Rural-Urban Comparison of Migrant Integration
Perceptions of residents from Groningen and Grootegast

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Abstract

Migrant integration is a continuous challenge for both the people in the host country, as for the migrants themselves. Often, integration is accompanied by discrimination. To which extent migrants integrate depends on a lot of factors, like the place of residence. In this research, the perceptions of people in the city of Groningen and the village of Grootegast were examined. The central question entails the following: "To what extent do the perceptions of people living in the city of Groningen towards migrants differ from the perceptions of people living in the village of Grootegast?". Residents were asked to respond via an online questionnaire, where they were asked about their background and their perceptions towards migrants. The answers the respondents gave, implied that migrants were not thought to pose a threat to either the Netherlands as a whole or to them personally. Instead, people are quite welcoming towards both family- and economic migration. To examine which variables influence these opinions, three Multiple Linear Regressions were done. Whether people come from Groningen or Grootegast, only seemed to influence views towards migrants' influence on culture. Whether natives feel like immigration has decreased and whether they feel threatened by migrants, does not seem to relate to living in a village or city. Most other variables that did relate to perceptions about migration show similar relationships as existing literature on refugees and non-western migrants did. Further, results indicate that a qualitative approach to views about migrants could offer interesting insights. Therefore, future researchers should think about using a mixed-methods approach while acknowledging the context in which natives live.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and research problem

Throughout history, the Netherlands has proven to be a tolerant country towards migrants (Bots, 1992). After migration, it is always questionable whether migrants will be accepted by the host country. This is something that has been researched by several academics (Lubbers & Scheepers, 2019; Lucassen & Penninx, 1985; Coenders et al., 2015; de Leeuw & van Wichelen, 2012). The last years, the Netherlands, just like the rest of Europe, had to deal with the influx of migrants mainly coming from the Middle East (Joris et al., 2018). Integration is the central concept relating to the influx of migrants. The meaning of integration is the mutual adaptation of people in a receiving country and the migrants themselves (IOM, 2017). Despite the fact that the integration of migrants has been researched in several studies, other approaches might be beneficial to the analysis of migration. This analysis is relevant because migration and discrimination often coincide (Elman, 2002; de Schutter, 2009; Ellermann, 2019). The discrimination of migrants is a problem that should be tackled when possible.

Mascareñas & Penninx (2016) described the process of integration in a conceptual model (figure 1). As can be seen in this model, many things are influencing how migrants integrate into a country. This includes several dimensions, the host country and the migrants themselves.
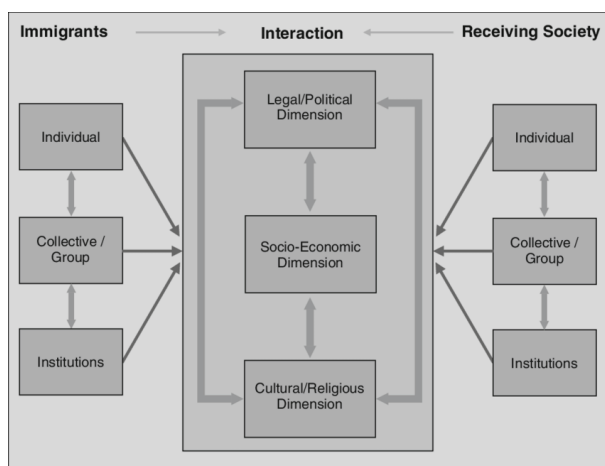

Figure 1: a model for the study of integration processes, Mascareñas & Penninx (2016).

For this research, the main focus is on the receiving country and its individuals. More specifically, residents of the city of Groningen and the village of Grootegast are the examined population. During the research, mainly the socio-economic dimension and the cultural-religious dimension were focused on. The central question belonging to this quantitative research is:

- "To what extent do the perceptions of people living in the city of Groningen towards migrants differ from the perceptions of people living in the village of Grootegast?".

Through the comparison of the perceptions of residents of both Groningen and Grootegast, possible conclusions can be made on the difference between the integration process of villages and cities. The reason why the village of Grootegast was chosen, is that the percentage of non-western migrants is

very low. In 2014, Grootegast had the lowest number of non-western migrants in the Netherlands.[1] In Groningen, the number of non-western migrants is approximately 6,1% (Statline, 2019). Because it is more likely that residents of Groningen are more frequently in contact with migrants, the possible effects of this contact can be tested. The first sub-question arising from the central question is formulated as:

- "How do residents of Groningen and Grootegast experience the number of migrants that moved to the Netherlands the last years?".

This question focuses on the perceived number of migrants. Might it be that residents of Grootegast feel like there are still a lot of migrants coming into the Netherlands, and how do residents of Groningen think about this. The second sub-question is:

- "What are the views of the residents of Groningen and Grootegast on migrants?".

This question focuses on the perceptions/feelings about migrants. The third sub-question is

- "Which characteristics from residents of Groningen and Grootegast seem to relate to their views towards migrants ?".

The third sub-question is about finding out whether certain personal characteristics lead to certain opinions about migrants. With the combination of these three questions, an answer to the central question will be possible.

1.2 Structure of the thesis

In the next chapter, the analyses of migrant integration by different academics are discussed. This entails an overview of existing theories and views on migration. Then, the conceptual model and hypotheses are discussed in order to give a clear description of what this thesis is about. Next, the methodology section states how respondents on the questionnaire were sought, how data was collected, and which ethical considerations had to be made. The results section gives the demographic statistics of the respondents as well as an analysis of the statistical tests. In the final chapter, own findings and existing theories are linked. Also, the shortcomings of the research and future recommendations are given.

