing existing survey data, this project is the first to identify subgroups of older migrants at a particularly high risk of loneliness. In co-creation and by adding new knowledge on taboo, these subgroups will be translated into Personas and suitable accompanying types of interventions. These research outputs are expected to raise awareness of the multifaceted manifestation of older migrants' loneliness among policy makers, welfare professionals and the broader society. They will be essential in improving current interventions and developing new ones.

The project is financed by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) as part of the NWA (National Science Agenda)-call Loneliness. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. T. Fokkema.





# Colleagues all over Europe

Daniel Zazueta-Borboa

PhD Aging & Longevity



*For my scientific work, I moved from my native country Mexico to study and do research in Germany and in Spain. I applied for a Ph.D. position at NIDI, so now I've been working for four years in the Netherlands. At an academic level, it's very challenging to do research in different countries and at three different demographic institutes. It's interesting to see how they have their own character, the differences in the way they receive students, their scope and methods of their research. Also, it's great for networking: I still have contacts with colleagues all over Europe. We learn about each other's research, exchange insights and have also worked together on various publications.*

*My research is about trends in different life expectancy by educational-attainment groups in three countries: England & Wales, Finland, and Italy (Turin). Also, we follow the trend over*

*the years, from the 70's until 2019, about 50 years. With these data we try to explain how these differences are related to lifestyle, for instance the use of alcohol. It's a challenge, comparing different countries and over a long period.*

*A topic that really puzzles me: in almost all western countries the life expectancy is increasing, people tend to grow older. But in some parts of the UK and the USA the trend is different: life expectancy remains the same or even decreases. So how is that possible, how does economic inequality or difference in educational level contribute to this? That is something I'd love to find out.*

# Building a longitudinal migration panel on integration

**In this project, we build a migration panel by combining individual-level data from surveys and registers in a novel way. Many questions about the social, economic, and cultural integration of people with a migration background and most theories about integration require longitudinal data.**

Such data are notoriously scarce in the Netherlands. To fill in this gap, this project builds a new migration panel. The project starts with 11 migration surveys that were held as repeated cross-sectional surveys since 1988 by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) and Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) (e.g., “Survey Integratie Minderheden” (SIM)). The surveys will be made comparable and harmonized into one pooled dataset. In the next step, the respondents will be matched with the central register of Statistics Netherlands. Register data will be transformed into easy-to-use variables and converted into a panel format with annual observations from the start of each survey up to 2023.



By combining the survey and register data, we obtain a new migrant panel study, running from 2024 until July 2026. The panel covers 11 origin groups and a comparison group of natives. The panel not only follows the original survey respondents in the registers but also their children and partners. The code that produces the data will be made publicly available so the panel becomes a public use dataset.

Collaboration will be with DANS-KNAW and with CBS. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. M. Kalmijn. The project is subsidized by a grant from the KNAW Research Fund.

# The NIDI-pension panel survey

Until 2006 the Netherlands, like many other European countries, had a very strong 'early retirement culture'. But that is history now. Early exit routes have been closed, and moreover, statutory pension age has increased and will increase further in the years to come.

This raises many new questions about how to support older adults in reaching the increasing retirement age in good health. It raises also questions about the possible unintended negative consequences of these reforms, for example for the availability of informal care and for volunteers around the retirement age.

The NIDI Pension Panel Study, funded by NWO-VICI and Netspar, aims to address these questions by developing a multilevel survey in collaboration with three main pension funds in the Netherlands. It started in 2015 by following 6,800 employees aged 60 and over and their spouses (55% men and 45% women) working in over 1,000 organizations in their transition to retirement. With additional survey waves in 2018 and 2023 the Panel covers the full retirement transition period for recent cohorts. The project shows how these cohorts adapted to the raised retirement age and how organizations have impacted this process. The project also focuses on the consequences of civic engagement, wellbeing and leisure activities, post-retirement work and the role of the spouse in decisions to retire.



The NIDI Pension Panel Study is funded by NWO-VICI and Netspar. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. K. Henkens.



