

Nominations FSS Dissertation Award 2022

Sarah van Duijn (Organization Sciences)

[Tinkering with tensions: boundary work and collaborative governance](#)

Collaboration is essential to working with colleagues, negotiating with partners, and addressing complex societal issues. However, collaboration is complex due to challenges in (re)arranging interaction across organizational, sectoral, and hierarchical boundaries. In this dissertation, Sarah van Duijn examines the dynamics of collaborative governance following a large health care reform that spans the health and social care sectors. Her empirical analysis provides new insights into the interplay between different forms of boundary work. First, it underlines the value of adopting an interpretive and processual approach for studying collaborative governance. Second, it further develops the interconnectedness between different forms (i.e., decentral and central) of boundary work. Third, the dissertation explains how different forms of boundary work, and the enduring tensions in collaborative governance, can be mutually informative. This unearths a new form of boundary work: counter-configurational boundary work, a term for the responses of decentral actors to the configuring actions of central actors.

Adane Gebeyehu (Social and Cultural Anthropology)

[Vulnerability and Insecurity in the Lower Omo Valley, Ethiopia: Nyangatom adaptive responses to climate change and external development changes](#)

Climate change represents a profound challenge to the lives of (agro-)pastoralists, who are acutely dependent on natural resources. Adapting to climate change is important for maintaining livelihoods and ensuring sustainable development. In this dissertation, Adane studies how (agro-)pastoralists of the Nyangatom district in the Omo Valley (Ethiopia) have adapted to climate change and how large-scale development projects have influenced their adaptation efforts and overall food security. Adane Gebeyehu takes the perspective of the pastoralists, who face an extremely complicated situation. This area was subject to rapid agricultural development (mostly to produce biofuel), and dam construction, which, combined with climate change, left little room for sustainable use of pastoral resources. The Nyangatom pastoralists integrate traditional knowledge of weather, seasonal vegetation cover, peace and security, animal diseases, and livestock physical status in their grazing decisions. The Nyangatom area has development potential for the (agro-)pastoralists if they are empowered to solve vast seasonal fodder deficits.

Lisa Marie Kraus (Sociology)

[Upside-down and inside-out: How do people without a migration background react to being a numerical ethnic minority?](#)

For decades, researchers have studied how people with a migration background integrate into ethnic majority societies. Now that the ethnic majority has become a local numerical minority, Lisa Marie Kraus's dissertation flips the question: how do people without a migration background integrate into majority-minority contexts? She answers this research question in four empirical chapters which are based on data stemming from a rich mix of quantitative and qualitative methods: a large-scale international survey (n = 2,457), semi-structured face-to-face interviews (n = 20) and a vignette survey experiment (n = 364). The outcomes show that by going beyond merely polarised reactions, the integration of people without a migration background is more complex than previously assumed. Integration depends on socio-economic background plus previous experience with diversity, and does

not happen without further effort. The employment of social strategies is necessary to become an integrated insider in spaces in which this group is a minority.

William (Liam) Stephens (Political Science & Public Administration)

[Arranging Resilience: The role of social actors in preventing violent extremism](#)

Over the past decades, many targeted policy strategies for countering extremism (CVE) have shown all kinds of weaknesses and side effects, especially for already marginalized citizens. Awareness of these serious downsides led to a whole branch of more generic social strategies aimed at the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). Yet, tackling or preventing radicalisation in education (PVEE) is one of the most notable and promising fruits of this branch. In his dissertation, William Stephens analyses the central notion of 'building resilience' towards extremism in a systematic and thought-provocative way. Based on careful methodology and meticulous argumentation, Stephens traces the different ways of thinking about resilience to radicalisation that exists among policy-makers and practitioners. It is then concluded that tracing out these different perspectives can lay the foundation for a deeper discussion on these issues amongst people coming from different standpoints in order to inform better formal and non-formal PVE-E practices.