2. Theoretical framework

2.1 Literature

With the rise of migration in the last decades, academics have studied the consequences for both the host countries as for the migrants themselves. Rea et al. (2016) write about the discrimination of migrants. According to them, migrants especially encounter problems in the labour market and racial discrimination takes place because of their cultural background. Scholars also examined how views towards migrants might be influenced in a positive or a negative way. For instance, the influence of contact between migrants and natives is examined (Bohrer et al., 2019). As a working theory, Bohrer et al. (2019) took the contact hypothesis by Allport (1954). According to this theory, people become more positive towards minorities when they are more frequently in contact with each other. Although Bohrer et al. (2019) did not find a similar effect, the contact hypothesis is an interesting way of looking at the acceptance of migrants. Steenbekkers et al. (2017), argue that city dwellers are more positive towards migrants because they have more positive experiences as opposed to

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[1] https://www.nu.nl/groningen/3932777/minste-niet-westerse-allochtonen-in-groningse-grootegast.html
Retrieved on 22-02-2020 from.

villagers. The somewhat opposite of the contact hypothesis is the threat hypothesis. Stephan et al. (2008) analyse this. They explain that native people might feel threatened by migrants. This could for instance be because of the migrants possibly taking over the jobs of native people. However, the views of European people towards immigrants heavily depend on the subject. For instance, Dennison & Dražanová (2003) show that views of Europeans towards migrants vary from topic to topic. When it comes to crime, immigration is seen as something negative, while migrants' influence on culture is seen as something positive. Further, Europeans do not seem to have a clear opinion when it comes to the influence of immigrants on the national economy, quality of life, jobs and government accounts.

CBS (2018) included questions about culture for their analysis of the Dutch population. In their report, the dissension of opinions about immigrants their influence on culture is clear. Some people see immigrants as an enrichment of the Dutch culture, while a similar amount does not. The reason why people migrate also influences the views of natives towards these immigrants. Some people migrate because they want to join their family who already lives in another country, which is called family migration. Another reason for migration is that people think they have better chances on the labour market in another country, which is called economic/labour migration (Kofman, 2018). Opinions about economic migration are often less negative because these migrants are seen as motivated to join the labour market. Family migrants though, are more often seen as people that will not contribute to the host country economically (Raghuram, 2004).

Despite the vast research done in the field of migration and integration, a lot still has to be examined. Because residents of cities and villages have different ways of reacting to migrants, it might help when specific cases are researched. This is why a comparison of the city of Groningen and the village of Grootegast could be useful. Will perceptions by residents of Groningen and Grootegast follow a similar path as described by the contact hypothesis, or might it be that the threat hypothesis is closer to the truth. Also, migration is evolving which means that the need for research on this topic will last. The concept that is central in this research is integration. As described earlier, the concept of integration is examined through the eyes of people in the receiving places Groningen and Grootegast. The comparison of villages and cities might be interesting because there are certain social differences between them. Especially, differences in social capital might influence the integration of migrants. Putnam (2000, cited by Sørensen, 2016) makes a distinction between bridging and bonding social capital. Sorensen (2016) analysed this and found some evidence for more bridging social capital in urban areas. This means that in urban areas an in-group and an out-group share social capital. In other words, urban areas would be more open to sharing social capital with groups outside the community than rural areas. This supports the possible relevance of a comparison between cities and villages. Because of the different social reactions towards outsiders, the integration patterns might differ between a city and a village.

The main idea of this research is shown with the help of a conceptual model. The two important concepts in the model (figure 2) are perceptions and integration. The perceptions of the residents of Groningen and Grootegast directly relate to the openness towards the integration of migrants by the Dutch natives. For example, it might be that residents of Groningen are very negative towards migrants which would mean that it is harder for migrants to integrate into the city of Groningen. The model was tested with the use of a questionnaire (appendix 2). In this questionnaire, the perceptions of Dutch natives about migrants were examined. The same questionnaire was distributed among both residents of Groningen as residents of Grootegast. In this way, the same data was used for a meaningful comparison. This is why the conceptual model shows two parts with the perceptions of Groningen on the one hand and perceptions of residents of Grootegast on the other hand. These two parts were combined and compared to see whether there was a meaningful difference.
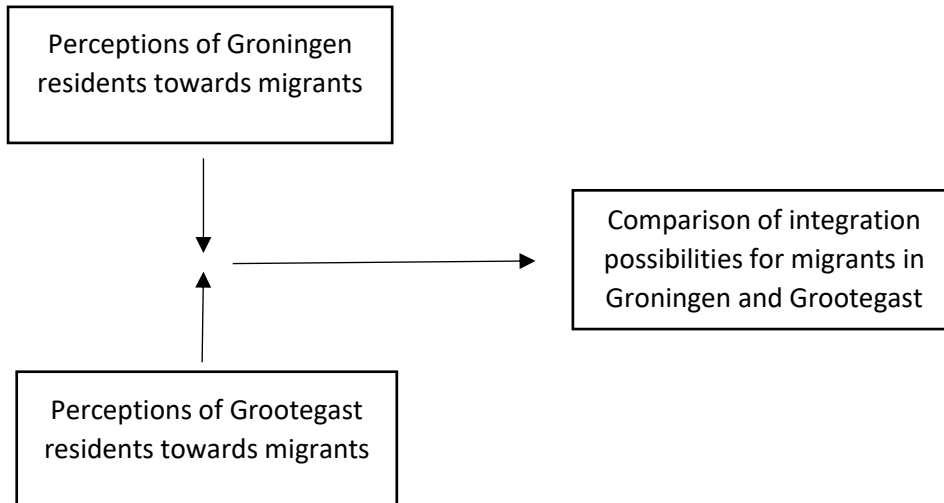
Figure 2 Integration of migrants from the perspective of people living in Groningen and Grootegast.