# My hobby became my job

Lonneke van den Berg

Postdoc researcher Families & Generations



*My initial education is Social Sciences, with a focus on Family Sociology. I received my PhD in 2020 for research on young people 'leaving home'. My interest has always been in how people live together, societies and the life course. I enjoyed reading about this topic. The GAK-KNAW award gave me a great opportunity to set up my own research project for several years. My research is about how young people organize their lives, how they live, and their effects on their well-being. There is a lot of attention for the well-being of young people; there are worries about the large decline in their well-being in recent years and their possibilities to take the steps they would want. Moreover, social inequality is increasing, as not all young people have a safety net they can fall back on. I want to find out what are the most vulnerable groups among young people, and how can their live be improved it?*

*My follow-up Veni research project (started 2024) is about the effect of uncertainty, due to the increase of temporary employment contracts, on the well-being of young people. In addition, one strand of research that I would love to expand upon is to look more specifically at the experiences of young adults themselves preferably over a longer period of time and in other countries. This would allow to gain insight into the role and influence of the government. For example, what was the effect of the Dutch loan system for students and the changes therein? I would like to focus on the experience of young adults themselves!*

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Project



# Life-course transitions and health behaviours

**In this project we use Lifelines. Lifelines is a longitudinal study on health, initiated by the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG). It includes rich objective and subjective information on the health situation of over 100,000 inhabitants of Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe, who are followed since 2006 (and counting...).**

Lifelines is also linked to registry information available at Statistics Netherlands. Therefore, it offers great opportunities for societal-relevant demographic research on health and health inequalities. Lifelines data have been and are used in NIDI research instigated by several researchers of NIDI. It's part of the project Life-course transitions, socio-economic status and health behaviours.

Understanding social inequalities in health is the central goal of this research. One strand of research focusses on examining how large these inequalities are and whether low socioeconomic background causes poor health or that other factors (genes, intelligence, early-life health conditions) lead people both to have a low socioeconomic position and poor adult health. A related strand examines to what extent socioeconomic inequalities in health originate in different health behaviours

of persons with low and high socioeconomic status. These lines of research have been funded by grants from the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO) and the Dutch Medical Research Council (ZonMW). Another strand of research focusses on life events. Here it is studied what the health consequences of personal life events like unemployment and retirement are, but also how societal events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, influences health behaviours and health outcomes.


This line of research has been funded by a grant of the Research Fund of the Royal Academy of Sciences. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. A.C. Liefbroer.



# I enjoy 'active aging'

Nico van Nimwegen

Honorary Fellow



*I worked at NIDI from 1977 to 2014. Since my retirement I have been a fellow at NIDI and still active in various professional activities. Currently I am member of the editorial board of DEMOS, Executive Director of the European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) and Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). DEMOS is dear to me; it is the flagship publication of NIDI for a broad audience. EAPS and IUSSP are vital to our population studies community. They facilitate scientific collaboration across borders and disciplines by organising conferences, webinars, working groups, training workshops and the like. They promote our science and help increase the impact of our studies. As national demographic institute, NIDI supports these associations as well as the Netherlands Demographic Society (NVD).*

*I was attracted to populations studies and demography in an era when population*

*growth was booming worldwide and there were serious concerns about environmental impacts. It became even more exciting when I realized that population dynamics are linked to practically all domains of life. Think of health and wellbeing, education and housing, economy, the labour market and retirement, but also all matters of "love and marriage", retirement, healthy ageing and longevity, mobility and diversity, environmental and social impacts and inequalities.*

*Talking about my wish list, my vote goes to a permanent European Demography Observatory as a collaborative effort of leading European population research centres like NIDI. There is definitely a need for science based decision making, also at the EU level.*



# NIDI's popular science journal on demographics

**Demos is NIDI's popular science journal and is aimed at a broader readership, that is, anyone with an interest in population related issues, including policy makers, politicians, journalists, teachers in secondary and higher education, and researchers from other disciplines.**

Demos has a long and established tradition. It was founded in 1985 with the support of the Dutch Ministry of Education and Sciences with the aim of promoting knowledge, opinion-forming and awareness of population issues. Demos is published 10 times a year in full color format both on paper and digitally. Demos publishes short, clearly and accessibly written articles on demography-related topics in the Netherlands and abroad. Demos is a free of charge and open access journal and has approximately 2600 subscribers from all over the Netherlands and even abroad. Also, without a subscription, Demos can be read by everyone via the NIDI website. Demos is a Dutch-language journal, but occasionally English-language special issues are also published, especially on the occasion of the European Population Conferences. NIDI researchers are the main contributors to the journal by writing about their own research and other current population-related topics.



In addition to contributions from NIDI's own research staff, Demos also welcomes and publishes contributions from external researchers.

