



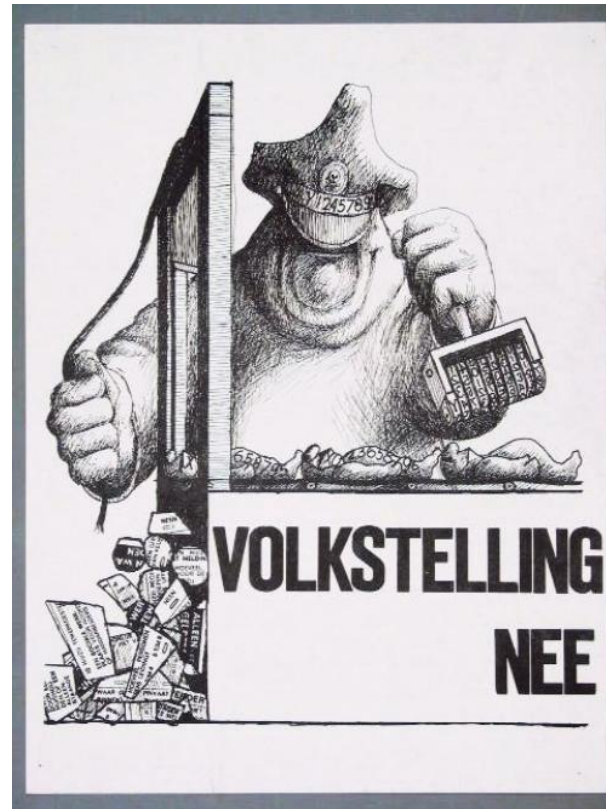
Session 5: Country Practices and Potential Use Cases

The Netherlands

Technical Workshop on Time, People, Places and Relationships: A New Lens to Organize Social and Demographic Outcomes (Hosted by Statistics Canada (Ottawa, Canada, 9 - 11 September 2025))

Dr. Edwin Horlings

Failed census of 1971



Administrative sources

- Population registers
- Tax registers
- Jobs
- Social security
- Crime
- Education
- Pensions
- Health
- Vehicles
- Houses

All digital and linked through one unique personal identifier: **citizen service number**



System of Social Statistical Datasets

- one database
- containing everyone in the Netherlands
- data from dozens of administrative sources
- linked through anonymized unique personal identification numbers
- clean data
- long time period



Bakker, B. F., Van Rooijen, J., & Van Toor, L. (2014). The system of social statistical datasets of Statistics Netherlands: An integral approach to the production of register-based social statistics. *Statistical Journal of the IAOS*, 30(4), 411-424.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLpDkcyenf0>



Linked data on linked lives

- Identify specific groups
- Link persons to each other, to buildings, to households, to firms, to vehicles etc.
- High geographic resolution
- Multidimensional analysis
- Ideal for life course approach



Virtual population census

- 2001
- 2011
- 2021: data at 1 km² grid square level (42,000 squares)
- 2024: 2021 census in ‘hypercubes’ (multidimensional layers of data linked to geographical areas)



Based on the SSD database: no survey burden!

Surveys

- Surveys are indispensable
- Expensive, response rates under pressure, no increase in survey burden
- Lack of data at higher resolution (e.g. community or neighbourhood)



Satisfaction with life, 2023

Source: CBS, Regional Monitor of Well-Being 2024

Innovations

- Small-Area Estimation to strengthen results for small groups (e.g. communities)
- Big Data (unlocking new data sources)
- AI
- and more...





Facts that matter