Letter of intent

File number 175.2021.006
Grant 2021/2022

Applicant

Title MULTIGENS: Multi-Generational Interdependencies in the Netherlands

Abstract

# NWO domain
Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH)

# Relevant research fields (https://www.nwo.nl/en/nwo-research-fields)
27.50.00 Social and economic history
45.90.00 Sociology
48.90.00 Demography

# A brief explanation of the requested investment
Socioeconomic inequality is on the rise. A remarkable phenomenon, as inequality has been decreasing for nearly the entire twentieth century. Contemporary research based on register and survey data allows us to monitor parental influence on children’s outcomes in demographic, social, economic and health outcomes. But changes in inequality are slow and we thus need long term data to better understand or even predict patterns in inequality. Exemplary is historical research spanning four generations uncovering the lasting effects of grandparents and greater-grandparents beyond the direct influence of parents on children’s outcomes, such as occupational position.

Following the world’s leading large scale social science infrastructures, we therefore propose to combine our national contemporary and historical databases: the CBS’ System of Social Statistical Datasets (SSD) and the HSNDDB datasets Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN) and LINKS. To do so we propose three types of investments: (1) enhancement of existing historical databases, (2) linkage of historical databases and the SSD, (3) training in use of multi-generational data. We also focus on multi-generational life courses of Dutch with migration backgrounds, a.o. Suriname and the Java region.

The results of MULTIGENS (1) reposition the Netherlands as holder of the best infrastructure worldwide to inequality as MULTIGENS has a national scope and covers in-migrations, (2) allow for long term studies (up to 6 generations) on the origins of and changes in social, economic, demographic and quality of life (health) outcomes, (3) allow for the study of stacking inequalities, (4) provides a FAIR solution to linking historical and contemporary vocabularies and variables), (5) provides training in a.o. analysis of multi-generational research and interlinking of other data to multigen, (6) indirectly, the research based on the infrastructure will filter the more fluent determinants of inequality from the more robust, allowing policy makers to create hybrid strategies towards inequality issues.

In total we will request 3.5 million euros for: technical infrastructure including data linkage and testing, data gathering aimed at linking historical and contemporary data, and outreach including training and access for researchers from the former colonies to the CBS micro services incorporated in MULTIGENS.

# Group of researchers involved
Our consortium consists of early career and more experienced researchers, from amongst others (historical) sociology, (historical) demography, social and economic history as well as scholars of health, residing at: Leiden University Medical Center, Erasmus University Medical Center, Utrecht University, Radboud University, University of Amsterdam, University of Groningen, Lund University, Central Bureau of Statistics, and the International Institute of Social History.

# Alignment with Group(s) in the LSRI Roadmap
MULTIGENS is building on outcomes of CLARIAH (Linked Data and burgerLinker tool), ODISSEI (pilot project on feasibility of linking HSN and SSD) and interlinks databases from former NWO grants, as well as two recently awarded PDI-SSH calls.
Organisation responsible for the application

Confirm letter of intent
With submitting this form via ISAAC I declare to have filled in this form completely and truthfully.

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Applicant