

## The questionable empirical and political-normative basis of superdiversity

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### Abstract

This presentation will focus on the question: "Does multiculturalism have a language to address anxieties of the minorities and the majority community?", or in the European vernacular: "Does superdiversity have a language to address these anxieties?" The presentation will argue that the focus on 'super' diversity – and the neglect of communalities among citizens and the integration of newcomers into the mainstream – is one-sided, empirically questionable and politically dangerous. Empirically speaking, superdiversity scholars focus too much on short-term experiences and incorrectly extrapolate increased diversity among immigrants to increased diversity in the society at large. Politically, the emphasis on diversity plays into the hands of the radical right and those among the majority who perceive themselves as natives.

### Biography

Jan Willem Duyvendak is Distinguished Research Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam. Since 2018, he has been director of the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS-KNAW). In 2021, he was elected member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and in 2022 of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His main fields of research currently are the transformation of the welfare state, belonging and 'feeling at home' and nativism. His latest book is entitled *The Return of the Native. Can Liberalism Safeguard Us Against Nativism?* (Oxford University Press 2022, with Josip Kešić).