

# Rob J. Gruijters

School of Education

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## Current position

2024-present ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (READER), School of Education, University of Bristol

## Previous academic positions

2022-2024 ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Education & International Development, University of Cambridge  
2018-2022 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR in Education & International Development, University of Cambridge  
2018 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin  
2016-2018 POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford

## Previous non-academic positions

2010-2013 JUNIOR ADVISOR, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Ghana  
2009-2010 JUNIOR ADVISOR, German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Germany

## Other affiliations

05/2026 VISITING RESEARCHER European University Institute, Italy  
2024-present FELLOW Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship  
2021-present AFFILIATED RESEARCH FELLOW, Human Sciences Research Council South Africa  
2018-present ASSOCIATE MEMBER, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford  
2023 VISITING PROFESSOR, Centre de Recherche sur les Inégalités Sociales, Sciences Po, Paris  
2021-2023 OFFICIAL FELLOW, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge  
2019-2022 FELLOW, College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research (CIDER), Germany  
2016-2018 ASSOCIATE MEMBER, Nuffield College, University of Oxford  
2017 VISITING RESEARCHER, Center for Social Research, Peking University  
2015 VISITING RESEARCHER, Population and Development Studies, Zhejiang University  
2014 VISITING RESEARCHER, Social Statistics and Demography, University of Southampton

## Education

2013-2016 PHD in Sociology, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin (*Summa Cum Laude*)  
2008-2010 MSc in Development Finance, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management  
2005-2007 BSc in in Social Sciences, University College Utrecht (*Cum Laude*)

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

See also my [Google Scholar profile](#)

- Fasang, A., Cabib, I., Cooper, A., Gruijters, R., & Hu, Y. (2026) “Young Adult Life Courses in the Global South: A Comparative Framework and Research Agenda.” *Advances in Life Course Research* 76: 100723
- Gruijters, R.J. & Kurian, N. (2025) “Deficit-Oriented Teacher Beliefs and Student Outcomes in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.” *Sociology Compass* 19(12): e70129
- Madia, J., Gruijters, R.J., Raabe, I., & Hübner, N. (2025) “Growth Mindset and Socioeconomic Inequality in Academic Achievement Across Seventy-Three PISA Countries.” *NPJ Science of Learning* 10(1): 81
- Casely-Hayford, L., Gruijters, R.J., Adjei, L. O. & Yeboah, V. A. (2025) “The Intended and Unintended Effects of Secondary School Fee Abolition: Evidence from Ghana’s Free Senior High School Policy.” *Comparative Education* 64(4): 566-585
- Gruijters, R.J., Abango, M., Casely-Hayford, L. (2024) “Secondary School Fee Abolition in Sub-Saharan Africa: Taking Stock of the Evidence.” *Comparative Education Review* 68(3): 370-402  
MEDIA COVERAGE: FutureCrunch
- Fasang, A.E., Gruijters, R.J. & van Winkle, Z. (2024) “The Life Course Boat: A Theoretical Framework for Analyzing Variation in Family Lives across Time, Place, and Social Location.” *Journal of Marriage & Family’s* 86(5): 1586–1606 (mid-decade Special Issue on Theory and Methods)
- Gruijters, R.J., Elbers, B. & Reddy, V. (2024) “Opportunity Hoarding and Elite Reproduction: School Segregation in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” *Social Forces* 103(1): 173–201  
MEDIA COVERAGE: Daily Maverick (SA), Sunday Times (SA), The African (SA), Sunday Independent (SA), Cape Talk radio (SA), SA FM (SA), Voice of the Cape (SA)
- Hong, Q. & Gruijters, R.J. (2024) “A Lost Land of Opportunity? The Geography of Educational Mobility in China.” *Population, Space & Place* 30(7): e2784
- Liu, R. & Gruijters, R. J. (2024) “Losing the Race Before its Start: Inequities in Early Childhood Development Interventions in China” *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education* 55(5): 829-848
- Gruijters, R.J., Hübner, N. & Raabe, I. (2024) “Socio-Emotional Skills and the Socioeconomic Achievement Gap.” *Sociology of Education* 9(2): 120-147  
MEDIA COVERAGE: The Guardian (UK), The Independent (UK), The Standard (UK), TES Magazine (UK), Forbes (UK), Deutsche Welle (DE, interview), Deutschlandfunk (DE, radio interview) and others
- Elbers, B. & Gruijters, R.J. (equal authorship) (2023) “Segplot: A New Method for Visualizing Patterns of Multi-Group Segregation.” *Research in Social Stratification & Mobility* 98: 100860
- Gruijters, R.J., Van Winkle, Z., & Fasang, A.E. (2023) “Life Course Trajectories and Wealth Accumulation in the United States: Comparing Late Baby Boomers and Early Millennials.”

