

**Family Influence on Status Differences between Brothers in the Netherlands in  
the Nineteenth Century**

Antonie Knigge, ICS/Sociologie Utrecht University

Draft prepared for ISOL meeting 30 September 2014

PLEASE DO NOT CITE

# **Family Influence on Status Differences between Brothers in the Netherlands in the Nineteenth Century**

## **Abstract**

Most status attainment studies focus on systematic differences between families, but I argue that it is also important to look at systematic differences *within* families. In this article I study the influence of family background on differences between brothers in occupational status attainment in the Netherlands in the period before and during modernization. I make use of GENLIAS, a large-scale database containing information from Dutch marriage certificates. These extraordinary data allow using three complementary approaches in understanding how family background shapes status differences between brothers for the period 1842-1922. First, I look whether *individual-level* characteristics of brothers (e.g., their birth order) explain status differences between them. Second, I look whether *dyadic-level* characteristics (e.g., how far two brothers live apart) lead some brother pairs to be more different in status than other brother pairs. Third, I look whether *family-level* characteristics (e.g., sibship size, father's status) make that the statuses of brothers vary more in some families than in others.

## **Introduction**

Research has repeatedly shown that family background is one of the strongest determinants of occupational status attainment (REF). This relation is of particular interest because a high family influence may indicate a lack of meritocracy and