

## Leisure among Retired Immigrants: The Indos of The Hague

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### ABSTRACT

*The ethnic mixture in Europe has been changing rapidly since the end of World War II. The Netherlands is one of those European countries, which has been affected significantly by a large number of different ethnic immigrants, who are now beginning to reach retirement age. This study focuses on mixed race people (Indos) originating in the former Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) and residing in The Hague and its surroundings. Their situation is relevant to other immigrant groups in the Netherlands, as well as to those in other European countries. There are several important issues that are studied with regard to their leisure, from which a typology of Indo leisure lifestyles is developed. These issues include: 1) how this group is able to avail itself of leisure activities with which its members feel comfortable during retirement and old age; 2) whether this group has integrated itself completely into local society and feels happy in its social life; 3) whether the leisure activities of retired Indos are a way for them to keep healthy mentally and physically, thereby leading to satisfaction with life; and 4) how this particular group of people feels about its unique identity and culture after many years of living in the Netherlands.*

**Key words:** Leisure and the immigrant elderly, Indos in retirement, Europe and its aging ethnic immigrants.

### INTRODUCTION

The subject of leisure and recreation for the elderly is an increasingly important topic in the Netherlands as those adults born just after the end of World War II begin to reach retirement age. Both the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and the Royal Institute for Public Health and Environmental Hygiene (RIVM) have been studying the implications of this *graying* of the Dutch population (de Volkskrant, 1997). These, so called *Baby Boomers* are wealthier, healthier and more independent than past generations, and it can be expected that their requirements for leisure will be affected by these factors (de Volkskrant, 1997). Thus, these new circumstances will affect the lifestyle and leisure activities of Dutch retirees in the future, who are expected to have different demands than those of the present.

This study, however, focuses on a particular subgroup of Dutch retirees, the members of which are now beginning to cease working and who only partially fit the profile of the dominant culture. That is, this study is centered on retired people residing in the Netherlands who were either not born in the country or who have non-Dutch parents. The question is how