

# Mathijs de Vaan

Columbia University, Department of Sociology  
606 W 122nd street, Room 710, New York, NY, 10027

☎ 917-601-6847 | ✉ [md2999@columbia.edu](mailto:md2999@columbia.edu) | 🌐 [mathijsdevaan.com](http://mathijsdevaan.com)

## Education

---

### Columbia University

Ph.D. Candidate, (2011-Present), Expected Graduation: June 2015

Committee: Peter Bearman (Sponsor), David Stark, Gil Eyal, Bruce Kogut, and Damon Phillips.

### Utrecht University

Ph.D. in Economic Geography (2012)

### Utrecht University

B.S. and M.S. in Economics (2008)

### Simon Fraser University

Visiting student (2006)

## Research Interests

---

Economic Sociology, Social Network Analysis, Organization Theory, Strategic Management, Causal Inference, Geography.

## Peer Reviewed Publications

---

- 2014 De Vaan, M., B. Vedres, and D. Stark. Game Changer: The Topology of Creativity. *American Journal of Sociology*. Forthcoming.
- 2014 De Vaan, M. [Interfirm Networks in Periods of Technological Turbulence and Stability](#). *Research Policy* 43 (10): 1666-1680.
- 2013 De Vaan, M., R.A. Boschma, and K. Frenken. [Clustering and Firm Performance in Project-based Industries](#). *Journal of Economic Geography* 13 (6): 965-991.
- 2013 Balland, P., M. De Vaan, and R.A. Boschma. [The Dynamics of Interfirm Networks along the Industry Life Cycle](#). *Journal of Economic Geography* 13 (5): 741-765.

## Books and Book Chapters

---

- 2014 Boschma, R., P.A. Balland, and M. de Vaan. The Formation of Economic Networks: A Proximity Approach, in A. Torre and F. Wallet (eds.) *Regional Development and Proximity Relations*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.
- 2012 De Vaan, M. The Connected Firm: The Spatial Dimension of Interorganizational Dependence along the Industry Life Cycle. Utrecht, The Netherlands: Igitur Publishing.

## Articles under Review and in Progress

---

De Vaan, M. and DiPrete, T. Are Executive Pay Benchmarks Biased? Theory and Evidence from a Dynamic Analysis of Compensation Peer Groups. *Working Paper*.

The working paper was covered in a story that was published in the [Fiscal Times](#), [CNBC](#), and [Yahoo! Finance](#).

De Vaan, M. When Drugs Kill: Cognitive Structures in the Production of Evidence. *Working Paper*.

De Vaan, M., Frenken, K. and Boschma, R. The Downside of Social Capital. *Working Paper*.

De Vaan, M. and DiPrete, T. The Diffusion of Controversial Practices: Networks of Compensation Peers. *Data analysis stage.*

De Vaan, M. Scientific Consensus and Regulatory Actions. *Data analysis stage.*

De Vaan, M. Status and Inequality among Experts: Voting Behavior in FDA Advisory Committees. *Data analysis stage.*

## Selected Presentations

---

- 2014 ASA Annual Meeting, *San Francisco, CA.*  
Are Executive Pay Benchmarks Biased? Theory and Evidence from a Dynamic Analysis of Compensation Peer Groups.
- 2014 ASA Annual Meeting, *San Francisco, CA.*  
Unintended Consequences: The Diffusion of Risk Claims about Prescription Drugs.
- 2013 Organizational Ecology Conference, *Budapest, Hungary.*  
Making the Claim: The Diffusion of Risk Claims about Prescription Drugs.
- 2012 Aage Sorenson Conference, *Stockholm, Sweden.*  
Game Changer: The Topology of Creativity.
- 2012 Organizational Ecology Conference, *Copenhagen, Denmark.*  
The Downside of Social Capital in New Industry Creation.
- 2011 Academy of Management Annual Conference, *San Antonio, TX, USA.*  
The Downside of Social Capital in New Industry Creation.
- 2011 DRUID Winter Conference, *Copenhagen, Denmark.*  
Interfirm Networks in Periods of Turbulence and Stability - The Case of the Global Video Game Industry (1972-2007).
- 2009 CCC 16th Annual Colloquium for Doctoral Student Research, *Copenhagen, Denmark.*  
The Moderating Effect of Interfirm Networks on Survival during Technological Discontinuities.

## Teaching Experience

---

- 2014 Social Statistics, *GSAS Teaching Fellow, Undergraduate Course, Columbia University.*
- 2013 Quantitative Methods II, *TA for Greg Eirich, Graduate Course, Columbia University.*
- 2012 Quantitative Methods I, *TA for Greg Eirich, Graduate Course, Columbia University.*
- 2012 Organizing Innovation, *TA for David Stark, Undergraduate Course, Columbia University.*
- 2009 Geography of Networks, *Instructor, Undergraduate Course, Utrecht University.*
- 2008 Introduction to Economic Geography, *Instructor, Undergraduate Course, Utrecht University.*

## Awards and Grants

---

- 2015 Alex Inkeles Award for Outstanding Graduate Student, *Department of Sociology, Columbia University.*
- 2014 Department Nominee for OMT Doctoral Consortium, *Academy of Management.*
- 2014 NSF Science of Organizations Grant, *NSF (with Tom DiPrete).*
- 2013 INCITE Seed Grant, *Columbia University.*
- 2013 Sidney Spivak Memorial Fund Travel Award, *Columbia University.*
- 2012 Sidney Spivak Memorial Fund Travel Award, *Columbia University.*
- 2011 Paul Lazarsfeld Ph.D. Fellowship, *Columbia University.*

- 2008 NWO Ph.D. Fellowship, *NWO Open Competition*.  
2006 ACSN Student Research Award, *Association for Canada Studies in the Netherlands*.

## Service

---

- 2011- Networks and Time Seminar Series, *Co-organizer, Sponsor: Peter Bearman*.  
2011- American Journal of Sociology, Management Science, Socio-Economic Review, Regional Studies, Industry and Innovation, *Reviewer*.  
2012 Economic Sociology Meets Economic Geography Conference, *Organizer*.

## Other

---

### Languages

*Dutch (Native), English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), German (Intermediate)*

### Software

*R, Stata, SPSS, Pajek, UCINET, MS Excel, MS Word, Lyx*

### Programming

*Python, PHP, JavaScript, C++, SQL, PostgreSQL, XML, XQuery, XPath, Hadoop/Hive, HTML, CSS, LaTeX/BibTeX*

## References

---

### Peter Bearman

Jonathan R. Cole Professor of the Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
✉ [psb17@columbia.edu](mailto:psb17@columbia.edu)  
☎ 212-854-3094

### Tom DiPrete

Giddings Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
✉ [tad61@columbia.edu](mailto:tad61@columbia.edu)  
☎ 212-851-9281

### David Stark

Arthur Lehman Professor of Sociology and  
International Affairs  
Department of Sociology  
Columbia University  
New York, NY 10027  
✉ [dcs36@columbia.edu](mailto:dcs36@columbia.edu)  
☎ 212-854-3972