

Whom to hang out with and why: the influence of social ties on social and recreational activity participation and travel of various ethnic groups in the Netherlands

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Background

- 60% of trips in Netherlands is social/recreational (SR)
- SR trips are often made jointly
- Social interaction affects frequency, destination, mode of most trips
- Insight in the role of social networks in SR activity generation is lacking

Previous findings

- Frequency of SR activities affected by SN characteristics (#HH members, friends, affiliation alters, density, centrality, characteristics of alters, geogr. distance)
- Frequency of social contact affected by SN composition/ties (distance, #members, %relatives, Internet use, type/ intensity of tie)
- Frequency of support activities affected by SN characteristics (distance, accessibility (phone, Internet), gender, size of SN, parent/child ties)

Research question/objective

1. To gain more insight in the mechanisms through which SN affect SR activities
2. To provide empirical underpinning for the hypothesised relationships

Theoretical insights

- Participation in SR activities depends on **social capital** (companionship, information, support) offered by friends, family and associational memberships.
- **Exchange theory** posits that individuals in social network ties exchange resources. Exchange is supposed to be **reciprocal**, but may be **asymmetrical**.
- SN are **multiplex**, i.e. fulfil multiple functions (support, companionship, advice) and individuals have multiple types of SN

Hypotheses

- More interaction with *family members* leads to more *leisure oriented activities*
- More interaction with family members in *one domain* leads to more interactions in *other domains*
- More interaction with *friends* leads to more involvement in *leisure oriented and cultural activities*
- *Associational memberships* lead to more involvement in *active activities* involving specific skills and *passive activities* associated with the membership (e.g. watching ballet)
- Having a *professional network* leads to more and wider participation in *recreational activities*

Data

- Life Circumstances of Urban Immigrants Study (2004/2005): 919 Moroccans, 947 Turks, 825 Antillians, 763 Surinamese, 642 Dutch
- Items on involvement in SR activities, freq. of contact family/friends, associational memberships

Analyses

- Ordered logit model of frequency of SR activities: seeing a play, seeing a movie, sightseeing, visiting a restaurant, sports, hosting visitors, contact with family
- Effect of SN variables controlled for socio-demographics and ethnicity

Results

- More of contact with *family and friends* and *associational memberships* lead to more frequent *leisure and recreation activities*
- Effects of different social networks are *not* (not only) *domain specific*
- Specific networks fulfil *multiple functions* (companionship, support, information), and networks functionally overlap
- Associational memberships and cross cultural contacts are more important for ethnic minorities

Effects of socio-demographics

	See a play	See a movie	Sightseeing	Visit a restaurant	Sports	Hosting visitors	Contact with family
Levelness of SR	0.22	0.32	0.17	0.26	0.50	0.17	0.06
Age							
18-24	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
25-29							
30-44	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
45-64 (reference)							
Household composition							
married/cohabiting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
widowed/divorced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
never married (reference)							
Education level							
elementary school	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
higher vocational	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
university professional	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
University (reference)							
Drivers license	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Number of cars							
no car	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
one car							
two or more cars (reference)							

Effects of social ties

	See a play	See a movie	Sightseeing	Visit a restaurant	Sports	Hosting visitors	Contact with family
Contact with family							
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sometimes							
Hardly (reference)							
Contact with friends							
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sometimes							
Hardly (reference)							
Hosting visitors							
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sometimes							
Hardly (reference)							
Advice from other ethnicity							
Advice from own ethnicity							
Received help from friends							
Received help from family							
Helps family							
Frequent contacts with neighbours							
Frequent contacts in neighbourhood							
Contact with other ethnic groups							
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sometimes							
Hardly (reference)							

	See a play	See a movie	Sightseeing	Visit a restaurant	Sports	Hosting visitors	Contact with family
Ethnicity							
Associational memberships							
company club							
Dutch							
company club							
Sports							
voluntary work							
Help/index from other ethnicity/ethnicity							
Turkish							
Moroccan							
Antillian							
Surinamese							
Dancing club/voluntary							
Turkish							
Moroccan							
Antillian							
Surinamese							
Sports club/voluntary							
Turkish							
Moroccan							
Antillian							
Surinamese							