Incorporating the Everyday: Pedalling Towards Citizenship and Belonging.

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Content.

• Location/Methods.

• Cycling in the Netherlands & the language of cycling.

• Integration as a two-way process.

• Cycling beyond the lessons
Location: Utrecht.
Research Question.

Can adoption of a culture’s everyday norms and embodied practices create a sense of citizenship and belonging?

Situated within my research setting this becomes:

How can learning to cycle create a sense of citizenship and belonging for nieuwkomers?
Cycling: A National Habit.

“Cycling for me is like walking. I get out of my house and it’s what I do.” - Rolando, Cycling Teacher.

“.the bicycle is like my body.” – Jette, Cycling Teacher.
The Bicycle: A component of national image.
A non-verbal language.
Beyond the Lessons.

• “It was a really amazing feeling because it was like nothing I have done before . . . a moment like you’re flying. It really feels like somehow everything comes together. At first you are trying to do the whole balancing thing . . . then when you pedal and you’re not having to put your foot down all the time, it’s like your free” - Kaira, Student.

• To belong, is to be within the social fabric of a situation; to feel like a piece of a bigger picture. A feeling which runs deeper than citizenship.
Conclusion.

• Further research

• Three key benefits of the lessons:

1. Integrates the student into a social citizenship practice.
2. Group - consisting of students and teachers - makes integration a two-way process.
3. Cycling involves exposure to your environment which can create feelings of familiarity and belonging.