

ABSTRACTS

"Social Capital - A new research agenda. Towards an attitudinal approach" (Dietlind Stolle)

The concept of social capital has received much attention in recent social-science research, and responds mainly to the pathbreaking research by Robert Putnam on Italy. In this article, the author discusses the stage of social capital research to date and develops a research agenda that results from the logic of social capital theory and includes research on the sources and consequences of social capital and the relationship between its cultural and structural aspects. The author argues that the research about the sources and origins of social capital remains most underdeveloped, but the empirical and theoretical literature about the influence of families, networks, economic conditions and institutions on the formation of social capital constitutes a beginning. It is also argued that the different conceptualisations we encounter in the work of James Coleman and Robert Putnam are not irreconcilable, but find their origin in the different focus on empirical research questions. The attitudinal and the network approach to social capital research can be linked in that we more clearly identify the causal relationship between membership in various networks and attitudinal indicators of social capital such as generalised trust and norms of reciprocity.

"Interpreting the work of Robert Putnam from an Italian point of view" (Michel Huyseune)

Robert D. Putnam's *Making Democracy Work* has stimulated an important scientific debate among social scientists researching on Italy. In this debate scholars proposed significant critiques, that problematise three aspects of Putnam's research: the representation and interpretation of regional cultural contexts, the relevance of path dependence to explain regional differences, and finally the controversial role of the Italian state, which is largely neglected by Putnam. These 'italianist' critiques on *Making Democracy Work* have an international relevance, since they problematise the interaction between civil society, social capital and governmental efficiency.

"The social capital of the Dutch voter" (Paul Dekker en Joep de Hart)

Public involvement in politics and society are debated in a sombre mood these days. In recent American literature the decline of involvement is associated with a decline in social and institutional trust. After a brief review of this and older literature about possible connections, data from the Dutch national electoral studies 1972-1998 are analysed to unveil trends in social and political participation and trust trends, and to explore their relatedness. There has been a decline in party politics in the Netherlands, a strong increase in 'unconventional' politics, an increase in social participation, an increase in social trust, and no clear trend in political trust. Social trust appears to be positively related with trust in parliament and in public information. Social participation turns out to be linked with political participation, but it shows hardly any relationship with social trust. More detailed analyses of the 1998 data confirm the irrelevance of organised social interaction for trust: neither membership of 'secondary' organisations (opposed to 'tertiary' mailing list organisations) nor activity as a member has a consistent positive effect on trust. The participation-trust junction seems to be easily exaggerated in the present debate about 'social capital'. The possibility of a dissociation between (steady) voluntary social involvement and (declining) participation in democratic political institutions, is a topic that deserves more interest.

"Social and cultural characteristics and participation levels in Belgian society. An analysis of cross-sectional data" (Marc Hooghe)

In this article we present cross sectional survey data on the relation between structural characteristics of the Flemish population and a variety of social participation indicators. Based on the result of the TOR98 survey (n=1341) we want to ascertain whether a number of social changes, which are often considered to be erosive for the willingness to participate, are indeed significantly linked to participation levels. More specifically, we study the relation with geographic mobility, the demise of a 'civic generation', the consequences of youth participation, television, marital instability and religious decline. Most of these factors do not have a significant effect on participation levels, with the exception of religious decline and marital instability. But even for these two variables, the effect is different from the one most authors would expect. These findings point in the direction of a change in participation patterns, rather than a general decline of participation levels.

"Religious affiliation and social participation in the Netherlands" (Joep de Hart en Paul Dekker)

In the past three decades a profound secularization process has taken place in the Netherlands. This article assesses the impact of church affiliation and church participation on membership of voluntary associations and volunteering in this country. Using three national surveys (the Time budget study of 1995, the God in the Netherlands study of 1996/97 and several recent editions of the Cultural Change surveys of the SCP), first the differences between religious groups (non-church affiliated, members of the main Dutch denominations, nominal members and church going members) are explored. Next, the effect of church participation, as compared with the effects of other dimensions of religiosity, sex, age and education, is analysed. Some indicators of time-pressure and the average hours of television watching are analysed to test the separate effect of church participation. Finally, a social profile is given of groups in Dutch society who have a typically low, moderate or high level of volunteers. The authors conclude that the traditional role of church participation as a stimulus for social participation and social engagement is not a historical relict, and that the intensity of church participation is the factor with the strongest influence on especially volunteering.