2.2 Hypotheses

In quantitative research, hypotheses can be made in advance to see what possible outcomes in the research will be. The null hypothesis for this research is that people in the village of Grootegast will be more negative towards migrants than people in the city of Groningen. This hypothesis is in line with the contact hypothesis of Allport (1954) and for example with the difference in social capital as described by Sorensen (2016). The alternative hypothesis is that residents of the city of Groningen are more negative towards migrants. This would be in accordance with the threat hypothesis used by, among others, Stephen et al. (2008). Several statistical tests were done, to analyse both samples and to compare them. Three multiple linear regressions with different dependant variables were done. This is a model where multiple independent variables are used to explain a dependant variable (Burt et al., 2009). The samples of Groningen and Grootegast were analysed together in these regressions, with a focus on relationships between variables.

Because three different multiple linear regressions are included in this thesis, there are more specific hypotheses directly relating to these tests. After discussing the regressions, the outcome of these tests will be combined in order to give an answer to the research questions.

The null-hypotheses in this research are:

H01: The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding a decrease in the number of migrants.
H02: The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding feeling threatened by migrants.
H03: The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding migrants being negative for culture.

The alternative hypotheses are:
H1: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding a decrease in the number of migrants.
H2: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding feeling threatened by migrants.
H3: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding migrants being negative for culture.

3. Methodology

3.1 Sampling

The way in which data was collected, was with the use of a questionnaire. This is a manner of quantitative data collection. The paradigm that connects to this is positivism. Positivism can be described as "a methodological philosophy in quantitative research where we will apply the methods of natural sciences to discover the study of social science" (Crotty, 1998, p8-9, cited by Pham, 2018). The selection of people that were approached was done with the help of Geodienst Groningen. They provided a list of addresses of people in Groningen and Grootegast. From this list, 500 addresses in Groningen and 400 addresses in Grootegast were randomly selected using excel. Then, the letter (Appendix 1.2) was sent to all 900 addresses. In Grootegast, 40 people filled in the questionnaire which means the response rate was 10%. In Groningen 58 residents responded, resulting in a response rate of 11.6% (table 1).

		Frequency	Percent
Answer	Groningen	58	59,2
	Grootegast	40	40,8
	Total	98	100,0

Table 1: Place of residence

3.2 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is acknowledged as an instrument known for its reliability and validity (Taherdoost, 2016). Reliability and validity are all about measuring what you are supposed to measure and covering the area that you want to research (Ghauri and Gronhaug, 2005, cited by Taherdoost, 2016; Field, 2005, cited by Taherdoost, 2016). Scholars use questionnaires to get data about knowledge, attitudes, opinions, behaviours, facts and more (Radhakrishna, 2007). In this research, the opinions of the residents of Groningen and Grootegast are of main interest. The questionnaire (appendix 2), is divided into two sections. First, the respondents were asked to give some general information about their age, gender, level of education and migration background. In the letter that was sent to the respondents, there was quite a general description of a migrant: 'people who voluntarily come to the Netherlands and who are planning to live here'. The voluntariness of migration is something that is expected to bring up relatively negative thoughts as opposed to involuntary migration (Verkuyten, Mepham & Kros, 2017). This makes comparisons with studies about involuntary refugee migration possible. Because of the general description of a migrant, the respondents were not asked to answer a question about the amount of contact they have with people with a migrant background. Such a question was not added, because it is likely that not all people know whether someone has a migrant background or not. Still, respondents from Groningen are expected to be more in contact with migrants than respondents from Grootegast. Because this might not be true for every respondent, this is not included as an undoubted explanation of possible differences.

Then, in the second part of the questionnaire, more specific questions were asked. In the second part of the questionnaire, respondents were able to answer on a Likert-Scale from 0 (totally disagree) to 10 (totally agree). A Likert-Scale was used, because of advantages for the respondents and the data that is collected. For instance, it is easier for a respondent to answer questions using extremes (Nemoto & Beglar, 2014). Also, the data out of Likert-scale answers can be treated as interval data (Brown, 2011). This makes a multiple linear regression possible. In order to be able to analyse the multiple linear regressions, certain variables had to be recoded and changed into a dummy variable. First, place of residence was recoded with Groningen as the reference category. Secondly, a dummy was created for gender with male being the reference category. The third variable that was recoded, is education. The reference category exists of ´basisonderwijs´, ´vmbo´, ´Mbo/MAVO' and 'Anders'.

Basisonderwijs is primary education. Vmbo is pre-vocational secondary education. Mbo/MAVO entails secondary vocational education and 'anders' means different education. For the last variable, ´no migrant background´ is the reference category.

