

1 **The complex life course of mobility:**
2 **Quantitative description of 300,000 residential**
3 **moves in 1850-1950 Netherlands**

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8 Keywords: *Human mobility; Residential mobility; Life course; 20th century; HSN*

9 word count: 7912

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Abstract. Mobility is a major mechanism of human adaptation, both in the deep past and in the present. Decades of research in the human evolutionary sciences have elucidated how much, how, and when individuals and groups move in response to their ecology. Prior research has focused on small-scale subsistence societies, often in marginal environments and yielding small samples. But adaptive movement is commonplace across human societies, providing an opportunity to study human mobility more broadly. We provide a detailed, life-course structured demonstration, describing the residential mobility system of a historical population living between 1850-1950 in the industrialising Netherlands. We focus on how moves are patterned over the lifespan, attending to individual variation and stratifying our analyses by gender. We conclude that this population was not stationary: the median total moves in a lifetime were 10, with a wide range of variation and an uneven distribution over the life course. Mobility peaks in early adulthood (age 20–30) in this population, and this peak is consistent in all the studied cohorts, and both genders. Mobile populations in sedentary settlements provide a productive avenue for research on adaptive mobility and its relationship to human life history, and historical databases are useful for addressing evolutionarily-motivated questions.

Social media summary: Analysis of over 35,000 historical individuals reveals peaks and troughs of residential mobility in the life course

1 Introduction

Mobility is both an important and diverse form of human adaptation: from the spread of our species out of Africa, to the resource mapping of hunter-gatherer groups, through the relative immobility and high landscape investment of agricultural populations, to the renewed mobility of contemporary urban labor networks. Mobility allows humans to flexibly respond to their circumstances. Changes in mobility patterns are implicated in every major economic transition, from foraging to domestication to urban settlement and resettlement. The consequences of mobility for landscape alteration (Bird et al., 2016; Kelly et al., 2005) and cultural evolution (Boyd & Richerson, 2009; Perreault & Brantingham, 2011; Soltis et al., 1995) are also significant. Therefore the contribution of mobility to human adaptation is not only a basic research question for human evolution. It is also of critical importance for understanding contemporary responses to environmental and social change, enabling better prediction and planning, especially in light of ongoing climate adaptation (Pisor & Jones, 2020).

In this study we present a quantitative life course perspective of individual mobility in a sedentary, urbanizing, but nonetheless mobile population. We focus on describing residential mobility and how it patterns over the life course of thousands of individuals. The individual nature of the records allows us to describe variation in life course trajectories related to mobility, not just population or group averages. Our goal is to demonstrate that sedentary, even urban, populations are highly mobile and that their mobility is strategic, structured as it is over the life course of individuals. While we do not develop a full adaptive picture of mobility, we do support the importance of individual mobility in human adaptation and relate it to important questions in the study of human adaptation and cultural evolution.

57 Also, as we show, just to accurately describe mobility at the high resolution
 58 necessary for theory construction and testing is not trivial. Special care is needed
 59 to robustly estimate age-specific behavior, individual variation, and then to pro-
 60 duce valid projections to the target population. So in addition to providing a high-
 61 resolution description of individual mobility in a particular population, we also pro-
 62 vide a detailed computational example of how these steps can be accomplished at
 63 scale with modern machine learning algorithms. Since all inferential work depends
 64 upon proper descriptive work, a scalable computational workflow is a contribution
 65 of its own.

66 Evolutionary approaches to both mobility and sedentarization have tended to
 67 focus on the ecological drivers experienced by mobile peoples (Bettinger et al.,
 68 2015; Binford, 1980; Kelly, 2013). Research in this literature explains mobility as
 69 a means of averaging over both spatial and temporal variation in resources. It is a
 70 way to manage risk and uncertainty (Cashdan, 1992), with hunter-gatherer mobil-
 71 ity regimes forming a forager-collector spectrum (Kelly, 2013). The spectrum has
 72 recently been combined with more mechanistic views of hunter-gatherer mobility
 73 that explicitly link mobility decisions at the group and individual level to calories
 74 required (Hamilton et al., 2016; Venkataraman et al., 2017).

75 A similar framework has been usefully applied to understanding sedentarization.
 76 Kelly argues that reduced mobility is a feature of “local abundance in regional
 77 scarcity” (Kelly, 2013). Populations can reduce mobility if abundant resources are
 78 available, but those resources must be clustered in space, and time. Historically,
 79 hunter-gatherers located in rich environments tended to be more sedentary (e.g.
 80 Jomon: Crema, 2013). These groups settled near marine resources, which follow
 81 the “abundance in scarcity” profile: they are high value, clustered in time and
 82 space. Agricultural groups on the other hand create abundance locally. Through
 83 domestication, they cluster resources in a much smaller area, shifting to a sedentary
 84 life (O’Brien & Laland, 2012).

85 The broad picture emerging from this work is that human groups have gradually
 86 reduced mobility as economies have increasingly focused on immobile resources and
 87 urban infrastructure. But we know this is wrong. Urban populations, contemporary
 88 and historical, can be highly mobile, much more mobile than traditional agricultural
 89 communities. This point was elucidated already by Zelinsky (1971), who suggested
 90 that demographic transitions are accompanied by mobility transitions, which see
 91 the increase of mobility with “modernisation”.

92 A long standing issue in both human behavioral ecology and cultural evolution
 93 is the integration of global, market-oriented livelihoods into theoretical frameworks
 94 that have been developed and tested mostly in “small-scale” societies (Nettle et al.,
 95 2013). In the past decades research in Human Behavioral Ecology has worked to ex-
 96 pand out of “small-scale” populations. However, not all theory has been successfully
 97 translated. As Nettle et al. (2013) point out, Human Behavioral Ecology has much
 98 to say on topics relating to reproduction, and much less on spatial patterning and
 99 resource use. This difference can also be seen in how our understanding of mobility
 100 is carried over, with work on kin co-residence finding industrial counterparts, while
 101 work on mobility regimes remains biased towards small-scale populations.

102 A mature account of adaptation, spanning economies and time periods, must
 103 address mobility post-sedentarization, because people in sedentary and urban soci-
 104 eties are not immobile, and their mobility is not random but rather makes strategic

105 use of urban environments (Clech et al., 2020; Gillespie, 2017; Kok et al., 2005). So
106 while it is clear that populations living in sedentary settlements will not map on
107 to the resource landscape in the same way as foragers, this does not preclude them
108 from using mobility adaptively. Evolutionary theory and its strong connections to
109 life history, tradeoffs, and cultural evolution has an important role in explaining
110 constructed environments and their associated mobility regimes. In turn, the study
111 of human mobility in "sedentary" systems may provide general insights for the study
112 of human adaptation.

113 Describing mobility in extensive systems of permanent settlement and in the ur-
114 ban environments that characterize the Anthropocene (Lobo et al., 2020) requires
115 extending evolutionary theory to account for the full diversity of human mobility
116 strategies. Accomplishing this is necessarily complex. There are new issues to con-
117 sider when attempting to characterize mobility in a "large-scale" society, but the
118 vast and high-resolution data potentially available from urban and urbanizing con-
119 texts may make it possible to address both new and old questions with greater rigor.
120 Crucially, total mobility for many historical hunter-gatherer groups is nearly always
121 described with one number, or a range, depicting the number of group moves per
122 year (Hamilton et al., 2016; Kelly, 2013). That is, we know relatively little about
123 the actual individual distributions of mobility in these societies, frustrating our abil-
124 ity to evaluate how mobility regimes are built up from individual trade-offs. While
125 total annual residential moves are an important behavioral measure, it would be
126 beneficial to understand the variation in terms of these moves as experienced by
127 individuals within these societies. Particularly if we want to compare mobile and
128 "sedentary" groups, we need an understanding of what the distribution of mobility
129 looks like over the population. For hunter-gatherer groups that exclusively move as
130 a group, variation is expected to be low. However, a group average is already mis-
131 leading for groups that engage in high amounts of logistic mobility. In large-scale
132 permanent settlement systems, the diversity of lifeways afforded through varying
133 economic pathways leads us to expect a fair amount of individual variation that is
134 currently not described and surely under-theorized.

135 Although there are logistic difficulties related to collecting individual data on
136 mobility, when mobility has been utilized to address hypotheses related to human
137 reproduction and sex differences, individual data has been crucial (Cashdan et al.,
138 2016). A review of the literature conducted in 2016 indicates that men range farther
139 than women in a diversity of cultures and environments, and that this difference is
140 consistent through much of the lifecourse (Cashdan et al., 2016). Recent work on
141 mobile foragers, using precision tracking equipment, provides high-resolution data
142 on individuals and variation among them; the results support the trend: men travel
143 further and have larger ranges (Wood et al., 2021).

144 The pattern also holds outside of subsistence societies. Ecuyer-Dab and Robert
145 (2004) find that men's personal travel ranges were 1.8 times larger than that of
146 women in an industrial context. Analysis of mobile phone data show women visit
147 fewer unique locations and travel shorter distances than men in Santiago, Chile
148 (Gauvin et al., 2020). Studies across Auckland, Dublin, Hanoi, Helsinki, Jakarta,
149 Kuala Lumpur, Lisbon and Manila also conclude that women tend to travel shorter
150 distances (Ng & Acker, 2018). If we consider residential mobility, the picture is more
151 complicated however, not least because of the fact that residential mobility is often
152 engaged in by households, not individuals. A study of young adult home leavers in

153 East Germany shows greater mobility for females in terms of distance travelled, as
154 more females moved to West Germany than males (Geissler et al., 2012). Likewise,
155 a study utilizing individual panel data in Senegal suggests women are more likely
156 than men to migrate, but they tend to travel shorter distances (Chort et al., 2020).

