

University of Groningen

Life courses of immigrants and their descendants

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Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publication date:

2016

[Link to publication in University of Groningen/UMCG research database](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Kleinepier, T. (2016). *Life courses of immigrants and their descendants*. [Thesis fully internal (DIV), University of Groningen]. University of Groningen.

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Propositions
accompanying the dissertation

Life Courses of Immigrants and their Descendants

by Tom Kleinepiër

1. While young people in Western societies nowadays are thought to have great autonomy in life-course decision-making, (implicit) norms and the institutional structures within which individuals must fit largely retain biographical uniformity up to the late twenties.
2. As many societies are becoming increasingly ethnically diverse and multicultural, it is important that we remain aware of and responsive to ethnic diversity in society. Grouping immigrants and their descendants into a few broad cultural or racial groups does not do justice to the ethnic diversity that exists in various parts of the world.
3. The definition of ethnicity based on country of birth criteria will become less meaningful in the not too distant future.
4. It is crucial to look beyond the influence of parents and also study the role of peers to fully understand family patterns in the transition to adulthood.
5. The bicultural position of migrant children may increase the frequency of parent-child conflicts and discomfort in the parental home, particularly around adolescent age. However, this is not clearly reflected in the family behavior of migrant children.
6. Descriptive analysis is undervalued in life-course research. Sequence analysis helps to detect patterns that conventional (more stochastic) methods overlook.
7. Family life dynamics are strongly related to migration choices, particularly so in the absence of institutional barriers.
8. The attachment to cultural values differs for different aspects in the transition to adulthood. Cultural continuity in family patterns is much less pronounced for intergenerational coresidence as compared to family and partnership formation.
9. There are important ethnic differences in the direction of causality between transitions in the private and public life domain. Native Dutch young adults tend to adjust their family life to their educational and labor market careers, while the opposite appears to be the case for Turkish, Moroccan, Surinamese, and Antillean youth.
10. The "TraMineR" package for analyzing sequence data in R is arguably of better quality than the aroma and taste of its namesake "Gewürztraminer" wine.