- American Journal of Sociology* 129(2): 530-569  
 MEDIA COVERAGE: Financial Times (UK), The Guardian (UK, interview), The Wall Street Journal (US), Marie Claire (US), USA Today (US), MSNBC (US), NBC News Radio (US, interview), Yahoo News (US), The Hill (US), The Miami Herald (US), Fox News Business (US), Mirage News (Aus), Kiro 7 news (US), Seattle Morning Radio (US), Fortune (US) and others
- Gruijters, R.J. (2022) "Trends in Educational Stratification during China's Great Transformation." *Oxford Review of Education* 48(3): 320-340
- Gruijters, R.J., Alcott, B. & Rose, P. (2021) "Do Private Schools Improve Learning Outcomes? Evidence from Within-Household Comparisons in East Africa and South Asia." *Comparative Education Review* 65(4): 640-666  
 MEDIA COVERAGE: The Standard (Kenya), The Citizen (Tanzania)  
 Winner of the 2022 George Bereday Award for the most outstanding article published in the *Comparative Education Review*
- Allier-Gagneur, Z. & Gruijters, R.J. (2021) "Beyond Heyneman & Loxley: The Relative Importance of Families and Schools for Learning Outcomes in Francophone Africa." *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education* 53(4): 654-673
- Gruijters, R.J. & Behrman, J. (2020) "Learning Inequality in Francophone Africa: School Quality and the Educational Achievement of Rich and Poor Children." *Sociology of Education* 93(3): 256-276
- Chan, T.W., Ermisch, J. & Gruijters, R.J. (2019) "The Dynamics of Income Inequality: The Case of China in a Comparative Perspective." *European Sociological Review* 35(3): 431-446
- Gruijters, R.J., Ermisch, J. & Chan, T. W. (2019) "Trends in Educational Mobility: How Does China Compare to Europe and the United States?" *Chinese Journal of Sociology* 5(2): 214-240
- Gruijters, R.J. & Ermisch, J. (2018) "Patrilocal, Matrilocal or Neolocal? Intergenerational Proximity of Married Couples in China." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 81(3): 549-566
- Steinhilper, E. & Gruijters, R.J. (equal authorship) (2018) "A Contested Crisis: Policy Narratives and Empirical Evidence on Border Deaths in the Mediterranean." *Sociology* 52(3): 515-533  
 MEDIA COVERAGE: ARD Monitor (DE), Deutschlandfunk (DE), Die Zeit (DE), The Independent (UK), Tiroler Tageszeitung (CH), De Standaard (BE), Der Standard (AT), Der Freitag (DE), Het Belang van Limburg (BE), De Morgen (BE), Kristeligt Dagblad (DK), Aftonbladet (SE), Het Algemeen Dagblad (NL), PVDA (Belgian Labour party) and others
- Gruijters, R.J. (2018) "Daughters' and Sons' Remittances in Rural China: Findings from a National Survey." *Journal of Family Issues* 39(11): 2911-2934
- Gruijters, R.J. (2017) "Intergenerational Contact in Chinese Families: Structural and Cultural Explanations." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 79(3): 758-768
- Gruijters, R.J. (2015) "Family Care-giving and Living Arrangements of Physically Impaired Elders in Rural China." *Ageing & Society* 37(3): 633-655

## Manuscripts under Review

Gruijters, R.J., Carvalhaes, F., Elbers, B., & Leckie, G. "More Than the Sum of Its Parts? Intersectional Segregation by Race and Class in Brazilian Schools." *American Journal of Sociology*

## Monographs and Policy Publications

Gruijters, R.J. (2019). Life course and family dynamics in a comparative perspective 2002-2010. [Data Collection]. Colchester, Essex: UK Data Service.