157 The picture emerging from this literature is that women tend to travel shorter
158 distances, but move residence more often. This higher residential mobility for women
159 was already documented in Ravenstein's "The Laws of Migration", a keystone work
160 in mobility studies based on historical census data (Ravenstein, 1889). However, re-
161 consideration of this research has suggested that the female-bias in internal migra-
162 tion is a feature of males leaving the population at a higher rate (through emigration
163 or death), emphasizing the need for the careful consideration of demographics when
164 forming conclusions about mobility regimes (Alexander & Steidl, 2012).

165 Analysing mobility over individual factors other than sex is uncommon in the
166 evolutionary literature. Age in particular offers a way to begin to unpack the life his-
167 tory of mobility, thus uncovering the changing trade-offs experienced by individuals
168 as they move through time. Relating sex differences to the lifecourse, sex-differences
169 are already present in adolescence, for example a study with the Tsimane found that
170 males had larger ranges than females during adolescence (Miner et al., 2014). While
171 work on children's mobility is more sparse, research suggests more equal mobility
172 behavior (Davis & Cashdan, 2019), but the small sample size and methodological
173 treatment in this study warrants cautious conclusions. Considering the opposite
174 end of the lifespan, some research points to continued female mobility in older age.
175 For example, Wood and Marlowe (2011) show that grandmothers tend to be in
176 camps with their daughters until daughters have teenage daughters of their own.
177 This allows grandmothers to go where their help most increases their inclusive fit-
178 ness (Jones et al., 2005). This work could perhaps be an indication that females
179 move residence more than men in older age. Recent work by Wood et al. (2021)
180 will prove most valuable in comparison to similarly high-resolution data on lifes-
181 pan mobility in non-foraging populations, such as studies by Gillespie (2017) and
182 Ghosh et al. (2018), which utilize a life course approach to show variation over age
183 in contemporary American and Finnish populations.

184 We take inspiration from these studies, but the unique nature of our sample al-
185 lows us to evaluate individual variation in life course mobility and directly estimate
186 the age-based effect. The sample we use is the Historical Sample of the Nether-
187 lands (HSN), a relational database of a sample of the Dutch population born in the
188 Netherlands between 1850 and 1920 (Mandemakers, 2017). The HSN is a valuable
189 resource as it contains individual life courses constructed both from birth/death
190 certificates and, crucially for our purposes, dynamic population registers that con-
191 tain all the addresses within the Netherlands at which a research person (RP) was
192 registered. Each municipality was responsible for keeping their records up to date,
193 and so individuals were obliged to inform their municipality of any changes to resi-
194 dence, thus making this a dynamic record of their migration histories. As such, it is
195 possible to track RPs through their lifetime residential moves. Moreover, given the
196 time span the HSN addresses, it is well-positioned to address changes to mobility
197 brought about by industrialisation. Historical sources from early industrialisation
198 hotspots provide a unique lens through which to interrogate changes that both mar-
199 ket integration and industrialisation may bring (Mattison & Sear, 2016). Finally,
200 the HSN is a very large database, containing information on over 37,000 research

201 persons. This size allows for greater analytic power as well as the possibility of ad-
202 dressing informative subsets of the population. Given its historical depth and high
203 resolution, the HSN thus represents a unique and valuable resource for addressing
204 historical and transitional lifeways.

205 We use the HSN to address two core questions about the life course of individual
206 mobility in a system of permanent settlements. These questions address our primary
207 goal of demonstrating the high levels of structured mobility in an urbanizing pop-
208 ulation of sedentary communities. The descriptions we provide do not test specific
209 adaptive hypotheses. But they do justify in great detail the claims that sedentary
210 populations can be highly mobile, that mobility is strongly related to human life
211 history and therefore plausibly to basic evolutionary considerations, and that these
212 facts can lead to the cultural evolution of the landscape and of mobility patterns.

213 The first question we consider is: How many times do individuals change resi-
214 dence in this sample? This is the coarsest perspective on the data, and allows us to
215 establish how much mobility individuals in the sample engage in.

216 Second, we investigate how residential mobility is patterned over the life course.
217 To address this question, we describe the pattern of residential mobility by age,
218 both in conjunction and separate from the demographic composition of the sample.
219 Characterizing individual mobility this way allows us to show how aggregate mo-
220 bility arises from the combination of individual pathways with population-specific
221 fertility and mortality patterns. We also establish whether there is change in the
222 age-based pattern over the cohorts in the HSN.

223 We stratify each of these results by gender to relate clearly with the existing
224 rich literature on sex-differences in mobility.

225 **2 Methods**

226 **2.1 Data**

227 The Historical Sample of the Netherlands (HSN) is a relational database contain-
228 ing individual life courses from the nineteenth and twentieth century Netherlands.
229 Constructed around so-called research persons (RP), the HSN follows RPs from
230 cradle to grave, constructing life course trajectories with information about birth
231 and death dates, occupation, religious affiliation, and migration. Moreover, individ-
232 uals related to RPs are also surveyed, providing information on family composition,
233 children, and household mobility. As such, the HSN constitutes a rare resource,
234 combining high resolution and longitudinal data on a large sample of a historical
235 population.

236 Detailed information about the database can be found in (Mandemakers, 2017).
237 The database is constructed from information contained in birth, death, and mar-
238 riage certificates, as well as dynamic population registers in the later years. Standard
239 civil registration of birth, deaths, and marriages began in the Netherlands in 1812,
240 while population registers were instituted in 1850. The state of these data in the
241 Netherlands is of exceptionally high quality, as two copies of all certificates were
242 kept. Moreover, dynamic population registers going this far back are rare (Mandem-
243 makers, 2017).

244 The HSN is curated by the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam
245 (<https://iisg.amsterdam/en/hsn>), which manages access. In this project we work

with the HSN Data Set Life Courses Release 2010.01 which contains 37,137 life courses of RPs. For cohorts present in the database, the curators have taken a random sample of the historical population to select RPs (Sample ratios for cohorts: 1812–1872: 0.0075 %, 1873–1902: 0.005 %, 1903–1922: 0.0025 %). This random sampling is important as individuals were not selected based on mobility, our variable of interest.

2.2 Population & historical context

Starting in the later half of the 19th century, the territory of the Netherlands industrialized. High population growth and increasing wealth replaced the dip experienced at the end of the Dutch Golden Age (17th & 18th century). Karel et al. (2011) describe the transition in the 19th and 20th century as that of the emergence of a “modernised”, family-based agriculture, and transitional lifestyles whereby more engagement occurred between those in the rural and urban landscapes. The authors label the transition as a process of “deruralisation” to reflect not the total urbanization of the population, but rather a restructuring of what it meant to be rural, as agricultural lifeways became integrated with the market and finally homogenized into a form of 21st century agriculture (Karel et al., 2011).

In the 17th century, the Dutch republic was arguably the richest country in the world. This economic peak was the result of the Dutch empires’ productive mercantile capitalism (Steckel & Floud, 1997). Due to what is argued to be the hangover from this success (high wages and a commitment to trade over industry), the Netherlands industrialized comparatively late (Mokyr, 1974). With industrialisation, the Dutch economy picked up again by 1850, and 1850–1920 represented a period of both economic and population growth (Steckel & Floud, 1997). In fact, between 1800 and 2000, the population of the Netherlands multiplied 8 fold, thus establishing the highest population growth rate in Europe (Karel et al., 2011). This population growth was the result of falling death rates, rising life expectancy, and high birth rates (Karel et al., 2011).

We use a national sample in this study. So it is important to note that despite its small size the Netherlands is relatively diverse, both ecologically and socially. Steckel and Floud (1997) make the case for the “three Netherlands”, dividing the area along the lines of urban, non-urban market-oriented agriculture, and subsistence-oriented agriculture. The urban area, mostly represented by North and South Holland, and Zeeland, constitute the core of the maritime empire of the Dutch republic. Many rural environments in these areas were occupied by specialist farmers that supplied to the market (mainly dairy farming/animal husbandry). This was also true of the North (Groningen, Friesland). The inland portions of the country on the other hand had poorer soils and were generally less connected to the national economy, with the exception of peat exports (Steckel & Floud, 1997)(see Figure 1).

These differences in ecology and resulting subsistence systems had effects on both the social organization, economy, and mobility of the local population. Dairy farming tended to produce surplus children, as land was already scarce, and farm work neither divisible nor intensive enough to benefit from large family sizes, thus this surplus population generally found its way to the cities. In contrast, the subsistence agriculture of the inner regions benefited from large family sizes, and children could thus find work locally (Adams et al., 2002). Speaking to the urban-rural di-



Fig. 1: Province map of the Netherlands in circa 1920, greyscale for province boundary distinction, reproduced from Ekamper et al., 2011

292 vide, given the early development of mercantile capitalism in the Dutch republic,
 293 Dutch cities were subject to fluctuations in international markets, while rural areas,
 294 particularly those more inland geared towards self-sufficiency experienced these
 295 fluctuations less (Steckel & Floud, 1997). From circa 1840, the growth and densifi-
 296 cation of railway transport in the Netherlands interacted with the re-urbanization
 297 of the population. Such that, areas of railway network growth were positively cor-
 298 related with municipal population growth (Koopmans et al., 2012). Marriage rates
 299 were higher in urban areas. Deruralisation made it possible to marry and start a
 300 family younger perhaps due to increased income sources, such that the mean age
 301 at marriage in the Netherlands dropped from above 27 in 1860 to just under 23 in
 302 1970 (Karel et al., 2011).

303 Neolocality was the main post-marital residence form throughout the Nether-
 304 lands in the study period, with only 10% of families living in extended households.
 305 Until the end of the 19th century, a system of live-in house help was the norm,
 306 particularly for agricultural households (Karel et al., 2011). For small-hold farmers,
 307 children would stay home until the age of about 12–14, and then begin work on
 308 someone else’s farm or enter into domestic service, until marriage. It was only after
 309 marriage that individuals were able to start their own holding (Karel et al., 2011).

