

## Migrants' Intentions about Different Types of Return

*An Analysis Based on Afghan, Burundian, Ethiopian and Moroccan Migrants in the Netherlands*



# MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT: A WORLD IN MOTION PROJECT

<http://mgsog.merit.unu.edu/ISacademie/>

▼ **Introduction**

► **Events**

► **Organisation**

► **Partners**

► **Publications**

► **Related links**

► **Research**

► **News**

**Subscribe to Migration News**

email address:



Please type the above code:

## IS Academie: Migration & Development



The main objective of the IS Academie is to strengthen the quality of policies in the area of development cooperation through the interaction between policy makers and academia. The programme aims at stimulating new approaches to development cooperation using the available knowledge on sustainable development and poverty reduction and creating new evidence on effective policies. Making use of the different expertise of academics and professionals enriches the insights on both sides. Evidence-informed policies are inspired by academic research, and vice-versa, the knowledge of professionals provides an important input for academic research, strengthening thereby its relevance.

Within the IS-Academie partnership on Migration and Development (M&D) a number of specific objectives have been agreed upon, which are based on the overall objectives of the IS-Academie:

- To strengthen the scientific foundation for M&D policy making;
- To strengthen the policy relevance of research in the area of M&D;
- To continue and strengthen the leadership role of the Netherlands in the area of M&D;

# Introduction

*Understanding the underlying mechanisms of return migration for optimal migration policies (Adda, Dustmann and Mestres 2006)*

- No single definition of return migration
  - Most migration is **temporary**: Circularity and temporariness of migration patterns
  - Migration as **continuous** movement: Return not necessarily end of a migratory movement
- ❖ Incorporate different types of return
  - ❖ Permanent return, Temporary return, Temporary return migration program participation
- Intentions about return versus actual return
  - Structural, institutional and other constraints
    - Better understand perceptions and attitudes
    - Refined analysis based on different types of return
- ❖ Intentions as proxy for future behaviour
  - ❖ Lack of research on migrants' future plans and intentions about return

Economic integration  
Sociocultural integration  
Legal integration

Intentions  
Permanent return  
Temporary return  
Temporary Return Program

Country of birth  
Reason for migration

Social ties with homeland  
Remittances sending

To what extent and in which ways do migrants' origin background, integration in the residence country and homeland engagement relate to their future migration intentions?

# RESEARCH QUESTION

# Return migration literature

## ❖ Under what conditions do migrants return?

(Cassarino 2004, Hammond 1999, Olesen 2002)

- Neoclassical Economics (Harris and Todaro 1970)
  - Negative relationship between economic integration and return
    - *Failed migration experience (educational and economic)*
- New Economics of Labour Migration (Stark 1991)
  - Target savers: Economic objectives related to migration achieved or not?
- Assimilationist theories
  - Length of stay and social integration (Castles and Miller 2003)
- Transnationalism (Glick Schiller, Basch and Szanton Blanc 1992)
  - Capacity and desire for transnational involvement

(King 2000, Elnik, Black et al. 2004, Elnik 1999, Morrison 2000, Simmons 2000, Bloch and Atfield 2000)

- Research on intentions to return by Haas and Fokkema (2011)
  - Lack of data that includes information on integration, transnational involvement and return intentions
  - Pioneer in the field, yet...
    - Data from 1997
    - Focus only on permanent return
    - Italian and Spanish context

# Data & Methods

- IS Academy project: Household surveys in the Netherlands among first-generation migrant households
  - 247 Moroccan, 351 Ethiopian, 164 Burundian and 260 Afghan Households
  - 889 Moroccans, 684 Ethiopians, 343 Burundians, 829 Afghans
  - 2745 individuals in total (30,4% 2<sup>nd</sup> generation)
  - Interviews in 11 provinces, with a focus on Zuid-Holland, Noord-Holland and Noord-Brabant and Gelderland
- Sub-sample: First generation migrant respondents born in one of the origin countries (n=923)
  - 22% Morocco, 26% Afghanistan, 35% Ethiopia, 17% Burundi
- Analysis: Binary logistic regression

