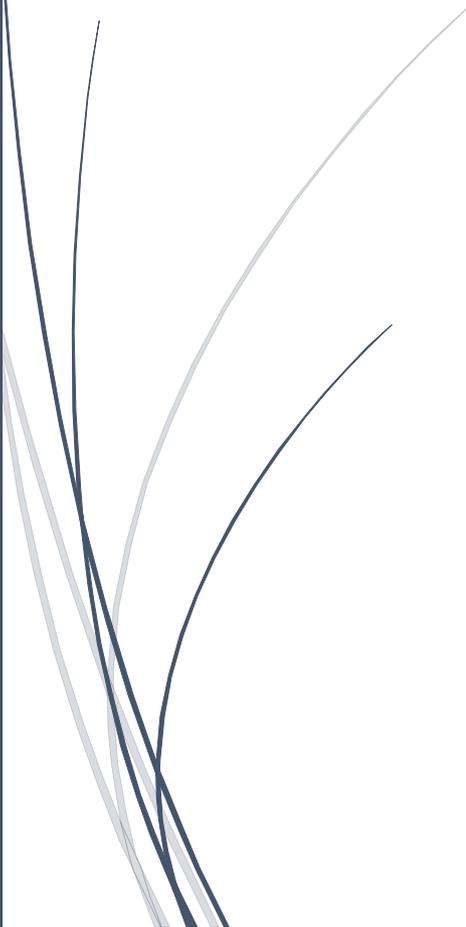




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Bachelor's thesis

Influence of place attachment and relevant external factors on return migration



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Summary

This research aims to gain more insight into the group of rural young adults born in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen and measure the effect of social and physical place attachment and relevant external factors on their willingness return to the home region. This thesis tries to answer the following main research question: *“To what extent does place attachment influence the return migration of young adults in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen?”*

To answer this research question a quantitative research method has been applied. The data is collected through a questionnaire that is handed out to young adults in the direct personal network of the researcher. Furthermore, an ordinal regression analysis is executed to analyse which factors influence the intention to migrate back towards the home region. In this regression all the respondents that either would potentially return or respondents that would not like to return are incorporated.

The results from this research present three major findings. The factor individual place attachment shows the most social place attachment impact on return migration. Accordingly, leisure services influences return migration from a physical place attachment perspective. Lastly, the factor finding a job has a positive influence as external factor. Solely, these three factors have a substantial influence on the potential return migration of young adults to the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The rural-urban divide is a phenomenon which is expanding in the near future in the Netherlands. Cities will attract young people, jobs and services. Whereas the rural areas will continue to struggle with the loss of these. In the upcoming decades the population in the Dutch' largest cities will continue to grow. As will some of the municipalities close to these cities. On the other hand the population size in more rural located municipalities will decrease. This is mainly caused by out-migration of young people towards cities. Thus, that leads to an increasing share of elderly in rural areas (CBS, 2016). These changes in the population dynamics could result in decline of rural facilities, such as schools, post-offices and shops. How to deal with the decline of local facilities and services is one of the main issues in depopulating areas. It is often feared that closure of a local facility will negatively affect the liveability of the village (Christiaanse & Haartsen, 2017).

However, why young adults stay in cities instead of moving back to their home regions is not clear enough by previous research. Du (2017) mentioned that, especially for the youth population, the factors place attachment and belonging tend to develop and change through migration. Thus, migration is likely to have a relation with place attachment. Place attachment consists of "bonds between people and place based on affection, cognition and practice" (Gieling, J., Vermeij, L., & Haartsen, T. (2017, p.238). There are several types of place attachment, but in this context the focus lies in particular on the distinction between social and physical place attachment. Besides place attachment, external factors are used as variables in the research that Haartsen & Thissen (2014) have done.