3.3 Ethics

During data collection, there were several ethical considerations to think about. First of all, the answers of residents from Grootegast and Groningen had to be anonymous. In this way, people do not feel obliged to give societal acceptable answers. Furthermore, the way in which the questions and the migrants are described had to be thought of. Because it is such a heated topic, questions should not hurt people. Another important thing is that people who filled in the questionnaire had to know what the data would be used for and what they agreed to when answering the questions. As much as possible was included and explained in the letter (appendix 1). The final and maybe most important consideration was the positionality of the researcher. In this research, my personal views on migration and integration should not in any case harm the outcome. This means that, like in any research, objectivity is very important for successful conclusions. Also, the fact that a male Dutch researcher carries out this research could bias the research, because it is about the integration of foreign migrants. The fact that answers were analysed using statistical tests helped with preventing a lack of objectivity. Furthermore, interpretation of the results was done with caution.

4. Results

4.1 Demographics

The 98 respondents in Groningen and Grootegast are between 18 and 80 years old (figure 3). The mean age of the respondents is approximately 42 years. About half of the respondents were male and half were female (Table 2). The respondents have varying educational backgrounds (Ibid.). In this research, the respondents with a relatively lower level of education (section 3.2) are compared to the higher educated. Further, 91.8% of the respondents did not have a migration background (Table 2).
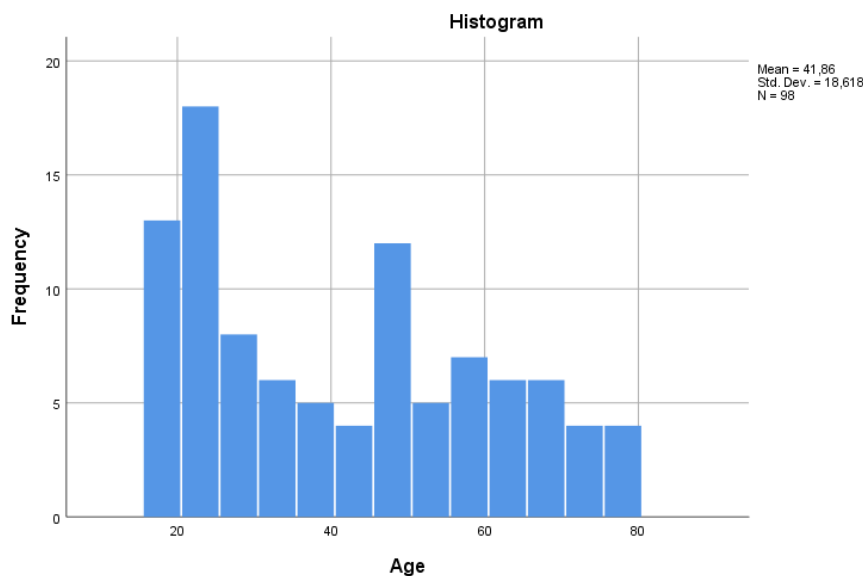

Figure 3: Graphical representation of the age of the respondents

Aspect	Answer	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	50	51,0
	Female	48	49,0
Education	Anders (Different)	1	1,0
	Havo (Senior general secondary education)	7	7,1
	HBO (Higher professional education)	33	33,7
	MBO (Secondary vocational education)	14	14,3
	Vmbo/MAVO (Pre-vocational secondary education)	9	9,2
	Vwo/gymnasium (Pre-university education)	8	8,2
	Wetenschappelijk onderwijs (University education)	26	26,5
Migration background	Yes	8	8,2
	No	90	91,8

Table 2: Demographics of the respondents

4.2 Questionnaire results

In table 3, the descriptive statistics of the responses to question 6 until and including 11 are given. As described previously, respondents were able to answer from a scale of 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree). Also, an overview including a label and measurement level is given to clarify what the abbreviations of the variables mean that are used in this research (Appendix 3). When looking at the mean, a number below 5 shows that people on average are disagreeing with the statement. A number above 5 shows an average agreement. For questions 7 up to and including 9, a lower mean response would entail better integration possibilities. In the case of questions 10 and 11, a higher mean would result in better chances for integration. The mean is used instead of the median because it uses every value and therefore gives a good image of the overall dataset (Manikandan, 2011). The table below shows that people seem to be slightly disagreeing with the statement that the number

of migrants that are coming into the Netherlands is decreasing. Also, the respondents of Groningen and Grootegast do not seem to think migrants have a negative impact on safety or the Dutch culture. Even more clear, is that they do not feel threatened by migrants. Finally, the mean response on questions 10 and 11 show that respondents seem to be slightly welcoming towards economic and family migration. People seem to be more welcoming to economic migrants, although the difference is minimal. The latter is in line with Raghuram (2004) his analysis of family migration, where he argues that people expect that economic migrants bring skills. Because economic migrants are expected to contribute more to the host country, people are less negative about them. An important note is that the mean only gives a general view of the responses. The standard deviation shows that the respondents´ answers vary a lot, especially on question 9 (3,059).

Descriptive statistics

Survey question number and variable name	6 Decrease_immigr ation	7 Negative_safety	8 Threatened	9 Negative_culture	10 Economic_migran ts_welcome	11 Family_migrants_ welcome
N Valid	98	98	98	98	98	98
Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mean	4,35	3,24	1,90	3,34	6,43	6,32
Std. Deviation	2,056	2,508	2,236	3,059	2,390	2,704

Table 3: Descriptive statistics questions 7-12

Apart from the answers on questions 6 up until and including 11 some respondents gave interesting comments where they wanted to clarify their feelings. For instance respondent 40:

"Many migrants have important values of life, that our society has lost and do not find important anymore. Be open to your fellow man, be in contact and have respect. On the other side, I understand opponents, because there are some rogues. But the same is true for Dutch people."

Respondent 45 said the following:
"Inside the EU, there are already rules present which we respect. Irrespective of this, we think it is important that people with a different cultural background respect our essential values (freedom of religion, sexual orientation, equality and democratic principles).

