

## **Session 201: Leaving home and family formation**

### **First-time Home-ownership in the Netherlands**

**Smits, Annika<sup>A</sup> and Mulder, Clara H.<sup>B</sup>**

<sup>A</sup>Annika Smits, Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam / European Doctoral school of Demography, Max Planck Institute of Demographic Research, Rostock. Contact: Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Email: a.w.m.smits@uva.nl

<sup>B</sup> Clara H. Mulder, Amsterdam institute for Metropolitan and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam. Nieuwe Prinsengracht 130, 1018 VZ Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Email: c.h.mulder@uva.nl

#### **Background and purpose:**

During the last few decades, homeownership has risen enormously in the Netherlands (Helderma et al., 2004). Most likely this increase is related to an increasing economic prosperity and the growing availability of owner-occupied homes. Previous research has shown that there is reason to believe that the timing of household events affects the timing of moving into owner occupied dwellings (Feijten & Mulder, 2002).

People tend to become homeowners at younger ages. Also, the transition to becoming a homeowner more frequently takes place before the transition to parenthood.

Research has also shown that there are similarities in homeownership between parents and children (Boehm & Schlottman, 1999; Clark & Mulder, 2000; Henretta, 1984, 1987; Kurz, 2004; Mulder & Smits, 1999; Mulder & Wagner, 1998). However, it has remained unclear how the influences of parental homeownership and household events interact and how different children of homeowners are from children of renters in shaping their own housing careers.

This paper aims to unravel the extent to which homeownership within the respondent's family influences the occurrence of home-ownership and the timing of becoming a homeowner. It reports the extent to which home-ownership experience in the family and such life events as partnership formation, cohabitation, marriage and the transition to parenthood affect first-time homeownership. It is expected that the timing of the respondent's life events and its effects on homeownership will differ according to whether respondents have had close-by experience with home-ownership.

#### **Data and methods:**

We use data from the Netherlands Kinship Panel Study (NKPS; Dykstra et al., 2004). All the variables used were taken from the first wave of the panel study, which became available in July 2004. This wave provides information on the timing of partnership, cohabitation, marriage, employment, having children and homeownership. It is also known whether parents were homeowners when the respondent was young. Furthermore, measures of income and education are used as control variables.

The NKPS offers excellent possibilities to unravel life event effects, family effects and effects of social background characteristics on first-time homeownership. For the analyses, discrete time analysis techniques were used.

#### **Main results:**

The outcomes will shed light upon the determinants that affect an important aspect of the housing career, that is, the timing of becoming a homeowner.