"Individualisation and voluntary associations. The Christian Labourwomen in Belgium" (Katrien Meireman)

Recently, the traditional pillarised organisation of the Christian Labourwomen (KAV) has to contend with a loss of members. The erosion of the traditional patterns of behaviour and the increasing possibility of choosing one's own life style cause a membership crisis for the pillarised organisations. People prefer temporal and specific engagements above permanent associations. KAV is trying to counter this process. In 1998 it introduced a structural change with a greater attention to volunteers. Also, it started to promote teamwork in the committees. With respect to its content, KAV tries to counter the process of individualisation by using generalised values, free of any specific ideology in its tasks of education, of service and of the protection of interests. Equality, solidarity and self-development are the most important values. Moreover, since the beginning of the nineties, it increasingly delivers ideology-free services, tailored to meet individual needs.

"Modern feminism and the state of social capital in the Netherlands" (Jantine Oldersma)

Some commentators see the feminist movement, that slowly conquered Dutch society from the late 1960s onwards, as an important factor in the demise of social capital among the citizens of the Netherlands. In this article the author examines the available data, to find out whether that judgement is justified. The point of reference is Putnam's description of social capital that has two components: social networks and norms underpinning the mutual obligation to support and help. An additional criterion, in how far a movement furthers the introduction of the people it claims to represent into the political elates, is borrowed from Van Deth. An analysis of research on Dutch public opinion, of the history of ideas of Dutch feminism and of women in political elates in the Netherlands, shows that Dutch feminism has not been detrimental, but indeed formed an important contribution to social capital measured by the criteria mentioned above.

"Political distrust and protest. On the democratic capital of Belgian demonstrators" (Peter Van Aelst, Stefaan Walgrave & Kristof Decoster)

The 1990s in Belgium were characterised by many more demonstrations than in the decennia before. Do these demonstrations signal a democratic malaise, or are they, oppositely, signs of a regained democratic vitality that drives citizens to enhance their participation through taking part in a rising number of collective actions? Putnam spoke of the relation between a crisis in democratic legitimacy and the level of social trust in a society. Using surveys taken on four national demonstrations we have tried to describe the trust in democratic institutions and in politics - or more simply put: the democratic capital - of demonstrators. The level of political distrust among demonstrators was high but supposedly not higher as that of the average citizen. It is clear that distrust is not the only motivation for the demonstrators to take to the streets, as the belief in change and the subjective personal political ability are both relatively strong.

"Participation in and out of school. The profile and attitudes of participating high-school students" (Saskia De Groof en Jessy Siongers)

Raising democratic and civic attitudes with youngsters receives more and more attention. Evidence for a strong connection between participation and democratic attitudes has been found in earlier research. In this study, concerning the in and out of school participation of adolescents, we find a similar positive relation. Nevertheless, we see that young people do not participate equally in associations outside school. But when they do get the opportunity to participate in school, the barriers to participation are smaller. Furthermore we can conclude that participation has a

cumulative character: students who join activities at school, are more often involved in associational life. Participation at school, although it should be open to all students, reaches only a specific number and kind of pupils. Students in technical and vocational schools have less opportunities to participate. Therefore, we have to question somewhat the assumptions about the democratic strength of schools.

"Social capital and the performance of local development projects. A case study of two villages in Nicaragua" (Nadia Molenaers)

Associational life is generally considered an important aspect of social capital. In this article we argue that, in the Nicaraguan context, trust, reciprocity and cooperation are not necessarily linked with formal organisational patterns. Getting a grip on both the structure and the content of social capital implies studying informal relations and networks. The article highlights how informal patterns can influence the functioning and performance of development projects. Based on the evaluations of several development projects, two rural communities (Nicaragua) were investigated on their informal support networks. Since peasants regularly need extra labour force on the field, the research focuses on how these needs are dealt with. The different transactional mechanisms found in the field indicate a variety of informal patterns. Furthermore the data suggest that villages can differ greatly in displaying dominant mechanisms. Informal labour-exchange mechanisms can give a good (though partial) indication of social capital in both villages.