A third clarification was from respondent 48:

"If people contribute, I think it all about 'living and letting others live'. Unfortunately, there is not always mutual respect.".

All these three examples show that not all answers to the questionnaire are as straightforward as they seem. On the one hand, people might be welcoming towards migrants but they might also realise not all migrants are contributing to the host country.

4.3 Multiple linear regression: *Decrease_immigration*
Next to the descriptive statistics of question 6 up to and including 11, multiple linear regressions tell whether the three variables *Decrease_*Immigration, *Threatened* and *Negative_culture* are influenced by other variables from the data set. In other words, the regressions show whether certain characteristics of respondents increase the acceptance of migrants and the integration possibilities. *Decrease_Immigration* was chosen, because it is specifically about the sub-question "How do residents of Groningen and Grootegast experience the number of migrants that moved to the Netherlands the last years?". The variable *Threatened* outlines the overall view towards migrants, which is why this variable comes closest to summarizing the sub-question "What are the views of the

residents of Groningen and Grootegast on migrants?". The variable *Negative_culture* is something that many comparable studies examine, which makes it an interesting focal point.

For the first linear regression, the dependent variable exists of the answers to question 6 (Appendix 2). Therefore, the regression calculated which variables have a linear relationship with whether someone thinks there has been a decrease in immigration towards the Netherlands in the last years or not. As table 4 indicates, the ANOVA shows that the regression is significant (0,000<0,05). Because of a significant result, **H0: '**The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding a decrease in the number of migrants', can be rejected. Instead, we accept the alternative hypothesis: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding a decrease in the number of migrants.

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	186,060	10	18,606	7,222	,000[b]
	Residual	224,144	87	2,576		
	Total	410,204	97			

Table 4: ANOVA Decrease_immigration

Because most variables are insignificant, only two are included in table 5. Controlled for all other variables, the age of the respondents (0,000) and whether they feel threatened by migrants (0,049) are significant. This means that there is a relationship between *Age, Threatened* and the dependent variable *Decrease_Immigration.* More specifically, every point that Age increases, people seem to agree 0,040 more with the statement that there has been a decrease in immigration towards the Netherlands in the last years. However, total immigration to the Netherlands in 2017-2019 has risen (CBS, 2020). Therefore, it seems like older people more often view the number of migrants differently than the truth. Younger people might be more in contact with migrants than older people, which is why they view the migration numbers differently. Also, for every point that people feel more threatened by migrants, people disagree 0,251 more with the statement that immigration has decreased. This is in accordance with Porter & Russel (2018) their article on migration. They confirm there are more negative views towards immigrants when immigration increases.

Variables	B	Sig.	Part
Age	,040	,000	,344
Threatened	-,251	,049	-,158

Table 5: Significant relationships Decrease_immigration

R-squared (table 6), tells the degree of linear association between the independent variables together and the dependent variable (Burt et al., 2009). R-squared shows that 45,4% of the variance of *Decrease_Immigration* is explained by the independent variables. In table 5, the part/semi-partial correlation is given. The part or semi-partial correlation shows the influence of one specific variable on R-squared. When the part correlation is between 2% and 12.99%, there is a small effect size. From 13% to 25.99% there is a medium effect size. Finally, a large effect size is present when the part correlation is higher than 26% (Cohen, 1988, cited by Hashway, 2001). For *Age*, there seems to be a large positive effect, whereas *Threatened* shows a medium negative effect on the R-squared of this regression.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,673[a]	,454	,391	1,605

Table 6: Model summary Decrease_immigration

4.4 Multiple linear regression: *Threatened*

The second linear regression took *Threatened* as the dependant variable. Also here, the model as a whole came out significant (Table 7: 0,000<0,05). Therefore, **H02:** 'The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding feeling threatened by migrant', can be rejected. Instead, **H2** is accepted: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding feeling threatened by migrants.

ANOVA[a]

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	328,974	10	32,897	18,346	,000[b]
	Residual	156,005	87	1,793		
	Total	484,980	97			

Table 7: ANOVA Threatened

The regression found 4 significant linear relationships between certain variables, controlled for all other variables. *Gender 2* (0,048), *Negative_safety* (0,004), *Negative_*culture (0,000) and *Decrease_immigration* (0,049) appeared to be significant. As described in table 8, gender has a negative linear relationship with feeling threatened by migrants. When *Gender2* increases with one point, which means the amount of male respondents increases, -0,591 people feel threatened by immigrants. CBS (2018), found that male respondents usually are more negative towards refugees. Apparently, there might be a difference between views towards refugees and migrants when it comes to gender. Additional qualitative research could tell more about why male respondents feel less threatened by migrants. Apart from that, an increase of one for people that think migrants are negative for the safety of the Dutch society, predicts an increase of 0,289 people that feel threatened by migrants. Hence, a negative influence on the Dutch society as a whole implicates an individual feeling of threat. Furthermore, an increase of one point for people that think migrants are negative for the Dutch culture predicts an increase of 0,358 for people that feel threatened. The same is true for views towards refugees. When people think refugees are negative for the Dutch culture, they also think refugees cause a threat to safety (Ibid). Finally, one point extra for agreeing with a decrease of immigration the last years, predicts -0,175 for people that feel threatened. The last relationship was already discussed in the previous regression, where Porter & Russel (2018) confirm this.