310 **2.3 Data management and analysis**

311 Statistical models were fit with the Stan engine, specifically CmdStan version 2.27.0
 312 (Stan Development Team, 2021). All summaries and data management were con-
 313 ducted in RStudio version 1.4.1106, using R version 4.0.4 (R Core Team, 2014). All

Data	Description	RPs	Registration events
HSN data files	Raw data	37, 173	338, 766
Analysis dataframe	Count reformulation of cleaned data with sequence of moves (> 0) and non-moves (0) for each year the RP is observed	36, 595, female: 17, 808, male: 18, 787	1, 078, 279, female: 538, 294, male: 539, 985
Lifecourse dataframe	Subset containing only RPs with listed birth and death year	13, 159, female: 6, 192, male: 6, 967	62, 859, female: 32, 647, male: 30, 212

Table 1: HSN subsets created and used in this study

code associated with this manuscript can be found in the following github repository: (<https://github.com/Naty-fedorova/Dutch-historical-mobility>).

Working with a secondary data set involves a number of data checks and transformations. The resulting tables used in the analysis are summarized in Table 1. Firstly, we create working files from the original relational tables, where we translate column names and remove columns we do not require for the analysis. Subsequently, we construct subsets of the data for particular components of the analysis, as well as carrying out logical checks on the data (e.g. does death year follow birth year?). We create a new dataframe of cleaned data, combining birth and death information with registration events, and constructing the number of moves and age at move variables. In this dataframe, individuals are not necessarily tracked from birth to death, but can be tracked for only a snapshot of their lives. The cleaned data is transformed whereby non-move events are given their own rows and subsequently used in the Poisson regression, as the analysis dataframe. We also create a subset from the cleaned data which includes only individuals for whom we have both a birth year and a death year, and can thus reconstruct the entire life course and associated residential mobility, this is the lifecourse dataframe and is used for visual analysis.

2.4 Variables

Moves per year Mobility is tracked in the HSN in a relational table containing information on addresses at which an RP was registered. As we are interested in mobility (i.e. residential moves), we remove the first registered address for an RP if this address occurs at birth to create a count of moves per RP. If the RP in question does not have an address at birth, we do not remove their first logged registration and assume they have moved to their first logged address from somewhere.

The dynamic population registers from which the registration events originate were based around households, not individuals. We postulate that this is the reason why many registration events (43, 738) occur prior to RP birth, as registration events from the household of birth are transplanted to the RP. We deal with these registration events as follows: for RPs with a registration event at age 0, we remove

344 all prior registration events. For a RP with no registration event logged at age 0,
 345 we coerce the closest (in years) registration event to occur at the birth year of the
 346 RP. If several registration events occur in this closest year, we coerce all of them to
 347 the birth year. Similarly, there are many registration events occurring after an RPs
 348 death year, or where absent, after the end of observation for a given RP (11, 882).
 349 We remove these data points as well.

350 **Age** Age at move is constructed from the birth year information and the address
 351 start year information. In principle, the address start year should log when a RP
 352 (and associated household) registered at a particular location. Of course, in practice,
 353 individuals often register within varying time spans of arriving at an address. As
 354 such, we keep to a resolution of one year.

355 **Gender** Gender is directly extracted from the HSN database, translated, and re-
 356 coded to 1 = female, and 2 = male.

357 **Research Person ID** Each RP has a unique ID in the HSN database. We check
 358 these for uniqueness and construct our own for posterity.

359 2.5 Statistical analysis

360 In order to analyse how the number of residential moves per year changes with age,
 361 we fit an over-dispersed Poisson regression model to estimate the number of moves
 362 a RP has each year (y_i) for the years they are observed:

$$y_i \sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda_i) \quad (1)$$

363

$$\log(\lambda_i) = \mu + \alpha_{\text{person_id}_i} + \beta_{\text{age}_i, \text{gender}_i} \quad (2)$$

364 λ_i represents an expectation for each case i in the data (an individual, with a
 365 specific gender, at a specific age, with a given number of moves), which is a function
 366 of a sample average μ , a unique offset estimated for each individual $\alpha_{\text{person_id}_i}$, and
 367 an age-specific offset $\beta_{\text{age}_i, \text{gender}_i}$, which is calculated for each gender (equation 2).

368 Given that we can have multiple and varying numbers of observations per RP, a
 369 varying effects model clustered on RP IDs allows us to estimate individual variation.
 370 The varying effects methodology allows us to account for filtering concerns brought
 371 about by systematic differences in mobility between individuals.

372 Age-specific responses $\beta_{\text{age}_i, \text{gender}_i}$ are modelled with two Gaussian processes,
 373 one for each gender. The Gaussian process estimates continuous functions of age, so
 374 that no assumption is made about the shape of this function, only that it changes
 375 smoothly so that close ages are more similar in their response. Specifically, we
 376 assume that for gender g the covariance in response between any pair of ages l and
 377 m of different distances K_{lm} as determined by:

$$K_{lmg} = \eta_g^2 \exp(-\rho_g^2 D_{lm}^2) \quad (3)$$

378 This function states that the covariance K_{lmg} between any two ages l and m de-
 379 clines exponentially with the squared distance D_{lm} between them. The parameter

380 η_g^2 represents the maximum covariance between any two ages. The parameter ρ_g^2
 381 determines the rate of decline in covariance (see McElreath, 2020 for a textbook
 382 treatment). The Gaussian process approach allows us to account for censoring con-
 383 cerns given the differential representation of ages in the data (supplementary 10.1).

384 We formulate our method instead of classic event history analysis, the most
 385 common method applied in similar analytic situations, as we directly model counts,
 386 moves per year, instead of a single, age-based risk. This is appropriate given that
 387 RPs can have multiple moves per year, which would not otherwise be captured.
 388 Our method improves our resolution and allows us to describe variation presented
 389 by high mobility RPs. Likewise, while we appreciate methods such as the Rogers-
 390 Castro migration model (Castro & Rogers, 1981) that allow for flexible interrogation
 391 of migration over age, our method is equally flexible and maintains continuous age,
 392 without separating ages into life stages.

393 The model was run on the full set of 36,595 RPs from the analysis dataframe
 394 (Table 1), representing 1,078,279 registration events. The model was run on 4
 395 parallel chains, for 1000 iterations. We report effects on the outcome scale, in terms
 396 of moves per year. Additionally, we simulate counterfactuals by obtaining estimates
 397 for μ , $\alpha_{\text{person.id}_i}$, and $\beta_{\text{age}_i, \text{gender}_i}$, from the model posterior. We provide the raw
 398 Gaussian process coefficients in the supplementary (supplementary 10.3). Priors,
 399 for the Gaussian process and general offset μ , were explored with prior predictive
 400 simulation using the model code.

401 In order to improve model convergence, both varying effects were re-parameterized
 402 to be non-centered. Given overdispersion in our counts of moves per year, we also
 403 fit a gamma-Poisson regression which can better account for over-dispersion. There
 404 were no important differences between these two models (supplementary 10.7). Suc-
 405 cessful convergence was assessed by Rhat values and effective sample sizes. All Rhat
 406 values were below 1.06. Trace plots were also inspected for signs of incomplete mix-
 407 ing (supplementary 10.4).

408 Finally, we work under the assumption that the entire sample can be treated as
 409 one population, and thus run the risk of cohort effects driving the inferred mobility
 410 pattern. To account for secular change but also cohort imbalances (supplementary
 411 10.2), we ran the above described model on subsets of the data. These subsets were
 412 defined by birth year, for each year between 1850 and 1922 (73 model runs), with
 413 remaining birth years not addressed due to small sample sizes. The outcome of
 414 number of moves per year are plotted against each other to visualize the changes in
 415 age-based moves per year over time (Figure 5).

416 3 Results

417 3.1 What is the distribution of total residential mobility in the HSN?

418 The first step in describing residential mobility over the life course is to enumerate
 419 how many moves actually occur. In Figure 2 we construct a frequency plot of the
 420 total number of moves RPs have over a lifetime, stratified by gender. Figure 2 indi-
 421 cates that the median number of residential moves per lifetime for the whole sample
 422 is 10, with the male median slightly lower than the female median (10 for females,
 423 9 for males). The range of the total number of moves is large for both genders, but
 424 the long tail features more female mobility (female range = 0 – 130, male range

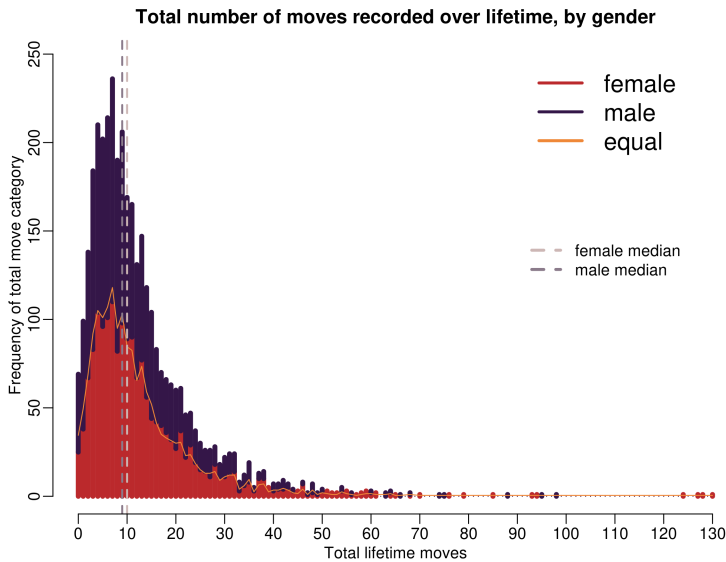


Fig. 2: Histogram of total numbers of moves over a lifetime for females (red) and males (purple), surviving until at least age 20 in the lifecourse dataframe (see table 1). Dashed lines denote gender-specific medians. Yellow line indicates frequency for both genders divided by 2, and so the equal point between genders; when red bars are higher than the yellow line, it means more women in this category, and vice versa for when purple bars are lower than the yellow line.