"Nuances of social capital: the case of the Christian Workers Movement" (Guy Van Gyes, Jaak Billiet en Hans De Witte)

This chapter analysis one of the most important networks of social organisations in Flanders: the organisations linked with the Christian Workers Movement (CWM). The data of a large sample survey among staff members, volunteers and members are used (N = 1,960). The analysis is focused on the interrelationships between social network variables, value orientations, and indicators of social disintegration. Following Putnam's hypothesis, attention is also paid to the effect of television as 'prime suspect' for 'civil disengagement'. As was expected, participation in social organisations is mostly positively related with trust in others and in future developments, but the effect of it is weaker than the impact of social-background variables as age, education and church involvement. The latter is evidently an important explanatory factor for the participation in the organisations of the CWM. Social localism, this means the embeddedness in the neighbourhood also slows down feelings of distrust and unsafety. Why nuances? Theoretically one can expect positive effects of social conformism on social integration, but the opposite is true. Those who emphasise values as obedience to authorities, common courtesy and respect (this is called 'vertical collectivism') are more likely to score high on the indicators

of social disintegration. As to the role of television, we observed a contrastive effect depending on the kind of programmes. Those who use television for information score slightly lesser on the social disorientation scale, contrary to those who watch television mostly for entertainment.

"Pathways to power. Political participation and access of non-profit organisations at the local level" (Herman Lelieveldt)

This article is concerned with the description and explanation of political activities of local non-profit organisations on the basis of an empirical study in the city of Zwolle, the Netherlands. Attention is devoted to (1) the political participation of these organisations (2) the access of these organisations to the political system (3) the relation between participation and access. Two factors turn out to have a significant positive effect on the participation of organisations: centrality in the local organisational network and being involved in executing local policies. Furthermore, results show the local political system to be reasonably accessible: there is a strong correlation between political participation and access; in addition participation is the most important determinant of access.

"Urban policy in Flanders and in the Netherlands. Social exclusion, social cohesion and social capital" (Patrick Stouthuysen, Jan Willem Duyvendak en Peter van der Graaf)

In "Making Democracy Work", Robert Putnam describes the evolution of northern and southern Italy in terms of 'virtuous' and 'vicious circles'. The literature on social capital is mainly concerned with one part of these self-reinforcing processes, more particularly the relation between social capital and the performance of specific institutions. The other part of the process -how institutions and policies in their turn advance or hamper norms and networks of civic engagement- is very rarely studied. In this article we discuss the possible consequences of the differences in Flemish and Dutch urban policies on the conditions conducive to the production of social capital.

MEDEWERKERS AAN DIT NUMMER

Jaak Billiet is professor sociologische methoden aan de Katholieke Universiteit Leuven en hoofd van het Interuniversitair Steunpunt voor Politieke-Opinieonderzoek (ISPO). Hij publiceerde vooral rond ethnocentrisme, politieke attitudes, politiek gedrag en diverse methodologische onderwerpen.

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Paul Dekker is politicoloog en werkt bij het Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau in Den Haag, alwaar hij onderzoek doet en coördineert op de terreinen van milieu, politieke participatie en houdingen, civil society en non-profitsector.

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Marc Hooghe is doctor in de politieke wetenschappen. Hij is postdoctoraal onderzoeker aan het Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen en gastdocent aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel en Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam. Hij werkt vooral rond processen van participatie, mobilisatie en beleidsbeïnvloeding.

Michel Huysseune is licentiaat geschiedenis en kunstgeschiedenis & archeologie. Hij is als vorser verbonden aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel, vakgroep Politieke Wetenschappen. Hij bereidt een doctoraal proefschrift voor over secessiebewegingen, met Noord-Italië als case-study.

Herman Lelieveldt studeerde politicologie aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam en de University of North Texas (USA) en promoveerde aan de Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen. Hij is als adviseur werkzaam bij de Raad voor Maatschappelijke Ontwikkeling (RMO), Den Haag, Nederland.

Katrien Meireman is licentiate in de sociologie en is sinds 1995 als assistente verbonden aan de Rechtsfaculteit, Instituut Recht en Samenleving van de K.U. Leuven. Ze werkt rond middenveldorganisaties, onder meer van vrouwen en etnisch-culturele minderheden.

Nadia Molenaers is academisch assistente aan het College voor de Ontwikkelingslanden (Universiteit van Antwerpen). Aan de Vrije Universiteit Brussel bereidt ze een doctoraat voor over de werking en de structuur van hulpnetwerken in twee Nicaraguaanse dorpen.