Gruijters, R.J. (2016) "Beyond Filial Piety: Intergenerational Relations and Old Age Security in Contemporary China", Doctoral dissertation, Berlin: Humboldt University, 148 pages

Gruijters, R.J. (2012) (editor) "Promoting Microinsurance in Ghana: Microinsurance as a Means for Insurance Sector Development", Accra: National Insurance Commission & GIZ, 225 pages

Buabeng, I. & Gruijters, R.J. (2012) "The Supply of Microinsurance Products in Ghana." in: Gruijters, R.J. (ed.) "*Promoting Microinsurance in Ghana*", pp. 102-9

Owusu, A., Ackah, C. & Gruijters, R.J. (2012) "The Demand Side – Results from a Survey of Microinsurance Clients", in: Gruijters, R.J. (ed.) "*Promoting Microinsurance in Ghana*", pp. 110-124

Gruijters, R.J. (2011) (editor) "Building Inclusive Financial Systems: Approach and Experience of GIZ", GIZ

## Opinion and Blogs

Gruijters, R.J., Kapelle, N., Van Winkle, Z. & Fasang, A.E. (2024) "Millennials' Wealth is Finally Growing - But so is Inequality." *Inequality.org*

Gruijters, R.J., Van Winkle, Z. & Fasang, A.E. (2023) "Are millennials worse off than baby boomers? That's the wrong question." *Work in Progress: Sociology on the economy, work and inequality (ASA blog)*

Gruijters, R.J. (2023) "Free secondary education in African countries is on the rise - but is it the best policy? What the evidence says" *The Conversation*

Gruijters, R.J. & Kurian, N. (2023) "Deficit-oriented teacher beliefs inhibit poor students' learning and wellbeing" *UKFIET Blog*

Gruijters, R.J. (2021). "Low-Fee Private Schooling and Poverty in Developing Countries by Joana Härmä." [Book review] *Comparative Education Review* 65(3): 573-575

Gruijters, R.J. (2020) "School segregation by wealth is creating unequal learning outcomes for children in the Global South." *University of Cambridge Research News*

Gruijters, R.J. (2020) "How (Un)representative Are China's Stellar PISA Results?" *NORRAG Blog*

Fasang, A., Gruijters, R.J. & van Winkle, Z. (2019) “Geplatzter Traum? Vermögensungleichheit bei Babyboomern und Millennials in den USA.” [A Shattered Dream? Income Inequality among Baby Boomers and Millennials in the USA.] *WZB Mitteilungen* 165: 28-30

Villa, M., Gruijters, R. & Steinhilper, E. (2018) “Outsourcing European Border Control: Recent Trends in Departures, Deaths and Search and Rescue Activities in the Central Mediterranean.” Oxford Faculty of Law, *Border Criminologies Blog*

Gruijters, R. J. & Steinhilper, E. (2017) “Retten schadet nicht” [No harm in rescue.] *Die Zeit* (print + online: 6. April)

Steinhilper, E. & Gruijters, R. J. (2017) “Border Deaths in the Mediterranean: What We Can Learn from the Latest Data.” Oxford Faculty of Law, *Border Criminologies Blog*

## Awards

2022 George Bereday Award of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)  
2009 DAAD Award “Best Foreign Student” at the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management