425 = 0 – 98). We present a plot of individual differences in mobility, by simulating
 426 estimates from $\alpha_{\text{person_id}_i}$, in the supplementary materials (supplementary 10.5) to
 427 provide a different angle on the long tail of mobility.

428 3.2 How is residential mobility patterned over the life course?

429 We can specifically address the age-based differences in mobility by simulating from
 430 the posterior. The prediction utilizes $\beta_{\text{age}_i, \text{gender}_i}$, the age-based offset, μ , the general
 431 offset, as well as the variation among individuals in mobility tendency. The result
 432 of this simulation for each gender is visualized in Figure 3 plot A.

433 Figure 3 plot A indicates the expected number of moves per year across the
 434 lifespan, conditional on attaining each age, from both the model (color band and
 435 dashed line) and sample (black circles). The results show a clear peak in mobility
 436 between the ages of 20 and 30, for both females and males. The peak for women is
 437 at age 25, with the model estimating 0.42 moves per year at this age (HPDI [0.06,
 438 0.79]). For men, the peak is at age 26, with 0.38 moves per year (HPDI [0.05, 0.71]).

439 Newborn mobility is an artefact, lower than expected due to a lack of newborn
 440 registrations. Discounting newborns, the lowest mobilities are found in old age. For
 441 females, this is at age 87, where the model estimates 0.09 moves per year (HPDI
 442 [0.01, 0.17]). For men, the lowest mobility is at age 84, with 0.07 moves per year
 443 estimates (HPDI [0.01, 0.14]). For both genders, the difference between peak and
 444 trough is just over 30% (33% and 31% for females and males respectively). Given
 445 2 counterfactual individuals, each living to 60 years old, with one moving at the
 446 mobility of a 25 year old female their whole life, and the other moving at the

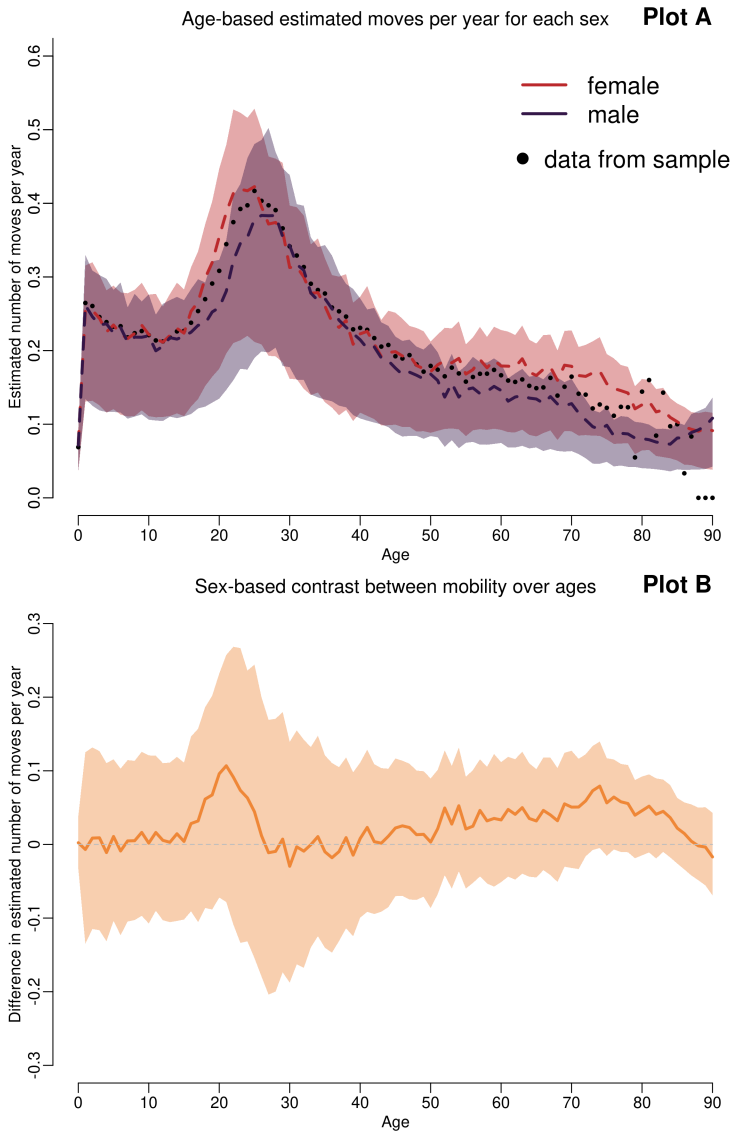


Fig. 3: Plot A shows the 50% percentile interval (color band) of moves per year per age as estimated with β , μ and the distribution of individual effects for both genders (red for females, purple for males). Dashed line denotes mean numbers of moves per age from model, for respective gender. Black circles are mean numbers of moves per age from sample. Plot B shows the contrast between genders in moves per age, with dashed line denoting 0 = no difference. Positive deviations from 0 indicate more female mobility, negative deviations denote more male mobility.

447 mobility of an 84 year old man, their total lifetime mobility would be 25 and 4
448 moves respectively.

449 Considering gender disparities, Figure 3 plot B, shows the contrast between
450 men and women, with positive deviations from zero (grey dashed line) taking place
451 when women move more and negative deviations when women move less than men.
452 Figure 3 plot B suggests females move more than males in general. In particular,
453 females seem to be much more mobile leading up to their early 20s, moving 10% more
454 than males at age 21. There seems to be very little gender disparity in childhood
455 and only a small male advantage throughout the 30s.

456 Individual and age-based effects combine to produce the mobility profile ob-
457 served in the sample. In Figure 4 we plot total moves per age as observed for each
458 gender in the sample (colored lines, red = female, purple = male) and the predicted
459 total moves per age for each gender from the model posterior, accounting for the
460 age and gender structure of the population. That is, for each observation of the data
461 (a combination of individual, age, and gender), we simulate an estimated number
462 of moves, and sum these across age groups. This post-stratification thus gives us
463 the expected mobility of the population given the age and gender structure of the
464 sample, and allows us to compare the raw data with model outputs.

465 Post-stratification is clearly very important here as it not only carries forward
466 the age structure, but also the mortality present in the sample. The shape of the
467 mobility curve suggests that young children move less when age structure is ac-
468 counted for, there is more children's mobility in Figure 4 than from age-based es-
469 timates in Figure 3 because the latter accounts for the steep childhood mortality
470 featured in the sample. Conversely, accounting for population structure does not
471 change the observed gender discrepancy pattern – females tend to move more than
472 males, throughout the lifecourse except in their late 20s and throughout their 30s.
473 Accounting for population structure does however soften the female advantage in
474 later years, suggesting that differentials in post-reproductive residential mobility
475 are modest but due to mobility propensities.

476 In both Figure 3 plot A and 4 plot A, the percentile interval is lower than
477 the average data points from the sample, this is due to shrinkage. The statistical
478 model accounts for the fact that the sample features long tails, with few individuals
479 accounting for many moves, and thus the estimated mean is lower (shrunk) in
480 relation to the empirical mean. This is a common feature of long tailed samples
481 (Efron & Morris, 1977).

482 As the sample interrogated here spans almost a century, we conduct a cohort
483 analysis to check that the age-based pattern we discuss above is consistent through
484 time and is not an artefact of cohort imbalances in the data (supplementary 10.2).
485 We fit the model to birth year subsets of the data, comprising 73 cohorts from birth
486 year 1850 to birth year 1922. Figure 5 shows age-specific expected mobility for each
487 of these cohorts for each gender. Figure 5 plot A and B suggests that the peak in
488 mobility between ages 20 and 30 is stable through the observed period (reflected by
489 darker colored cloud) for both genders. Likewise the gender difference, with females
490 moving more earlier in their 20s is likewise stable across the cohorts.

491 Columns of high mobility reflect heaping at decadal years. Decadal years were
492 census years in the Netherlands and can thus represent an updating of records
493 to reflect the situation witnessed at the census. It remains a challenge for future

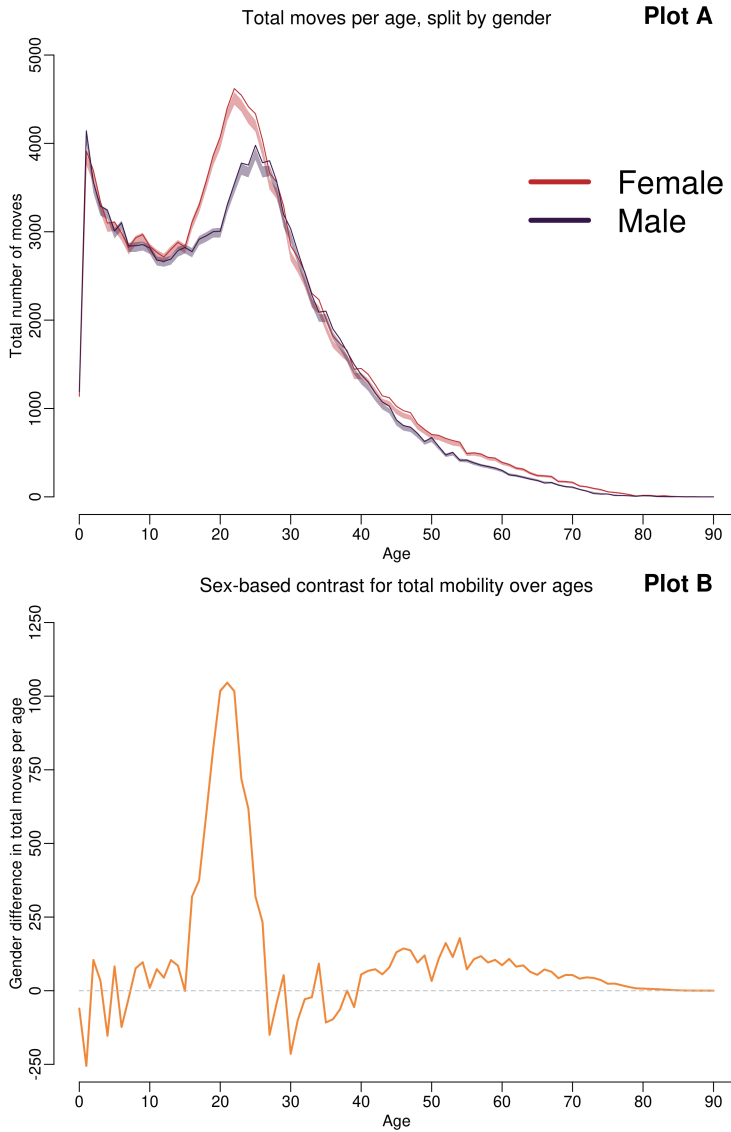


Fig. 4: Plot A shows total mobility events by age for each gender (red for females, purple for males) with the 50% percentile interval of age-based sums of simulated numbers of moves for each observation of the sample. Dark lines denote mean for each gender from the sample. Plot B shows contrast between genders in total mobility events by age, with dashed line denoting 0 = no difference. Positive deviations from 0 indicate more female mobility, negative deviations denote more male mobility

