

# Graduation Plan

Master of Science Architecture, Urbanism & Building Sciences



## Graduation Plan: All tracks

Submit your Graduation Plan to the Board of Examiners ([Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl](mailto:Examencommissie-BK@tudelft.nl)), Mentors and Delegate of the Board of Examiners one week before P2 at the latest.

The graduation plan consists of at least the following data/segments:

Personal information	
Name	Sabine Johanna Lamberta Maria Humble
Student number	540075

Studio		
Name / Theme	Planning Complex Cities	
Main mentor	Gregory Bracken	Spatial Planning and Strategy – Specialization in academic skills, theory and small scaled design
Second mentor	Verena Balz	Spatial Planning and Strategy – Specialization in regional design, regional participation (DUST project) and policies
Argumentation of choice of the studio	The graduation studio Planning Complex Cities is described as a studio that builds upon themes such as spatial development, spatial planning, territorial governance, and participation. Regarding the topic of traveller clusters ( <i>woonwagenkampen</i> ) it becomes clear that the issues currently experienced are created by a combination of the stigma surrounding the minority group, governance and spatial planning. Through this studio, the aim is to use the elements that created the issues for the spatially and socially segregated group, that has endured institutionalised racism, to be able to create a new approach that uses participatory methods to involve the traveller community in decision-making on different scales. This research will not only focus on these participatory approaches but also has the opportunity within this studio to look into the policy and the spatial planning guidelines to create a roadmap and a vision towards a more just and sustainable future.	

Graduation project	
Title of the graduation project	Travelling towards trust <i>Creating a just and sustainable future for caravan dwellers in the Netherlands</i>
Goal	
Location:	The Netherlands
The posed problem	The traveller community is a group that has been struggling with a stigma surrounding their culture, resulting in social and spatial segregation after multiple governmental failures (Godrie-van Gils,

2018) (Huijbers, 2017). In 2018, after a verdict by the European Cour for Human Rights, the Dutch government has created a new policy framework to ensure that the human rights of the travellers are met (United Nations, n.d.), distributing responsibilities to provinces, municipalities and housing cooperations (Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties, 2018).

Due to a lack of conformance by the municipality in complying with the human rights of the travellers, this community has developed a distrust towards the government (Martin et al., 2017). This has created difficulty in the participation of the traveller community in the performance considering spatial planning. However, the government needs cooperation from the travellers to be able to fill the knowledge gap surrounding the caravan dweller politics. The travellers first need conformance that their effort will be rewarded (Omroep Gelderland, 2023).

The problems that have led to the lack of conformance and participation in performance such as lack of funds, land availability and clarity (Companen, 2023) and on the other hand discrimination and a series of historical events combined with the issue that municipalities can use other acts and the decentralisation of the issue to create a delay in creating or executing any policy-making processes or expansion plans (Teodorescu, 2023), has led to wariness amongst travellers (Nationale Ombudsman, 2023).

As time goes by, the complexity of the problem only grows and without a proper approach, the gap between government and travellers will only grow and the stigma on the traveller community seems to remain, preventing governmental institutions from seeing the caravan dweller housing type, lifestyle and allocation subject as an opportunity rather than an issue. A new approach is needed to ensure a just and sustainable future for caravan dwellers with policies and spatial planning that meet the human rights of the community, as these rights are currently neglected.

