



“You’re just a simple farm boy”: Experiences of first-generation academics in academia

Eddie Brummelman

23 April, 10:45 – 12:15, Tinbergen Zaal

First-generation scientists—researchers whose parents do not have a university degree—remain underrepresented in academia. This is not only unfair but also inefficient, because it costs academia valuable talent and perspectives. Building on theories of educational inequality and qualitative research on the subjective experiences of first-generation scientists, I will describe the structural barriers—often subtle and implicit, sometimes blunt and explicit—that individuals from working-class backgrounds may face on their path toward and within academia. Because many of these barriers are malleable, I will discuss how universities can create a more welcoming and equitable environment for students and scientists from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.