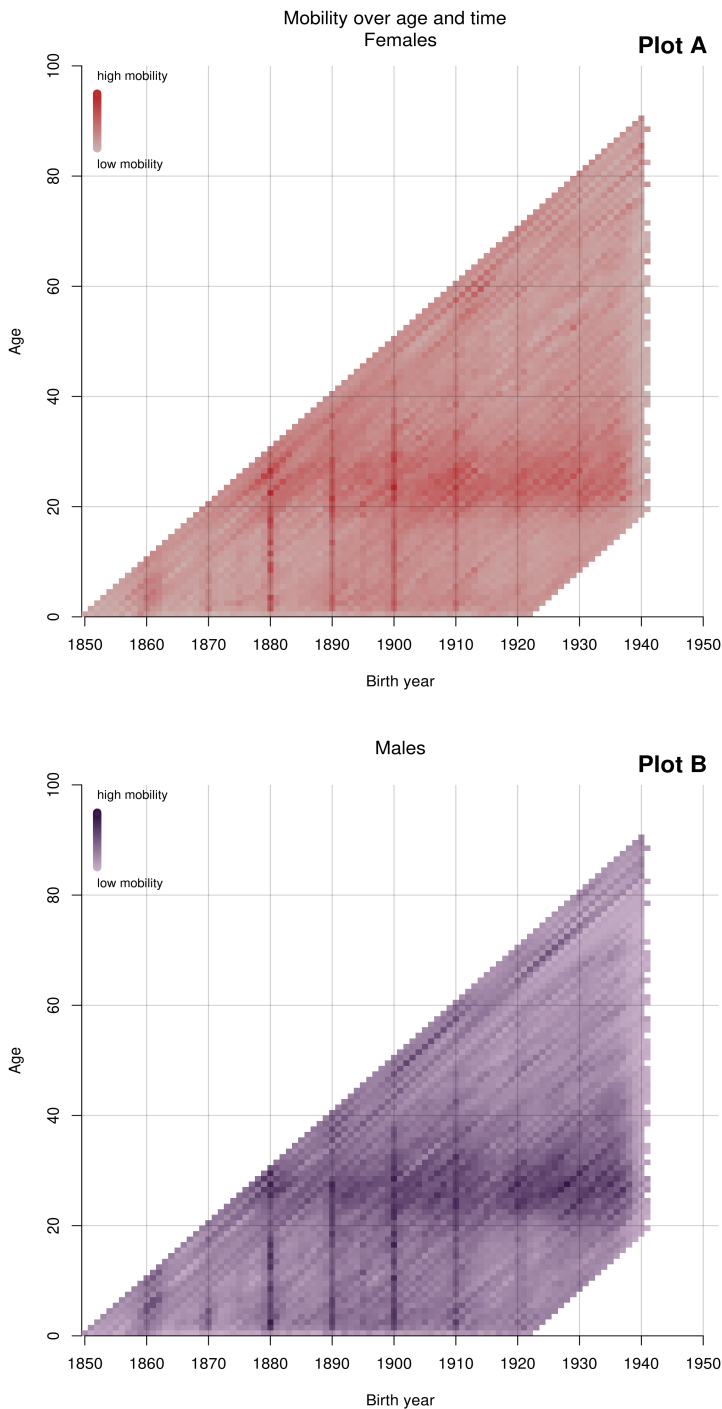


Fig. 5: Heatmap of moves per year for 73 model runs fit to birth year subsets of data. Females in Plot A and males in Plot B. Each diagonal represents a birth year based model fit, showing how a RP born that year would move through time, until 1945, which is when observation records end. Rows allow for observation of the age-based pattern for all model fits while columns allow for an interrogation of cohort effects. Squares are colored by simulated average number of moves per year of age as in Figure 3, darker colors represent higher mobility

494 analyses to statistically redistribute these decadal counts over the previous years,
 495 as they did not all happen in the indicated year.

496 4 Discussion

497 Our results provide a picture of total residential mobility as experienced by individ-
 498 uals living in a system of permanent settlements in 19th and 20th century Nether-
 499 lands. Our methodology allows us to robustly decompose mobility into individual
 500 and age-based effects, while stratifying by gender. The sample shows variation in
 501 how residential moves pattern over individuals' lifecourses, with a peak in early
 502 adulthood, which while present for both genders shows that women moved more
 503 in general and particularly earlier in their 20s and then marginally less than men
 504 throughout their 30s. We also separate these effects from the population structure,
 505 ensuring flexible post-stratification. Our results show the need to account for the
 506 composition of the population when inferring population-level mobility regimes, as
 507 childhood mortality in particular changes the age-based effect. Our sample comes
 508 from a particular region and range of years. Therefore we should not hastily gener-
 509 alize the overall pattern. Still, the amount of data and the unusual ability to analyze
 510 individual lifespans is of value for theorizing mobility and human adaptation.

511 **The distribution of total residential mobility in the HSN shows that**
 512 **the population is not immobile and there is a long tail of hyper mobile**
 513 **individuals of both genders** We found a median of 10 residential moves per
 514 lifetime, with little difference between women and men in terms of total mobility.
 515 While it would be necessary to interrogate marital status to check, it is likely that
 516 residential mobility is a family affair and thus gender stratification is unproductive,
 517 particularly when averaging over the entire lifecourse.

518 While 10 moves is far below that of highly mobile hunter-gatherer populations,
 519 it is by no means an absence of mobility as per the categorization of a sedentary
 520 population. Also, moves may be under reported in the HSN. Even though individuals
 521 were legally obliged to report changes in address, human forgetfulness means that
 522 mobility is likely higher than reported (Adams et al., 2002).

523 The range of moves, from 0 to 130 over the lifetime, implies an average of between
 524 0 and 2.6 moves per year over the length of an average lifespan of 50 years, with most
 525 individuals having a move every 3 years, as corroborated by the individual-based
 526 effects. Comparatively, this puts the historical Dutch at a similar mobility to the
 527 Yurok (0–2 moves per year (Kelly, 2013)). This comparison of arbitrary categories
 528 raises questions about how to meaningfully compare the mobility of societies that
 529 occupy different socio-ecological circumstances. While the contrast is stark if we take
 530 a historical Dutch population and a contemporary but marginalized hunter-gatherer
 531 population, the point is valid for all societal comparisons. That is, the difficulty
 532 of this comparison stems from our assumption that mobility functions differently
 533 in a modernizing society, and means comparisons between hunter-gatherers on a
 534 point estimate are somehow more valid than comparisons between societies with
 535 different ecological foundations; a point we should be skeptical of given the known
 536 diversity of hunter-gatherer populations (Kelly, 2013; Mattison & Sear, 2016). This
 537 problem is not unique to the evolutionary human sciences. Bernard et al. (2017)

538 estimate a 'complete migration rate', and suggest it can be used to compare across
539 countries. By describing the entire distribution of mobility, we hope to emphasize
540 the inadequacy of describing mobility regimes with point estimates, particularly
541 means given the shape of the distribution. It is necessary to develop better ways
542 through which to characterize what we actually mean by high vs low mobility, and
543 how concepts like sedentarization and high mobility fit theoretically when broader
544 economic transitions are considered, and when mobility regimes in the global context
545 are compared.

546 The long tail of the studied mobility distribution, as portrayed by Figure 2 and
547 individual-based effects (Supplementary 10.5), suggests a role for high-mobility in-
548 dividuals of both genders, even in populations which show low average mobility.
549 Further work could elucidate whether these individuals, like those studied by Clark
550 (2018), are pursuing high residential mobility as a means to adapt to adverse cir-
551 cumstances in early life. Similarly, previous work on the HSN data provides evidence
552 of the high residential mobility of poor urban dwellers (Kok et al., 2005). Kok et
553 al. (2005) suggest that residential mobility was a means for poor inhabitants to
554 adapt, with residential mobility fluctuating with the rental supply. Given that poor
555 residents could save rent by moving residence (as a means for apartment owners
556 to attract renters) poor residents could be opportunistic and quickly adapt to the
557 changing housing market (Kok et al., 2005).

558 Kok et al. (2005) study raises questions about the spatial distribution of high
559 mobility individuals, highlighting that urban settlements may be the geographic
560 locus of high mobility. More recent work with contemporary urban populations
561 corroborates this point (e.g. Gillespie, 2017). As such, future work should explicitly
562 address the geography of residential mobility to see where particular mobility is
563 clustered, and start to address the ecology of high vs low mobility. This would go
564 a long way in theoretically advancing our understanding of mobility in permanent
565 settlement systems. However, future work must consider that, as Jennings and Gray
566 (2015) point out, urban centers are over-sampled in the HSN (Jennings & Gray,
567 2015)). Thus, if urban settlements have particular mobility signatures, we may find
568 these over represented in the HSN.

