**Comparing methods of classifying life courses: Sequence Analysis and Latent Class Analysis**

Sapphire Y. Han1, Aart C. Liefbroer2, Cees H. Elzinga3

1Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague (NIDI/KNAW), University of Groningen, The Netherlands

2Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague (NIDI/KNAW), University Medical Centre Groningen, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Nether- lands

3Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, The Hague (NIDI/KNAW), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**ABSTRACT.** We compare life course typology solutions generated by sequence analysis (SA) and by latent class analysis (LCA). First, we construct an analytic protocol to achieve typology solutions for both methodologies. We apply this protocol to cohort 1960 - 1964 of the Family and Fertility Survey data. This paper contributes to the use of these classification techniques in four different ways. First, we present guidelines on how to establish the number of classes or clusters to use. Second, we show how to evaluate the stability of these clusters. Third, we provide a way to evaluate the validity of these clusters and finally, we provide for a formal heuristic to relate the stochastically defined latent classes to the distance-based clusters found in SA.