

*RETURN INTENTIONS OF REFUGEES
IN THE NETHERLANDS: GOING
'HOME' OR FEELING AT 'HOME'?*

The role of structural, cultural, and social integration and transnationalism on the return intentions of Somali refugees in the Netherlands.

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Abstract

Based on a logistic regression analysis of the *Survey Integratie Minderheden (SIM)*, collected in the Netherlands in 2015, this study aimed to understand the concept of Somali refugees' return intentions and the influence that structural, cultural, and social integration and transnationalism have on these intentions. Next to the influence of integration and transnationalism, another element has been identified to have an influence on return intentions, namely the amount of time spent in the host country. In addition, this research considers two moderating effects which are tested using logistic regression interaction effects. The results show that structural integration has a partial relation to the return intentions of Somali refugees. The employment status of Somali refugees does not seem to affect their return intentions. On the other hand, following an education in the Netherlands is associated with higher return intentions. In addition, social integration decreases the intention to return. Furthermore, the influence of cultural integration is partially confirmed. As language proficiency does not influence return intentions, but the consumption of host country media is significantly related to these intentions. Further results show no role for transnationalism and time spent in the host country in predicting return intentions.

Keywords: cultural integration; refugees; return migration; social integration; Somali; structural integration; transnationalism

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1. Introduction

The Netherlands has a long history of immigration. For multiple centuries, the relative tolerance and relative wealth have been an attractive pull factor for migrants and refugees (Focus Migration, 2007, 2014). In recent years, in particular since the refugee crisis in 2015, relatively large numbers of refugees made their way to Europe and the Netherlands. This resulted in an increased national interest in the Dutch and European migration policies. Within the Netherlands, return migration policies are an integral part of national migration policies. Scholars within the field of migration studies have been studying the phenomenon of return to understand return actions and intentions of different types of migrants (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Most of the literature on return migration focuses on the return migration of economic migrants (OECD, 2020). Less is known about the return intentions of refugees, even though refugee crises have significant implications, both political and societal (Alrababa, Masterson, Casalis, Hangartner, & Weinstein, 2022).

Because of their status under the 1951 Refugee Convention, refugees have become a distinct migrant group in Europe, also in the Netherlands, which is why more research needs to be done into this migrant group (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; UN General Assembly, 1951; Vroome & Tubergen, 2014). It is often assumed that the return intentions of refugees will stay intentions as they arrived in the Netherlands as asylum seekers, fleeing political oppression, war, persecution, or long-lasting conflicts, such as Somali refugees, which means that return migration in the near future is not realistic (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2021; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Therefore, this research looks at the intention to return instead of the actual return migration of refugees.

In trying to explain the phenomenon of refugees' return migration, this research will study multiple other variables of interest that might explain return migration. Firstly, transnational practices can intensify the return intention of refugees as it reinforces the bond one has with their country of origin (Carlingen & Pettersen, 2014; Carling & Erdal, 2014; Firang, 2020). This suggests that when refugees engage in transnational practices, they are more likely to have the intention to return to their origin country (Haas & Fokkema, 2011).

On the contrary, refugees' level of integration may determine their desire to stay in their host country. The integration of refugees can take three different forms: structural, cultural, and social integration (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; De Vroome & Van Tubergen, 2014; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Structural integration often means the incorporation of migrants into the core institutions of the host country, such as the educational system and the labour market (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). In addition, integration also includes social interaction

between the refugee and the native community and participation in the social life, which is called social integration (De Vroome & Tubergen, 2014; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). Furthermore, cultural integration can take many forms, such as host country media consumption and language proficiency. It is suspected that these three forms of integration result in lower return intentions.

Lastly, there is some evidence that the amount of time spent in the host country may influence the return intentions of refugees, as well as that the time spent in the host country plays a potential role in the relationship between transnationalism, integration, and return intentions (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). It can be assumed that the more time a refugee spends in their host country the more they integrate and the less they engage in transnational practices. Furthermore, another mediating effect was found of transnationalism regarding the relationship between integration and return intentions. When someone has strong transnational ties it is assumed that the role of their integration on their return intentions weakens (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Carling & Erdal, 2014; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018).

The above-stated relationships will be studied, using Somali refugees as a case study. Somali refugees are an interesting group to study because previous studies have shown that they are less well integrated in Dutch society than any other refugee group, but on the contrary, they are known for their transnational orientation (Andriessen, Gijsberts, Huijnk, & Nicolaas, 2017; Horst, 2008; Liempt & Nijenhuis, 2020). As they are often negatively portrayed in the Dutch national government, more research into this relatively understudied group needs to be done.

By looking at the influence of integration and transnationalism on the return intentions of Somali refugees, this study aims to improve the understanding of the return intentions of refugees who are unable to return to their country of origin. Previous research on the return intentions of refugees has pointed out the importance of integration and transnationalism (Koser, 2007; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). The return intentions of refugees have been researched in combination with perceived discrimination and host identification (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015) as well as in combination with transnationalism (Koser, 2007; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018), in which it was concluded that both transnationalism and integration play an important role in the forming of return intentions for refugees. While studies have been conducted on these two separate topics (Koser, 2007; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018), there has been no research conducted that combines these two concepts when looking at the return intentions of

refugees. It is important to include both integration and transnationalism because the integration process of refugees can be affected by both, and transnationalism can also affect the relationship between integration and return intentions, which is not yet proven in existing literature, regarding refugees' return intentions. It is suspected that these two concepts are going to affect each other as it is believed that the more one integrates into their host society the less likely they are to participate in transnational practices, and the more they want to remain in their host country, and vice versa.

By looking at both integration and transnationalism as predictors for the return intentions of refugees, this research will contribute to the return migration literature by giving a more complete overview of the relevant factors and the influence they have on the return intentions of refugees. In addition, no previous research has been conducted looking solely at the return intentions of Somali refugees in the Netherlands. Furthermore, this study aims to improve the understanding that people have of the migration reasons that refugees might have and that staying in the Netherlands is not always the goal for refugees. This can also improve the understanding of the importance of integration to make refugees feel at home in their host country. All this combined resulted in the following research question: *“What is the role of structural, cultural, and social integration, and transnationalism in the forming of return intentions of Somali refugees living in the Netherlands in 2015?”*. As a result of this research question, the following three sub-questions are formed:

1. *To what extent does transnationalism influence the structural, cultural, and social integration of Somali refugees living in the Netherlands?*
2. *To what extent does time spent in the host country influence the relationships between, cultural, structural, and social integration and transnationalism with return intentions?*
3. *To what extent does transnationalism influence the relationship between structural, cultural, and social integration and return intentions of Somali refugees living in the Netherlands?*

To finalize, the structure of this study is as follows. First the background information about Somali refugees is given after which the theoretical aspects of return intention, integration, and transnationalism are presented. Furthermore, a conceptual model is presented followed by the data and method section and operationalization. Lastly, the results of a SPSS analysis, using data from the *Survey Integratie Minderheden (SIM)*, are shown resulting in a conclusion and discussion section.

