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Abstract Proposal: **Migrants as active citizens: between assimilation and exclusion.** An analysis of the new trend in immigration policies in The Netherlands.

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Project description: Immigration Policies - European Context

Despite EU attempts to promote uniform practices regarding immigration procedures, consensus has been far from reached regarding the original intention of the EC in perpetuating practices for migrants considered as inclusive categories and equal candidates for citizenship. Instead, divergent measures have been translated in practice by the national governments, and restrictive policies have been articulated, specifically in The Netherlands and France, where both Governments took various radical positions against migrants and took clear distance from Multiculturalism.

Immigration policies -country level. Theoretical assumptions

In the Netherlands, the multiculturalism was declared as a buried experiment, by the Rutte Government, in 2012, and the return to assimilationism was seen as a trend in immigration policies in The Netherlands. A slight confusion persists, whether a return to the classical form of assimilationism is the new trend in immigration policies in The Netherlands [Entzinger, 2006], or rather new forms of assimilationism [Brubaker, 2010] should be inferred from the new order. Schinkel and van Houdt [2010] take these assumptions for further investigation and claim that the Dutch model is characterized by a double helix of cultural assimilationism and neo-liberalism.

Frame of work. Text and [textual] analysis

Based on these theoretical assumptions, we explore the characteristics of the immigration policies in The Netherlands, and test the force of the claim that actual immigration policies are driven by an assimilationist perspective.

We argue that the language used in the policy documents lets the reader assume that segregation and exclusion might be the features of the new immigration policies in The Netherlands, rather than assimilation and inclusion. The Policy Bill 'Integratie ,Binding, Burgerschap'TK/16.06. 2011, serves as text for micro-textual analysis and the theory of acculturation [Berry, 1974] serves as theoretical frame and methodological warrant.

We explore to which extent Dutch immigration policies contains features of cultural assimilations and neoliberal acculturation as argued by Schinkel and van Houdt, [2010]. Analytical tools from critical discourse studies, argumentation analysis, frame analysis and category analysis serves our methodological paths.

Close attention is paid to the concept of citizenship, its contextual meanings and correlative attributes re-defined by different 'locations' of the texts and in different contextual settings. Specific attention will be paid to 'discursive strategies of ethnicization'.

The paper explores to which extent the notion of active citizenship has a neutral meaning or is selectively applied to the category of non-western allochtons, as argued by Schinkel and van Houdt. And if so, to which extent this affirmation is tributary to a neo-liberal paradigm or it bears the signs of the cultural paradigm, cultural marginalization and exclusion.