

Coping urban insecurities

by Lodewijk Brunt

The spectacular growth of crime which took place in recent decades is mainly an urban phenomenon. In what ways are urbanites trying to ward off the chance of becoming a victim? In answering this question it must be realized, that people often embrace rather particularistic meanings of crime. The way violent behaviour among strangers is experienced, for instance, differs fundamentally from the way violence among acquaintances is considered. On the basis of these definitions of the situation all kinds of strategies are being developed to minimize the possibility of being confronted with forms of urban danger. An important role is being played by the exchange of stories about crime and victims of crime. These stories make up the ingredients of the mental maps, which are used as guides for urban social life. The strategies may have a general nature, or may be especially designed for the behaviour in neighborhoods or in public places. In this article a number of such strategies are described and analyzed. In the conclusion the question is posed whether or not these strategies are effective, considering the nature of urban crime.

The housing situation of ethnic minorities: socio-economic position, local housing stock, migration and unequal opportunities

by Jaco Dagevos and Theo Roelandt

In this article, attention is paid to the differences in the housing situation between Surinamese, Antillians, Turkish, Moroccan and indigenous Dutch households. The aim of our analysis is to measure the degree of dissimilarities in the quality of housing between these groups and to explain these differences by age, socio-economic position, local housing stock and migration backgrounds. HOMALS and logistic regression analysis are used in the analysis. The outcomes of the study show that the differences in the quality of housing are mainly determined by inequalities in opportunities, caused by institutional factors which intervene in the allocation system.

Structural and cultural diversity among young adults

by Brigitte van Dam

During the period after the Second World War some important social changes occurred in Western societies. Especially young adults were influenced by them. Gradually they postponed work and marriage and many of them attended some form of higher education. At the same time however there are also a lot of young people who marry short after leaving school and start to work young and are therefore low educated. Based on literature I postulate that this structural diversity among young adults is connected with cultural diversity and explored these connections.

Very often, social scientists who studied young people in the transition to adulthood, tried to characterize every new generation of youth by some general features. They paid little attention to cultural diversity among youth and young adults. My investigations show the connection between structural and cultural diversity among young adults. They are important because they contribute to a more nuanced picture of young people.