1.2 Research problem

Keeping rural areas vibrant and accessible is arguably important for the communities in these areas. In-migration of young people from cities towards rural areas could partly solve the rural-urban divide or could be at least a stimulation to diminish the growth differences between the urban and rural areas (Pedersen, 2018). Regarding Du (2017) migration is influenced by place attachment. This research focuses on gaining more insight in the relation between place attachment and migration towards the home region of young adults in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen. It results in the following research question:

"To what extent does place attachment influence the return migration of young adults in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen?"

The results from this research question could give an indication on which particular topics place attachment influences young adults' perspectives from Berkelland and Haaksbergen. The main research question is answered by multiple sub-questions:

- *How does social place attachment influence return migration?*
- *How does physical place attachment influence return migration?*
- *How do external factors influence return migration?*

1.3 Structure of this thesis

The central theories and concepts in this research are described in chapter 2. An operationalisation of these concepts can be found in the conceptual model. In the third chapter the methodology is explained; the research method, data collection and data analysis. In chapter 4 the results are described. Chapter 5 presents the conclusions and discussion. Followed by the references and the appendix.

2. Theoretical framework

2.1 Rural stayers and returners

Stockdale & Haartsen (2018) have conducted research on rural stayers. With rural stayers they imply individuals who have the desire and ability to stay in the rural region (Stockdale & Haartsen, 2018). These stayers are important for maintaining quality of life and sustainability of communities. Moreover, the understanding of staying processes of young adults can lead to improved policy interventions to help the ongoing rural brain drain and ageing of the rural populations (Stockdale, A., Theunissen, N., & Haartsen, T. 2018). Furthermore, Stockdale et al. (2018) mentioned that rural stayers are defined as those who never left or who temporarily left, but mentally stayed in the home region.

On the other hand according to Rye (2006) "persons who have out-migrated from the rural municipality where they grew up, but who have later returned to their home municipality" are 'returners'. Regarding Rye (2006), for this research young adults who live in a city at the moment and potentially would like to migrate back their home regions will be considered as return migrants or returners.

2.2 Place attachment

Gielsing et al. (2017) focussed their research on mobility and the various dimensions of place attachment. Regarding Gielsing et al. (2017, p.238) place attachment consists of "bonds between people and place based on affection, cognition and practice". There are several types of place attachment, but in their context the focus lies in particular on the distinction between social and physical place attachment.

Furthermore, Scannell & Gifford (2010) suggest a framework that consists of a multi-layered definition for place attachment. They have come up with an organizing framework in which place attachment is subdivided in three dimensions, person, process and place. Place has been the most important one of these place attachment dimensions. This is also mentioned by Hidalgo & Hernandez (2001), who set out place attachment in social and physical attachment. According to Scannell & Gifford (2010), social place attachment refers to the "bondedness" and physical place attachment to the "rootedness". In that way there is a distinction between social place attachment and physical place attachment.

2.3 Social place attachment

Social place attachment consists of local social contacts, social orientation and socio-cultural bonding. These are used as subdimensions of social place attachment. Local social contacts refers to the number of relationships a resident has within the village. Social orientation can be understood as the relative importance of these local relationships in a social network. Socio-cultural bonding defines an active engagement in local traditions, festivities and customs (Gielsing et al., 2017). This is often used as a sense of community in which families and friends play an important role. Gielsing et al. (2017) have focused their research on local newcomers.

Social capital has been defined as "the connections and relationships among and between individuals" (Gray, D., Shaw, J., & Farrington, J. 2006, p.90). The concept holds that these connections and relationships can bind individuals together for their mutual benefit. Besides, the link between social capital and access to services is measured as part of a quantitative analysis on subjective well-being (Brereton, F., Bullock, C., Clinch, J., & Scott, M., 2011). Social capital is defined and measured as voluntary work commitment which is different in relation to Gray et al. (2006).