2. Background information

The conflict in Somalia is ongoing and deeply rooted in its history (International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 2021). The Somali civil war was triggered by the fall of the Said Barre regime, which took place on early 1991. The period before was characterized by dissatisfaction with his regime which led to nationalist groups attacking military posts and the government (The Organization for World Peace (OWP), 2021). After the fall of the Said Barre regime, a power vacuum was created in which Islamic and nationalist groups, militias, and other actors wanted to mark their territory with their own governance. New governmental regimes have failed to fill this power vacuum. In addition, extreme and frequent drought has continued to affect Somalia, which also has contributed to the humanitarian crisis. Hundreds of thousands of Somalis have fled and more than 2,6 million Somalis are internally displaced (UNHCR, 2019). Although a lot of refugees are finding refuge in neighbouring countries, a small number of Somali refugees have made their way to the Netherlands.

After the fall of the Said Barre regime in 1991, Somali refugees started to arrive in the Netherlands. After 1991, the second period of immigration started in 2007, which was caused by a crisis in the South of Somalia. Currently, 40.701 Somalis are residing in the Netherlands (Vluchtelingenwerk, 2021). Previous studies have shown that Somali refugees in the Netherlands are less well integrated than other refugee groups and are at a considerable distance from Dutch society and the labour market (Andriessen, Gijsberts, Huijnk, & Nicolaas, 2017; Liempt & Nijenhuis, 2020). One of the main reasons given for this is that Somali refugees as a group have very low education levels and often have poor Dutch language proficiency. It is also important to note that Somali refugees have often been negatively discussed in the Dutch national government, because they often rely on the welfare system to provide benefits more than any other refugee group in the Netherlands (Liempt & Nijenhuis, 2020). Although Somali refugees are less integrated in the Netherlands, they are known for their transnational orientation (Horst, 2008; Liempt & Nijenhuis, 2020). Therefore, Somali refugees are a well-suited case study as the main goal of this study is to explain return intentions using the concepts of transnationalism and integration.

3. Theoretical framework

The focus of migration studies traditionally has been on the movement of migrants toward Western countries (Haas, Fokkema, & Fihri, 2015). But besides this traditional focus, migration literature more recently has focussed on the issue of return migration (OECD, 2020). Yet, this interest is mostly focussed on the economic aspects of return to the country of origin, such as

brain gain, investments, and labour market reintegration (OECD, 2020; Wahba, 2021). It is often assumed that return migration is solely a cost-benefit analysis decision, which also assumes that migrants only travel from less-well-off places to better-off places to achieve economic goals (Cassarino, 2004). Therefore, the literature on return migration is mainly focused on economic migrants, and there is little known about other migrant groups. Within the limited literature on return intentions that looks beyond the economic aspects, two main topics of interest have been identified: integration and transnationalism (Carlingen & Pettersen, 2014; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). But before integration and transnationalism and its influence on return intentions are further explained, first a short explanation about the concept refugee is given.

3.1 Refugees

According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, a refugee is someone who flees their country because of a “well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion” (UN General Assembly, 1951). In contrast, economic migrants leave their country of origin “purely for economic reasons in order to seek material improvements in their livelihoods” (European Commission, 2022). As mentioned, the literature on return migration focusses mainly on economic migrants. This is interesting because refugees are a distinct migrant group in Western European countries (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Vroome & Tubergen, 2014), because of their status under the 1951 Refugee Convention (UN General Assembly, 1951). As refugees fled their origin country for reasons such as fear of persecution or war, going ‘home’ is not a realistic option, which might be the reason why the literature and research on the return migration of refugees are lacking. Even though returning to their origin country is often not a realistic option, refugees often have the wish to return even if they do not yet have the opportunity to leave (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Therefore, this research will focus on the return intention of refugees instead of looking at the actual return action, as the intention to return indicates the return desire instead of the actual action of returning to the origin country (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). To examine the return intention of refugees, theory directed toward migrants is used, because of the lack of theory about the return intentions of refugees. This is done as there is an expectation that integration and transnationalism also play a role in the return intentions of refugees. Possible additional factors that influence refugees differently than economic migrants, such as feelings of safety, psychosocial factors, and war traumas, are not considered within this research.

3.2 The role of structural, cultural, and social integration in forming return intentions

Within previous research on return migration there have been three different types of integration identified that influence the forming of return intentions. Structural, cultural, and social integration within the destination country and society are responsible for the decision to stay in the host country (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; De Vroome & Van Tubergen, 2014; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). On the other hand, previous research identified that insecure economic situations of individuals, and cultural and social isolation in the destination society, are responsible for the forming of a decision to leave (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015).

Firstly, when talking about return migration stimulants, the economic reasons are often at the forefront of the discussion on why migrants decide to settle in the country of destination (Cassarino, 2004). Two of the main migration theories hypothesise that return intentions are mainly derived from economic incentives. According to Cassarino (2014) the New Economics of Labour Migration theory (NELM) and the Neoclassical Economics theory (NE), assume that return happens in the case of economic satisfaction or a cost-benefit analysis. To move away from this purely economic assumption, structural integration is introduced. The structural integration of migrants entails the incorporation of migrants into the core institutions of the destination country, such as the educational system and the labour market (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). Studies have found that active economic participation in the host community is an important motivator in staying in the host community. Furthermore, being employed as well as having a business in the destination country increase the chance that a migrant decides to stay in the country of destination (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Zhao, 2002). Therefore, it is hypothesized that *structural integration results in a lower intention to return (H1a)*. In addition, the likelihood of immigrants staying in the destination country increases when there is a likelihood of higher wages, which increases when the time spent in the host country increases (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). This finding results in the following hypothesis: *when the time spent in the host country increases, the relationship between structural integration and return intentions increases (H1b)*.

Secondly, the social integration of immigrants in the host society involves the degree to which migrants interact with natives and to what extent they participate in social life (De Vroome & Tubergen, 2014; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). The social integration of immigrants plays an important role in facilitating the economic and cultural integration of migrants by providing an opportunity to access the social capital of the native population (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). Wachter and Fleischmann (2018)

predict that when immigrants have strong interethnic contact, their intentions to stay increase. Therefore, it is hypothesized that *social integration results in a lower intention to return (H2a)*. Furthermore, they compared their results to the interethnic contact of temporary immigrants such as guest workers, and they found that their interethnic contact was significantly lower as well as their intention to stay, than that of long-term migrants. This also shows that the longer a migrant spends in the host country the higher the chance of participating in social life and interethnic contact (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Therefore, the following hypothesis is formulated: *when the time spent in the host country increases, the relationship between social integration and return intentions increases (H2b)*.