Variables	B	Sig.	Part
Gender2	-,591	,048	-,122
Negative_safety	,289	,004	,181
Negative_culture	,358	,000	,284
Decrease_immigration	-,175	,049	-,121

Table 8: Significant relationships Threatened

The R-squared (table 9) shows that the independent variables explain 67,8% of the variance of *Threatened*. As an individual variable, *Gender2* has a small negative effect on R-squared. For *Negative_safety,* there is a medium positive effect. *Negative_culture* has a large positive effect and *Decrease_immigration* has a small negative effect (Table 8).

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,824[a]	,678	,641	1,339

Table 9: Model summary Threatened

4.5 Multiple linear regression: *Negative_culture*

The third multiple linear regression, with *Negative_culture* as the dependent variable, turned out to be significant as well (Table 10: 0,000<0,05). **H03:** 'The variables in the questionnaire do not influence perceptions regarding migrants being negative for culture' is rejected and the alternative hypothesis, **H3** is accepted: The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding migrants being negative for culture.

ANOVAª

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	664,220	10	66,422	23,716	,000ᵇ
	Residual	243,667	87	2,801		
	Total	907,888	97			

Table 10: ANOVA Negative_Culture

In table 11, five significant relationships are visible, controlled for the other variables. For every point that *Residence2* increases, which means an increase in the number of people from Grootegast, the number of people that think migrants have a negative influence on the Dutch culture rises with 1,154. *Negative_culture* turns out to be the only variable that has a linear relationship with *Residence2*. Residents from less urbanised areas are usually more negative towards refugees including their influence on culture (CBS, 2018). In the case of culture, the same trend is shown for residents of Grootegast. Dennison & Dražanová (2018), show that people generally are more negative towards migrants when they are not from a heterogeneous neighbourhood. Grootegast is such a village. Steenbekkers et al. (2017), also expected that people from a village are more negative towards migrants. In the case of a one-point increase in gender, which is an increase in the number of male respondents, there is an expected increase of 0,871 for *Negative_culture*. That male respondents are more negative towards the influence of migrants on the Dutch culture, is in line with what CBS stated about the male perceptions towards refugees (2018). The third variable that is significant in this regression, is *Migration_Background*. For every point that the number of respondents without a migration background increases, *Negative_culture* increases with 1,690. Views towards refugees show a similar relationship, where people without a migrant background are more negative towards refugees (Ibid). In case of a one-point increase of people feeling threatened and people thinking migrants are negative for the Dutch safety, *Negative_culture* rises with 0,559 and 0,489 respectively. Coenders et al. (2003), confirmed the relationship between negative individual perceptions towards migrants when they were thought to cause a collective threat.

Variables	B	Sig.	Part
Residence2	1,154	,004	,165
Gender2	,871	,019	,133
Migration_background2	1,690	,012	,142
Threatened	,559	,000	,259
Negative_safety	,489	,000	,234

Table 11: Significant relationships Negative_Culture

The R-squared shows that the variables in this regression account for 73,2% of the variance of *Negative_culture* (Table 12). For this variance, *Residence2*, *Gender2*, *Migration_background*, *Threatened* and *Negative_safety* all have a medium positive effect (Table 11).

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,855ᵃ	,732	,701	1,674

Table 12: Model summary Negative_Culture

5. Conclusion

5.1 Summary

This research contributed to the knowledge about migrant integration. More specifically it compared the openness towards migrant integration through the eyes of residents of Groningen and Grootegast. Taking the respondents from Groningen and Grootegast together, people seem to be welcoming to both family as well as economic migration. Also, they do not seem to agree that migrants are negative for the Dutch culture and safety. Even more clear, is that people do not agree with the statement that they feel threatened. Finally, people slightly disagree with the statement that there has been a decrease in immigration towards the Netherlands in the last years, which is in accordance with migration numbers (CBS, 2020).

'The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding a decrease in the number of migrants.'
Focusing on relationships between specific variables, *Age* has a large positive effect on *Decrease_immigration*: older people think immigration has declined in the last years. Older people might be less in contact with migrants as opposed to younger people, which is how this difference could be explained. The variable *Threatened* has a medium negative effect on *Decrease_immigration*. Porter & Russel (2018) showed the same relationship: when immigration rises, more people feel threatened by migrants. Whether people live in Groningen or Grootegast does not seem to relate to the statement 'I feel like the number of migrants coming into the Netherlands has declined the last couple of years.'.

'The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding feeling threatened by migrants.'
People their statement on whether they feel threatened by migrants, is in relation to four variables. *Gender2* has a small negative effect on *Threatened*: male respondents feel less threatened by migrants. When it comes to refugees, CBS (2018) saw the opposite relationship. *Negative_safety* has a medium positive effect on *Threatened*, while *Negative_culture* has a large positive effect: people that think migrants are negative for the Dutch safety and culture feel more threatened by migrants. CBS (2018) saw the same relationship when it is about refugees. *Decrease_immigration* has a small negative effect on *Threatened*, which is previously discussed using the argument of Porter & Russel (2018). Also here, the place of residence does not seem to relate to whether people feel threatened by migrants.

'The variables in the questionnaire do influence perceptions regarding migrants being negative for culture.'
Five variables relate to whether people think migrants have a negative effect on the Dutch culture.