569 **Residential mobility varies over the life course, with a peak in early adult-**
570 **hood for both genders** In relation to mobility and age, our study demonstrates
571 that in the HSN, the peak in residential mobility occurs between the ages of 20
572 and 30, a lesser peak takes place in early childhood, while teenage years and years
573 after 40 represent decreases in residential mobility for both genders. The pattern we
574 find qualitatively resembles the pattern found in Gillespie (2017), who explores the
575 2014–2015 Current Population Survey in the USA, as well as a study of migration
576 in Finland which utilizes the FinnFamily register data set (1970 – 2012) (Ghosh
577 et al., 2018). Both of these studies reproduce the age pattern, indicating that this
578 pattern may hold in a variety of industrialized settings, both current and historical.
579 Although both studies report mobility as a percentage of adults of particular age
580 that are moving (Ghosh et al., 2018; Gillespie, 2017), our Gaussian process approach
581 allows us to directly estimate age differentials in moving propensity. This direct es-
582 timation also allows us to decouple the age structure from the age effect. When
583 we account for childhood mortality, the peak in early childhood lessens. This post
584 stratification highlights how mobility regimes are built up from the demographics

585 of the population. As such, even societies with the same age-based pattern may
586 have very different total mobilities, if they differ in their demographic composition.
587 Comparing mobility regimes of different populations without taking stock of their
588 demographic composition is likely to lead to mischaracterization. Moreover, our de-
589 composition allows for straightforward integration with research on life history, such
590 as comparing with daily expenditures (Pontzer et al., 2021), knowledge accumula-
591 tion (Koster et al., 2020), and relatedness to camp-mates through the life course
592 (Dyble et al., 2021).

593 We stratify our results by gender, and find that while the mobility pattern over
594 the lifecourse is present for both women and men, there are some gender discrepan-
595 cies. Our results suggest women move marginally more than men throughout their
596 lives, apart from their 30s. The peak in female mobility is earlier – women move
597 substantially more than men in their early twenties, while men move more than
598 women in their 30s. Given this period coincides with family formation, the results
599 suggest women’s mobility is penalized more than men’s after starting families.

600 Several researchers of the HSN make a general point about mobility declining
601 after marriage (Adams et al., 2002; Kok et al., 2005). Given that young children do
602 not move on their own and our analysis suggests a moderate peak in early life, our
603 results indicate high residential mobility for young families. The moves experienced
604 by young children match those experienced by adults between 30 and 40 (Figure 3).
605 Given that during the study period, the mean age at marriage in the Netherlands
606 dropped from above 27 in 1860 to just under 23 in 1970 (Karel et al., 2011), it is not
607 difficult to imagine a relatively large group of RPs moving before having children
608 well into their 20s, accounting for the higher peak between 20 and 30. Moreover,
609 given that moves per year then drop-off, Adams et al. (2002) argument that more
610 children mean less mobility is plausible, and our research suggests this is particularly
611 true for women.

612 Recent work with a contemporary Swiss population suggests that higher income
613 is a mitigating factor in allowing individuals to adjust their residence to changing
614 family structures (Lacroix et al., 2020). As such, in the HSN data, the mobility
615 between 20 and 30 may indicate adjustments to housing for a growing family that
616 are either satisfied or can no longer be financed later on in life. Better than postu-
617 lation however would be a direct test. The HSN contains information on household
618 structure, and thus these questions could be resolved with a detailed analysis of
619 household structure, over age, combined with residential mobility.

620 Our results also suggest women move marginally more than men later on in life,
621 particularly after their 40s. It is possible this later mobility reflects “mobile grand-
622 mothers” moving to provide help, as documented in the anthropological literature
623 (Jones et al., 2005). It is important to emphasize that our results are not directly
624 comparable to the literature on gender differences in mobility that exists in the evo-
625 lutionary community. While we address residential mobility, most of the literature
626 concerns travel behavior. Without a holistic theoretical account that envisions how
627 these two mobilities relate, it is impossible to compare them. Likewise, we have to
628 stress that our results do not indicate causal effects of age nor of gender. Efforts
629 are being made in the migration literature to connect internal and international mi-
630 gration (King et al., 2008). Likewise, in evolutionary approaches, we need efforts to
631 synthesize different mobilities and understand how they relate to lifeways, ecologies,
632 and culture.

633 We provide a cohort perspective to assess the stability of the age-based pattern
634 over time (Figure 5). The cohort analysis was intended as a basic assumption check
635 to make sure the age-based pattern was not a feature of differentials across cohorts.
636 The results suggest that the peak in mobility experienced by individuals between
637 their 20s and 30s is stable over the study period. Likewise the gender disparity of
638 the peak of mobility for women and men is reproduced in the cohort analysis, and
639 stable for each of the cohorts addressed.

640 The cohort result is striking given the scope of change occurring in the Nether-
641 lands at this time, with industrialization, changing agricultural lifeways, as well as
642 population growth (Karel et al., 2011). The cohort analysis, as visualized in figure 5
643 suggest a significant drop in all age classes around the advent of World War II (the
644 Netherlands were invaded in 1940). This observation provides a confidence check
645 for the cohort analysis. However, the age based mobility pattern holds throughout
646 other periods of turmoil such as World War I and the ensuing deep recession that
647 affected the Netherlands from the 1920s and through much of the 1930s.

648 This cohort stability, and a reproduction of the same age-based pattern as found
649 in contemporary industrialized populations (Ghosh et al., 2018; Gillespie, 2017),
650 raises questions about the extent, depth, and origin of the age-based pattern. How-
651 ever, work with the HSN by Bras et al. (2010) suggests that pathways to adulthood
652 homogenized over the study period, preferring early family formation. As such, re-
653 gardless of population growth and modernization, it is possible this stabilization
654 is reflected in the consistent mobility pattern we describe. Future work explicitly
655 unpacking family planning and mobility could shed light on the origins of the age-
656 based pattern we described.

657 We must exercise caution when interpreting the cohort results. It is possible that
658 given we take a national view, regional variation changes over time but averages
659 out, and cannot be observed at the national level. Also, our results illustrate decadal
660 heaping in registered moves. Given that decadal years were census years, we can
661 view these heaps as times when records were “caught up”. However, an analysis
662 particularly focusing on cohort effects would need to treat this heaping statistically.
663 For our aims however, the stability over cohorts allows us to conclude that discrep-
664 ancies between the cohorts in terms of representation are not driving our result,
665 providing a control for cohort effects.

666 To conclude, we have quantified the life course of mobility for a historical Dutch
667 population, showing an age-based pattern that is stable over more than 50 years
668 of dramatic change occurring through the 19th and 20th centuries. Moreover, our
669 results indicate wide individual variation both in the total number of residential
670 moves individuals have over a lifetime as well as the trajectories through life of
671 when they engage in moves. Conversely, our results document stability in the age
672 based pattern for both genders, with discrepancies that indicate that women move
673 more, and peak in their mobility earlier in life. Our results indicate a disconnect
674 between mobility and the settlement landscape, showing that even when settlements
675 are fixed, people can move and of course do so. We think this study demonstrates
676 the potential of studying adaptive mobility in systems of sedentary and permanent
677 settlements.

678 Given our results are possible only due to the high resolution of the HSN sample,
679 we hope our work stimulates further interest in the HSN sample in the cultural
680 evolution and human behavior community. Large, high-resolution databases make

681 it possible to test more detailed models of human behavior, both at individual and
 682 population scales. Many anthropological hypotheses are not practically testable
 683 in archaeological contexts nor among mobile foragers, because of the poor data
 684 resolution or the highly selected nature of the samples. Historical and contemporary
 685 data on urban mobility provides an attractive opportunity to develop and refine
 686 models of adaptive decisions in built environments. Refined models could then be
 687 applied with greater confidence to contexts with lower data resolution.

688 If theories of human mobility are to be adequately developed and tested, it is a
 689 necessary step to rigorously describe high-resolution mobility data. The computa-
 690 tional challenges involved in this work are substantial. With small samples, and poor
 691 coverage, statistical and theoretical models are necessarily coarse. But as databases
 692 grow in size, it makes it possible to attend to features like individual trajectories
 693 and interactions between demography and movement. This means however that
 694 the models are more complex and require more computational power and care in
 695 construction. But new algorithms make it practical to perform high dimensional
 696 modeling of these databases. Here we employed Hamiltonian Monte Carlo, which
 697 allowed us to estimate individual life trajectories for tens-of-thousands of historical
 698 individuals, as well the populations patterns of these trajectories, without positing
 699 any rigid model of age-related patterns. This can be done without traditional fears of
 700 overfitting, because the modeling approach, like most machine learning approaches,
 701 is built with this problem in mind.

702 **5 Acknowledgments**

703 We would like to thank the curators of the HSN database at the International Insti-
 704 tute of Social History for creating the HSN. Likewise, we are grateful to the EHBEA
 705 2019 community, that provided feedback on a poster presentation of an earlier ver-
 706 sion. We would like to thank the department of Human Behavior, Ecology, and
 707 Culture at the MPI EVA for stimulating discussions and ethnographic comparisons
 708 that helped shaped this project, and specifically N.-Han Tran for her input on the
 709 statistical model. Finally, we thank Brian Wood and an anonymous reviewer for
 710 their helpful feedback.

711 **6 Author Contributions**

712 NF designed the study, performed the analyses, and wrote the manuscript. NF
 713 and BAB designed the data processing and analyses. RM provided feedback on the
 714 manuscript and analyses. BAB and RM helped shape the research project, analysis,
 715 and manuscript.