Thirdly, research has shown that the integration into the core elements of the host country's culture plays an integral part in the return decision-making process of migrants (Heckmann & Bosswick, 2006). The cultural integration of immigrants involves becoming acquainted with the social norms and customs of the host society, as well as with the national language. Within their research, De Vroome and Van Tubergen (2014) showed that adhering to the mainstream values was a strong predictor for if a migrant decides to stay in their host country. In addition, it can be assumed that having difficulties communicating with the host society will result in less integration (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015). Constant and Massey (2002) found that guest workers who are proficient in the local language have a lower intention to return. Language proficiency has been studied the most concerning integration and settlement intentions. However, a second dimension of cultural integration can be identified. In addition to language proficiency, the consumption of the destination country's media is seen as an important factor in measuring the level of acquaintance with the social norms and customs (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). According to Moon and Park (2007), an immigrant's knowledge about the host society's cultural values and social practices can increase through exposure to host country media. Furthermore, it was found that when a migrant is exposed more often to the host country media it is likely that they are more acquainted with the local norms and values (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). These two dimensions result in the following two hypotheses: *cultural integration results in a lower intention to return (H3a)* and *when the time spent in the host country increases, the relationship between cultural integration and return intentions increases (H3b)*.

3.3 The role of transnationalism in forming return intentions

Within the return decision-making process, migrants are constantly considering two types of attachments: the ties to the country of origin and the country of destination (Carlingen &

Pettersen, 2014). The interplay between these two attachments is often blurred and difficult to research. Within transnational studies it is important to provide an alternative view on the transnational practices of refugees, as these studies often assume that the development of transnational practices is far less among refugees than among other migrant groups (Koster, 2007). This is often assumed because when refugees are remaining in their host country by choice, the attention of scholars is mostly pushed towards their integration in which it is suggested that refugees remain few links with the country of origin (Koser, 2007). While previous research assumes that refugees have fewer transnational ties (Koser, 2007), new studies have shown that due to technological enhancements such as social media and smartphones, refugees engage more than even in transnational practices (Bilecen & Lubbers, 2021; Byrne & Solomon, 2015; Grubanov-Boskovic, Kalantaryan, Migalli, & Scipioni, 2022).

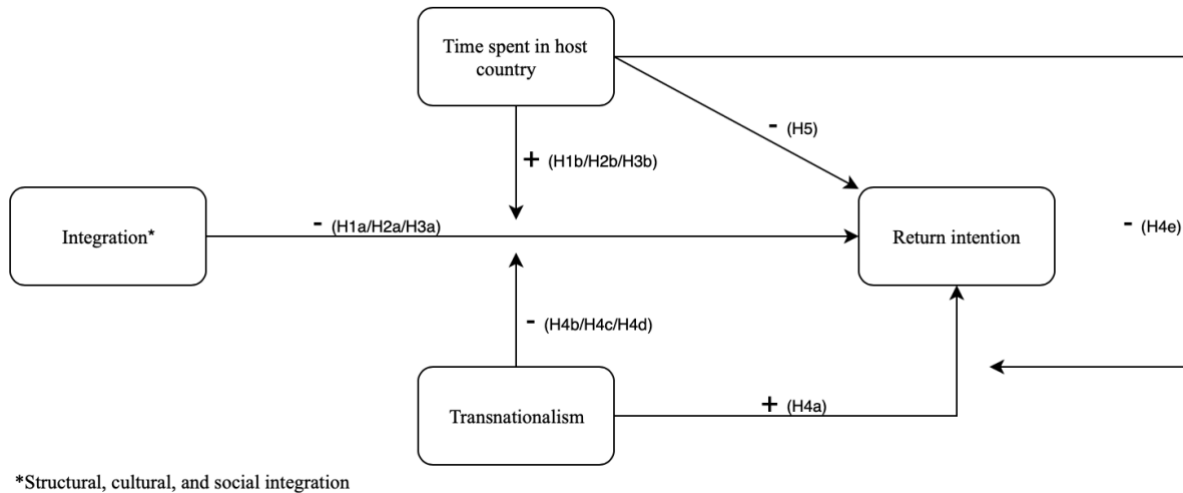
To maintain transnational ties, engaging in transnational practices is vital for migrants. One of the largest transnational practices is sending remittances, which can be social and economic. Social remittances, also called social transfers, are all the new ideas, know-hows, and practices that are being transferred by the migrants to their family and friends who remained in the country of origin (Vari-Lavoisier, 2016). Economic remittance sending can be seen as an investment into the future return plans of a migrant (Carling & Erdal, 2014). Economic remittances are an important means in helping family in the origin country to move out of poverty as well as in investing in the future of the migrants themselves. One form of economic remittances practices is the transnational housing activities that immigrants are engaging in, which include investments in housing in the country of origin, and the motivation to own a home in the origin country (Firang, 2020). The willingness to invest in homeownership in the origin country is driven by multiple factors, including social and familial obligations, as well as the intentions to return (Firang, 2020). This means that migrants with a strong attachment to their country of origin will often engage in property investment. Therefore, it is hypothesized that *strong transnational ties result in a higher intention to return (H4a)*.

In addition to the importance of remittances sending, the transnational approach to return migration suggests that a migrant's return does not always mean the end of the migration cycle, which is often suggested in migration studies, back and forth migration can be seen more and more, especially related to the professional activities of migrants. For refugees, this back-and-forth migration is often not possible, as the context in the country of origin needs to be favourable enough for maintaining their mobility as well as their safety (Cassarino, 2004; Klave & Supule, 2019). The transnational approach, therefore, suggests that the maintenance of transnational ties is important to predict return migration, as well as a returnees identity,

attraction to their origin country or the lifestyle, or both (Klave & Supule, 2019; Cassarino, 2004). Carlingen and Pettersen (2014) analysed the influence of transnationalism and integration in what they call the ‘integration-transnationalism matrix’. This matrix shows that transnationalism and integration are in fact intersecting dimensions (Carling & Erdal, 2014). Further research has shown that migrants who have strong transnational ties and are weakly integrated have a higher chance of returning to their country of origin (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). This information results in the following hypotheses: *when transnational ties are strong, the relationship between structural integration (H4b), social integration (H4c), cultural integration (H4d), and return intentions weakens*. The idea that there is a negative correlation between the orientation towards the origin country and the integration in the destination country also fits within immigrant integration theories (Haas & Fokkema, 2011). In addition, it is often assumed that the longer an immigrant spends in the destination country, the weaker transnational ties become and the more an immigrant integrates into its host society (Haas, Fokkema, & Fihri, 2015). Therefore, the following hypothesis is formulated: *when the time spent in the host country increases, the relationship between transnational ties and return intentions weakens (H4e)*.

Because the time spent in the host country plays an important role in both the relationships between integration and return intentions and the relationship between transnational ties and return intentions it is suspected that there is a direct relationship between the amount of time spent in the host country by a refugee and their return intentions. Therefore, an additional hypothesis is formulated: *when time spent in the host country increases, return intentions decrease (H5)*.