2.4 Physical place attachment

Furthermore, Gieling et al. (2017) also made a similar distinction within physical place attachment. They have created two subdimensions: functional and environmental place attachment. The importance of a place in providing features that support specific activities is distinguished as functional place attachment. Due to an increase in mobility this type of place attachment has decreased over the last decades. For example bars, churches and airports can be seen as types of functional place attachment (Raymond, C., Brown, G., & Weber, D., 2010). Additionally, there is environmental place attachment, which refers to the bonds that individuals have with the space and natural areas that surround a village (Gieling et al., 2017). Raymond et al. (2010) mentioned parks, beaches and lakes as possible examples of environmental place attachment.

2.5 Relevant external factors

For this research relevant external factors need to be taken into account besides place attachment. The factors that are relevant for this research are finding a job and having a partner in the home region. Young adults with a functional orientation towards their home region are likely to return to the home region, because of a job. This corresponds with the kind of jobs that returnees try to find such as: teacher, lawyer, municipal officer and medical doctor (Haartsen & Thissen, 2014). Although some returnees are negative about future perspectives and more importantly when it comes to finding a job in the home region.

Furthermore, the importance of having a partner in the home region is very clear. In fact, mainly female returnees who have a relationship with their partner in the home region and consequently are more likely to return, because they indicated that the relationship started before their departure (Haartsen & Thissen, 2014). Accordingly, Dutch persons tend to choose spatially homogamous partners, this is influenced by demographic factors (Haandrikman, K., Van, W., Hutter, I., & Harmsen, C., 2008). Moreover, return migrants who have lived with their parents before cohabitation live significantly closer to their partners. Specifically people in their twenties find their partner relatively close by (Haandrikman et al., 2008). Therefore to measure external factors in this thesis, the factors finding a job and having a partner in the home region will be used.

2.6 Conceptual model

Young people are moving to cities for educational purposes or work relations (Haartsen & Thissen, 2014). In this research the influence of place attachment on migrating back towards the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen will be tested. This is put in perspective in the conceptual model. This will clarify which concepts are measured in this thesis. In the following section an operationalisation of what this thesis tries to research is provided.

The theory implies that there is a connection between place attachment and mobility (Gieling et al., 2017). Instead of using mobility, this research uses "return migration" as the dependent variable. Place attachment could have a significant influence on return migration and is therefore drawn through a continuous arrow. To measure place attachment in a correct way, it has to be divided into subdimensions. Regarding the theoretical framework, place attachment is divided into social place attachment and physical place attachment. They are drawn as specific independent variables in Figure 1. By applying a broader perspective towards return migration, relevant external factors also need to be taken into account. The factors that are useful for this research are finding a job and having a partner in the home region. To conclude, Figure 1 is a representation of what relations this thesis tries to research.