All of these variables have a medium positive effect on *Negative_culture*. When *Residence2* increases, which means an increase of people from Grootegast, there are more negative thoughts about migrant influence on the Dutch culture. This has also been shown in the case of refugees (CBS, 2018). An explanation could be that city dwellers are more in contact with migrants as opposed to residents of a village, which causes them to feel more positive about them (Steenbekkers et al., 2017). The contact hypothesis includes the latter way of thinking about the acceptance of migrants (Allport, 1954). Besides, Grootegast is a relatively homogeneous village as opposed to Groningen. People from a homogeneous environment seem to feel more negative towards migrants (Dennison & Dražanová, 2018). When the number of male respondents increases (*Gender2*), more people are negative about migrant influence on culture. When it comes to refugees, the same is true (CBS, 2018). An explanation for the relative negative opinion of male respondents about migrant influence on culture could be that men are less open to change as opposed to women. Qualitative research, like a focus group or doing interviews could tell whether this is a valid explanation. When the number of people without a migrant background rises, so does *Negative_culture.* The same conclusion is true for refugees (Ibid). Also, an increase of people that feel threatened and feel that migrants are negative for safety, increases the chance of a higher *Negative_culture*. A feeling of an outgroup posing a collective threat seems to relate to an individual feeling of threat (Coenders et al., 2003).

'To what extent do the perceptions of people living in the city of Groningen towards migrants differ from the perceptions of people living in the village of Grootegast?'
In the three regressions, feelings about family migration, economic migration and level of education do not seem to have a relationship at all. Wrapping up this research, people from Groningen and Grootegast are quite welcoming towards migrants and do not feel threatened by them. Therefore, integration possibilities for migrants seem positive. Relationships are often in accordance with existing literature, even if existing literature focuses on non-western migrants or refugees specifically. It seems like place of residence only relates to feelings about migrants' influence on culture. People from Grootegast seem to think migrants are more negative for culture as opposed to people from Groningen. Perceptions of residents of Groningen and Grootegast therefore only partly differ. Based on this research, migrants will integrate better in Groningen when it comes to cultural backgrounds. Based on the other variables however, the process of migrant integration in Groningen or Grootegast is expected to be equally challenging.

5.2 Discussion
Unfortunately, doing research includes making mistakes. In this research, some shortcomings should be discussed. First of all, some terms in the questionnaire and the introductory letter to the respondents could have been more specific. The description of a migrant in appendix 1.1/1.2 is not wrong per se, but it might have been more clear when the questionnaire would have been about non-western migrants specifically. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see how views towards migrants in general correspond to opinions about refugees and non-western migrants. The same is true for question 5 (Appendix 2). It might have been better when the question would have included a more specific description of when you can speak of having a migrant background. For instance, some might feel like they have a migrant background when they are third-generation immigrants while others do not. Apart from these linguistic shortcomings, the choice for a quantitative study has to be reviewed. In chapter 4.2, some qualitative answers are given, which show that quantitative answers on this topic are not always clear-cut. Despite the benefits of a quantitative study, like being able to approach a large part of the population, interviews with respondents could give clarifications. For future research, academics using a quantitative or qualitative approach towards the study of migrant integration should not rule out either of those. Especially for migration, a mixed-methods approach could increase usefulness. Also, studies should keep comparing opinions of people while keeping

their background, like living in a village or city, in mind. When the previous things are thought through and such research is continued, future migrant integration will hopefully be less of a challenge.

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7. Appendix

7.1.1 The English version of the letter to the respondents

Dear Mr/Mrs,

As part of my study Human Geography and Urban & Regional planning, I wish to research people their perceptions on migrants. Migrants are people who voluntarily move to another country and who will live there. This should not be mistaken with refugees, who are somehow forced to leave their home country because of things like discrimination. In this case, it is about people who voluntarily come to the Netherlands and who are planning to live here. Please keep this in mind while filling in the questionnaire.

To research the perceptions of people on this topic, I am asking residents of Groningen and Grootegast to fill in this questionnaire. You are randomly selected and I would like to ask you to go the following link 'www.vragenlijstmigratie.nl' to answer the questions. Filling in the questionnaire should only take about five minutes and would help me a lot. It is important that you know that the answers you give are completely anonymous and will only be used for this thesis. Only people at the university will be able to read about this research. When there are any questions after filling in the questionnaire, feel free to email these to the email written below. I would try to answer these as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Jelmer Schuil

j.schuil@student.rug.nl.

7.1.2 The Dutch version of the letter to the respondents

Geachte heer/mevrouw,

Voor de studie Human Geography and Urban & Regional Planning, wil ik mensen hun percepties wat betreft migranten onderzoeken. Migranten zijn mensen die vrijwillig naar een ander land verhuizen. Dit moet niet in de war gehaald worden met vluchtelingen, die op een of andere manier gedwongen worden om hun thuisland te verlaten door bijvoorbeeld discriminatie. In deze vragenlijst, gaat het om mensen die vrijwillig naar Nederland komen en van plan zijn hier te gaan wonen.

Om de percepties van mensen wat betreft migranten te onderzoeken, vraag ik inwoners van Groningen en Grootegast om een vragenlijst in te vullen. U bent willekeurig geselecteerd en ik zou u daarom willen vragen om via uw smartphone/computer/etc. naar de volgende link te gaan: "www.vragenlijstmigratie.nl" en de vragenlijst in te vullen. U zou me heel erg helpen wanneer u tijd vrij kunt maken de vragenlijst in te vullen. Het invullen duurt ongeveer 5 minuten. De antwoorden die u geeft blijven volledig anoniem en zullen alleen voor deze scriptie gebruikt worden. Enkel mijn begeleiding vanuit de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen zal toegang hebben tot het onderzoek. Aarzel niet te mailen naar onderstaande e-mail wanneer u vragen heeft. Ik zal proberen deze vragen zo spoedig mogelijk te beantwoorden.