4. Conceptual model



5. Data and methods

The analysis of this study is based upon the *Survey Integratie Minderheden* (SIM), collected within the Netherlands in 2015 and conducted by the *Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau* (SCP) in cooperation with the *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (CBS). This survey was conducted to create a better insight into the integration of minority groups within the Netherlands. Before 2015, the respondents came from the four most important minority groups – Turkish, Moroccan, Antillean, and Surinamese Dutch – but within the 2015 SIM survey, two new groups were added, namely Polish and Somali respondents. The SIM 2015 survey was undertaken within a 7-month period, from the 19th of January to the 15th of July.

The SIM 2015 survey was designed to guarantee a representative sample that covers most of the Netherlands. The survey was conducted in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and in a random selection of medium-size and small-size municipalities. Within each municipality, the CBS provided a random sample selection, in this sample the response rate for Somali refugees was 37%, which was higher than the response forecast. The SIM 2015 survey used two different methods: namely Computer-Aided Web Interviewing (CAWI) and Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). The respondents were approached by a letter to ask if they wanted to participate in the study, initially, they were asked to use the CAWI method which lets participants independently fill in the survey online. When respondents did not respond or fill in the questionnaire, a second letter was sent in which the respondents got presented with the option to use the CAPI method. This method entails that the interviews were conducted face-to-face after which the answers were filled in on a computer. Furthermore, all surveys were available in the native language of the participant and the interviewers were

bilingual. For more information about the privacy and ethics aspect of this study, a privacy and ethics checklist can be found in Appendix 1.1.

For the analysis of this study, the data was selected to ensure that the data sample consist only of respondents who come from Somalia¹. In addition, cases that have a missing value on the dependent variable, return intention, are excluded, which will be further explained in the analysis section. This selection resulted in a sample of 452 Somali refugees. The demographic characteristics of the sample population can be found in chapter 8, Table 1.

6. Operationalization

This section of the study describes the considerations that were made to obtain the desired variables. As discussed above, this research consists of six different components: return intention, structural integration, social integration, cultural integration, transnational ties, and time spent in the host country. Furthermore, this research includes three different control variables: gender, age, and education level.

6.1 Return intention

To measure the dependent variable ‘return intention’ of Somali refugees in the Netherlands, the following question was used: ‘would you like to go and live in your country of origin forever?’. This question was chosen as it shows a desire to return, irrespective of the realistic possibility of returning. The response category for this item is yes (=1) and no (=0).

6.2 Structural integration

The structural integration of Somali refugees was measured with two different items: education and work. The literature shows that structural integration entails the integration of migrants into the core institutions of the host country (Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). Two of the main institutions are the educational system and the labour market. If someone has ever participated in the educational system in the Netherlands was measured using the question; ‘In which countries have you had an education?’. The response categories for this question are no education (=0), only in origin country (=1), in country of origin and in the Netherlands (=2), and only in the Netherlands (=3). Since it is vital to understand if someone has had any education in the Netherlands, this question was recoded into a dummy variable taking the value of 1 for people who have had education in the Netherlands and a value of 0 for people who have

¹ The data is not selected according to migration reasons to prevent exclusion of respondents. This study assumes that all Somali respondents are refugees because of the geopolitical situation in Somalia.

not followed any education in the Netherlands. In addition to the educational participation of Somali refugees, their participation in the labour market was measured. The following survey question is used: ‘Do you currently have a paid job (in the Netherlands)?’, with the response categories of yes (=1) and no (=0)².

6.3 Social integration

Social integration was measured using the concept of interethnic contact. To measure interethnic contact four different questions of the survey were used. The first question states: “do native Dutch friends or neighbours visit you often, sometimes, or never?”. In addition, the following question is used: “in your free time, do you often, sometimes, or never interact with native-born Dutch people?”. Both these questions have a response category of 3 possible answers, namely often (=1), sometimes (=2), and never (=3). Finally, the following two questions have been used: ‘how often do you interact with native-born friends or acquaintances?’ and ‘how often do you interact with native neighbours or community members?’. Both questions have the same response categories: every day (=1), every week (=2), every month (=3), a few times a year (=4), and never/less than once a year (=5). The original survey questions about interethnic contact consisted of five questions. But a factor analysis showed inconsistency within this scale on one item, after which a reliability analysis has been performed. The Cronbach’s alpha before the fifth item was deleted was 0.699. After deletion of this fifth item, the Cronbach’s alpha was 0.725, revealing these four items measure one underlying factor. As not all four items have the same answer range, the items have been standardized, after which a mean scale has been created.

6.4 Cultural integration

Next to structural and social integration, the literature showed a third type of integration, namely cultural integration (Heckmann & Bosswick, 2006; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Vroome & Tubergen, 2014). These studies have shown the importance of language proficiency and host country media consumption to integrate into the core cultural elements of the host country (Heckmann & Bosswick, 2006; Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Vroome & Tubergen, 2014). Therefore, cultural integration was operationalized using these two items. Language proficiency was measured using three questions which address different elements of

² The SIM 2015 survey limits the way labour market participation can be measured, as it offers no survey question about past jobs in the Netherlands or future job opportunities.

language proficiency, speaking, reading, and writing. Dutch speaking proficiency was measured using the question ‘when having a conversation in Dutch, do you often, sometimes, or never have trouble with the Dutch language?’. The response category for this question is: I do not speak Dutch (=1), I often struggle (=2), I sometimes struggle (=3), and I never struggle (=4). The additional questions that were used are: ‘When reading newspapers, letters, or advertisements in Dutch, do you often, sometimes, or never have trouble with the Dutch language?’ and ‘when writing in Dutch do you often, sometimes, or never have trouble with the Dutch language?’. These additional questions have the same answer categories, namely I often struggle (=1), I sometimes struggle (=2), and I never struggle (=3). For the variable language proficiency, a mean scale has been computed after a factor analysis has resulted in a Cronbach’s alpha of .851. As not all the questions have the same response categories, the items have been standardized. In addition to language proficiency, the amount of host country media has been measured using the following survey question: ‘how many days a week do you watch Dutch channels on TV?’³. The answer categories for this survey question are every day (=1), several times a week (=2), once a week (=3), less than once a week (=4), and never (=5). As the skewness for this question was high, answer option two, three, four and five have been combined, generating a dichotomous dummy variable, with answer options ‘watches Dutch television almost every day’ (=1) and ‘watches Dutch television less than daily’ (=0). It was expected that the main difference in outcome could be identified between the group that watches Dutch television every day and the group that watches television less than daily.

6.5 Transnational ties

The variable transnationalism has been operationalized using a single item and question on home ownership in the country of origin. To operationalize this item, the following survey question was used: ‘do you own a home in the country of origin?’⁴. The response category for this item is ‘I own a home in origin country’ (=1) and ‘I do not own a home in origin country’ (=0).

