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Migrant family matters

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS
MIGRANT FAMILY MATTERS

Ilse Rooijackers

- 1) Most adult children in the Netherlands maintain affective ties with their mother, no matter their origin, their mother's country of residence, whether or not practical support is part of the relationship and regardless of the extent to which migrant children are oriented towards the Netherlands (Chapter 2, 3 & 4).
- 2) Close intergenerational ties does not mean that there is no tension in the relationship at all, but frictions rarely lead to a breach of affective bonds (Chapter 2, 3 & 4).
- 3) Compared to native Dutch families, reciprocal practical support is more prevalent among mothers and children of non-Western migrant origin (Chapter 2).
- 4) Migrant children who are more strongly oriented towards the Netherlands are not necessarily more likely to have a problematic relationship with their mother (Chapter 3).
- 5) To understand the full impact of family transitions, we should be aware of the interdependence of life-events, such as partner separation and residential relocation (Chapter 5).
- 6) There is much diversity among migrant families: individual, sociodemographic and life-course characteristics, as well as different responses to the migration experience, all matter for how family behaviors are shaped (Chapter 2, 3, 4 & 5).
- 7) Policy makers should primarily focus on the concrete circumstances and not the origin of families.
- 8) Professionals assisting informal caregivers should tap in on the already existing emotional involvement between family generations to consolidate healthy, enduring relations, especially among migrant families.
- 9) Keep blowing seeds onto the wings of wind and flowerbeds will well up in forgotten places.
- 10) Although the journey is indeed more important than the destination, arriving is the challenge for the perfectionist.