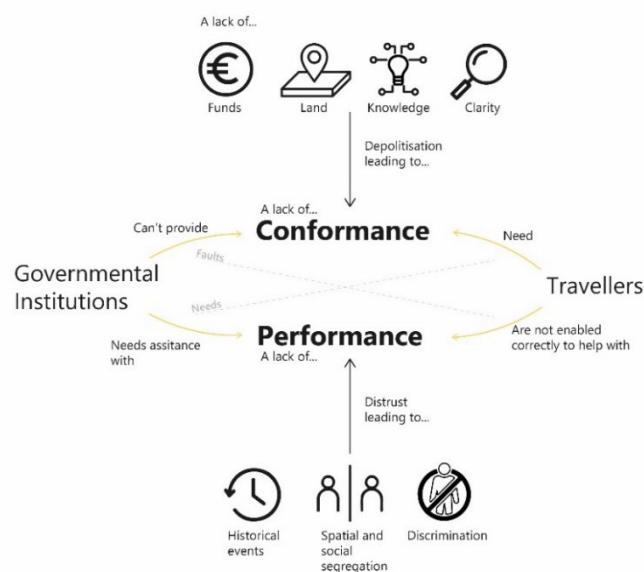


Figure 1 Problem statement scheme

<p><b>Research questions</b></p>	<p>Main research question: What are the (spatial) implications of a just and sustainable future for the traveller community in the Netherlands? And how can this be achieved through participatory approaches?</p> <p>The thesis is consistently subdivided into 4 themes that are involved with caravan dweller politics:</p> <p>SQ1 People A What are future perspectives on and of the travellers? B What is the current view on travellers, how has it developed, and how can the stigma be decreased through awareness?</p> <p>SQ2 Policies What are current shortcomings in policies and frameworks and how can these be improved to create more clarity and accountability amongst the different stakeholders?</p> <p>SQ3 Spatial Planning What spatial principles can combat segregation and ensure the participation of travellers in the sustainability transition?</p> <p>SQ4 Governance &amp; Participation Which stakeholders should be involved in the participatory process (and how), considering the participatory and subsidiarity principles, to ensure the issue will stay on the political agenda, receive enough resources and be implemented?</p>
<p><b>Design assignment in which these result.</b></p> <p>[This should be formulated in such a way that the graduation project can answer these questions. The definition of the problem has to be significant to a clearly defined area of research and design.]</p>	<p>SQ1 People For the first theme, the assignment is to visualize the knowledge generated about and from the travellers and experts. The future perspectives can be presented as a list of demands, also be presented spatially and the perspective on the travellers is visualized as a timeline.</p> <p>SQ2 Policies For policies the intended outcome is an improvement of the current policy framework. This means designing more concrete guidelines and goals to be achieved by different institutions.</p> <p>SQ3 Spatial Planning The assignment for spatial planning is to design spatial guidelines that create more opportunities for integration and ensure participation in the sustainability transition on different scales.</p>

	<p><b>SQ4 Governance &amp; Participation</b></p> <p>For governance and participation, the design assignment is to create an engagement strategy based on the stakeholder analysis.</p> <p>To answer the main research question, the different elements of the sub-questions are evaluated and combined to create a clear view of the possible new approach and future of caravan dweller politics. This is articulated through the following products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New policy framework which is a combination of the outcomes of the policies and spatial planning themes</li> <li>- Participatory Roadmaps that show each stakeholder when in the process they are expected, what is expected of them and when they can expect evaluation etc. which is a combination between the people, policies and governance outcomes</li> <li>- Vision which is a visualization that shows the spatial implications of this new framework and participatory roadmaps</li> </ul>
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## Process

### Method description

The methods utilized consist of:

Analytical and theoretical

1. Literature review (Dives into the literature connected to each theme)
2. Historical analysis (Depict the historical development of the view on travellers)
3. Reference projects (Gives inspiration on future perspectives, raising awareness, decreasing spatial segregation and participatory approaches)
4. Media analysis (Looks into the current perspectives on travellers and which topics play a big role amongst the traveller community by analysing their Facebook posts)
5. Policy analysis (Categorizes the different tools used in the current policy framework)
6. Comparative analysis (Compares traveller policies from different countries)
7. Spatial analysis (Categorizes the different types of spatial segregation in traveller clusters)
8. Stakeholder analysis (Shows the actors involved in the caravan dweller politics)

Fieldwork → Data Management Plan

9. Expert interviews (Expert insights on the different themes)
10. Online survey (Traveller input on the different themes)
11. Workshops (Traveller input on the outcomes of the sub-questions)

For the theme People, methods 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10 will be used

For the theme Policies, methods 1, 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 will be used

For the theme Spatial Planning methods 1, 3, 7, 9 and 10 will be used

For the theme Governance & Participation methods 1, 3, 8, 9 and 10 will be used

To evaluate and combine the outcomes and answer the main research question method 11 will be used which researches different participatory methods determined in the Governance & Participation theme.

For the fieldwork, a data management plan is created as the fieldwork deals with certain forms of personal data. Participants are found through different methods

The first method is usage of personal network to contact people who interact with the traveller policies either in work, study or day-to-day life. The second method is contacting professionals via e-mail after finding their contact information on websites after seeing them in interviews,

mentioned in articles or listed as owners of traveller-related websites. The third method is finding the gatekeepers of the traveller community through expert interviews to gain access to participants within the traveller community.

