

National connectedness and political identities

Efe Kerem Sözeri, VU University Amsterdam

This chapter focuses on the effect of migration on the feeling of connectedness to Turkish people among Turkish labour migrants and their descendants. It further questions the relationship between such connectedness and political orientations (Left-Right and Progressive Conservative attitudes) in a generational point of view. Our preliminary results show that migration to Europe indeed decreases respondents' feeling of connectedness, and shift them towards the Left and Progressive while return migration does the reverse by increasing the feeling of connectedness to the degree of non-migrants, and shifts the return migrants' position even further towards the Right and Conservative compared to non-migrants. In an aggregated analysis, we can also claim that younger generations feel less connected to Turkish people, and place themselves towards the Left and Progressive compared to first and second generations.