³ The SIM survey limits the operationalization of host country media consumption as this was not the focus of this survey and limited questions were asked about media consumption.

⁴ While the questionnaire also included questions on remittances sending and family in the origin country, these two items had too many missing values (remittances 19.2% and family 18.5%). It was therefore concluded that there were too many missing values for a reliable analysis.

6.6 Time spent in host country

The amount of time that a Somali refugee spends in the Netherlands was measured using a single item and question. The question used is: ‘in which year did you first come to live in the Netherlands?’. As this is an open question, a new variable has been computed which shows the time spent in the Netherlands in the number of years. This was done by inserting the year 2015 (date of survey) and subtracting the migration year.

6.7 Control variables

To control for other factors that might influence the relationship between structural, social, and cultural integration, transnationalism, time spent, and return intentions, three control variables were added: gender (with a value of 1 for females and 0 for males), age, and educational level. To measure the educational level, the following question was used: ‘what is your highest degree earned to date, including current study?’. The response categories for this question are no degree (=0), low-level degree (=1), mid-level degree (=2), and high-level degree (=3).

7. Analysis

First, a descriptive analysis was run to create an overview of all variables, including control variables. The descriptive analysis also formed an overview of possible missing values. As mentioned before, cases with missing values on the dependent variable, return intention, have been excluded from the analysis⁵.

Secondly there have been 2 different logistic regression models created. The first model includes the dependent variable return intention, and independent variables education and work (model 1a), interethnic contact scale (model 1b), language proficiency scale and media consumption (model 1c), home ownership in origin country (model 1d), and time spent in the host country (model 1e). The first model tests the direct relationship between the dependent and independent variables, without the control variables. The second model includes all the relevant variables together (model 2a) including the control variables. Because the conceptual model includes two possible moderating effects, there has been made use of multiple interactions to test whether the possible moderating effects are statistically significant. The interactions have been added one by one to the second model (model 2b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l).

⁵ The dependent variable has 27.8% missing values, multiple independent sample t-tests established that the missing values are missing at random and that there was no established relationship between the missing values for return intention and auxiliary variables.

7.1 Descriptive analysis

The first observation that can be made from the data regarding the demographic characteristics is that 53.8% of the respondents were female, and 46.2% were male. Additionally, 81.4% of the Somali refugees were aged between 15 and 44. Furthermore, the education level of the respondents has been looked at, within the sample 39.4% has no education, 25.2% have lower-level education, 21.5% have mid-level education, and 11.7% have a high-level education. From these results, we can assume that the Somali refugee group in the Netherlands is generally evenly distributed between males and females, young, and has no to low-level education. Furthermore, most of the sample group (77.2%) do not have a paid job in the Netherlands. On the contrary, one-third of the population has or is currently studying in the Netherlands.

Secondly, what stands out in this observation is that the Somali refugees within this sample group have a good command of the Dutch language as they score relatively high on the Dutch language proficiency scale. Additionally, Dutch media consumption scores very high, as 80.1% of the sample group watches Dutch television every day. This is surprising as studies suggest that Somali refugees are one of the least integrated immigrant groups in the Netherlands (Horst, 2008; Liempt & Nijenhuis, 2020).

In addition to the demographic characteristics of the study sample, it is important to note that within this sample the first refugees arrived in the Netherlands 64 years ago and the most recently arrived refugees came to the Netherlands one year ago, with a large concentration between five to eight years of arrival time. When we look at the history of the conflict in Somalia, this concentration of a refugee influx in the period 2007 to 2010 can be explained by the 2007 Somalia humanitarian crisis, in which 300.000 people were displaced (Menkhaus, 2007). Furthermore, a total of 281 (62.2%) Somali refugees do not intend to return to their country of origin. To understand this result it is important to analyse the role of time spent in the Netherlands, transnationalism as well as structural, cultural, and social integration. Further information about the descriptive statistics of this study can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics for the research variables including demographic characteristics of the sample population.

	N	%	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEAN	STD. DEVIATION
GENDER	452		1	2	1.54	.499
MALE		46.2				
FEMALE		53.8				
AGE	452		1	7	2.42	1.300
15-24		28.1				
25-34		31.0				

<i>35-44</i>		22.3				
<i>45-54</i>		11.5				
<i>55-64</i>		4.2				
<i>65-74</i>		2.2				
<i>75+</i>		0.7				
DIPLOMA LEVEL	452		-4	3	.94	1.277
<i>MISSING</i>		2.2				
<i>NONE</i>		39.4				
<i>LOW LEVEL</i>		25.2				
<i>MID-LEVEL</i>		21.5				
<i>HIGH LEVEL</i>		11.7				
EDUCATION	452		0	3	1.21	1.158
<i>NO EDUCATION</i>		35.4				
<i>EDUCATION IN COUNTRY OF ORIGIN</i>		31.4				
<i>EDUCATION IN ORIGIN COUNTRY + NL</i>		10.0				
<i>EDUCATION IN NL</i>		23.2				
WORK	452		1	2	1.77	.420
<i>YES</i>		22.8				
<i>NO</i>		77.2				
SCALE INTERETHNIC CONTACT	452		-1.41	1.74	-.0033	.82210
SCALE DUTCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY	442		-1.70	1.14	.0012	.87953
DUTCH TELEVISION	442		0	1	1.3529	.795
<i>(ALMOST) EVERY DAY</i>		80.1				
<i>LESS THAN DAILY</i>		19.9				
HOME OWNERSHIP ORIGIN COUNTRY	429		1	2	1.91	.291
<i>YES</i>		8.8				
<i>NO</i>		86.1				
<i>MISSING</i>		5.1				
RETURN INTENTION	452		1	2	1.62	.486
<i>YES</i>		37.8				
<i>NO</i>		62.2				
TIME SPENT IN HOST COUNTRY	411		1.00	64.00	11.8297	7.96181
<i>1-5 YEARS</i>		21.7				
<i>6-15 YEARS</i>		42.0				
<i>16-25 YEARS</i>		33.6				
<i>26-64 YEARS</i>		2.7				
VALID N (LISTWISE)	393					

Source: Survey Integratie Minderheden (SIM), 2015, own calculations.

7.2 Logistic regression analysis

The first model that was tested included measures of structural, social, and cultural integration, transnationalism and time spent in the Netherlands, as predictors for return intentions. Thus, the first models include the key independent variables but excludes the control variables and interactions. The first model consists of five different models (models 1a-1e), in which the individual relationships between the five different predictors and the dependent variable return intentions are tested, see Table 2.

