



## UvA-DARE (Digital Academic Repository)

### Navigating housing beyond arrival

*The trajectories of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands*

Loomans, D.

#### Publication date

2026

[Link to publication](#)

#### Citation for published version (APA):

Loomans, D. (2026). *Navigating housing beyond arrival: The trajectories of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands*. [Thesis, fully internal, Universiteit van Amsterdam].

#### General rights

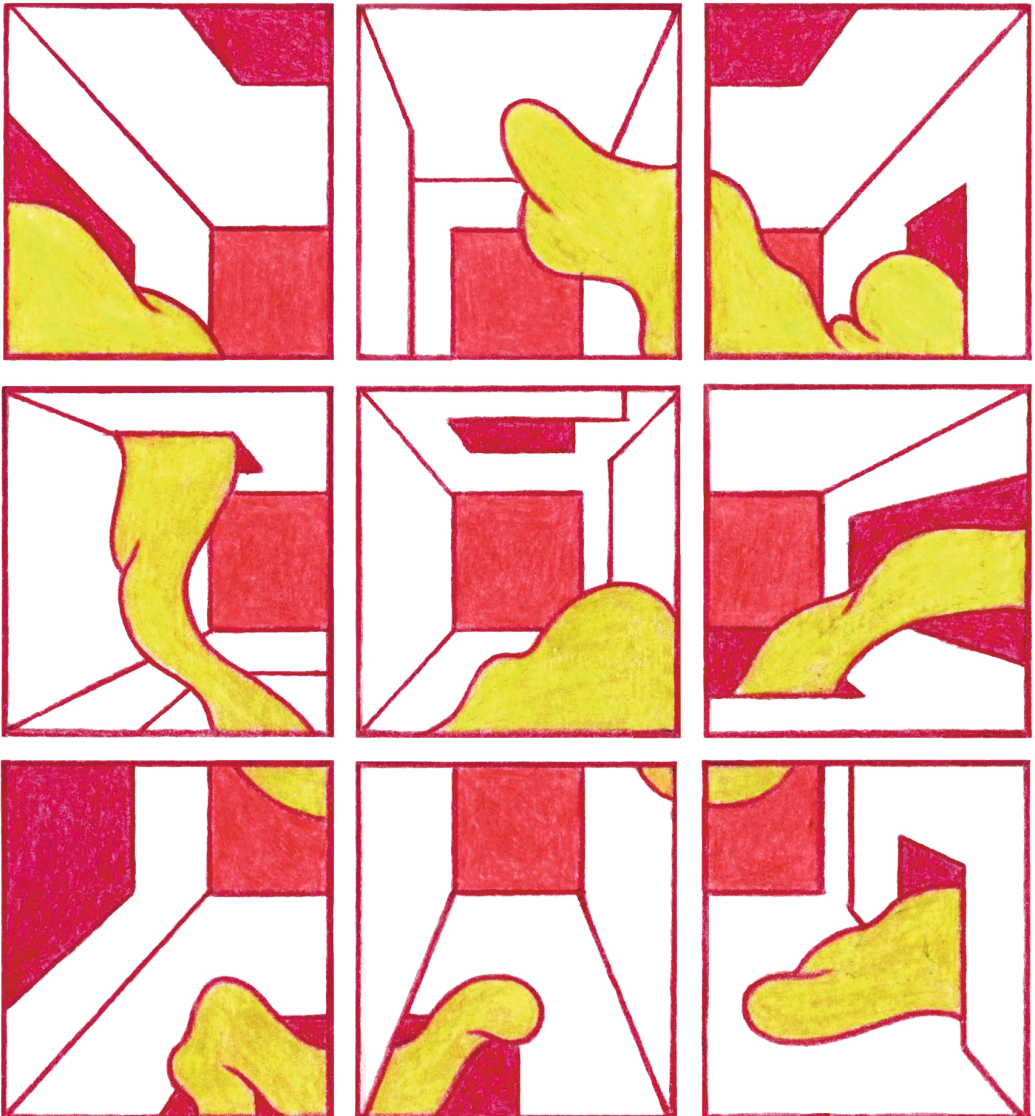
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

#### Disclaimer/Complaints regulations

If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: <https://uba.uva.nl/en/contact>, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, P.O. Box 19185, 1000 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

# Navigating Housing Beyond Arrival:

The Trajectories of EU Labour  
Migrants in the Netherlands



Dolly Loomans



**Navigating Housing Beyond Arrival:  
The Trajectories of EU Labour Migrants in the Netherlands**

**Dolly Loomans**

Dit proefschrift is tot stand gekomen binnen een samenwerkingsverband tussen de Universiteit van Amsterdam en het Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving.  
This thesis was prepared within a partnership between the University of Amsterdam and the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency.