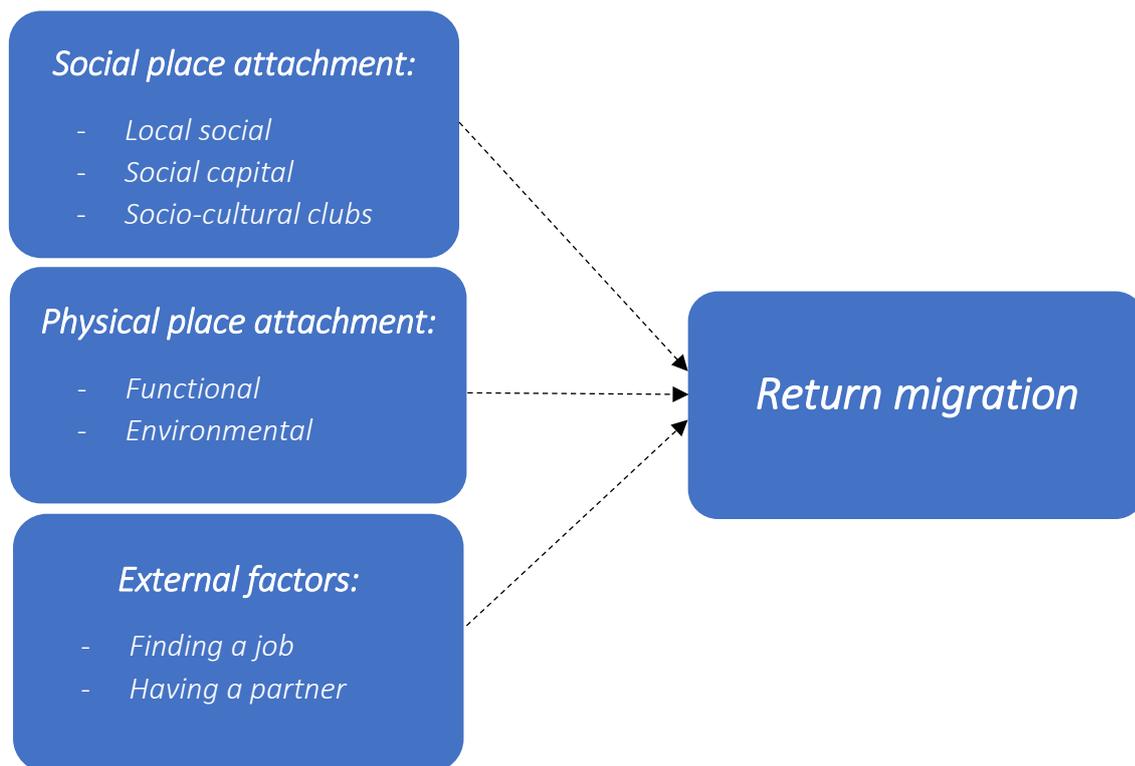


Figure 1: The conceptual model

2.7 Hypotheses

With regards to the existing literature about the main concepts, hypotheses can be formulated. Firstly, as social place attachment has been widely discussed in the literature. Bijker & Haartsen (2012) defined rural areas on three levels. Rural areas consist of popular, average and less-popular areas. Accordingly, they stated that migrants show the importance of living closer to family and friends could indicate the migration flow into less-popular areas. Thus, this thesis expects a positive and rather high impact of social place attachment on return migration, because these rural communities are close societies and therefore social place attachment is of much importance from this perspective.

On the other hand the impact of physical place attachment would be rather high on the decision to not migrate back. Due to the fact that in most rural depopulating villages facilities and public services are declining and in particular young adults do not mention a positive physical place attachment (Gielsing et al., 2017). This can be seen as a negative impact on the return migration.

The relevant external factors are predominantly based on aspects such as finding a job, having a partner as well as socio-demographic characteristics (Haartsen & Thissen, 2014). This can be seen as a negative impact on the return migration because a lack of jobs is often the reason for young adults to stay in cities.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data collection method

In this research the conceptual model is tested through a primary data collection that is conducted by a questionnaire. Questionnaire survey research is a method to explore people's perceptions, attitudes, experiences and spatial interactions in geographical context (Clifford, N., Cope, M., Gillespie, T., & French, S., 2016). On the other hand a qualitative approach would be useful for investigating complex behaviours, opinions and emotions (Clifford et al., 2016). The main research question is more quantitative in nature that tries to explore people's perceptions about return migration. For that reason a questionnaire is used, which can be found in the section: Appendix 1.

3.2 Research group and research area

For this research young adults who are born in the rural municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen, but now living in cities are useful as participants. Young adults are defined as people within the age group 18-25 years (Elsman, E., Rens, G., & Nispen, R., 2019). All municipalities in the Netherlands are classified based upon a certain urban level. This measure gives an indication from very urban (1) to not urban (5) (CBS, 2015). Both municipalities in this research are classified on the fourth level (CBS, 2015). Therefore both municipalities can be measured on the same rural level.

3.3 Questionnaire design

Return migration is measured on a Likert-scale, with answers varying from 1 till 5. Value 1: do not agree till the value 5: completely agree. The independent variables place attachment and external factors are also measured via the same Likert-scale.

The first part of the questionnaire deals with social place attachment. It consists of four questions in which the respondents can express their perspective on social place attachment. These are questions about the importance of family and friends measured as a level of social capital. Furthermore, the importance of social clubs and the town itself are analysed. Besides, physical place attachment is analysed through questions that are based on the importance of nature, leisure services, education and health care services, availability of shops and quality of housing. The external factors predominantly contain the variables finding a job and having a partner in the home region.

