

# 'You can't limit yourself to one country'

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## **Propositions accompanying the dissertation**

**‘You can’t limit yourself to one country’:**

**Mobility trajectories and transnational engagements of  
young Dutch- Ghanaians**

1. Young people with a migration background do not solely reproduce transnational attachments gained from their parents, as is often emphasized in second-generation literature, but reshape and create new forms of engagement through mobility and according to their own needs.
2. A mobility trajectories approach enables us to move beyond the focus on ethnic background in studies on young people with a migration background, revealing the multifaceted factors that shape transnational engagement, including mobility experiences, youth culture and religious culture.
3. Participation in peer practices during trips to the country of ‘origin’ facilitate young people’s ability to establish and maintain independent transnational relationships.
4. A focus on what transpires during migrant-background youth’s trips to their or their parents’ country of origin, along with the use of ‘mobile’ methods, brings greater attention to the emotions and affects that instigate shifts in their transnational attachments.
5. The concept of trajectories allows us to see transnational engagement not as fixed but rather as processes that unfold over the life-course along with mobilities.
6. By placing young people centre-stage, a youth-centric approach sheds light on the agentic ways in which young

people with a migration background navigate transnational settings. At the same time, this perspective remains sensitive to how young people's agency is directed by the social structures in which they are embedded.

7. 'Homeland' trips are often seen in light of family visits or roots tourism in the literature, yet consist of a variety of experiences that reflect the changing landscapes of 'origin' countries affected by processes of globalisation. Malls, cafes and luxury resorts, among other spaces, represent new nodes that facilitate the consumption of leisure, addressing the needs of young diasporic visitors.
8. The back-and-forth movements of young people with a migration background between their country of residence and 'origin' should be understood as part and parcel of growing up in today's globalized world. It is important to avoid assuming such mobility to be problematic as this obscures the resources that young people gain through their transnational experiences and contributes to a language of 'othering'.
9. '[W]riting ethnography is a political act. From our ethnographic analysis can emerge ideas of how life could be lived, or imaginings of the world . . .'
10. 'You can't limit yourself to one country . . .'
11. 'We can never fully reciprocate the time, kindness, company, and resources shared with us and we will be taking away possibly more than we give back. Yet. . . acknowledging that true equity may prove elusive should not preclude us from engaging with important questions about reciprocity and field relations' (Gupta & Kelly 2014: 8).