## Grants

2024-26 Jacobs Foundation Research Fellowship (CHF 165,000)  
2022-23 Cambridge-Science Po (CamPo) collaborative research grant for the project “The Social and Economic Returns to Education in Francophone West-Africa” (Principal Investigator, GBP 10,000)  
2020-2023 British Academy grant for the project “What can we learn from Ghana’s Free Senior High School Policy?” (Principal Investigator, GBP 50,000)  
2021 Micro-research group grant from the College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research (CIDER) (Principal Investigator, EUR 2,500)  
2016 DAAD P.R.I.M.E. (Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience) research grant *declined (ca. EUR 75,000)*  
2013-2016 PhD scholarship by research group “Health & Welfare in the 21st Century”

## Recent Invited Talks

2026 Life Course and Inequality Cluster (CLIC), European University Institute  
2026 Oxford Sociology Seminar, University of Oxford  
2024 CASER Seminar, NYU Shanghai  
2024 Interdisciplinary Cluster Inequality, Welfare, and Social Justice, European University Institute  
2024 Department of Sociology Seminar Series, University of Zürich  
2024 Centre for Multilevel Modelling, University of Bristol  
2024 Centre for Global Higher Education, University of Oxford  
2024 Knowledge, Power, and Politics in Education seminar, Cambridge  
2023 RESEP Seminar Series, University of Stellenbosch  
2022 Science Po Centre de Recherche sur les Inégalités Sociales Seminar, Paris  
2022 Nuffield College Sociology Seminar, Oxford  
2022 South African Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) Seminar, Cape Town  
2021 4th World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) Symposium, virtual

## Recent Conference Presentations

- 2025 INTERSECTIONAL SEGREGATION: CONCEPTUALIZING AND APPLICATION TO THE CASE OF SCHOOLING IN BRAZIL  
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference, Cologne
- 2024 SCHOOL SEGREGATION: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference, Barcelona
- 2023 SEG PLOT: A NEW METHOD FOR VISUALIZING PATTERNS OF MULTI-GROUP SEGREGATION  
RC28 Conference, Paris
- 2022 SCHOOL FEE ABOLITION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
BAICE Conference, Edinburgh  
ReWork Conference, Cambridge
- 2021 SCHOOL SEGREGATION IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA  
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference, virtual
- 2022 SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SKILLS AND THE SOCIOECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP  
European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Annual Conference, Amsterdam
- 2021 UKFIET Annual Conference, Oxford
- 2021 RC28 Spring Meeting, virtual

## Teaching

- 2024-present Understanding Educational Research. Bristol: Phd module
- 2024-present Introduction to Quantitative Methods. Bristol: Phd module
- 2025-present Education & International Development. Bristol: Msc module
- 2024-present Policy & Research in Education. Bristol: Bsc module
- 2024-present Educational Statistics. Bristol: Bsc module
- 2023 Conducting Interdisciplinary Research in the Social Sciences. GIGA, Hamburg: Phd seminar
- 2020-2024 Education, Globalisation and International Development. Cambridge: Mphil module
- 2020-2024 Education, Global Inequalities and Social Justice. Cambridge: BA module
- 2020-2024 Critical Debates in Education & International Development. Cambridge: BA module
- 2018-2024 Doing Multivariate Analysis. Cambridge: PG module (SSRMP)
- 2018-2020 Quantitative Educational Research. Cambridge: BA module
- 2018 Quantitative Data Analysis. Cambridge: MA Education & Psychology
- 2016-17 Intergenerational Relations across the Life Course. Humboldt Universität: MA Social Sciences
- 2015-16 Statistics I: Descriptives, Inference and Regression, Hertie School of Governance: Master of Public Policy (TA)

## Management and Administration

- 2024-present

	Academic Support Manager, School of Education, University of Bristol
2024-present	Msc Education, Policy & International Development Pathway Lead, University of Bristol
2019-2024	Mphil Research Methods Strand (route coordinator), University of Cambridge
2019-2024	Mphil Education, Globalisation and International Development (module coordinator), University of Cambridge
2018-2021	Doctoral Liaison Officer, University of Cambridge
2019-present	REAL Centre Reading Group convenor, University of Cambridge
2018-2019	Life Course Seminar convenor, University of Cambridge
2019-2024	Faculty of Education Degree Committee member, University of Cambridge
2021-2024	Faculty of Education Research Committee member, University of Cambridge

