



Longitudinal research based on  
the Generations and Gender Survey  
in the Netherlands

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## Publications using longitudinal data Dutch GGP

Kalmijn, M. & De Graaf, P. M. (2012). Life course changes of children and well-being of parents. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 74, 269-280.

Keizer, R., Dykstra, P. A., & Poortman, A-R. (2010). The transition to parenthood and well-being. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 24, 429-438.

Mulder, C. H., & Wagner, M. (forthcoming). Moving after separation: The role of location-specific capital. *Housing Studies*.

Schenk, N., & Dykstra, P. A. (2012). Continuity and change in intergenerational family relationships: An examination of shifts in relationship type over a three-year period. *Advances in Life Course Research*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.alcr.2012.01.004>



## Schenk & Dykstra (2012)

Focus: changes in the lives of adult children and their parents over a three-year period

Implications for: balance between solidarity and conflict

Starting point: typology of adult child-parent relationships (acknowledging complexity)





Types ranked from highest to lowest relationship quality

- *harmonious* (moderate exchanges of all kinds, little conflict)
- *ambivalent* (intensive exchange of practical support accompanied by strain)
- *obligatory* (just keeping in touch) & *affective* (emotionally supportive with few exchanges of practical support)
- *discordant* (predominantly negative engagement)



Shifts in type?

Theoretical points of departure:

Life transitions (changes in needs, opportunities)

Reduction of ambivalence





## Transitions and predicted shifts

- parental repartnering (→ obligatory)
- offspring partnering (→ obligatory)
- parental divorce (→ discordant)
- offspring divorce (→ affective / → ambivalent)
- parental widowhood (→ harmonious)
- parental health decline (→ harmonious / → ambivalent)
- unemployment adult child (→ ambivalent)
- birth grandchild (→ harmonious / → ambivalent / → affective / → obligatory)
- move nearer (→ harmonious / → obligatory)
- move away (→ affective)



## Ambivalence and predicted shifts

- ambivalent ties: highest proportion of shifts
- most likely → harmonious / → discordant



Occurrence of life transitions	%
Parental repartnering	1
Offspring (re)partnering	7
Parental divorce	0
Offspring divorce	6
Parental widowhood	7
Parental health decline	16
Unemployment adult child	2
Birth grandchild	15
Move nearer	2
Move away	2





## Shifts in relationship type between T1 and T2: Latent Transition Analysis

Overall: 4.5% of dyads shifted (N = 158)

Shifts most often *from* ambivalent and *to* harmonious or discordant



# Logistic regressions predicting typology shifts



## To harmonious (odds-ratios)

Parental repartnering	1.05
Offspring (re)partnering	1.12
Parental divorce	---
Offspring divorce	0.97
Parental widowhood	1.72
Parental health decline	1.09
Unemployment adult child	0.75
Birth grandchild	1.08
Move nearer	1.41
Move away	1.32



# Logistic regressions predicting typology shifts



## To discordant (odds-ratios)

Parental repartnering	5.48**
Offspring (re)partnering	1.20
Parental divorce	---
Offspring divorce	0.69
Parental widowhood	1.16
Parental health decline	0.74
Unemployment adult child	---
Birth grandchild	1.41
Move nearer	---
Move away	1.85



# Logistic regressions predicting typology shifts

## From ambivalent (odds-ratios)

Parental repartnering	---
Offspring (re)partnering	1.36
Parental divorce	---
Offspring divorce	1.52
Parental widowhood	0.37
Parental health decline	0.80
Unemployment adult child	2.25
Birth grandchild	1.41
Move nearer	2.12
Move away	3.66†



## Conclusion

- Over 3-year period: more continuity than change
- Shifts considerably less likely than occurrence of transitions
- Balance of solidarity and conflict is less susceptible to change than are single relationship aspects
- The low likelihood of shifts is not attributable to selection
- Significant shifts for two transitions: parental repartnering (tension) and moving away (escape)
- High stability over time suggests the reproduction of preexisting interaction patterns



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