Within the methodology, there are also evaluation mechanisms embedded to ensure moments of reflection on results. For example, the workshops (method 11) are not only ways to test participatory methods but also an evaluation mechanism to evaluate the results of the sub-research questions.

The methodology and planning of the project are visualized in the schemes below.

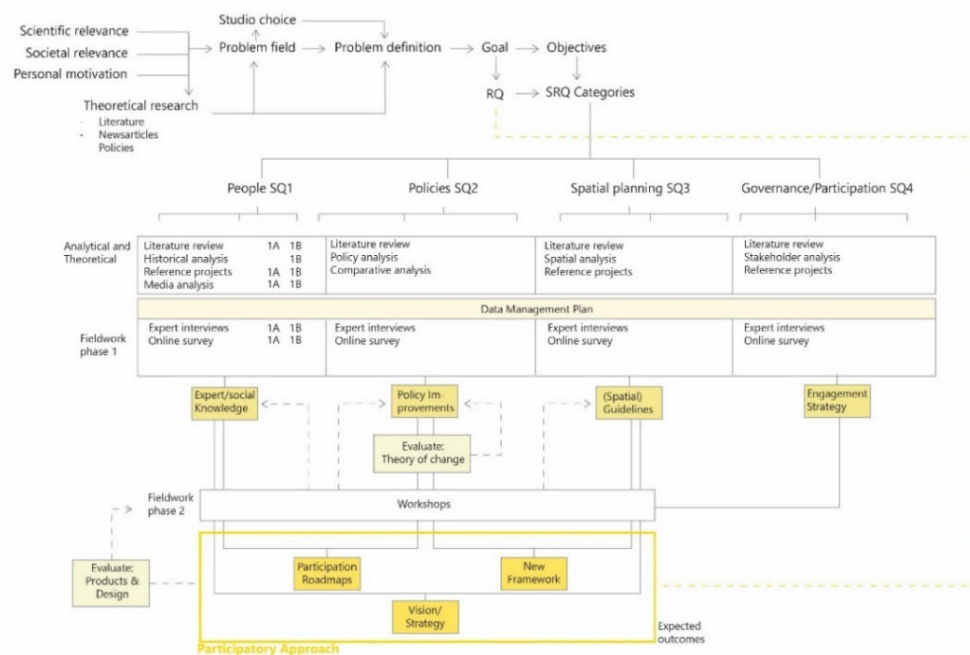


Figure 2 Methodology

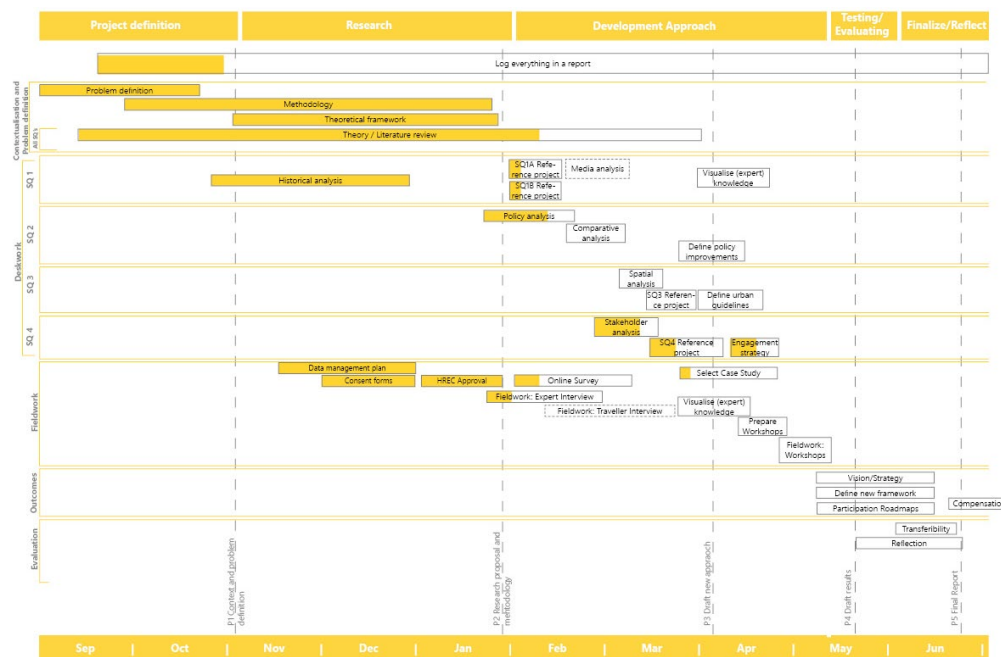


Figure 3 Planning

## Literature and general practical references

The following literature depicts the history and current situation of the traveller community. They describe the different policies regarding the group, how they have been treated in the past, the stigma surrounding the culture and the issues the travellers are currently experiencing.

