

Straight-line Assimilation in Home-leaving? A Comparison of Turks, Somalis and Danes

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ABSTRACT The impact of mobility on segregation and the specific transition taking place when leaving home are both under-researched. This paper has analysed the home-leaving patterns of Danes, Turkish immigrants, Turkish descendants and Somali immigrants. The focus was on testing the evidence for spatial assimilation and straight-line assimilation in a Danish context. The analyses led to two main findings. First, while spatial segregation patterns were clear for the home-leavers, inter-generational mobility did take place, supporting the notion of straight-line assimilation. Second, inter-generational effects were identified. While there was no indication that parental socio-economic situation affected the spatial segregation of home-leavers, clear and substantial effects were found for the share of ethnic minorities in the parental neighbourhood: the higher the share of ethnic minorities in the parental neighbourhood, the higher the hazard for moving to an ethnic neighbourhood and the lower the hazard for moving to a non-ethnic neighbourhood. Similarity in the patterns of natives and the three ethnic minority groups indicates that the processes taking place might be about more than assimilation between generations.