The Trajectories of West African Skilled Migrants and the Impact of their Mobility Experiences towards and within the European Union (EU)

Case Study of the Netherlands

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August, 2018

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Award of a Master Degree of Science

Master Thesis in Human Geography | Specialization in Migration, Globalization and Development

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Veni Research: This thesis is framed inside the VENI-Research of Dr. Joris Schapendonk. FORTRESS EUROPE AS A MOBILE SPACE? The intra-EU mobility of West African Migrants”. Based on the on-going research involving both past and present scholars in the field of Human Geography. On a central idea that focuses on West African Migrants within Europe.
Abstract

The thesis presents the trajectories of West African skilled migrants towards and within the European Union (EU). The research is undertaken by employing an auto-bio/ ethnographic account methodology to analyze the trajectories of these skilled migrants’ mobility experiences, encounters and challenges of the dynamic journey they undertake en route to and within Europe.

Based on data collected include auto ethnographic material and twelve individuals in-depth interviews of West African skilled migrants within the EU and the Netherlands in Particular. The Findings shows the role of social networks on the parallel careers that shapes their migration trajectories. It challenges the policy of border management on how EU policy and programmes hinders or propagates their mobility. Taking into consideration the impact of the skilled migrant’s lives and wellbeing.

This ethnographic approach provides an understanding into the migration process through the lives of the skilled migrants and reveals how this trajectories experiences fine-tunes their vocation. The result illustrates how best each regions - West African sub region and the EU zone can maintain a cordial diplomatic relationship within the phase of this humanitarian scenario for the Diaspora Community.

Keywords: Skilled Migrants; Trajectory; Network; Impact; European Union (EU).
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Introduction

1.1 A Global Issue

The new Millennium ushered in a rapid development and advancement in telecommunication technologies and a reduction in transport cost that has facilitated the migration of people (Levitt, De Wind and Vertovec, 2003). Despite the mobility of millions of people, only certain people are considered ‘immigrants’ and moreover only a few are further classified as skilled migrants. Data from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) estimates that in 2013, there were roughly about 150.3 million skilled migrants globally which account for about two-thirds of the global international migrants of 232 million people (McAuliffe and Ruhs, 2017). Whereas in 2012 of the 16,000 workers in the Dutch labour market over 7,800 were skilled migrants and of which 6% were Africans (Berkhout, et al., 2015). This migration of skilled people from the Developing Nations has been remarkable over the last decades, in view of the changing trends of economic globalization and mobility (DeWind and Holdaway, 2005). Thus, with the advancement in science and commerce, several European Nations have adopted policies to facilitate and regulate skilled migration as a continuing solution to the changing demographic trend between the global north and global south on labour market and research, caused by the ageing population in the global north and the socio-political instability in the global south (Kõu et al., 2015). However, according to Castles (2006), these policy seems to be fashioned in a way so as to import skilled migrants labour and not people. Despite the importance to include the intrinsic role of family and mobility (Clark and Withers, 2007) and social networks within the society (Harvey, 2011) in the migration process, migration motives and outcome rather than focusing on economic gains that are often neglected in research on skilled migration.

Ryan and Mullholland (2014) suggest that ‘there has been the tendency to undervalue the human face’ of ‘elite’ migrants’. In the past, migration was solely for financial reasons, but the trend according to Larsen et al. (2005) is on individual values and expectations. Also, considering gender and family commitment, Lee Cooke (2007) and Liversage (2009) discussed how career experiences of skilled female migrants remain an important issue in the negotiation of employment and family life. In recent years the migration of people has become a major academic and policy subject of debate from the local to international forums on the various forms of migration and the reasons for their mobility (DeWind and Holdaway, 2005).
In a world of increasing mobility, globalization and multiculturalism, a realistic auto-
bio/ethnographic migratory account can give a tailored representation of the social, cultural and
political dynamics affecting the migration of people and particularly the skilled migrants. It is
important to conceive that migration is both physical and spiritual manifestation interwoven
into a process towards one’s discovery and fulfilment (Mohammed-Marzouk, 2011). Euben
(2006) argued that, migration seems to have become ‘the image of the age’ that plays a rhythm
of elastic identities and the changing language of mobility. It tends to indicate a ‘dizzying
mobility of people and ideas both as a comparison for and a form of migration… to a world less
familiar and in terms of which a migrant may come to understand his or her identity more deeply
and fully’ (ibid:p.1-10). However, the mobility of labour that spans global cities brought about
by the advancement of science and technology, transportation and communication create a flow
of skilled labour (Castles, 1999). This implies, that migration is often a result of societal
pressure at the local level, causing people to migrate in search of better prospects, more earnings
or societal ranking for themselves and their relatives while others move for residence to escape
from suppression, political, social and ecological disaster improve living conditions, (Geisen,et
al.,2007).

