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

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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.

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