The questionnaire is conducted via Qualtrics and distributed with a link on social media. In the introduction text is mentioned that only young adults between 18 and 25 years born in the municipalities of Berkelland or Haaksbergen and now living in a city could respond. The data is collected in a short period from April till May 2019.

3.4 Data analysis

To determine whether the independent variables, social place attachment and physical place attachment, predict the ordinal dependent variable an ordinal regression is used.

In the analysis return migration is used as the dependent ordinal variable and place attachment and relevant external factors as independent ordinal variables. The independent variables can be implied in the same way as the questions in the questionnaire, because the type of questioning is categorical and thus an ordinal variable is automatically created.

The ordinal regression has a few assumptions which have to be taken into account. These four assumptions are: the dependent variable has to be ordinal, the independent variables are continuous, ordinal or categorical, there is no multicollinearity and the test includes proportional odds. If these assumptions are violated then the results from the ordinal regression are no longer able to be useful. Accordingly, the data has passed these assumptions and thus the ordinal regression can be used.

3.5 Ethical considerations

First of all, this research is close to personal motivations and beliefs that could lead to a one-sided vision due to the fact that a personal belief is used extensively in an objective thesis. Additionally, the questionnaire needs to be designed in a way that respondents feel at ease when answering the questions.

Regarding this, this research must keep in mind that physical place attachment at some points could imply an answer which corresponds with social place attachment. But according to Scannell & Gifford (2010) there is a distinction between social place attachment to which is referred as “bondedness” and physical place attachment as “rootedness”. Thus, there is a clear distinction between these concepts. This makes sure that endogeneity can be kept at a marginal level in this thesis. Furthermore, this research uses a form of accessibility sampling. In this way units are selected on the basis of convenience (Clifford et al., 2016). This entails a method in which the most accessible units from the research population are selected. Such method is most likely to have a biased sample.

The questionnaire has been posted on social media. An introduction text is included in the questionnaire through which the respondent could get used to the topic and gain insight on the nature of the questions. Moreover, the anonymity of filling in the questionnaire is addressed. Respondents are supposed to be aware of the fact that the questions are based on their willingness to migrate back to the home region. The questions are written down in Dutch and are easy to answer. The questionnaire contains a total of sixteen questions and the respondents’ answers are only used in this research and will not be made available for third parties. The data is transferred into SPSS immediately as soon as the respondents have filled in the questionnaire. To conclude, it is most important that this research handles the data in a correct way.

4. Results

4.1 Research group

This research focuses on the return migration of young adults from the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen. More than half of the research group are females (60%), the other part is male (40%). Young adults in the age between 18 and 25 are relevant for this thesis. 44 out of 47 respondents answered that question (93,6%). With that being said, the sample can be seen as representative especially for young adults born in these municipalities.

The mean age is 21,1 ($\pm 1,15$). Furthermore, the range varies from 18 to 24. Most of the respondents are born in the municipality of Berkelland. Respondents born in Eibergen or Neede make up for 29 out of 47 respondents (61,7%). The other respondents come from the municipality of Haaksbergen and they correspond with 13 out of 47 respondents (27,6%). Thus, in this thesis the focus lies on young adults who were born in for example Eibergen but now live in the city of Groningen for study relations.

Figure 2 shows the research area within a broader geographical scale. This figure shows the location of the respondents' home town, the respondents are born in this area but are now living in cities outside this area.



Figure 2: Research area

4.2 Descriptive statistics independent variables

The data analysis is based on questions with a Likert scale of 1 to 5. In the following section the two highest values of the Likert scale are combined. This also accounts for the two lowest values. Resulting in three categories: Important, neutral and less important. This part of the analysis is based on a description of what the respondents have answered and show their opinions about each independent variable that is measured in this research group.