Several researchers have pointed out including Vertovec (2002) that— ‘migration’ may now not
be the most accurate term, instead, ‘movement’ or ‘mobility’ may be more appropriate terms.
This is because migration has an insinuation of permanency or long-term stay, whereas the
movement of many highly skilled persons tends, today, to be recurrent and short-term (Koser
and Salt, 1997). So also the migration process which may involve complex web in which several
actors with varying interest are engaged at different phases and where migrants are concerned
as individuals, families, groups or networks. Furthermore, the Current challenges on migration
in destination countries not only contain a public development or political dimension, regarding
entry requirement, criteria and purposes, but also on the security dimension in which migration
result, and for which migration has become a key issue in border authority policy (Geisen et
al.,2007).While migrants are expected to move freely. Some could legally be denied most, if
not all, of the rights on political or social ground. This could include mobility control that is
largely directed at “regulating” the movement of migrants (Anderson et al., 2009).
1.2 The Skilled Migrant

According to Iredale (1999), skilled migrant constitutes an increasingly large component of international migration and its definition has been a widely debated subject. Although Iredale (2001) considers a skilled migrant as one having a University degree or an equivalent specialized work experience, for which according to the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) includes tradespersons, investors, businesspersons, researchers, contractors, technicians, managers, medical specialists, executive officers (SOPEMI,1997,p.21).

Whereas in the Netherlands, (ACVZ, 2004) considers a skilled migrant as ‘labour migrant with nationally or internationally scarce expertise, highly educated and earn above average income and who has the potential of being employed in a sector of great socio-economic importance (ibid: p.144, translated). Koser and Salt argue that there is no specific way to define who is a skilled migrant in terms of skills, qualifications, experience or duration of stay in the country (1997,p.287). Despite this disparity, other scholar consider the distinction between working experience and educational attainment as an important criteria for defining a skilled migrant. (Koser and salt, 1997: Williams and Balaz, 2005).

However, these definitions are based on the perspective to which the state consider skills, the economic need of the nation, the migrants’ potential and intellectual ability. For which to Millar and Salt (2008) may have been too narrowly defined by academia. Thus, a skilled migrant is one with a peculiar ability and intellectual capacity in a specific discipline and for which he is able to demonstrate adequate usage for individual, economic and societal development.

Another stronghold for skilled migration is the international student mobility. According to King and Raghuram (2013), students are considered skilled migrants because they bring and develop their skills, their being and the society in which they live. This creates a very thin margin between student migrants and other skilled migrants. The trajectories of student migrants’ aspiration and expectations are intertwined in the labour mobility aspects (Findlay et al, 2012). In the Netherlands postgraduate students are considered as skilled migrants. Therefore, being a skilled migrant implies a mobile individual, who can switch nations and continents as desired and is globally mobile to perform services or acquire more skills, this has made the race for talent a competitive immigration regime (Shachar, 2006).
From an academic perspective, scholars should focus less on reasons that make people move and more on aspects that make them stay. King (2015), reports that over the years there have been many alternatives to the traditional migration pattern, such as lifestyle-related and student mobility. Furthermore, migrants tend to continue in an onward movement even after arriving at their destination as Sinatti and Horst (2014) explain that these movements are subject to variant forms of control. Whereas Koh and Wissink (2018), argue that the mobility processes and the actors and networks are the facilitators in the processes of migrants’ mobility. This might lead us to a paradigm shift from the ‘migration industry’ to the concept coined by Allison Hui known as ‘migrant exceptionalism’, which considers the migrant as an independent entity in this type of migration (Hui, 2016).

The main discourse of this thesis brings into perspective the realistic facets of skilled migration, which tend to get less attention. It is not intended ‘to celebrate migration’ (King, 1996), but aims to bridge the gap to a more positive understanding of Skilled migrants’ mobility, particularly involving those from West Africa. It shares a critical ethnographic perspective of 12 skilled migrants in the Netherlands. This is done through two main arguments. Firstly, this thesis unpacks the skilled migrants’ journey whose sense of self, skills and intellectual ability, time and space is being transformed by the mobility from one geographical location to another. It shows the trajectory of skilled migrants in relation to the actors of mobility. By employing an auto-bio/ ethnographic account of skilled migrants journey to Europe. It takes an optical insights to the social and scientific community on the impact of their mobility on the migrant’s wellbeing to and within the Netherlands by considering the challenges migrants encounters along their trajectory. Studying migration journeys in this methodological manner makes visible social relationships, societal changes, human experiences, that situate within the (Walters, 2015) broader social, political, and economic contexts.