## Dissertation Supervision

Completed	6 BA students 25 Mphil students 3 Phd students (main supervisor)
Current	4 Mphil students 5 Phd/EdD students

## Phd Examination

Registration	13 students
Final	5 students

## Service

Editor	Advances in Life Course Research special issue on Young Adult Life Courses in the Global South
Editorial Board	Journal of Marriage and Family Cambridge Journal of Education International Studies in Sociology of Education British Journal of Sociology of Education
Reviewer (journals)	American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Marriage and Family, Sociology of Education, European Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Methodology, Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Sociological Compass, Social Currents, Nature Human Behaviour, Advances in Life Course Research, European Societies, Chinese Sociological Review, Chinese Journal of Sociology, Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies, Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Population Studies, Journal of Family Issues, International Studies in Sociology of Education, Journal of Education Policy, The European Journal of Development Research, Journal of Biosocial Science, Scientific Reports, Cambridge Journal of Education, International Journal of Educational Development, Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education, Educational Research and Evaluation, Social Science & Medicine, Journal of Economic Surveys, Nature Communications, Policy Studies Journal, Journal of Aging & Social Policy, Population Research and Policy Review, Global Social Policy, Asia Pacific Journal of Education, The Journal of Economic Inequality, Educational

	Review, Cogent Education, Educational Research for Policy and Practice, Journal of Comparative Family Studies, Youth & Society, Journal of Research in Childhood Education, International Journal of Educational Research, Aging & Mental Health, China & World Economy, Journal of Population Ageing, Journal of Family Research, Comparative Population Studies, Journal of Child and Family Studies, Rwanda Journal of Education, Community Development Journal, Heliyon, Journal of Education, Technology & Society
Reviewer (books)	Emerald Publishing – Social Sciences Books, Routledge Humanities & Social Sciences Books, Bloomsbury
Reviewer (grants)	Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), European Research Council (ERC), Swiss National Science Foundation, British Academy, Spencer Foundation (large grants review panel), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
Conferences	Scientific Committee Member, RC28 Meeting on Educational Inequality, Sciences Po

## Consultancy and advisory roles

2025	Member of the Expert Committee, Young Lives India School of Applied Learning (SoAL) Project
2022	External evaluation of the CAMFED Malawi/FCDO project “Improving girls’ educational outcomes: a multidimensional approach to improving education service delivery for all students” (with Makoka and Associates)
2022	Commissioned Background Paper for the World Bank project “How Teacher Mindsets Shape Education”
2014	External evaluation of the ILO/UNCDF Joint project on “Promoting Access to Microinsurance for Financial Inclusion and Decent Work” (with Denis Garand & Associates Consulting)

## Field Work Experience

2023	Co-designed qualitative data collection with 30 young adults in Senegal
2022	Coordinated stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions in 9 Ghanaian senior secondary schools
2014	Conducted interviews with key stakeholders in Ethiopia and Zambia as part of the external evaluation of the ILO/UNCDF project ‘Promoting Access to Microinsurance for Financial Inclusion and Decent Work’
2013	Led a mixed methods impact evaluation of the ‘Ghana Financial Literacy Road Show’
2012	Led a survey of microinsurance clients in four regions of Ghana (1,000 interviews / 10 FGDs)

## Professional Qualifications and Certificates

2025	Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)
2024	Office for National Statistics (ONS) accredited researcher
2018	GESIS Mannheim – Sequence Analysis
2016	Berliner Zentrum für Hochschullehre – University Teaching (short course)

## Memberships

ISA Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28)  
British Association for International and Comparative Education (BAICE)

## Skills

Languages  
IT

Dutch (native), English (fluent), German (fluent), Spanish (C1), French (B2)  
Stata, R, MaxQDA, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Inkscape