4.2.1 Social place attachment

According to the theoretical framework, social place attachment is divided in four categories. These categories stress the importance of the place itself, family, friends and social clubs. Table 1 below shows that the respondents value family (87,2%) and friends (80,9%) as very important as part of their social place attachment. Social clubs is valued as less important (25,5%).

	Important (%)	Neutral (%)	Less important (%)
Social capital: family	87,2	10,6	2,1
Social capital: friends	80,9	10,6	8,5
Social orientation: individual place attachment	61,7	21,3	17,0
Socio-cultural: social clubs	25,5	21,3	53,2

Table 1: Importance of social place attachment factors (N=47)

4.2.2 Physical place attachment

Physical place attachment is divided in five categories: nature, leisure facilities, education and health care facilities, shops and retail facilities and availability of housing. As Table 2 shows that almost all respondents value nature as very important (93,5%). Furthermore, half of the respondents valued leisure facilities as important (45,7%). Approximately a quarter of the respondents appreciated availability of housing (28,2%), education and health care facilities (26,1%) and shops and retail facilities (26,1%) as important.

	Important (%)	Neutral (%)	Less important (%)
Environmental: nature	93,5	6,5	0
Functional: leisure facilities	45,7	23,9	30,4
availability of housing	28,2	56,6	15,2
education and health care facilities	26,1	17,4	56,5
shops and retail facilities	26,1	15,2	58,7

Table 2: Importance of physical place attachment factors (N=46)

4.2.3 Relevant external factors

Finding a job in the home region is important for almost a third of the respondents (28,3%). Besides, the importance of having a partner that lives and works in the home region is important for the greater part of the respondents (55,3%). This is shown below in Table 3.

	Important (%)	Neutral (%)	Less important (%)
Partner	55,3	31,9	12,8
Job	28,3	19,6	52,2

Table 3: Importance of external factors on return migration (N=46)

4.3 Relative importance of place attachment factors

As closing question of the questionnaire the respondents were asked to put eight place attachment factors in an order of importance. In Table 4 mean values of these factors have been measured. Family has been rewarded as the most important factor. On the other hand social clubs rewarded as less important. This approach is different than the previous section, because the respondents have put the factors in a relative order of influence that corresponds with the fact if they would either potentially migrate back or would not return to the home region.

Place attachment factors	
Family	2,3 (± 2,21)
Friends	3,2 (± 1,58)
Job	3,5 (± 2,10)
Housing	4,6 (± 1,63)
Nature	5,1 (± 1,82)
Education and health care facilities	5,4 (± 1,82)
Shops and retail facilities	5,8 (± 2,03)
Social clubs	6,2 (± 2,05)

Table 4: Relative importance of place attachment factors

4.4 Ordinal regression analysis

In this research an ordinal regression analysis has been executed. This is used to measure which ordinal independent variables influence the ordinal dependent variable: return migration. Firstly, the dependent and the independent variables were measured on a Likert scale, varying from 1 to 5. This Likert scale has been used for all variables to run the statistical tests.

First of all, before looking at the effects of each explanatory variable in the model, the model fit has to be taken into account. If the model is significant then it can improve the ability to predict the outcome of this model. As Table 5 shows that the model fit is significant ($p = 0,00$), this model is useful to predict further outcomes. Moreover, the Nagelkerke R^2 is 0,924. A value of 1 for the Nagelkerke R^2 means that this model would be perfectly valid. Although, the Nagelkerke R^2 in this research is rather high for such a small dataset.

Model	-2 log Likelihood	Chi-square	Sig.
Intercept only	126,192		
Final	35,835	90,357	0,000

Table 5: Model fitting information

This thesis has tested the influence of the independent variables on return migration. The variables that seem to be significant are individual place attachment, leisure services and finding a job. The other variables are all insignificant and therefore have no influence on whether a respondent would like to migrate back towards the home region.