This research validates migrants’ roles in determining their own destiny, as a ‘moving border’ to and within the border, despite the critical Challenges involved, institutional policy, programmes and economic adversities (Van der Velde and Thomas Van Naerssen, 2007). This implies that Migrants in this modern era of information technology and globalization do not submissively accept the course of their trajectory and do not yield full control to the agency, the state government or their personal or collective situations, but instead take resourceful tactics to facilitate their mobility.
1.3 Inspiration to the Thesis

My motivation on the subject of Migration began on an excursion to the Ghanaian Diaspora Community (REGOCIN) in Amsterdam-Netherlands. The tour had centered on the discussion around the topic of this thesis and the event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Bijlmer disaster. It featured discussion on the challenges and encounters of West African to the EU and the impact on their lives in the Netherlands. This gave an insight of how trajectory networking, actors of mobility and possible disasters can happen in the course of migration.

This energized me to write this thesis on West Africa skilled migrants in the Netherlands and how the EU has propelled or hindered their pathway in relation to the impact on their lives and the society. I herein give a snapshot of my personal experience as a skilled migrant to the EU and how family networks and public policy play a significant role on skilled migrant and the possible impact it might have on the individual’s trajectory.

SNAPSHOT: My Departure

‘Late that Thursday while I was on my Uncle’s Cattle Ranch in Acha–Tugi, some 35km from Bamenda. The Dutch Embassy informed me that I will not be able to process my Visa in the Dutch consulate in Cameroon due to diplomatic and other reasons. Technically, there had been a series of economic and political unrest in the Anglophone minority region of Cameroon. Thus, the Dutch Embassy had shut down its operations in Cameroon and Nigeria. The mail indicated that as a matter of urgency and in my interest to make an alternative arrangement to report in person on Monday the following week in the republic of Benin or Ghana. Quickly the next day I informed my Principal that I will certainly not be in school to give the lessons and that I needed to embark on a long unplanned journey to the Republic of Benin. Considering the short notice and distance, I could not book a flight or make reservation for ships travelling the coast from the South-West Region (Limbe). The most realistic option was to travel by road. I journeyed from the Ranch through Bamenda to Ekok along the difficult mountainous terrain. Late that Friday evening, I arrived Lagos and stopped over at my cousin’s residence. There we discussed my journey and possible challenges before crossing over to the Republic of Benin. The next day as I travelled on passing through various police and
immigration border controls, later the same day I arrived Cotonou earlier than anticipated. I quickly organized myself and with a verbal direction from the ‘locals’ I was able to locate the Dutch Embassy. Within a few hours of Diplomatic protocol and documentation, the officials issued me a cover letter and informed me that my passport would be sent to their regional office in Ghana for the visa endorsement…’

Is this how the border to Fortress Europe can be? Does this also apply for skilled migrants? Does it imply that there is a ‘Europe in Africa’? For skilled migrants this might be an ‘administrative border’ not the physical mainland Europe. Has the EU immigration policies moved the border even far beyond the EU geographical territories? If so then where is the true border and at what point does the immigrant cross into Europe?

‘…I pondered on these issues as I made my journey to Lagos. Contemplating on the reaction of the border officials to an immigrant without a passport. Despite the diplomatic cover letter. Some border officials needed confirmation from the diplomatic authority for my clearance. I stayed with my cousin a fortnight awaiting the verdict of the Embassy. Ten working days later, I returned to Cotonou for my passport’ [Njoh, MSc. Researcher].

These are the challenging reality that international immigrants face across international geographical frontiers. Many other skilled migrants moving to Spain, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, might face different or similar huddle and administrative procedures, some might have to travel in a trajectory-based on diplomatic policy, their network at home and abroad and also the financial implication and involvement to and within the European Union (EU). According to De Genova et al (2015), the EU seems to have stretched the border to where the migrants are, far beyond its physical geographical boundaries and thereby exercising a form of border externalization. Does its policy include the aspect to follows the migrants as they move across different geographical and political spaces? Does it intend to govern their movement towards and within the borders? According to van der Velde and van Naerssen (2015), by implication this mobility process may include multiple thresholds of facilitation and control.
1.4 Research Objective

This thesis will focus on the trajectories of West African skilled migrants, navigating on how their career evolves in relation of how the EU enhance or hinder their Career Pathway. It will undertake an in-depth, impeccable insight into the individual trajectory of West African skilled migrants and the impact of their mobility experiences to understand how migration helps to enhance their lives to and within the EU space. This implies that the gathering of an in-depth insight into the trajectories of skilled African migrants could provide both a societal and scientific perspective of the experiences encountered along routes of mobility.