Within model 1a, it shows that education in the Netherlands ($b = .573$, $SE = .228$, $p < .05$) is significantly related to return intentions. This means that when someone has participated in the educational system in the Netherlands this can be associated with a higher level of return intentions. This is an interesting result as it goes against the expected results based on the literature, in which it is suggested that when refugees participate in the educational system in the host country, they tend to stay in the host country (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). Regarding the employment status of a Somali refugee ($b = .203$, $SE = .255$, $p > .10$) no significant direct relationship was found with return intentions. It can therefore be concluded from model 1a, that H1a needs to be rejected, as structural integration does not result in a lower intention to return⁶.

Furthermore, model 1b shows that interethnic contact ($b = -.232$, $SE = .120$, $p < .10$) is significantly related to return intentions. This shows that when someone participates in more interethnic contact, they are more likely to have a lower intention to return. This means that model 1b confirms H2a, as social integration results in a lower intention to return. In addition, it can be concluded that Dutch language proficiency does not have a significant relation to return intention. The host country media consumption ($b = -.761$, $SE = .274$, $p < .05$) of Somali refugees is significantly related to return intentions. This shows that when Somali refugees consume more Dutch media their return intentions decrease. Thus, it can be concluded that H3a can be partially accepted, as host media consumption does result in lower return intentions, but Dutch language proficiency is not statistically significant in relation to return intention.

Looking at model 1 it can be concluded that all other relevant variables, transnationalism and time spent in the host country do not have a direct significant relationship with return intentions. This means that hypotheses 4a, and 5 need to be rejected based on the information given in model 1 (table 2). In conclusion, model 1 found evidence that structural, social, and cultural integration are (partially) related to return intentions of Somali refugees. Whereas

⁶ Even though the effect of education on return intentions is significant, note that this effect is in the opposite direction of what was hypothesized.

evidence of the relationship between transnationalism, time spent in the host country, and return intentions was not found in model 1.

Table 2: Summary of logistic regression analysis without control variables for predicting the return intentions of Somali refugees.

VARIABLE	MODEL 1A		MODEL 1B		MODEL 1C		MODEL 1D		MODEL 1E	
	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>SE</i>
CONSTANT	.286**	.123	.514***	.099	1.135***	.464	.154	.321	.459**	.183
EDUCATION IN NL	.573**	.228								
HOLD A JOB	.203	.255								
SCALE INTERETHNIC CONTACT			-.232*	.120						
SCALE DUTCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY					.123	.115				
WATCHES DUTCH TELEVISION (ALMOST) DAILY					-.761**	.274				
DOES NOT OWN A HOME IN ORIGIN COUNTRY							.434	.339		
TIME SPENT IN HOST COUNTRY									-.007	.013
NAGELKERKE PSEUDO-R ²	.028		.012		.032		.005		.001	

Note: education, work, host country media consumption, and home ownership are presented as dummy variables. The reference group in this case are females who have not followed any education in the Netherlands, have no job, have no diploma, never watch Dutch television, and do own a home in origin country.

*** $p < .01$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .10$

Source: Survey Integratie Minderheden (SIM), 2015, own calculations.

In addition to model 1, a second logistic regression model (model 2a) has been generated, see Table 3. Where the first model tested the direct relationship between the dependent variable and independent variables, model 2a includes the key variables all together as well as the control variables. When we control for age, gender, and education level, the significant relationships between structural integration (model 1a) and social integration (model 1b) and return intentions disappears. The significant relationship between host media consumption ($b = -.837$, $SE = .327$, $p < .01$) and return intentions was maintained in model 2a. By adding the control variables, the negative relationship slightly increases, in relation to model 1c. This means that when controlled for age, gender, and education level, media consumption remains significant but education and interethnic contact do not.

Although a less significant direct relationship between the dependent and independent variables was identified, control variable education level showed a direct significant relationship with return intentions. As seen in model 2a, a low-level diploma ($b = -.633$, $SE = .280$, $p < .05$) and mid-level diploma ($b = -.722$, $SE = .348$, $p < .05$) are significantly related to return intentions. This means that when someone has a lower or intermediate level education, they are more likely to remain in the Netherlands as their return intentions decrease. This could possibly be explained by the fact that the likelihood of higher wages is often related to higher education levels, which result in an intention to stay (Borjas & Bratsberg, 1996; Wachter &

Fleischmann, 2018). In the Netherlands, you earn more when having a higher education, this means that when you have a low or intermediate level of education you have more opportunities to grow in your salary than when you already have the highest level of education. This could possibly explain the significant relationship between education level and return intention.

Furthermore, control variable age ($b = -.184$, $SE = .111$, $p < .10$) also shows a significant relation to return intention. Thus, when someone's age increases their return intention decreases. For gender, no significant relationship was identified. This means that the results in this model are not solely caused by the key independent variables but other alternative explanations for the difference in return intentions, such as education level and age, are of influence in this model. In addition, the explained variance ($R^2 = .081$) of model 2a is higher than in model 1. Thus, model 2a explains roughly 8.1% of the return intentions of Somali refugees, which is a very low percentage. Furthermore, it needs to be acknowledged that in this model only one key independent variable seems to explain the return intentions of Somali refugees. This suggests that the current literature does not sufficiently explain the different components of this complex concept.

Table 3: Summary of logistic regression analysis including control variables for predicting the return intentions of Somali refugees.

		MODEL 2A	
VARIABLE		B	SE
CONSTANT		1.205	.569
EDUCATION IN NL		.306	.310
HOLD A JOB		.246	.307
SCALE INTERETHNIC CONTACT		-.203	.139
SCALE DUTCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY		-.088	.168
WATCHES DUTCH TELEVISION (ALMOST DAILY)		-.837***	.327
DOES NOT OWN A HOME IN ORIGIN COUNTRY		.635	.391
TIME SPENT IN HOST COUNTRY		.005	.019
CONTROL VARIABLES			
AGE		-.184*	.111
SEX		.005	.228
EDUCATION			
	LOW-LEVEL DIPLOMA	-.633**	.280
	MID-LEVEL DIPLOMA	-.722**	.348
	HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMA	-.484	.468
NAGELKERKE PSEUDO-R ²		.081	

Note: education, work, host country media consumption, and home ownership are presented as dummy variables. The reference group in this case are females who have not followed any education in the Netherlands, have no job, have no diploma, never watch Dutch television, and do own a home in origin country.

*** $p < .01$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .10$

Source: Survey Integratie Minderheden (SIM), 2015, own calculations.

7.3 Interactions

As the conceptual model shows, two moderating effects⁷ are expected to influence the relation between integration and return intention and transnationalism and return intention. Both the time spent in the host country and transnationalism are expected to have a moderating effect on these relationships. It was expected that migrants with strong transnational ties and weak integration have a higher chance of returning to their country of origin. The interaction effect in the regression analysis showed no statistical significance, thus Hypotheses 4b, 4c, and 4d need to be rejected. Furthermore, it is often assumed that the longer a migrant spends in the destination country, the weaker transnational ties become and the more an immigrant integrates into its host society (Haas, Fokkema, & Fihri, 2015). In this case the interaction effect was also not significant, which means H4e needs to be rejected as well. Moreover, it was hypothesized that the time spent in the host country would increase the relationship between integration and return intentions. For all three types of integration, structural, social, and cultural, the interaction effects show no significance. Thus, hypotheses 1b, 2b, and 3b need to be rejected. This shows that although there is an expected moderating effect, the interaction variables in the logistic regression do not show any statistical significance, which means all hypotheses regarding the moderating effects need to be rejected in this study.

