Generation in transition: Youth transitions among native-born descendants of immigrants from Turkey

Keskiner, E.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

Studying descendants of immigrants from Turkey was an illuminating experience on so many levels. Not only in my interviews but also throughout my experience of living in the Netherlands, France and Germany I was always fascinated by their genius to encompass and embrace various worlds into their being. To my understanding, by their mere existence, they challenge all the boundaries that are invented and enforced upon us. Furthermore, my interest in them did not stem from an identification issue as they were the locals and I was the migrant. I could only try to put myself in the shoes of their parents who left their lives and families behind in Turkey with the hope that they will go back someday, a longing I myself often times endured. However the descendants represented the future and their inspiring experience rendered questions of stay or return redundant. I realized home is something I carried within myself and with my loved ones who are always there for me no matter where they are. Home could be anywhere in fact. No matter how lonely I felt during the writing of this thesis, I was indeed very crowded not only thanks to the ones who were right beside me, but also thanks to those who supported me even though they were thousands of miles away. Before I start thanking these friends and family, I want to start by expressing my gratitude to my respondents for inspiring me, opening their hearts and lives to me. I have learned so much from them and I hope I have managed to do justice to their generosity.

I would like to thank my promoter Prof. Jan Rath for his guidance and encouragement throughout this process. Not only as a supervisor but also through creating the PhD lab, Jan Rath has produced a learning environment where we shared our experience with other PhD students. I would like to thank Volkan Aytar, Danielle Chevalier, Emma Folmer, Aimee Kuvik and Döske van der Wilk. Marieke Slootman deserves a special mention for our fruitful discussions and exchanges.

I am grateful to my co-promoter Professor du Bois-Reymond for her interest and constant support in my work. She introduced me into the world of youth sociology, extended my horizon and constantly stimulated me by challenging my ideas and my writing. I am honored to have her in the team of my promoters.

This entire journey began thanks to the mindfulness of one person; Jens Schneider. I name him the person who changed my destiny by informing me about the TIES project. I am grateful to all the TIES team members both PhD students and seniors who created a friendly environment, where we felt welcomed in the academic world, provided with great opportunities and a network of colleagues. I would like to thank Levent Soysal for inspiring and supporting me. Adel Pasztor
provided invaluable advice and friendship, which helped me a lot in the beginning of my PhD and continues to do so.

When I started working in University of Amsterdam, I’ve met great colleagues at IMES; Maria Bruquetas Callejo, Manolis Pratsinakis, Anja van Heelsum, Blanca Garces Mascareñas, Lisa Peters, Jeroen Doomernik, Rick Wolff, Floris Vermeulen, Flip Lindo, Laure Michon, Sébastien Chauvin, Olga Sezneva, Rinus Penninx, Martha-Montero Sieburth and Ahmet Akgunduz with whom I found myself in an academically stimulating but also a congenial working environment.

My dear friends Zeynep Yanasmayan, Zeynep Tufekcioglu, Zeynep Kasli, Tugce Bulut, Burak Kose, Doruk Mit, Ozer Yordem, Dilek Yankaya, Burcu Sahinalp, Pinar Dogan and Miray Taniskan, some of whom were also doing a PhD during this period, were always there for me throughout this period no matter where they lived. I would like to thank Zeynep Tufekcioglu with whom we shared the saddest and happiest moments during this period. Tugce Bulut has been an inspiration showing that there is always possibility for new endeavours. I am grateful to Nazli Senses who has always been a dear friend with her support feeding me with constant stimulation. Ozge Biner has entered the stage towards the end and has become one of the most important friends encouraging me not to despair.