- Cottaar, A. (1996). *Kooplui, kermisklanten en andere woonwagenbewoners. Groepsvorming en beleid 1870-1945* [Merchants, Carnival exploitants and other caravan dwellers, Group formation and policy 1870-1945] . Het Spinhuis.
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. (2020). *Roma, Sinti en Reizigers in Nederland* [Roma, Sinti and Travellers in the Netherlands].
- Godrie-van Gils, G. (2018). *Woonwagenbewoners laten zich niet afschaffen* [Caravan dwellers won't let themselves be abolished]. Eburon
- Khonraad, J. (Jacobus L. H. T. M. (2000). *Woonwagenbewoners, burgers in de risicomaatschappij* [Caravan dwellers, citizens in the risk society]. Van Arkel.
- Loven, C. (2018). Woonwagenbewoners in Nederland: een strijdbaar volk [Caravan dwellers, a combative folk] . *Recht Der Werkelijkheid*, 38(3), 6–24. <https://doi.org/10.5553/rdw/138064242017038003002>
- Lucassen, L. (1990). *'En men noemde hen zigeuners': de geschiedenis van Kaldarasch, Ursari, Lowara en Sinti in Nederland: 1750-1944* ['And they called them gypsies' the history of Kaldarasch, Ursari, Lowara and Sinti in the Netherlands: 1750-1944]. Stichting beheer IISG
- NPRD. (2004). *Roma en Sinti in Nederland-Factsheet* [Roma and Sinti in the Netherlands-Factsheet].
- Omroep Gelderland. (2023, July 4). *In het vizier van De Jager - Woonwagenbeleid* [In the sight of the hunter - caravan policy] [Video]. Omroep Gelderland.
- Witte, R., & Moors, H. (2017). Cultureel erfgoed én crimineel probleem: over de subcultuur van woonwagenbewoners [Cultural heritage and a criminal problem: about the subculture of caravan dwellers]. *Justitiële Verkenningen*, 43(2), 60–74. <https://doi.org/10.5553/jv/016758502017043002004>

The following literature gives a critical view of historical events and the current way of conduct by governmental institutions, highlighting the issues in current caravan dweller politics experienced by both the traveller community and the municipality:

- Hemelsoet, E. (2012). *De Roma en maatschappelijke instituties: twee onverenigbare werelden* [The Roma and governmental institutions: two incompatible worlds].
- Huijbers, L. (2017). *Het Woonwagenbeleid in Nederland vanuit een Mensenrechtelijk Perspectief* [The caravan policy in the Netherlands from a human right perspective]. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314259960>
- Martin, O., Petri, B., Ruitenburt, H. M., & Loven, C. (2017). *Woonwagenbewoner zoekt standplaats Een onderzoek naar de betrouwbaarheid van de overheid voor woonwagenbewoners* [Caravan dweller is searching for a pitch. A research about the reliability of the government for caravan dwellers].
- Nationale Ombudsman. (2023). *Woonwagenbewoners in onzekerheid door gebrek aan beleid* [Caravan dweller in uncertainty due to a lack of policy]. Nationale Ombudsman. <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/column/2023/mag-ik-hier-blijven-wonen>
- Teodorescu, D. (2023). Caravan politics in the depoliticised city: Applying and opposing exceptional measures for Dutch Traveller, Sinti, and Roma caravan sites. *Political Geography*, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2023.102951>
- Widdershoven, E. H. M. (2005). *De afschaffing van de woonwagenwet, Een act van normalisering of een weloverwogen integratie?* [Abolishment of the caravan act, An act of normalisation or considered integration].