716 **7 Financial Support**

717 The described research project was supported by the Max Planck Institute of Evo-
 718 lutionary Anthropology.

719 **8 Conflict of interest**

720 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

9 Research transparency and reproducibility, and data availability

The data management, analysis, and plotting code is available on GitHub (<https://github.com/Naty-fedorova/Dutch-historical-mobility>). The data that support the findings of this study are available from the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (<https://iisg.amsterdam/en/hsn>). Restrictions apply to the availability of these data, which were used under licence for this study. To aid with code analysis, structurally comparable simulated data is produced in the repository. Data are available from the corresponding author with the permission of the curators, as is the code required to process the data for analysis.

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912 **10 Supplementary materials**

913 **10.1 Variable age representation**

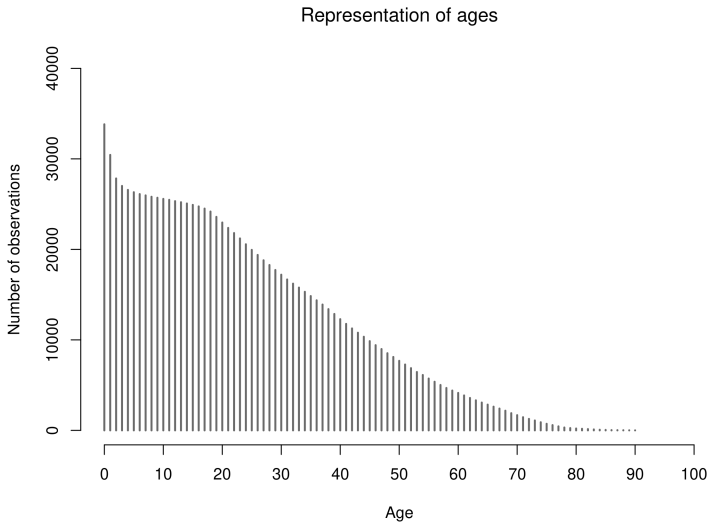


Fig. 6: Histogram showing total RPs observed of each age category

914 **10.2 Birth year representation in the HSN**

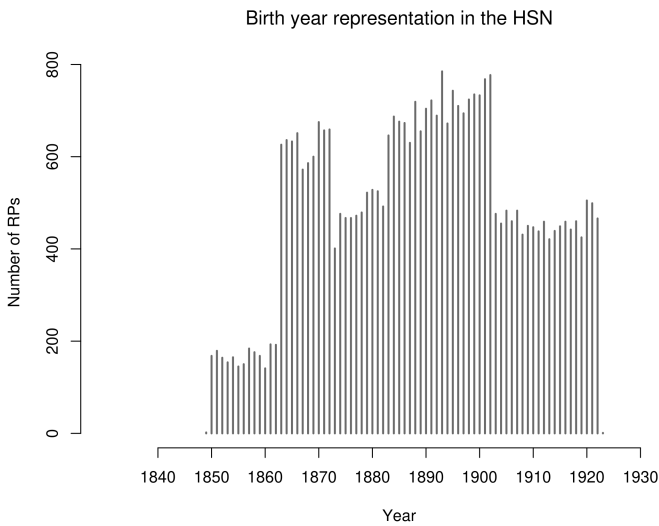


Fig. 7: Histogram showing totals of RPs born in each year

915 **10.3 Model results**

916 In the manuscript we focus on simulated counterfactuals, as direct estimates from
 917 the statistical model are hard to interpret, and are meaningless in isolation. How-
 918 ever, here we provide some detail on the results of the Gaussian process for each
 919 gender. Model estimates derive an η^2 , a maximum covariance between ages, of 6.26
 920 for females and 5.89 for males (95% HPDI females = [3.46, 10.15], males = [3.23,
 921 9.47]). The rate of decline in covariance, ρ^2 , is 17.61 for females and 16.42 for males
 922 (95% HPDI females = [14.64, 20.73], males = [13.50, 19.20]). There is thus very
 923 little difference between women and men in terms of the covariance between ages
 924 and how fast this covariance falls of with distance between ages.

925

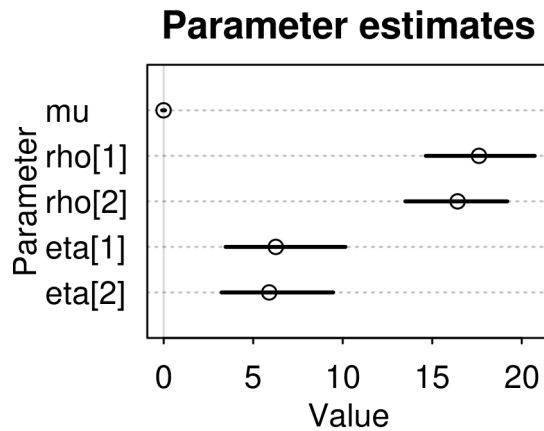


Fig. 8: Parameter estimates from Poisson model

926 10.4 Rhat and number of effective samples

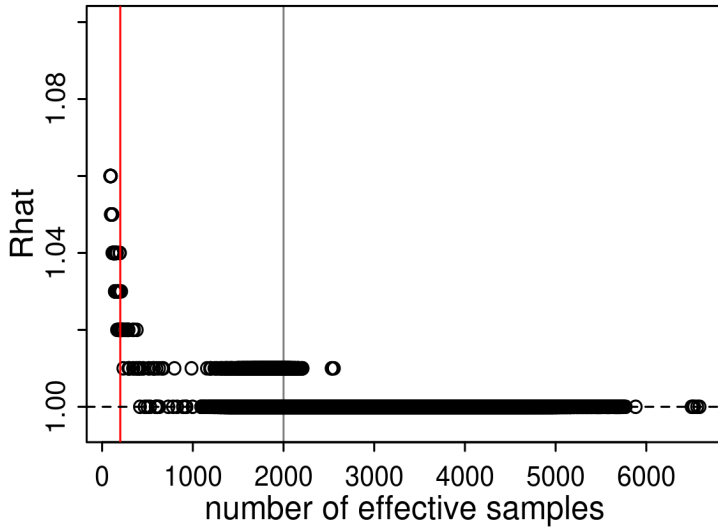


Fig. 9: Plot of Rhat values against number of effective samples, red line indicates 10% of samples while grey line indicates total samples drawn

927 **10.5 Individual differences in moves per year**

928 By interrogating alpha estimates, the individual offsets, we obtain a different per-
929 spective on the long tail of mobility. Figure 10 shows that relatively few individuals
930 account for high mobility behavior.

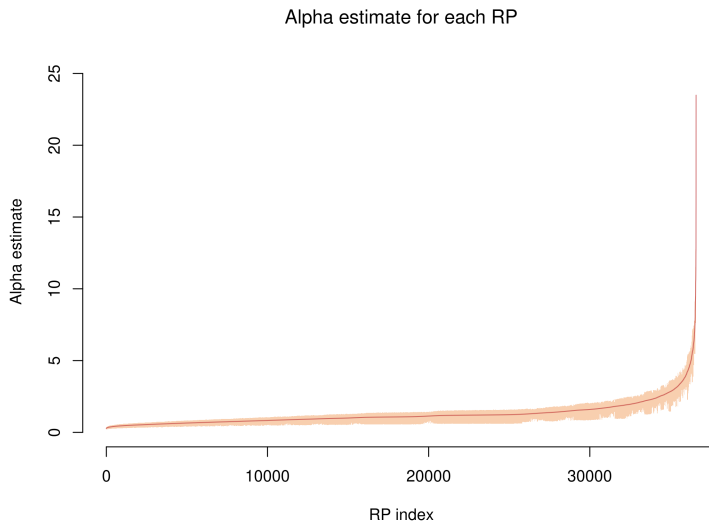


Fig. 10: Individual differences in mobility propensity as demonstrated by exponentiated alpha estimates. Red line is the mean while orange interval is the 50% percentile interval of model estimates.

931 10.6 Individual trajectories

932 To address individual trajectories of how moves are accumulated over the life course,
933 we plot accumulation pathways showing the total number of moves an individual
934 has at a particular age (Figure 11). The individual trajectories demonstrate that
935 although a majority of RPs have low mobility, there is wide variation in how RPs
936 accumulate moves, for both genders. Some individuals experience high numbers of
937 early life residential moves (as children of high mobility parents). Likewise, a subset
938 of RPs seems to experience steep inclines for some parts of life, suggesting a role
939 for high mobility sequences. However, most trajectories feature shallow slopes and
940 thus relatively steady accumulation of moves. The highest density of trajectories
941 end with total numbers of residential moves below 20 for both genders (light red
942 for women and light purple for men), reflecting the results of Figure 2.

943 Trajectories of females and males mirror each other, as residential mobility tends
944 to be a household activity after marriage. We see some difference here between the
945 genders in childhood, with male children having steeper acquirement sequences early
946 on in life.

947 The individual trajectories hint at a possible negative relationship between
948 longevity and mobility for both genders, as high mobility individuals (darker shades)
949 seem to disappear (emigrate or die) earlier in life than low mobility individuals (light
950 shades) (Figure ??). Such a relationship could suggest a high cost to hyper-mobility.
951 However, further work is required to clarify this point, as it is also possible that it
952 is merely easier to track individuals that stay in one place.

