

An overlooked aspect of transnational young mobility: The case of Turkish young migrants in Germany

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ABSTRACT

Young and child migrants constitute a significant part of the total number of international migrants. Child migrants below 18 years of age are 13% of the total international migrants, whereas young migrants between the ages of 15 and 24 are 11% of the total (www.migrationdataportal.org). For the child migrants, and partly for the young, mobility behavior is affected by the parents. They are either immobile, born to migrant parents, or become migrants or move with their parents (Mazzucado and Ogden, 2025). Despite the number and importance of young and child migrants in the literature, there is a lack of comprehensive studies. According to a study conducted in European countries with a high migrant population, most young migrants are highly mobile and visit their homeland frequently (Schimmer and van Tubergen 2014). Within this motivation, this study aims to analyze young migrants' transnational practices from the perspective of homeland orientation, taking young Turkish migrants in Germany, where around 3 million people of Turkish origin are living. Therefore, the hypotheses of the study were twofold: (1) There is a substantial amount of youth mobility throughout the world; (2) with Turkish young immigrants in Germany, transnational practices have many perspectives to evaluate, which shape and affect those immigrants' identities and social and cultural ties with their homeland. This perspective includes education about the homeland and visits for relatives, interns, or work-related purposes. The study argues that how young transnational migrants have relationships with their homeland or try to have cultural, educational, or social connections is understudied. Moreover, the study concludes that in migration studies, the category of transnational youth mobility should be more discussed.

CV

Buket Ökten Sipahioğlu completed her bachelor's degree at Ihsan Doğramacı Bilkent University, Department of Business Administration in 2006. She completed her master's degree in Galatasaray University International Relations/European Union Department in 2012. She started her doctoral studies at the Department of European Union and International Economic Relations of Ankara University Institute of Social Sciences in 2012 and graduated from the Department of Political Science and Public Administration of Necmettin Erbakan University Institute of Social Sciences in 2019 with a doctoral thesis titled 'Turkish Diaspora in Europe in the Context of Turkey-European Union Relations: The Case of the Netherlands'. Since 2023, she has been working as a doctor's lecturer at the Department of Politics and Economics of the Faculty of Political Sciences of Ankara University. She has articles and book chapters in national and international indexed journals on European Union, Turkey-European Union Relations, International Migration, Forced Migration, Refugees, and Diaspora issues. She has advanced English and upper-intermediate German.