

Special Education & Policy Change: A Study of Six Jurisdictions

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Ambulatorium, Room 68; Grote Rozenstraat 38
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

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Jules L. Peschar is professor emeritus in Sociology of Education at the University of Groningen. Main interests are inequality issues in education and stratification, longitudinal studies and international comparative research. He was attached to a Unesco East-West Institute in Vienna and long time participant in the OECD development programme on education indicators and PISA. He was chair of the national evaluation committee on The "Together to school again" policy (WSNS: Weer Samen naar School) and presently member of the ECPO (Evaluation Committee on the Meeting students' needs policy (Passend Onderwijs).

Sip Jan Pijl is professor of education and education director of the Pedagogical Institute. He works at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and part-time at the Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. His research focuses on both conditions for and effects of inclusive education. He is member of the boards of the International Journal of Inclusive Education and the European Journal of Special Needs Education. He further is the lead-convenor of the EERA network on Inclusive Education.

Laura Batstra (Ph.D.) is currently staff member of the section on 'Youth care' of the Pedagogical Institute of the University of Groningen. She used to work as a child psychologist in a psychiatric outpatient clinic. Her research focuses on methods to prevent psychiatric overdiagnosis in children without risking undertreatment of severe problems. In the public domain she strongly argues for limiting the use of medication in children and opting for teacher and parent support as first line treatments in this age group.