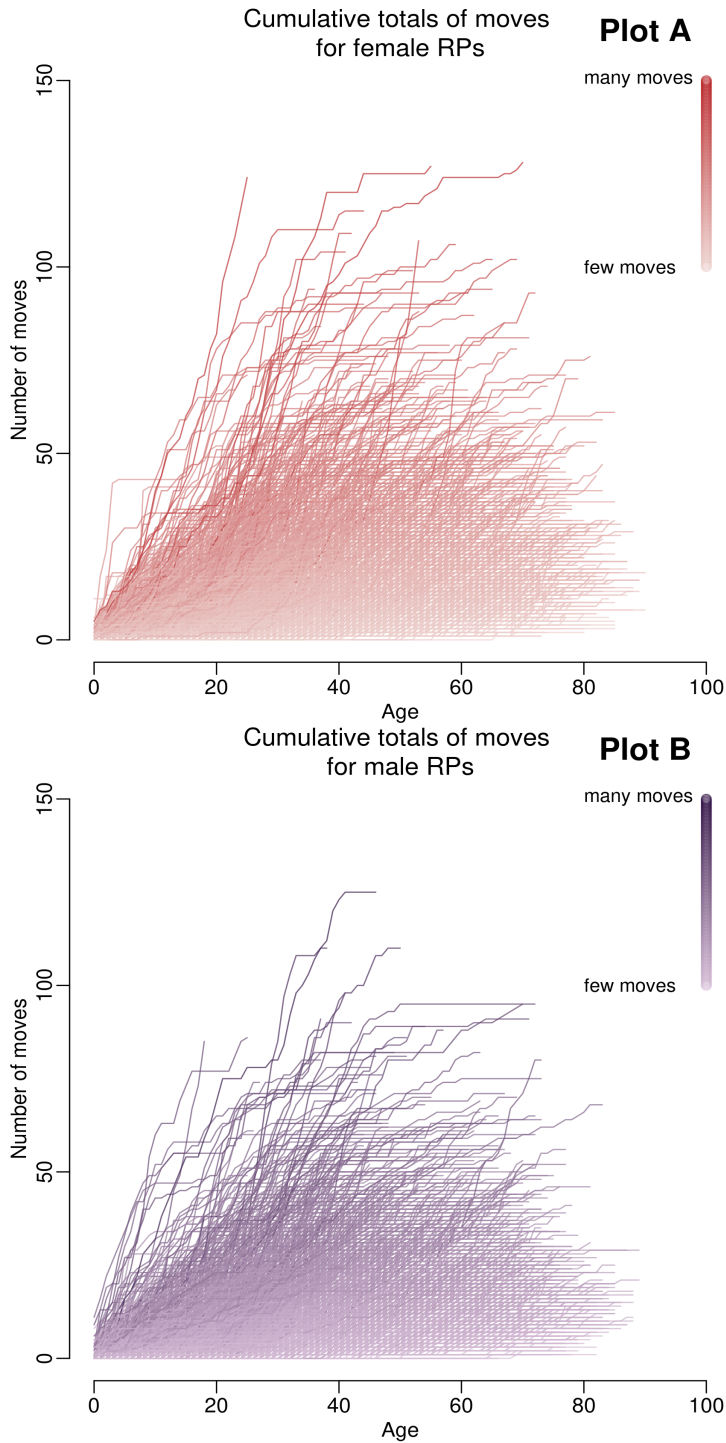


Fig. 11: Individual trajectories of RPs as moves are accumulated over the life course for females in plot A, and for males in plot B. Each line represents an individual accumulating moves through time. Lines are colored by final total moves, with darker shades reflecting higher total mobility.

953 **10.7 Gamma-Poisson model**

954 Given the over-dispersion of our age counts, we also fit a Gamma-Poisson regression
 955 model to estimate the number of moves a RP has each year (y) for the years they
 956 are observed.

$$y_i \sim \text{NegBinomial}(\lambda_i, \phi) \tag{4}$$

957

$$(\lambda_i) = e^{(\mu + \alpha_{\text{person.id}_i} + \beta_{\text{age}_i \text{gender}_i})} \tag{5}$$

958 λ_i represents an expectation for each case i in the data (an individual, at a
 959 specific age, with a given number of moves). We calculate λ_i for each gender. ϕ
 960 allows us to adjust the variance independently of the mean, and thus to account for
 961 the over-dispersion.

962 Considering Figures 12 and 13, we see high consistency in the estimates of
 963 the Gamma-Poisson models with the Poisson regression, suggesting a limited role
 964 for over-dispersion in generating our results. Likewise, within the Gamma-Poisson
 965 model, while the gaussian process parameters should not be interpreted in isolation,
 966 they have very similar estimates.

967 We generate age-based variation on the outcome scale of moves per year from
 968 the Gamma-Poisson model. Age-based variation can be seen in figure 13, suggesting
 969 the same pattern as the Poisson model both qualitatively (peak between 20 and 30)
 970 and quantitatively (0.4 moves per year at peak).

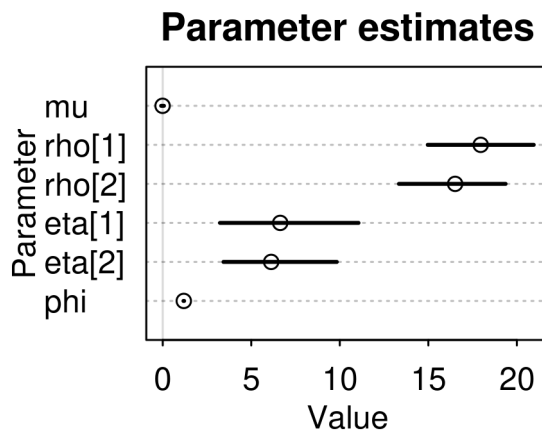


Fig. 12: Parameter estimates from Gamma-Poisson model

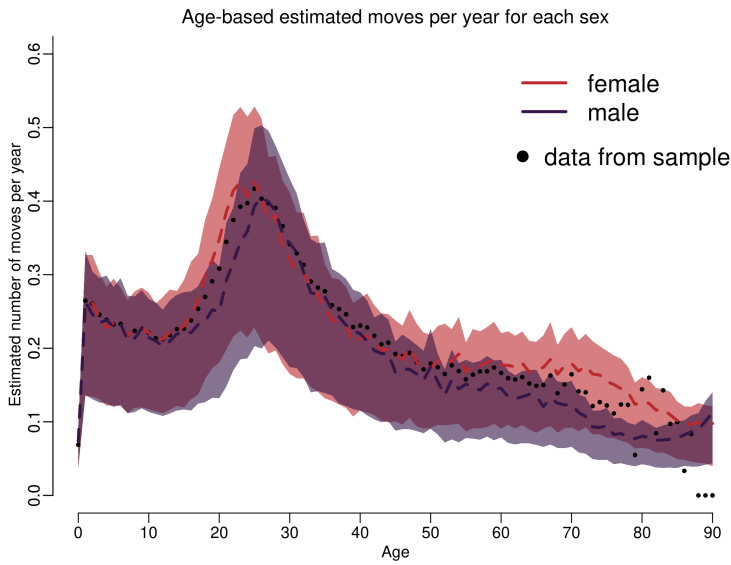


Fig. 13: 50% percentile interval (color band) of moves per year per age as estimated with β , μ and the distribution of individual effects for both genders (red for females, purple for males). Dashed line denotes mean numbers of moves per age from model, for respective gender. Black circles are mean numbers of moves per age from sample.

971 **11 Figure list and captions**

- 972 – Fig. 1: Province map of the Netherlands in circa 1920, greyscale for province
 973 boundary distinction, reproduced from Ekamper et al., 2011
- 974 – Fig. 2: Histogram of total numbers of moves over a lifetime for females (red)
 975 and males (purple), surviving until at least age 20 in the lifecourse dataframe
 976 (see table 1). Dashed lines denote gender-specific medians. Yellow line indicates
 977 frequency for both genders divided by 2, and so the equal point between genders;
 978 when red bars are higher than the yellow line, it means more women in this
 979 category, and vice versa for when purple bars are lower than the yellow line.
- 980 – Fig. 3: Plot A shows the 50% percentile interval (color band) of moves per year
 981 per age as estimated with β , μ and the distribution of individual effects for both
 982 genders (red for females, purple for males). Dashed line denotes mean numbers of
 983 moves per age from model, for respective gender. Black circles are mean numbers
 984 of moves per age from sample. Plot B shows the contrast between genders in
 985 moves per age, with dashed line denoting 0 = no difference. Positive deviations
 986 from 0 indicate more female mobility, negative deviations denote more male
 987 mobility.
- 988 – Fig. 4: Plot A shows total mobility events by age for each gender (red for females,
 989 purple for males) with the 50% percentile interval of age-based sums of simulated
 990 numbers of moves for each observation of the sample. Dark lines denote mean
 991 for each gender from the sample. Plot B shows contrast between genders in total
 992 mobility events by age, with dashed line denoting 0 = no difference. Positive
 993 deviations from 0 indicate more female mobility, negative deviations denote
 994 more male mobility
- 995 – Fig. 5: Heatmap of moves per year for 73 model runs fit to birth year subsets
 996 of data. Females in Plot A and males in Plot B. Each diagonal represents a
 997 birth year based model fit, showing how a RP born that year would move
 998 through time, until 1945, which is when observation records end. Rows allow
 999 for observation of the age-based pattern for all model fits while columns allow
 1000 for an interrogation of cohort effects. Squares are colored by simulated average
 1001 number of moves per year of age as in Figure 3, darker colors represent higher
 1002 mobility
- 1003 – Fig. 6: Histogram showing total RPs observed of each age category
- 1004 – Fig. 7: Histogram showing totals of RPs born in each year
- 1005 – Fig. 8: Parameter estimates from Poisson model
- 1006 – Fig. 9: Plot of Rhat values against number of effective samples, red line indicates
 1007 10% of samples while grey line indicates total samples drawn
- 1008 – Fig. 10: Individual differences in mobility propensity as demonstrated by expo-
 1009 nentiated alpha estimates. Red line is the mean while orange interval is the 50%
 1010 percentile interval of model estimates.
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 1012 course for females in plot A, and for males in plot B. Each line represents an
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- 1015 – Fig. 12: Parameter estimates from Gamma-Poisson model
- 1016 – Fig. 13: 50% percentile interval (color band) of moves per year per age as esti-
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1018 for females, purple for males). Dashed line denotes mean numbers of moves per
1019 age from model, for respective gender. Black circles are mean numbers of moves
1020 per age from sample.