Table 6 shows that three variables have a significant influence. The most important factor is finding a job ($p = 0,006$). As the estimate (3,657) shows that when the explanatory variable finding a job increases with a value of 1, then the intention that people would like to migrate back increases with the estimate of finding a job. Thus, finding a job is the most important external factor.

	Sig.	Estimate
Social place attachment		
Individual place attachment	0,048	1,425
Family	0,066	1,649
Friends	0,587	-0,337
Social clubs	0,855	0,113
Physical place attachment		
Nature	0,645	-0,469
Leisure services	0,017	1,953
Education and health care services	0,429	0,588
Availability of shops and cafes	0,798	0,176
Quality of housing	0,475	-0,523
External factors		
Finding a job	0,006	3,657
Partner	0,565	0,470

Table 6: Ordinal regression results

Besides the factor finding a job, leisure services seems to be significant. This factor is significant and solely predicts the physical place attachment perspective. Environmental place attachment seems to be insignificant ($p = 0,645$). Leisure services is part of the functional place attachment and if a respondent visits local bars and cafes in the home region more often than the willingness to migrate back will increase. Furthermore, individual place attachment is significant ($p = 0,048$) within a social place attachment perspective. This factor represents the bond between individuals and the place itself where they grew up. If this bond would be appreciated stronger by young adults in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen then they would potentially be more willing to migrate back.

5. Conclusions and discussion

5.1 Conclusions

Regarding the results from the previous sections, there can be made some conclusions in relation with the main research question. The main research question in this thesis is as follows: *“To what extent does place attachment influence the return migration of young adults in the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen?”*

In this thesis an ordinal regression has been executed and gives three factors that have a significant positive influence on return migration. Firstly, the factor individual place attachment showed to be significant. With regards to the hypothesis about social place attachment, Bijker & Haartsen (2012) mentioned that the importance of living closer to family and friends could indicate the migration towards less-popular rural areas.

On the other hand, Scannell and Gifford (2010) have made a distinction in place attachment that resulted in the three categories: person, process and place. Accordingly, Scannell and Gifford (2010) found that place was the most important factor of place attachment. Moreover, this thesis has found that solely the place attachment between young adults and the place itself is significant. Thus, the results from this research are rather positive about the individual place attachment, but this research has not measured significant influence of family and friends on return migration.

With regards to the second research question in which the influence of physical place attachment is measured. The results from this research question are line with the hypothesis that is formulated. Based on the fact that the impact of physical place attachment would be high on the decision to not migrate back. Due to the fact that in most rural depopulating villages facilities and public services are declining. In particular young adults do not mention a positive physical place attachment (Gielsing et al., 2017).

The majority of the independent variables are insignificant, although solely leisure services seems to be significant. Environmental place attachment such as, the value of nature, does not lead to a higher intention to migrate back. This is in line with the hypothesis. However, leisure services which refers to visiting local cafes and community centres leads to a higher appreciation of functional place attachment.

The external factors are finding a job and having a partner in the home region. First of all, the factor finding a job has the largest impact of all the independent variables. Thus, finding a job in the home region would result in a higher willingness to migrate back to the home region. On the other hand as the hypothesis concerning external factors entails that a lack of opportunities to find a job is often the reason to stay in cities and not return to the home region (Haartsen & Thissen 2014). This research has found that a potential job in the home region results in a higher intention to migrate back.

To conclude this section, individual place attachment, leisure services and finding a job are the most important factors and altogether could have a positive impact on a higher intention on the factor return migration. All other independent variables are insignificant and have no major influence on the potential return migration of rural young adults of the municipalities of Berkelland and Haaksbergen.

5.2 Discussion

In this section the decisions that are made in defining concepts and choosing certain theories in this research are discussed. Accordingly, it is important to put the findings in the previous section in a broader perspective.

First of all this research has used the concepts social and place attachment as well as relevant external factors in the conceptual model. These concepts have been used as input for the questionnaire design. Given the fact that social and physical place attachment are measured with relatively more independent variables than the external factors, place attachment is more likely to give significant results. However, the results from this thesis present findings for all three sub research questions.