Are you interested? Surf to [nidi.nl/nl/demos/](https://nidi.nl/nl/demos/)



# Can European mobility foster regional development?

**How can European mobility help to foster regional development of regions left behind? People move because they seek better chances for a decent living. These are usually from less favorable places to the regions with more opportunities. As a result, some regions get left behind.**

Loss of talent and expertise combined with an aging population may leave communities in crisis. What is needed are better data and tools

to understand the causes and consequences of mobility on individuals as well as on their region of departure and destination.

PREMIUM\_EU explores what role migrants can play in enhancing living conditions in their home regions and their host regions, by focusing on the factors that make them leave and settle, and how they can align with regional development. This will include building an European regional database of migration, enhanced with migrant interviews, surveys and data from social media to gain new insights. The regions which people move away from and the ones they flock to. We will identify the effects of mobility on the economic, social, and environmental conditions of left-behind rural regions and cities. The policies that may be instrumental in migration driven regional development.

PREMIUM\_EU creates a dashboard as a tool for policy makers to devise optimal policies for turning the individual benefits of migration into societal development that is both inclusive and sustainable.

PREMIUM\_EU is a three-year research project (April 2023 to April 2026), and funded by the Horizon Europe program. The consortium consist of NIDI, as the coordinating institute, and nine other European research partners. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. L. van Wissen.

More information:  
[premium-eu.org](https://premium-eu.org)

# Shifting stereotypes

Camilla Marabini

PhD at Work & Retirement



*My master thesis was about retirement of Solo Self-employed Workers, SEW's (ZZP'ers). A lot of SEW's work at a low pay rate and hardly have the possibility to build up a pension. In the Netherlands, with so many self-employed workers, the government should take this into account.*

*My PhD is part of a research project in collaboration with the Amsterdam University Medical Centers. It focuses on how organizations have impact on the transition of their employees to retirement. A generation earlier, lots of employees stopped working at 55, 58 or 60. Nowadays, pension age has shifted to 67.*

*Research has shown that there are many stereotypes about older workers, and it is important to advise employers on how to best support this group. Especially given this rapidly shifting retirement age and tightening labour market. So for employees it's quite important*

*to stay healthy and motivated at the end of this extended working life. For organizations it's quite important to know how to properly guide them towards their retirement. I am sure that my research will lead to practical and applicable advice for employers and the legislative government.*

*Aside of my PhD. I am also very curious about the situation of groups that are often underrepresented in research, such as (often very low-paid) workers in hospitality (restaurants, caf  s) or delivery personnel. But being at the beginning of my PhD, it's hard to think of a follow-up research.*

# Moving in childhood: does it matter?

**A large share of children move to another place in childhood. This so-called internal mobility during childhood is a potentially stressful life event which may have adverse consequences not only in the short run but also later in life. In the ERC-funded MYMOVE project, we study how moving as a child influences the health, well-being, and family formation of migrants and natives later in life.**

The main objective of the project is to develop a better understanding of the relationship between internal mobility in childhood and later life chances as defined by demographic family life choices, health and well-being. This is done by using longitudinal population register data and survey panel data from different European countries.

The project pays specifically attention to the increasing share of youth of immigrant origin. Children with an immigrant background are often more likely to move within the country of settlement than youth of the majority group but we know little on the antecedents, processes and consequences. In addition, in the project we go beyond an often used simplified way of studying internal mobility (being mobile or immobile) and also cover other relevant dimensions of the move, such as the number of moves, the reason for the move, or the age at which the move takes place. Finally, we aim to understand the role that individual characteristics, family background and neighborhood may have on the effects of moving in childhood.

The MyMove project is funded by an European Research Council Consolidator Grant (2019-2024) and involves teams in eight European countries. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. H.A.G. de Valk.

