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TRANSNATIONAL LIVING AND BELONGING OF TURKISH OLDER MIGRANTS

Jolien Klok, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Theo van Tilburg, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Tineke Fokkema, NIDI-KNAW, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam

Bianca Suanet, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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RESEARCH QUESTION

How is a sense of belonging negotiated and experienced among first-generation older migrants during temporary sojourns in their country of origin?

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

- Belonging: an emotional feeling, that comes to be attached to a particular place by an individual, in which the individual feels 'at home' (Antonsich, 2010).
 - Auto-biographical
 - Social
 - Cultural
 - Economic
 - Legal
 - Physical environment
 - Political

METHODS

- Key informant and snowballing
- In-depth interviewing
- 'Participant' observations
- Interpreter / cultural broker

RESULTS: BELONGING HERE [TURKEY]

“Because [...] is the place where I was born... I love [...] so very much. If you have time, I would like to invite you to my garden, I have a very pretty garden here. I am sort of addicted to my house. People here are very conscious of the nature and of the environment. I miss that over there [Germany], and I am always imagining it when I am there [Germany]. And then I want to work in my garden and I am looking forward to that. I don't miss anything else.”

RESULTS: BELONGING THERE [EUROPE]

“Neighbours, and my friends I want to see there [Belgium]. To see them, and my house. I have lived there more than I have lived here. I actually lived life more there [Belgium] than here [Turkey], I experienced good and bad days, all there. Actually, it’s my mother country, but my second one. I have children and grandchildren, four children and six grandchildren.”

RESULTS: NO STRICT BORDER BETWEEN PLACES

“Nowadays I do not really think about anything because I am here six months and there [Germany] six months, it did not use to be that way. Now I only think of my health. Back in the days when I left my wife and children here, I did feel yearning and I missed them so much, it was hard, then. Now it has all changed because it doesn’t matter anymore whether I am here or there.”

RESULTS: FUTURE ANTICIPATIONS

P (w): If you get older, Turkey is better

[...]

P(w): Hospital care is better there [Belgium]

R: So what is better in Turkey than?

P(w): In Turkey, you will be home. But in Belgium you will have better hospital care [...]

P(m): The nursinghome here doesn't even have doctors and nurses

R: And if it would have?

P(m): Oh, it would be even better for us here! [...]

R: So, if you can no longer go back-and-forth, you will choose to remain in Turkey?

P(m): Yes, we will always go back-and-forth.

[...]

P(m): If we really can no longer, we want to be nursed in the nursinghome here, because our children are not here. Who will take care of us when the children are not here?

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Thank you! Questions?

Jolien Klok, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Jolien.Klok@vu.nl

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