## **Colofon**

Copyright 2025 © Dolly Loomans

All rights reserved. No parts of this thesis may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission of the author.

Provided by thesis specialist Ridderprint, [ridderprint.nl](http://ridderprint.nl)

Printing: Ridderprint

Cover Illustration: Jasmijn de Nood

Layout and design: Anna Bleeker, [persoonlijkproefschrift.nl](http://persoonlijkproefschrift.nl)

Navigating Housing Beyond Arrival  
The Trajectories of EU Labour Migrants in the Netherlands

ACADEMISCH PROEFSCHRIFT

ter verkrijging van de graad van doctor  
aan de Universiteit van Amsterdam  
op gezag van de Rector Magnificus  
prof. dr. ir. P.P.C.C. Verbeek  
ten overstaan van een door het College voor Promoties ingestelde commissie,  
in het openbaar te verdedigen in de Agnietenkapel  
op woensdag 11 februari 2026, te 13.00 uur

door Dolly Loomans  
geboren te Rennes

***Promotiecommissie***

*Promotores:*                    prof. dr. D. Manting                    Universiteit van Amsterdam  
   dr. F.M. Pinkster                    Universiteit van Amsterdam

*Overige leden:*                    prof. dr. R.K. Jaffe                    Universiteit van Amsterdam  
   dr. W.P.C. van Gent                    Universiteit van Amsterdam  
   prof. dr. K. Haandrikman                    Stockholm University  
   prof. dr. R. Ronald                    Universiteit van Amsterdam  
   dr. I.C. van Liempt                    Universiteit Utrecht

Faculteit der Maatschappij- en Gedragwetenschappen

## Contents

	Acknowledgements	7
Chapter 1.	Introduction	12
Chapter 2.	A longitudinal analysis of arrival infrastructures: The geographic pathways of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands	30
Chapter 3.	Long-term housing challenges: The tenure trajectories of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands	56
Chapter 4.	Shifting entanglements and changing dependencies in housing-migration infrastructures	78
Chapter 5.	Remembering and anticipating precarity: a temporal perspective on housing experiences of labour migrants in the Netherlands	96
Chapter 6.	Conclusion	118
Appendices	References	132
	Appendices Chapter 2 & 3	150
	Summary	170
	Nederlandse samenvatting	174



**This dissertation is based on the following articles:**

**Chapter 2:** Loomans, D., Lennartz, C., & Manting, D. (2024). A longitudinal analysis of arrival infrastructures: The geographic pathways of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands. *Population, Space and Place*, 30(4), e2747.

*Statement of contribution:* This article was co-authored with Christian Lennartz and Dorien Manting. I designed the research, conducted the data analysis, and wrote the initial draft of the manuscript. Christian Lennartz contributed to the data interpretation, co-wrote sections of the first draft, and reviewed and edited the manuscript. Dorien Manting provided supervision throughout the project, contributed to data interpretation, and was involved in reviewing and editing the final version.

**Chapter 3:** Loomans, D. (2024). Long-term housing challenges: The tenure trajectories of EU labour migrants in the Netherlands. *Housing Studies*, 39(12), 3138-3167.

*Statement of Contribution:* This article was single-authored. I acknowledge the significant assistance provided by the Environmental Planning Assessment agency in setting up the dataset and initial coding scripts. Their support was instrumental in the preliminary stages of this research. However, I was solely responsible for all subsequent analysis, interpretation, and writing, under supervision of Dorien Manting and Fenne Pinkster.

**Chapter 4:** Loomans, D. Shifting entanglements and changing dependencies in housing-migration infrastructures. *Manuscript submitted*.

