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## Partner and family relations in the context of European integration and intra-EU mobility

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# PARTNER AND FAMILY RELATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND INTRA-EU MOBILITY

BY  
TOM DE WINTER

- PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE DISSERTATION -

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1. Intra-EU mobility, which is fundamental to the European integration project, affects partner choice of Europeans through direct mobility experiences in adolescence and early adulthood. (Chapter 2)
2. The domains in which intra-EU mobility is actively encouraged – work and education – are also important meeting contexts for European binational couples. These contexts as such do not differ strongly from the formation contexts of uninational couples (Chapter 3)
3. Among most European binational couples only one of the partners was ‘mobile’ at the moment of first meeting. This also implies a link between immobility and European integration, which may give new directions to future research (Chapter 3)
4. Among female university students, being in a romantic relationship results in significant lower aspirations to study abroad. (Chapter 4)
5. The scientific study of studying abroad decisions among higher education students in Europe should be more sensitive to the family/partner context of these students, given that study abroad aspirations seem to ‘compete’ with other domains of life. (Chapter 4)
6. In an intra-EU mobility context transnational care exchange is more feasible than for migrants from non-EU countries, although geographical distance remains an impeding factor. (Chapter 5)
7. Several theories and frameworks that are used to explain family and partner relations in an intra-EU mobility context would benefit from a life course approach. This would make a broad range of context factors more explicit and thereby more visible in the scientific literature.