The different policy (framework) documents from different countries to be researched and a document that combines the experiences of the Roma and travelling community in these different countries:

- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, F. (2020). *Roma and Travellers in six countries - ROMA AND TRAVELLERS SURVEY*. <https://doi.org/10.2811/59861>
- Belgium: Bourgeois, G., & Homans, L. (2015). Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering houdende de subsidiëring van de verwerving, de inrichting, de renovatie en de uitbreiding van terreinen voor woonwagenbewoners. *Flemish government*.
- England: Great Britain. Department for Communities and Local Government. (2015). *Planning policy for traveller sites*.
- Ireland: Department of Justice and Equality. (2017). *National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy 2017-2021*.
- Sweden: Reinfeldt, F., & Ullenhag, E. (2012). *A coordinated long-term strategy for Roma inclusion 2012–2032*. Government.
- Netherlands: Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. (2018). *Beleidskader gemeentelijk woonwagen-en standplaatsenbeleid*.
- European Commission. (2020). *A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation*.

## Research on the current situation in the Netherlands and changes after the implementation of the policy framework (2018):

- van Leer, R., Venema, S., & Rottier, A. (2021). *Herhaalmeting Woonwagenstandplaatsen in Nederland* [Repeat assesment caravan pitches in the Netherlands].
- Companen, (2023). *Herhaalmeting 2023 Woonwagenstandplaatsen in Nederland* [Repeated assesment caravan pitches in the Netherlands]. Ministry of Internal Affairs.

## Literature discussing the theory regarding caravan dweller politics:

The human rights framework, the main instigator of change in caravan dweller politics that consists of 9 core instruments

- United Nations. (n.d.). *The Core International Human Rights Instruments and their monitoring bodies*.
- United nations Human Rights (2001). *Engagement with national authorities and institutions*.

Justice and sustainability, are the two main goals that both consist of a trifecta. Justice consists of procedural, distributive and recognition. Sustainability of societal, environmental and economic.

- Verbeek, T. (2023, November 6). *Critical social science and urbanism* [Lecture]. TU Delft, Delft, The Netherlands.

Legal Consciousness describes the level of awareness that the travellers have about their rights

- Martin, R. (2022). Lethal Force, Legal Consciousness and the Social Field of Policing. *Social and Legal Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09646639221115699>

Future literacy touches upon the skillset to envision a future and the road towards this future

- Balz, V., Verbeek, T., Qu, L., Baugh, R., Dabrowski, M., Jungsberg, J., Ferry, M., Georgieva, N., Serdült, U., Trifonova, M., Amin, S., & Clouet, Y. (2023). *Dust project. Deliverable 1.1: Theoretical and conceptual framework*.
- Miller, R. (2018). *Transforming the Future*.

Stigma is a negative image attached to a certain thing or community that influences how they are treated

- Link, B. G., Phelan, J. C. (2001). Conceptualizing Stigma. *Annual Review of Sociology* 27.

Anti-gypsyism is a term used for the hate towards the group known as gypsies which sadly transforms together with the community

- Nicolae, V. (2007). Towards a Definition for Anti-Gypsyism. In V. Nicolae & H. Slavik (Eds.), *Roma diplomacy*. 21–30. The International Debate Education Association.

Other as a description to show how the group is perceived which explains the fear for the group as the fear for the unknown or different.

- Staszak, J.-F. (2008). Other/otherness. *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Elsevier.

Institutional racism explains how the governmental institutions have consistently used the power instigated by racism to conduct discriminatory practices and create discriminatory policies towards the traveller community

- Miller, J., & Garran, A. M. (2007). The Web of institutional racism. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 77(1), 33–67. [https://doi.org/10.1300/J497v77n01\\_03](https://doi.org/10.1300/J497v77n01_03)
- Verlot, M. (2002). *Understanding institutional racism. In Europe's New Racism: Causes, Manifestations, and Solutions*. 27–42. Berghahn Books.

Policy tools that help categorise the different activities in the policy framework

- Stead, D. (2021). Conceptualizing the Policy Tools of Spatial Planning. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 36(3), 297–311. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0885412221992283>

Theory of change that will analyse the outcomes of the different activities in the policy framework

- Connell, J. P., & Kubisch, A. C. (1998). *Applying a Theory of Change Approach to the Evaluation of Comprehensive Community Initiatives: Progress, Prospects, and Problems*.

Segregation spatially and socially and that it is not always forced segregation

- Peach, C. (1996). Good segregation, bad segregation. *Planning Perspectives*, 11(4), 379–398. <https://doi.org/10.1080/026654396364817>

The ladder of participation visualizes the different types of participation in spatial planning practices.

