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Before moving to Sweden, he studied Human Geography and European Studies in the Netherlands, Ireland and Slovenia. His curiosity for lives lived in other places inspired him to investigate Dutch families and the process of moving to the Swedish countryside in the early 21st century.

This thesis combines insights from population geography and repopulating rural studies. It advances our understanding of rural areas attracting new residents and of the everyday practices in post-migration lives. Furthermore, it engages with discourses of mobilities, paying attention to interrelated empirical realities, representations and quotidian mobilities in different spatio-temporal contexts.

Dutch lifestyle migrants moving to rural Sweden is a study of how lifestyle choices and migration are intertwined and how pre-migration expectations frame post-migration lives. As such, this place-based in-depth study of the socio-cultural fabric of population dynamics identifies various imagined rural idylls, senses of nostalgia, authenticity and adventure as inspirations for the move. The act of migration is linked to events in the life course and situated within the migrants’ broader life trajectories.

Examining data gathered through the Bergslagen Database and in-depth interviews, this thesis suggests transcending four binaries. First, in the context of an integrating EU, the study adds particular international dimensions to the initial story of internal counterurbanisation. Second, these flexibly mobile families transcend and combine issues of rurality and urbanity through access-facilitating technology and cheap means of long distance transport. Third, this study reiterates the importance of production as a complement to consumption in lifestyle migration research. Finally, the thesis adds dynamic issues of transience to the static permanent-temporary binary of migration.

In other words, the respondents in this study demonstrate various everyday practices of mobility. Yet, this enables them to develop a place-consciousness that is more meaningful to them than mobility itself.