

**Ethnic Differences in Employment and Socioeconomic Status in the Netherlands:
A Study of Moroccan and Turkish Second Generation Migrants**

Pablo Gracia, Lucia Vazquez, & Herman van de Werfhorst +

*Amsterdam Centre for Inequality Studies
University of Amsterdam*

Abstract

This study uses data from the 2009/10 Wave of the ‘Netherlands Longitudinal Lifecourse Study’ to examine the employment participation and socioeconomic status of Moroccan and Turkish Second Generation Migrants (SGM). We contribute to the literature on SGM by studying a rich variety of indicators that were considered in theoretical debates, but typically omitted from the empirical literature, such as linguistic and mathematics skills. Our results show that men’s labor market participation is significantly lower amongst Moroccan and Turkish SGM than among Dutch-born individuals, even after controlling for family background, education, linguistic skills, and numeracy abilities. On the contrary, the observed disadvantage of SGM women in their employment participation is driven by their lower socioeconomic origins, which seems to be mediated through schooling outcomes. Ethnic differences in socioeconomic status more modest. Men from Turkish ancestries are the only disadvantaged group in socioeconomic status, yet such disadvantage disappears when social background, mediated by education, is taken into account in the analyses. Moroccan and Turkish SGM women from privileged backgrounds, conditional on having achieved high levels of education, appear to be a highly selective group in the Netherlands, with higher socioeconomic outcomes than Dutch women of similar social origins and educational levels.

+ Paper prepared for the ISOL seminars (Utrecht, November 2013). This paper is still much in progress. Comments would be most than welcome (contact: p.gracia@uva.nl)