8. Conclusion

This study was one of the first studies to examine the return intentions of refugees in depth and systematically in relation to integration and transnationalism. The focus was on Somali refugees who are currently residing in the Netherlands, a group that has been known for their low integration rates and high transnational focus but who are understudied regarding their return intentions. Even though the return intentions of refugees are often constrained by the situation in their origin country, certain conditions in their host country are also important in predicting their return intentions. There are five conclusions that can be drawn from this study.

First, the findings regarding structural integration differ from previous studies (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Haas & Fokkema, 2011; Zhao, 2020). Based on the general expectation regarding the relation between structural integration and return intention, it was hypothesized that refugees who have followed an education and work in the Netherlands are more inclined to stay in the Netherlands. The results of this study however do not support this hypothesis, as refugees who have followed an education in the Netherlands are more willing to return to their country of origin than refugees who have not followed an education in their host

⁷ The table of Model 2b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j,k,l with all the interactions is available on request.

country. This finding is in line with Cassarino's (2014) NELM and NE theory which assumes that return happens in the case of economical satisfaction or a cost-benefit analysis. as the results indicate that people who have followed an education in the Netherlands are satisfied with the achievements of their set goals and are thus more inclined to return to their origin country. In addition, this study found no evidence that employment status predicts the return intentions of Somali refugees. This is in line with previous findings of Pierre et al., (2015) and De Vroome and Van Tubergen (2014), in which no relationship between the employment status of refugees and their return intentions was found.

Second, the findings regarding social integration also differ from findings in previous research (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018). While Pierre et al., (2015) and Wachter and Fleischmann (2018) suspected that the social integration of refugees would predict that their return intentions would incline, they did not find evidence of this relationship. However, the results of this study show that when someone participates in more interethnic contact with natives of their host country, they are more likely to have a lower intention to return. Thus, this study did find evidence of the importance of social integration in the host country in predicting the return intentions of refugees. It is important to mention that neither the relationship between structural integration and return intentions nor social integration and return intentions remained statistically significant when controlling for age, gender, and education levels.

Third, the results regarding the importance of cultural integration in predicting return intentions seem to support the hypothesized relationship partially. It was hypothesized that being able to speak the language, as well as consumption of host country media would result in a lower intention to return. The result of this study was not in line with previous research (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018), especially regarding the result of language proficiency. Whereas previous research (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018) has concluded that there is a relation between host country language proficiency and return intentions of refugees, this study was not able to confirm this relationship. It was found that there is no statistically significant evidence that speaking the Dutch language decreases the intention to return for Somali refugees. In contradiction, it was confirmed that consuming the media of the host country did indeed play a role in predicting the return intentions of refugees. This is in line with the findings of Wachter and Fleischmann (2018), in which they found evidence that consuming more host country media predicted an intention to settle in the host country. The relation between host country media consumption

and return intentions remained statistically significant when controlling for age, gender, and education levels.

Fourth, it was not found that transnational orientation and the amount of time spent in the host country have a predictive role for return intentions. This is interesting as multiple studies have found evidence of these relationships (Carlingen & Pettersen, 2014; Carling & Erdal, 2014; Klave & Supule, 2019). In addition to these findings, this study also concluded that there are no significant moderating effects regarding transnationalism and time spent in the host country. It was expected that migrants with strong transnational ties and weak integration have a higher chance of returning to their origin country. Furthermore, it was assumed that the longer a migrant spends in the host country, the weaker transnational ties become and the more an immigrant integrates into its host country (Haas, Fokkema, & Fihri, 2015). In addition, it was hypothesized that the time spent in the host country would increase the relationship between integration and return intentions. But the results of this study show no significant relation for either of these expectations.

Lastly, the results show the importance of both age and education level, which are control variables in this study. The older someone is, the more they are inclined to remain in their host country. Furthermore, having a low to intermediate level education is related to declining return intentions. Because the results show a significant role for the control variables, age and education level, this study suggests that the socio-demographic characteristics of refugee groups are more important in predicting return intentions than previously considered.

9. Discussion

This study also has some limitations that can give direction for future research. The first limitation of this study is related to the measurement of return intentions. The dependent variable in this research primarily showed the intentions to return and not a prediction of actual return behaviour. The reason for this is that the geopolitical situation in Somalia is not yet seen as safe, which means returning to Somalia might not be possible for Somali refugees. Because this study solely shows the intention to return, future research should investigate the percentage of refugees who intend to return in relation to who actually returns to their origin country. In addition, this research was based on cross-sectional data which means that the return intentions of Somali refugees were measured on one specific moment. This can result in bias, by using longitudinal data in future research this bias can be reduced.

Second, the operationalization regarding structural integration was limited in this study. Structural integration was measured using two variables: education and employment. The SIM

2015 survey limits the operationalization of labour market participation. Within the survey no questions were asked about past jobs in the Netherlands or future job opportunities, which means that only current employment was measured. There is a possibility that missing this information caused the absence of a statistically significant relationship between employment and return intention. Another possible explanation for this can be that employment is not as important to Somali refugees in the Netherlands to predict their return intentions as previously thought because the welfare system provides them with benefits. This means that they have a secure income without being employed which could show a more important role for income than for employment. Future research could further explain the relationship between employment, income, and return intentions.

Third, the measurement of host country media consumption was very limited within this study. The focus of the SIM 2015 survey was not on host country media consumption which caused difficulties in measuring this concept. Currently, host country media consumption, although significantly related to return intention, has been measured using one question regarding the consumption of Dutch television. Future research could determine if other types of media also influence the return intentions of refugees. Additionally, the operationalization of transnationalism was also limited because of too many missing values which were needed for a reliable analysis. The questionnaire also included questions on remittances sending and family in the origin country but both items had too many missing values. As a result, this study was limited in the way transnationalism was measured, which resulted in not finding any relation between transnational orientation and return intentions. Further research could determine if transnationalism indeed has no relation to return intentions or if a broader operationalization makes a difference regarding this relationship.