*Statement of Contribution:* This article was single-authored. I was solely responsible for developing the research idea, conducting the data analysis, and writing and revising the manuscript under supervision of Dorien Manting and Fenne Pinkster.

**Chapter 5:** Loomans, D., Pinkster F., & Manting, D. Remembering and anticipating precarity: a temporal perspective on housing experiences of labour migrants in the Netherlands. *Manuscript under review*.

*Statement of contribution:* This article was co-authored with Fenne Pinkster and Dorien Manting. I designed the research, collected the data, lead the analysis of the data and wrote the first draft. Fenne Pinkster contributed to the data interpretation, co-wrote sections of the first draft, and reviewed and edited the manuscript. Dorien Manting provided supervision throughout the project, contributed to data interpretation, and was involved in reviewing and editing the final version.



## Acknowledgements

Acknowledgments are one of my favourite parts of dissertations because they offer a glimpse into the lives behind publications, concepts, and datasets. During my PhD I have had my fair share of life events. At times, the PhD even felt like a peaceful distraction from life. And although the research was certainly a struggle at moments, it never felt (too) hard. That is an incredible privilege, and it is mostly because of the support of various people; first and foremost my promoters, Dorien Manting and Fenne Pinkster.

Dorien, for our first meeting you invited me to your home. That set the tone for our time together. Your supervision has always been personal, kind, and incredibly supportive. You held space for life beyond research while also providing insightful comments that helped bring alive my research. You showed me the value of my research when I struggled to see it myself. It became clear how well you know me when, after meetings or presentations, you unveiled in a second how I was feeling or what I was thinking, even when I thought I was hiding it so well. Fenne, one time you visited the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) in The Hague for a supervision meeting. Instead of walking along the big main road that goes from the train station to PBL, you took a small detour and walked through the nearby residential neighbourhood. This is also how you taught me to do research. You always emphasized the value of taking time, zooming in, staying true to your data, and seeing the lived dimensions of the city rather than taking the fastest route. Right up until the very last moment, you provided detailed and skilled feedback, always on time, always on point, and consistently putting me (back) on the right track. Dorien and Fenne, I can't thank you enough for your consistent and caring guidance. It will be weird to go on without it.

I would also like to thank my doctoral committee, Rivke Jaffe, Wouter van Gent, Karen Haandrikman, Richard Ronald and Ilse van Liempt. I am very grateful for the time you put into reading and assessing this thesis.

As my PhD was part of a collaboration between PBL and the University of Amsterdam, I had the luck of being immersed in two working environments. I want to thank PBL for making this research possible and for providing an inspiring and supportive place to work. I am especially thankful for Femke Verwest's trust and confidence in me. You have supported me in many ways; always doing your best to make the combination of research institutes, PhD research, and motherhood as smooth as possible. I also want to thank my colleagues at the sector 'Verstedelijking and Mobiliteit': Femke Altena, Hans van Amsterdam, Kristian Bakker, Jeroen Bastiaanssen, Dieuwert Blomjous,

Barbara de Boed, Marnix Breedijk, Igor Davydenko, Bas van Doren, Emil Evenhuis, Gerben Geilenkirchen, Hans Hilbers, Trond Husby, Maarten 't Hoen, Olga Ivanova, Jordy van Meerkerk, Amber Nusteling, Charlotte Peeters Weem, Jan Ritsema Van Eck, Monique Scholte, Danielle Snellen, Mark Thissen, Michel Traa, Annemiek Verrrips, Anet Weterings and Anny van der Zee. To the 'Wooncluster', Lynn Bouwknecht, Femke Daalhuizen, Jolien Groot, Julia Koppelaar, Christian Lennartz, Marieke van Osch, Frans Schilder, Petra Visser and Willem Vermeulen, thank you for your sharp, critical minds, your witty jokes, and caring encouragement. Marte Stinis, thank you for your careful editing of the manuscript. Christian, a special shout out to you, thank you for being such a kind and supportive colleague and friend.