Jantine Oldersma studeerde politicologie en communicatiewetenschappen aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam. Zij is thans als universitair docent verbonden aan het Joke Smit Instituut, Centrum voor Vrouwenstudiesonderzoek en aan het Departement Bestuurskunde, beiden van de Universiteit Leiden.

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Dietlind Stolle doctoreerde aan Princeton University, en doceert nu aan het departement politieke wetenschappen van de universiteit van Pittsburgh. Ze publiceerde eerder rond het thema sociaal kapitaal in onder meer *American Behavioral Scientist* en *Political Psychology*.

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Stefaan Walgrave doceert organisatie en beleidssociologie aan de UIA. Hij staat aan het hoofd van de onderzoeksgroep Middenveld en Beleid en publiceerde eerder over nieuwe sociale bewegingen, verzuiling, de witte beweging, mobilisaties en de media.

RICHTLIJNEN VOOR AUTEURS

Manuscript. In regel komen alleen originele bijdragen in de Nederlandse taal in aanmerking. De gebruikelijke lengte situeert zich idealiter tussen 6.000 en 10.000 woorden. In het manuscript dient de voorkeurspelling gevolgd. Naast deze klassieke artikels neemt het tijdschrift ook wetenschappelijke essays, onderzoeksnota's en besprekingsartikels op. De teksten dienen 'double spaced' en in vijf kopijen afgeleverd te worden.

Titelpagina. De eerste pagina van elke bijdrage bevat de titel en de naam van de auteur(s). Daarnaast wordt in ongeveer 50 woorden een korte persoonsbeschrijving per auteur gegeven met daarin volgende gegevens: naam en voornaam, geboortejaar, titel beroepsomschrijving en instelling waaraan men verbonden is.

Abstract. Van het artikel wordt in maximum 150 woorden een samenvatting gemaakt zowel in het Nederlands als in het Engels waarin naast de probleemstelling het essentiële van de inhoud wordt weergegeven. Deze abstracts verschijnen o.m. in Sociological Abstracts.

Paragrafen. De paragrafen worden genummerd volgens het decimale stelsel. Hoofdparagrafen krijgen de nummers 1, resp. 2 enz.; subparagrafen krijgen de nummers 1.1., resp. 2.1., 2.2., enz.

Tabellen en grafieken. Deze dienen apart en opeenvolgend te worden genummerd. Alle tabellen en grafieken behoren een titel te dragen.

Voetnoten. Worden aan het einde van het artikel vermeld in de volgorde waarin ze in de tekst voorkomen. In de tekst zelf worden ze aangegeven door een arabisch cijfer tussen haakjes.

Literatuurverwijzingen, of de zgn. bibliografische voetnoten, worden in de tekst aangeduid door tussen haakjes de naam van de auteur (vanaf drie auteurs enkel de eerste naam gevolgd door 'e.a.'), jaartal van de publicatie en de bladzijde(n) te vermelden; bv. ... (Janssens & Peeters, 1982c: 17-20). Na de voetnoten wordt in een bibliografie de volledige literatuurverwijzing gegeven.

In de bibliografie gelden volgende verwijzingen. De onderstaande voorbeelden betreffen achtereenvolgens een tijdschriftartikel, een boek en een verzamelwerk.

JANSSENS, M.B.F.A., C. PEETERS & D. DIERICKX (1982), 'Relevantie van de sociologie voor de maatschappij', *Sociologie en Maatschappij*, 13(3): 326-342.

JANSSENS, M.B.F.A., C. PEETERS & D. DIERICKX (1982), *Sociologie in de Maatschappij*. Antwerpen: Het Vlaamse Boek.

JANSSENS, M.B.F.A., C. PEETERS & D. DIERICKX (1982), 'Relevantie van de sociologie voor de maatschappij', pp. 5-22 in: SELS, R., U. MOLENAAR & E. VANDERSTRAETEN (eds.), *Sociologie en Maatschappij*. Antwerpen: Het Vlaamse Boek.

De namen van de auteurs worden weergegeven in klein kapitaal.

Indien een recente uitgave van een werk wordt gebruikt dat meermaals werd gepubliceerd, wordt achter de naam van de auteur het jaartal van de eerste uitgave eerst gegeven en het jaartal van de gebruikte uitgave tussen haakjes erachter geplaatst, bijvoorbeeld: WEBER, M. (1921 (1976)), *Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft*, enz.

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