More information:  
[mymoveproject.nl](http://mymoveproject.nl)





# I'm sort of a scientific omnivore

Harry van Dalen

Senior researcher Work & Retirement



*Not a demographer by training, I am highly interested in demography, how it affects the economy and vice versa. Perhaps in the tradition of Malthus, the political economist who put demography on the map. I publish about migration, aging, pensions, organ donation, the monarchy, real estate brokers, you name it. But demography is the leading theme in my career. Also, I like to see myself as participant as well as observer in the way science and policy are carried out. This applies both to the world of economists as well as those of demographers.*

*For a year now, I have mainly been working as scientific secretary for the State Commission on Demographic Developments 2050. I support the committee in — ultimately — writing its final report, a combination of economics, demography, sociology and policy. This means processing all input from committee members, insights from*

*conversations and conclusions into a readable report. I also try to inform for what is said or thought based on what is brought forward in the social sciences. I raise my hand if things are actually different than assumed, and make it clear what that is based on.*

*What I really think is missing is a textbook on demography for a general audience. In which all kinds of insights from demography and adjacent areas are brought together. If there is one lesson to keep in mind from my state committee work: what demographers view as a trivial insight is a revelation or an eye opener for policy makers, politicians and the general public.*

# The Dutch population in 2050

**In 2018 the Dutch parliament requested the government to give more insight into the future population in the Netherlands. In 2022 this resulted in a call for a State Committee on demographic development and a long term monitoring system for the Dutch population and related in-depth analyses on the impact for different policy domains.**



In 2050 the population in the Netherlands will be larger, older and more ethnically diverse than now. These demographic changes have important consequences for a range of different societal domains. The State Committee was requested to come with new perspectives for policy how to deal with these trends for relevant policy domains. The changing demography will have large impact on the economy, the labour market, social security, care and education as well as housing and the use of the limited space of the country. NIDI had a key role in the secretariat and via the vice-chair of the committee. In 2023 NIDI was together with CBS also invited by the coordinating ministry of Social Affairs (SZW) to develop a more continuous monitoring system for demographic developments and its consequences.

In this monitor of the Dutch population that will run for 10 years there will be a thematic set of studies every year. NIDI will develop this project and its thematic focus in the coming years addressing themes as like housing, international migration, labour market participation and retirement as well as care and intergenerational relations.

The project will be carried out in collaboration with CBS. Principle Investigator of the project is Prof. H. de Valk.

# Explaining health inequality

Anna Tort Carrera

PhD Aging & Longevity



*Originally from Barcelona, I moved to the Netherlands in January 2022 to pursue my PhD at NIDI-KNAW and the University of Groningen.*

*Throughout my studies in environmental sciences, I became deeply interested in the relationship between the environment and health, as well as the socio-spatial inequalities that go along with it. In my master's, I started exploring this by analysing the association between air pollution and mental health in Barcelona.*

*In my current research, I use Lifelines to understand the influence of neighbourhoods on mental health and quality of life, in the north of the Netherlands. Within this, I also want to understand and explain the inequality between age groups: children, adults and older adults.*

*I hope that the results of our research can be used for policy and policy implementation*

*on how you can organize cities in such a way that it contributes to people's well-being. This is especially important because more and more people live in cities, and the design of cities, therefore, has a major influence on the quality of life.*

*In the future, I would like to continue my research by exploring the role of climate change on socio-spatial disparities. By understanding who moves, who stays, and what we can do to make cities more resilient, we can better address some of the challenges that cities and people face in the 21st century.*



# I unravel societal puzzles

Frank van Tubergen

Theme leader Migration and Migrants



*My work orbits around the fascinating dynamics of intergroup relations amid increasing ethnic diversity. I'm deeply invested in unraveling societal puzzles like social cohesion and inequality, for instance, the mechanisms behind labor market discrimination. I'm committed to developing strategies to curb exclusion. I also explore how immigrants acquire the language of their host country. This demands insights from various disciplines, and I am constantly drawn to Demography's inherent interdisciplinary nature.*

*What captivates me is how the research agenda is driven by contemporary societal issues. One of our current projects, funded by GAK-KNAW and Netspar, addresses the significant problem of immigrant retirement poverty. In the Netherlands, about 40% of non-Western migrants live below the poverty line. Among Western migrants this is 6% and those without a migration background (3%).*

*This issue becomes increasingly pressing. Our goal is to understand the underlying causes of this problem and develop interventions to alleviate it.*

*Looking forward, there are many topics I aim to explore. A prominent one is facilitating the transition of immigrants into the labor market. A major barrier is the non-recognition of their educational credentials, leading to underemployment or job mismatches. How can artificial intelligence be used to better assess immigrants' skills and experience. This approach could provide a novel way for employers to evaluate potential employees, helping immigrants to integrate more swiftly into the labor market and address the significant labor shortages we are facing.*

## Colofon

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# Pioneering in **population** **studies**

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