# Permanent and Temporary Return Intentions to Country of Origin

	Moroccans	Afghans	Ethiopians	Burundians
<b>Permanent return</b>				
Yes	21.4%	8.0%	58.8% ★	9.1%
No	78.7%	92.0% ★	41.2%	90.9%
<b>Temporary return</b>				
Yes	20.9%	46.7% ★	41.1%	30.0% ★
Maybe	20.4%	12.1%	12.5%	29.3%
No	58.7% ★	41.2%	46.4%	40.7%
<b>Temporary return migration program</b>				
Yes	17.4%	36.9%	32.9%	12.8%
Maybe	20.4%	10.7%	13.8%	10.6%
No	62.2% ★	52.4%	53.3%	76.6% ★

# Results 1: Country of origin

<i>Morocco reference</i>	Country of origin hypotheses	Country of origin results
<b>Permanent Return</b>	Afghanistan - Ethiopia ? Burundi -	H Rejected - no significant difference Ethiopia +
<b>Temporary Return</b>	?	All countries +
<b>Temporary Return Program</b>	Afghanistan+ Ethiopia + Burundi ?	H Confirmed

- Economic, political and social uncertainty about the future of the country
- Existing opportunity structures regarding temporary return

# Results 2: Reason for migration

<i>Security/ Political Reference</i>	<b>Reason for migration hypotheses</b>	<b>Reason for migration results</b>
<b>Permanent Return</b>	Family + Employment+ Education+	Partially confirmed Only education +
<b>Temporary Return</b>	?	Family+ Employment+ Education + (but not sig)
<b>Temporary Return Program</b>	?	Family+ Employment+ Education + (but not sig)

- Security/ political reasons - negatively related to any kind of return, especially with temporary return programs

# Results 3: Structural integration

	Employment hypotheses	Employment results	Citizenship hypotheses	Citizenship results
Permanent Return		+	Origin country citizenship +	NE
Temporary Return	-	NE	Dutch/ dual citizenship +	NE
Temporary Return Program	-	NE		NE

- Employment and long leave for return
- Naturalization and opportunity to come back to the residence country
- Employed or naturalized migrants not less likely to be interested in temporary return:
  - Induce temporary return programs for unemployed migrants and make it easier for employed people (longer leave)

# Results 4: Socio-cultural integration

	Socio-cultural integration hypotheses	Orientation towards Dutch culture	Language use at home
Permanent Return	-	-	Origin country language +
Temporary Return	?	NE	NE
Temporary Return Program	?	- (slightly significant)	NE

- Social integration related factors more important to explain permanent return migration than temporary return.

# Results 5: Homeland engagement and trust

	Homeland engagement hypotheses	Social contacts with homeland result	Remittances sending result	Trust in origin country economy hypothesis	Trust in origin country economy result
Permanent Return	+	+	NE	+	+
Temporary Return	+	+	NE	+	NE
Temporary Return Program	+	+	NE	+	NE

➤ Independent of the time frame of return, 'pull' factors may be more important, while 'push' factors are only important for long term return

# Conclusion

- Predict permanent return better than temporary return and temporary return programs through integration and transnationalism
- Integration seems to play more of a role for permanent return only whereas transnationalism is associated with all types of return
- Dual engagement: No negative effect of socio-cultural integration on temporary return or temporary return migration program participation.
  - Being integrated in the Netherlands does not keep people from temporary return
  - Destination country citizenship does not hinder return
- Importance of looking at intentions for different types of return
- Relevance of opportunity structures and combination of factors that influence return decision in a dynamic way

# Thank you!

Contact details

[Ozge.bilgili@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:Ozge.bilgili@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

<http://mgsog.merit.unu.edu/ISademie/>  
[www.ozgebilgili.com](http://www.ozgebilgili.com)

