

Incorporating the Everyday: Pedalling Towards Citizenship and Belonging.



Oliver Blake

Cultural
Anthropology

Utrecht University

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.



Integration: A Two-Way Process.

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Gemeente Utrecht Utrecht fietst! me'kaar vooruit DOENJA



Beyond the Lessons.

- *“It was a really amazing feeling because it was like nothing I have done before . . . a moment like your 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.