Furthermore, the definitions of the concepts need to be discussed. As Stockdale et al. (2018) have mentioned that staying is in a state of flux. Rural young adults that have left the rural region for study reasons, but who mostly return during the weekends could not be considered as real return migrants. This is considered to be the multi-dimensionality of staying. On the other hand Rye (2006) has defined persons who have out-migrated from the rural region where they grew up, but later returned to that home region as returners.

Further, Haartsen & Thissen (2014) researched this type of return migrants in a specific Dutch region. Their definition of return migrants corresponds with the definition that Rye (2006) has come up with. Therefore, it can be stated that there is a wide variation of ways to define return migration. For this research the definition of Rye (2006) is chosen, but there are more definitions and it is arguable which definition fits this research population the best.

The questionnaire is designed with questions based on a Likert-scale with values from 1 to 5. The categories of these questions could force respondents' answers. Therefore the nature of these questions is predominantly leading. Given this, the results might not correspond fully with the respondents' opinion. Rather than these categories, open questions would give more appropriate results. Besides, the number of respondents in this primary data collection is rather low. Thus, a larger dataset and a different type of questions could result in more significant and representative results for the research group.

Since the amount of time that is available for the primary data collection is rather small, this thesis has used a convenience sample. The problem with this type of sampling is that overall the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. Therefore, the results of this convenience sample could not be generalized to the whole research population, because of the potential bias of this sampling strategy due to the under-representation of certain groups in the sample in compare to the population of interest (Clifford et al., (2016). For example, that this thesis has reached people in the population that are relatively more willing to return than other people in the research population. This is due to the choice of sampling. Moreover, convenience sampling has insufficient power to identify differences between groups in the target population.

Further research could focus on this topic with a similar approach, but use a different type of sampling that leads to more differentiation in the research population. Besides, a larger dataset could result in more significant results and more appropriate implications that can be made about the target population. Lastly, a qualitative research approach could find out what the opinions and emotions are with regards to returning to the home region.

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7. Appendix

7.1 Questionnaire design

Place attachment	Questions	Answer options
<u><i>Social place attachment</i></u>		
Question 1	Ik voel me sterk verbonden met de plaats waar ik ben opgegroeid	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 2	De band met familie in de plaats waar ik ben opgegroeid is belangrijk	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 3	Vriendschappen die zijn ontstaan in de plaats waar ik ben opgegroeid, spelen een belangrijke rol	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 4	Lid zijn van een vereniging in de plaats waar ik ben opgegroeid is voor mij van toegevoegde waarde	Likert scale (1-5)
<u><i>Physical place attachment</i></u>		
Question 5	Ik geniet van de natuur en de ruimte in de omgeving waar ik ben opgegroeid	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 6	Het bezoeken van cafés of buurthuizen in de plaats waar ik ben opgegroeid vind ik belangrijk	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 7	De aanwezigheid van relatief weinig voorzieningen voor onderwijs en gezondheidszorg vind ik geen probleem	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 8	De aanwezigheid van relatief weinig voorzieningen als winkels en cafés vind ik geen probleem	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 9	Het aanbod aan geschikte woningen in de omgeving waar ik ben opgegroeid voldoet aan mijn wensen	Likert scale (1-5)
<u><i>External factors</i></u>		
Question 10	Als mijn (eventuele) partner woont en werkt in de omgeving waar ik ben opgegroeid zou ik terug verhuizen	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 11	Het vinden van een baan in de omgeving waar ik ben opgegroeid vind ik belangrijk	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 12	Wat is uw leeftijd?	Interval (18-25)
Question 13	Wat is uw geslacht?	Binary (0-1)
Question 14	In welke plaats ben je opgegroeid?	Text
Question 15	Ik zou graag willen terug verhuizen naar de plaats/omgeving waar ik ben opgegroeid	Likert scale (1-5)
Question 16	Welke factoren spelen de belangrijkste rol bij de keuze van de vorige vraag?	