Since starting my Bachelor's in 2013, I have roamed around the GPIO department and adjacent floors in many different capacities. During our very first course in Human Geography, Fenne Pinkster said that from now on we would always see our environment through a different lens. Since then, I have collected a broad group of teachers, supervisors, mentors, colleagues, and friends who have taught me different perspectives on the world, including but not limited to Rowan Arundel, Wim Bernasco, Luca Bertolini, Nienke Boesveldt, Marco Bontje, Willem Boterman, Emil van Eck, Ewald Engelen, David Evers, Carolina Maurity Frossard, Wouter van Gent, Mendel Giezen, Cody Hochstenbach, Maria Kaika, Femke Kaulingfreks, Robert Kloosterman, Stan Majoor, Virginie Mamadouh, Anna Nikolaeva, Jan Rath, Julie Ren, Richard Ronald, Federico Savini, Jan Stammes, Michiel Stapper, Tuna Taşan-Kok, Dominic Teodorescu, Justus Uitermark, Nanke Verloo, Hebe Verrest, Sjoerd de Vos, Els Vos, Jochem de Vries, Inge van der Welle, Marloes van der Winkel and Aslan Zorlu. To Rivke Jaffe, as the head of the research group Urban Geographies you fostered an inspiring and supportive environment. I am also grateful for the many moments of informal advice and mentorship you offered along the way. Thank you for always making time for me.

Also a special shoutout to the support I have received behind the scenes from the GPIO secretariat and the AISSR. To Natasha Bardina, Simon Cijssouw, Christianne van Domburg Scipio, Ayda Abdan Kondori and many others, thank you for all the ways you made this process smoother.

I am blessed to have been surrounded by a community of peers and friends who have made my PhD trajectory a joyful and inspiring time. Thank you Amber, Anna-Maria, Anke, Bram, Carla, Debra, Ebru, Ed, Eline, Eloïse, Emanuele, Eva, Hester, Herre, Hilmer, Irena, Jakub, Jana, Jelke, João, Joeke, Julia, Julian, Julie, Junru, Laure, Maarten, Marije, Maud, Max, Melchior, Natalia, Ricardo, Sebas, Sharifah, Sofie, Tullio and Vera. I feel especially grateful to those with whom I've developed friendships

along the way; you hopefully know who you are. Your encouragement, kindness, and company have made this experience all the richer. I am privileged to have been surrounded by so many bright and kind minds. To the Best Reading Group: thank you for your insightful comments on early drafts of this dissertation. To Afra, Ceylin, Harry, Maria and Solène, thank you for all the Inappropriate Content, dinner parties and above all for becoming such dear friends in and outside academia.

Many thanks also to Ids Baalbergen and Carolien Lubberhuizen. It was a joy and inspiration to see you develop your research about labour migration in the Netherlands and exchange thoughts along the way.

Some people's support has been crucial for this dissertation. To Tom Kleinepier, I am very grateful for your help with the quantitative analyses. Thank you, Julia Bobowska, for your skilful and kind assistance during the interview phase. And of course, I am deeply grateful to all participants of this research who generously shared their time and experiences with me.

To my dear friends outside academia: thank you, Lina, Julika, Floor, Pien, Elles, Teresa, Ton, Edgar, Moss, Paul and Margot, for not only being great neighbours and friends, but also such a home for my family. To Layla, Lola, Karli, Rosa, Tjerk, Dante, Jac, Veere, Yoran, Fabi, Christa and Charlotte, I can't express how much I love you all, for always being there when I need you. A special thanks goes out to Rosa who, in addition to being an incredibly loving and caring friend, has proofread my work since I was a Bachelor student with a somewhat questionable sense of grammar, right up to these acknowledgements.

My parents, Paul and Sonja, thank you for raising me with a unique combination of mindfulness, chaos, ambition and dedication. But, above all, thank you for always trusting me no matter which steps I took. Sonja, a special thanks for all your loving care for Dorus. Knowing he was with you made returning to work possible and much easier. Noah and Ebony, kleine broer en kleine zus, I'm grateful for your support and love; I am proud to be your sister. Dorus, thank you for providing me with just the right amount of distraction to stay grounded and actually finish my PhD. Being your mother has been the true journey the last years, and by far the most surreal, magical, and wonderful thing I have ever done.

Maarten, amidst pregnancy, becoming parents, multiple hospitalisations, moving house, renovations, losses and farewells, and of course de apenstopdans, you have stood by my side. Thank you for your endless support, trust and love. Thank you for being you; I wouldn't want it any other way.