- Arnstein, S. R. (2019). A Ladder of Citizen Participation. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 85(1), 24–34. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2018.1559388>

## Reference projects:

Temporary stay location for travelling community in Herzogenbuchsee in Switzerland

Mapping the Histories of London's Travellers – Mapping for change and London Gypsies and Travellers association

Tiny house communities

## Experts:

Sabina Achterbergh – Head of the main traveller association in the Netherlands

Dominic Teodorescu – Professor specialized in caravan dweller politics at the University of Amsterdam

Frank Dirks – Works for Platform 31, a company that participated in creating the current policy framework



## Reflection

Relation graduation project and the Planning Complex Cities studio

This research relates to the Planning Complex Cities studio as the studio and the project both emphasise spatial development, spatial planning, territorial governance, and participation. These aspects directly intersect with the challenges faced by the traveller community as the issues experienced stem from a societal stigma, governance practices, and past spatial planning decisions. The starting point of the graduation projects aligned with the Planning Complex Cities studio is described on the website as "observations of disparities and conflicts arising from the distribution of spatial resources across communities and territories." This graduation project focuses on the unfair distribution of resources and conflicts regarding the traveller community and how these can be improved.

The studio's focus on participatory approaches aligns with the research goal of providing a framework to engage the traveller community in decision-making processes on various scales. This engagement is crucial for solving the current issues and creating a just and sustainable future for the traveller community.

Relation graduation project, the urbanism track and the master programme AUBS

Within the Urbanism track, the third quarter focuses on projects on a European scale that focus on sustainability and justice, looking into the different stakeholders and how a certain vision can be achieved within the context of a specific landscape. Urbanism is bringing sustainability, justice, society and landscape together to find solutions experienced by society and the planet. The graduation project focuses on a specific community but does resonate that every community in society deserves a place in the landscape and in the decision-making process and it also focuses on the participation within the sustainability transition. This is also what relates to the AUBS programme, which tries to influence society positively through the spatial (planning) realm.

Societal relevance

The unjust treatment of travellers has theoretically come to a stop after the verdict by the European Court for Human Rights and the new national framework, but the reality seems to be different. This project aims to create a just and sustainable future as well as a just process regarding the (re)location of travellers and to create general awareness to combat discrimination against the group. The project aims to show the misconduct of the governmental institutions towards the community and lays a framework on how to build trust and instigate actual change.

Scientific and Professional relevance

This research focuses on approaching a seldom-heard, distrusting stakeholder group. The engagement strategy and approach towards this group could be used as a framework to approach similar stakeholder groups in practice. Policy and spatial guidelines could contain a certain amount of transferability to other countries dealing with similar stakeholders or to similar stakeholders within the Netherlands. The implementation of certain tools in the research adds to the research on the effectiveness of these (participation) tools and which variables can/should be altered to aid specific groups. Lastly, the project works with a possibly flexible housing type that could be beneficial in aiding in the reduction of the issues resulting from the environmental and housing crisis.

## Reference list

Companen, (2023). *Herhaalmeting 2023 Woonwagenstandplaatsen in Nederland* [Repeated assesment caravan pitches in the Netherlands]. Ministry of Internal affairs.

Godrie-van Gils, G. (2018). *Woonwagenbewoners laten zich niet afschaffen* [Caravan dwellers won't let themselves be abolished]. Eburon.

Huijbers, L. (2017). *Het Woonwagenbeleid in Nederland vanuit een Mensenrechtelijk Perspectief* [The caravan policy in the Netherlands from a human right perspective].

<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314259960>

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Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties. (2018). *Beleidskader gemeentelijk woonwagen-en standplaatsenbeleid* [Policy framework for municipal caravan and pitch policy].

Nationale Ombudsman. (2023). *Woonwagenbewoners in onzekerheid door gebrek aan beleid* [Caravan dweller in uncertainty due to a lack of policy]. Nationale Ombudsman.

<https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/column/2023/mag-ik-hier-blijven-wonen>

Omroep Gelderland. (2023, July 4). *In het vizier van De Jager - Woonwagenbeleid* [In the sight of the hunter - caravan policy] [Video]. Omroep Gelderland.

Teodorescu, D. (2023). Caravan politics in the depoliticised city: Applying and opposing exceptional measures for Dutch Traveller, Sinti, and Roma caravan sites. *Political Geography*, 106. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2023.102951>

United Nations. (n.d.). *The Core International Human Rights Instruments and their monitoring bodies*.