Abstract:
In recent years there have been major changes to the Dutch political landscape. Major political parties such as the CDA (Christian Democratic Appeal) have lost ground and new parties such as the LPF (Pim Fortuyn List) in 2003 and later the PVV (Party for Freedom; 2005) have started to attract many voters. The number of people abstaining from voting is also on the rise, possibly due to a growing separation between voters and political parties as the latter fail to appeal to voters’ values. Cultural values are deeply ingrained in people’s psyche and direct their behaviour, especially such abstract behaviour as voting in elections. Political parties appeal to political values such as safety and security, freedom of speech and concern for one’s fellow man that closely resemble cultural values such as security, self-direction and universalism. It is therefore to be expected that people will be more likely to vote for the political party that best reflects their own values. Previous research has focused on relationships between cultural values and voting or on abstaining from it, the left-right dimension in politics, or value preferences of people voting for specific political parties.

We conduct an empirical investigation into the relationship between cultural values and political preference in the Netherlands, simultaneously for all political parties. Data collected for five waves of the European Social Survey, spanning 2002 until 2010, are analysed, giving insight into simultaneous changes in voting behaviour and cultural values. Whilst until now articles have focused on values separately, we (1) relate ALL political parties participating in the election to cultural values using a segmentation approach in which value profiles are used instead of individual values, (2) compare in time, (3) include non-voters.

Date: Wednesday, 16th April 2014
Time: 11:00am—12:00pm (Morning tea will be served at 10:45am, BYO coffee/tea)
Venue: BUSN201 (Case Study Room)
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1 Joint work with Pieter C. Schoonees, Patrick J.F. Groenen and Joost van Rosmalen