I am grateful to all those colleagues and friends who read and commented on my work. With Zeynep Yanasmayan, we shared each and every stage from the start to the end; you were always there for me not only for commenting on my work but for anything and I am so proud that we are at the finishing line together. With Zeynep Kasli; no matter how much I was freaked out to lose you to Seattle, often times it felt like it was just the time difference and I appreciate so much your effort and your input. I would like to thank our gang of solidarity; Maria Bruquetas, Manolis Pratsinakis and Yannis Tzanini for their valuable comments, stimulation and friendship throughout the entire process. With you guys I am living my utopia of academia where I feel free (like a tree) yet in solidarity (like a forest). I am extremely grateful to Philipp Schnell for providing invaluable feedback and for his critical input while I am struggling with the quantitative endeavors. I would like to thank my dear friend Nicole Busse for her assistance and her input during the times of crisis. I would like to express my indebtedness to Yan Overfield Shaw, who has accomplished an amazing job in editing the entire thesis, but also for providing me with an amazing boost to finish towards to end. I would like to thank Levent Delgen for designing the cover and I am grateful to Tan Tunali, Ismintha Waldring and Sara Rezai for their work with the Dutch translation.

I also have to extend my thanks to a group of friends and family who provided great appreciation, understanding and support during this period even though I have ruined many of our social gatherings by abandoning them for work. Especially
during the period of our stay in Zwartsluis and Zwolle I knew that I could always count on Serkan Kucuk, Caglar Kendircioğlu, Orhan Gunes, Engin and Canan Dorttepe, Burak and Ozge Malay, Ali Ersahin, Zuhal Irge, Berrak Irge, Doruk Eker, Sanem Kalfa, Yasam Hancilar, Tina Sethe, Sule Ergut, Seckin Kara, Ece Kurt and Maral Jefroudi, that their doors would be always open and they would be always ready to help. This thanks also goes to our family in the Netherlands Fulya Ebbens, Hamdi Ozcan and the entire Ozcan family. Often times I got lost in my work and became very disconnected from the world and especially from Turkey. Despite the distance my dear friends Gaye and Gokhan Beydogan, Duygu Turkan and my cousin Isil Oztayasi were always there for me. I would like to thank my family in Izmir; my aunts Zeren Oztayasi and Hale Gezen, Mujde Akdemir, Aysegul Altinyurek, Selim Oztayasi, Filiz and Cahide Toscuoglu and not only for their encouragement but also for showing tremendous support by assisting my parents in times when I couldn’t be there for them. During this period I have also gained a new family. I am grateful to my in-laws Nuran and Cengiz Delgen and to Muge and Berk Ceylan, for the encouragement and appreciation they showed in my work and again for covering for my absence whenever it was needed. I also would like to mention my sweethearts Ela and Dila, for their love and their beautiful smiles that always raised my spirits.

I would like to express my gratitude to my co-promoter Prof. Maurice Crul; who has been an amazing supervisor and a great mentor. His critical feedback accompanied by his encouragement was indispensable for me during this process. I owe him so much for the academic and personal freedom he provided. His discipline at work and his dedication to his family set a great example for me to look up to and I hope to accomplish one day. Together with him his great family of Frans Lelie, Zeb and Vera have become a part of this process as counselors, field assistants and as bridesmaids. I feel really fortunate to continue working with Prof. Crul as a postdoctoral researcher for the ELITES project, which has not only provided me with a great working environment but also wonderful colleagues Floris Vermeulen, Ismintha Waldring, Sara Rezai and Ali Konyali; who have played an incredible role in the last phase of this PhD. I am so happy to have shared these hard times with them and their encouragement meant a lot me.

My parents Asuman and Haydar Keskiner have always been there for me for each and every step I have taken. Since the day I know myself I felt that I have been supported by all means and I have been a lucky child to know that I have always been loved and that they were proud of me. Day by day I realize that providing a home where politics and social matters were constantly debated, where they have inculcated in me the importance of caring for others and they actually planted the seeds of sociology. More than anything I am grateful to my mother for being my angel, my best friend and for her unconditional love and support. Mum, words can not express how indebted I am to you for all the sacrifices you have made in life
for me, for taking care of my father and enabling me to stay in course with my life and my work. Even if you won’t be able to read this book, you have listened to each an every section of it and you have made it possible.

Finally I would like to thank my life companion Levent to whom I owe writing these words. You and I know very well that if you haven’t abandoned everything and come to live with me in the Netherlands, lock yourself in a village and had to bare with a wife whose peace of mine depended on the number of words she has produced each day; I would have never made it. I am so proud that we have survived these hard times and through out you did not lose your confidence in me. This thesis wouldn’t have materialized without their existence and support therefore it is dedicated to my mother Asuman and my love Levent.