Met vriendelijke groet,

Jelmer Schuil

j.schuil@student.rug.nl

7.2 Questionnaire

Background information

1. Where do you live?

A. Groningen B. Grootegast

2. What is your gender?

A. Male B. Female C. Other D. Prefer not to say

3. What is your age

A. 18-24 B. 25-34 C. 35-44 D. 45-54 E. 55-64 F. 65-74 G. 75 or older

4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

A. Less than high school B. High school C. MBO D. HBO E. University

5. Do you have a migrant background?

A. Yes B. No

5.1 When you do, could you describe it?

Questions concerning migrants

6. I feel like the number of migrants coming into the Netherlands has declined the last couple of years.

Totally disagree Totally agree 0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

7. Migrants negatively impact the safety of Dutch citizens. Totally disagree Totally agree

0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

8. I feel threatened by migrants.

Totally disagree Totally agree 0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

9. Migrants negatively impact the Dutch culture. Totally disagree Totally agree 0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

10. Economic migrants are welcome in the Netherlands. (An economic migrant is someone who moves to another country to increase their standard of living).

Totally disagree Totally agree

0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

11. Migrants who want to join their family, who already live in the Netherlands, are welcome to do so.

Totally disagree Totally agree 0----1----2----3----4----5----6----7---8----9----10

If there is anything else you want to add, please feel free to do so here:
....

Also, you can email j.schuil@student.rug.nl when you have any questions surrounding this questionnaire.

Thank you!

7.3 Overview of the variables used in regression

Variable name	Survey question number	Survey question label	Measurement level
Residence2	1	Place of residence	Dummy: Grootegast as reference category
Gender2	2	Gender	Dummy: male as reference category
Age	3	Age	Years
Education2	4	Level of education	Dummy: primary education, preparatory vocational education, senior secondary vocational education and different as reference category
Migration_background2	5.1	Whether people have a migrant background	Dummy: no migration background as reference category
Decrease_immigration	6	Whether people feel like the number of migrants has decreased in the last years	Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree
Negative_safety	7	Whether people feel like migrants are negative for the safety of the Dutch citizens	Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree
Threatened	8	Whether people feel threatened by migrants	Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree
Negative_culture	9	Whether people feel like migrants are negative for the Dutch culture	Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree
Economic_migrants_welcome	10	Whether people think economic migrants are welcome in the Netherlands	Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree

Family_migrants_welcome	11				Whether people think family migrants are welcome in the Netherlands			Likert scale 0-10. 0=Totally disagree 10=Totally agree

7.4 Multiple linear regression: Decrease_immigration

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients					
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Part	VIF
1	(Constant)	2,691	1,177		2,287	,025		
	Residence2	,294	,389	,071	,756	,452	,060	1,393
	Gender2	-,485	,357	-,118	-1,359	,178	-,108	1,210
	Age	,040	,009	,358	4,346	,000	,344	1,081
	Education2	,302	,434	,064	,696	,488	,055	1,325
	Migration_background2	-,652	,654	-,087	-,997	,322	-,079	1,220
	Negative_safety	-,118	,121	-,143	-,968	,336	-,077	3,492
	Threatened	-,251	,126	-,273	-1,997	,049	-,158	2,973
	Negative_culture	,045	,103	,067	,438	,662	,035	3,718
	Economic_migrants_welcome	,078	,087	,091	,900	,370	,071	1,623
	Family_migrants_welcome	,136	,083	,178	1,625	,108	,129	1,914

7.5 Multiple linear regression: *Threatened*

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients				
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.	Part	VIF
1	(Constant)	1,318	1,001		1,317	,191		
	Residence2	-,461	,322	-,102	-1,430	,156	-,087	1,370
	Gender2	-,591	,294	-,133	-2,009	,048	-,122	1,181
	Age	,016	,008	,134	1,965	,053	,119	1,260
	Education2	-,263	,362	-,051	-,728	,469	-,044	1,325
	Migration_background2	-,530	,546	-,065	-,971	,334	-,059	1,221
	Negative_safety	,289	,097	,324	2,976	,004	,181	3,204
	Negative_culture	,358	,077	,490	4,668	,000	,284	2,980
	Economic_migrants_welcome	-,067	,072	-,072	-,926	,357	-,056	1,623
	Family_migrants_welcome	,001	,071	,001	,012	,991	,001	1,972
	Decrease_immigration	-,175	,087	-,161	-1,997	,049	-,121	1,750

7.6 Multiple linear regression: Negative_culture

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Part	VIF
		B	Std. Error	Beta				
1	(Constant)	-1,745	1,249		-1,397	,166		
	Residence2	1,154	,388	,186	2,974	,004	,165	1,273
	Gender2	,871	,364	,143	2,393	,019	,133	1,160
	Age	-,008	,010	-,050	-,790	,432	-,044	1,306
	Education2	-,031	,454	-,004	-,067	,946	-,004	1,333
	Migration_background2	1,690	,662	,152	2,554	,012	,142	1,148
	Decrease_immigration	,049	,112	,033	,438	,662	,024	1,826
	Threatened	,559	,120	,409	4,668	,000	,259	2,486
	Economic_migrants_welcome	,070	,091	,055	,771	,443	,043	1,627
	Family_migrants_welcome	-,055	,088	-,048	-,621	,536	-,034	1,964
	Negative_safety	,489	,116	,401	4,220	,000	,234	2,930