Fourth, this study showed that there is a role for structural, social, and cultural integration in predicting the return intentions of Somali refugees. But as mentioned when controlling for gender, age, and education level, the only remaining direct significant relationship is the relation between host media consumption and return intentions. Furthermore, the components, integration, transnationalism, and time spent in the host country, explain roughly 8.1% of the concept refugees' return intentions, this is very low. This suggests that the current literature does not sufficiently explain the different components of this complex concept. In addition, a significant role for control variables age and gender was found in predicting the return intentions of refugees. This shows that socio-demographic characteristics are more important in predicting return intentions than previously thought. The existing literature seems to cover just a small part in explaining return intentions of refugees, which is

problematic (Pierre, Martinovic, & Vroome, 2015; Haas & Fokkema, 2011; Vroome & Tubergen, 2014; Wachter & Fleischmann, 2018; Zhao, 2020). Future research should focus on additional factors that influence the return intentions of refugees, as integration and transnationalism seem to explain a rather small portion of this intention to return. It is suggested to focus on socio-demographic characteristics as well as on additional factors that were not considered in this study, such as feelings of safety, psychosocial factors, and possible war traumas. By focussing on these additional factors, future research can also contribute to the public's understanding of possible migration reasons and that the reasons for staying in the Netherlands are not always based on economic considerations. By creating more awareness and insight into these complex concepts, future studies like this study, can contribute to a more inclusive and accepting environment for refugees in their host country.

Despite these limitations, this study provides new insights into the relationship between different levels of integration of Somali refugees in the Netherlands, their transnational orientation, and the intention to return to their origin country. The results show that the relationships between these different concepts are more complex than previously thought and that additional factors need to be considered when studying refugees' integration processes, transnational orientation, and return intentions.

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Appendix

1.1 Ethics and privacy checklist



CHECKLIST ETHICAL AND PRIVACY ASPECTS OF RESEARCH

INSTRUCTION

This checklist should be completed for every research study that is conducted at the Department of Public Administration and Sociology (DPAS). This checklist should be completed *before* commencing with data collection or approaching participants. Students can complete this checklist with help of their supervisor.

This checklist is a mandatory part of the empirical master's thesis and has to be uploaded along with the research proposal.

The guideline for ethical aspects of research of the Dutch Sociological Association (NSV) can be found on their website (http://www.nsv-sociologie.nl/?page_id=17). If you have doubts about ethical or privacy aspects of your research study, discuss and resolve the matter with your EUR supervisor. If needed and if advised to do so by your supervisor, you can also consult Dr. Jennifer A. Holland, coordinator of the Sociology Master's Thesis program.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Project title: return intentions of refugees in the Netherlands: going 'home' or feeling at 'home'?

Name, email of student: Merel Volker – 586846mv@eur.nl

Name, email of supervisor: Kim Caarls - caarls@essb.eur.nl

Start date and duration: 1 January – 19 June

Is the research study conducted within DPAS

YES - NO

If 'NO': at or for what institute or organization will the study be conducted?
(e.g. internship organization)

PART II: HUMAN SUBJECTS

1. Does your research involve human participants. YES - ~~NO~~

If 'NO': skip to part V.

If 'YES': does the study involve medical or physical research? —YES - NO
Research that falls under the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act ([WMO](#)) must first be submitted to [an accredited medical research ethics committee](#) or the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects ([CCMO](#)).

2. Does your research involve field observations without manipulations that will not involve identification of participants. ~~YES~~ - NO

If 'YES': skip to part IV.

3. Research involving completely anonymous data files (secondary data that has been anonymized by someone else). YES - ~~NO~~

If 'YES': skip to part IV.

PART III: PARTICIPANTS

1. Will information about the nature of the study and about what participants can expect during the study be withheld from them? YES - NO

2. Will any of the participants not be asked for verbal or written 'informed consent,' whereby they agree to participate in the study? YES - NO

3. Will information about the possibility to discontinue the participation at any time be withheld from participants? YES - NO

4. Will the study involve actively deceiving the participants? YES - NO

Note: almost all research studies involve some kind of deception of participants. Try to think about what types of deception are ethical or non-ethical (e.g. purpose of the study is not told, coercion is exerted on participants, giving participants the feeling that they harm other people by making certain decisions, etc.).

5. Does the study involve the risk of causing psychological stress or negative emotions beyond those normally encountered by participants? YES - NO

6. Will information be collected about special categories of data, as defined by the GDPR (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a person, data concerning mental or physical health, data concerning a person's sex life or sexual orientation)? YES - NO

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 7. | Will the study involve the participation of minors (<18 years old) or other groups that cannot give consent? | YES - NO |
| 8. | Is the health and/or safety of participants at risk during the study? | YES - NO |
| 9. | Can participants be identified by the study results or can the confidentiality of the participants' identity not be ensured? | YES - NO |
| 10. | Are there any other possible ethical issues with regard to this study? | YES - NO |

If you have answered 'YES' to any of the previous questions, please indicate below why this issue is unavoidable in this study.

What safeguards are taken to relieve possible adverse consequences of these issues (e.g., informing participants about the study afterwards, extra safety regulations, etc.).

Are there any unintended circumstances in the study that can cause harm or have negative (emotional) consequences to the participants? Indicate what possible circumstances this could be.

Please attach your informed consent form in Appendix I, if applicable.

Continue to part IV.

PART IV: SAMPLE

Where will you collect or obtain your data?

DANS institute – they approved my request for the CBS SIM 2015 data set

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

What is the (anticipated) size of your sample?

626 persons

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

What is the size of the population from which you will sample?

626 Somalis > the total amount of respondents in the SIM 2015 dataset is 6829

Note: indicate for separate data sources.

Continue to part V.

Part V: Data storage and backup

Where and when will you store your data in the short term, after acquisition?

The data set is stored on my personal computer, to which only I have access. The data set is only shared with my supervisor

Note: indicate for separate data sources, for instance for paper-and pencil test data, and for digital data files.

Who is responsible for the immediate day-to-day management, storage and backup of the data arising from your research?

I am

How (frequently) will you back-up your research data for short-term data security?

The data will be backed up each time I have edited or used the data set. Furthermore, I can find the original data set on my DANS account. The data set is backed up on my computer, and not in the cloud.

In case of collecting personal data how will you anonymize the data?

The data is already anonymized

Note: It is advisable to keep directly identifying personal details separated from the rest of the data. Personal details are then replaced by a key/ code. Only the code is part of the database with data and the list of respondents/research subjects is kept separate.

PART VI: SIGNATURE

Please note that it is your responsibility to follow the ethical guidelines in the conduct of your study. This includes providing information to participants about the study and ensuring confidentiality in storage and use of personal data. Treat participants respectfully, be on time at appointments, call participants when they have signed up for your study and fulfil promises made to participants.

Furthermore, it is your responsibility that data are authentic, of high quality and properly stored. The principle is always that the supervisor (or strictly speaking the Erasmus University Rotterdam) remains owner of the data, and that the student should therefore hand over all data to the supervisor.

Hereby I declare that the study will be conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the Department of Public Administration and Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I have answered the questions truthfully.

Name student: Merel Volker

Name (EUR) supervisor: Kim Caarls

Date: 16 March 2022

Date: March 17, 2022

APPENDIX I: Informed Consent Form (if applicable)