The main research question:

What are the trajectory experiences of skilled migrants from West African and how do they value the impact of their Migration?

The sub Questions:

I. What is the Migration Pathway of skilled West African Migrants?

II. What mobility challenges do they encounter en route?

III. What impact do this migration have on their lives?
1.5 Societal Relevance of the Research

The migration of people had been an age long phenomenon. It has become part of an active livelihood strategy which according to (Van der Velde and Van Naerssen, 2015) is influenced by norms, structure and social factors. This is because household composition, gender, ideology, social contacts and network tend to determine who migrate and who can withstand the challenges and profit from the opportunities arising elsewhere. This implies that migrants are an ever-changing form of capital, which can be considered equally as human and social capital (Waters and Leung, 2013). Migrants are an active part of most communities and have become agents of economic, technological, social and even political change. They tend to reinforce ‘traditional’ structure, ideologies and support networks (Van der Velde and Van Naerssen, 2015).

Active livelihood strategies that is influenced by social factors, norms and structures. Whereas, this mobility has often contributed to extreme populist debate which considers migration irrespective of whether they are documented or undocumented migrants as that which could have a negative effect on national and international security (Inglis, 2007).

Focusing on the skilled migrants, Raghuram (2009), considered the importance of migration as a form of freedom and self-development in the domain of better education, improved healthcare and increase income. This implies that, it is a decision undertaken to achieve and realize migrants’ life plan. According to stark (1982) of the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM). It is a strategic way of overcoming economic challenges at home from individual dependence to mutual interdependence amongst families. The household takes migration choices with the intentions to spread the financial risk of family, friends and community. Although this might seem insignificant, the global North tends to be attracting migrants into several sectors of her economy (Geisen et al., 2007). Therefore, the skilled migrant tend to seek better opportunities and employment in the destination country. They also consider other social motives such as security, insurance, and other prosperity that is connected to membership in a developed nation. This plays a significant role for those migrants moving from man-made disaster such as war and civil unrest (Docquier and Rapoport, 2004; Carrington and Detragiache, 1998). For Sharchar (2006), because of the fact that skilled migrants cannot be easily replicated or transferred from one person to another, this makes it an indispensable resource of substantial economic value which had triggered a ‘race for talents’ amongst industrial nations. This active promotion of the mobility of academicians, artists, and cultural
professionals by the EU and its member states enables the establishment of a common European cultural space.

This thesis further clarifies the societal perception of migration and particularly of skilled migrants in relation to their aspiration. Taking into consideration the factors propagating or barriers hindering their mobility. The research places the migrant into the “scene of the drama” of the migration discourse and revealing the diaries of the migrants themselves. In this thesis, they will be on ‘stage’ which will create an insight into the life world of West African Skilled migrants’ whose trajectories have not been officially documented within the societal and political debate. Considering the migrants much more as partners in progress, bridge builders, Brain circulation (Robertson, 2010). This is not to deny the fact that even as skilled as they may be, they are affected by large social structures such as discourse and policies. Their career pathway may certainly be constrained by EU states rules and regulations of migration. Factors which determines who is able to enter Europe and how these individuals’ trajectories are influenced by certain power dynamics and social structures (Wimmer and Glick Schiller, 2002). In this new era, these journeys fall within and around states in many ways, particularly that they are skilled migrants on the move. Nevertheless, despite the limited attention given to migrant’s trajectories, they are fundamental in understanding the level migrants turn in order to reach the developed countries and the ways in which policies in the nation of origin, transit and destination support, interrupt, and configure these journeys.

1.6 Scientific Relevance of the Research

Studies on International migration has primarily been viewed as some form of permanent displacement or single directional flow. Whereas, in reality the migration flow and trajectories of people in this present age tends to be a complex and dynamic process in which migrants may travel through various location and settle in different places during their lives (Schapendonk and steel, 2014). Thus, with the disappearance of border within the EU and the strengthening of its external borders, the mobility process becomes very valuable not only for the cross border migration, but to understand both the international and intra-EU migration which possibly contributes to the (im) mobility of migrants (Van Houtum, 2010; Scapendonk, 2011). Although, migrants are reduced to singular entities creates a continuous migration flow and brings changes in the population growth that possibly affect the supply and demand on the labour market and
regional disparities (Van der Velde and Van Naerssen, 2011). People who make such
interconnections between and among various locations and nation states are branded as
transnational migrants (Castles, de Haas and Miller, 2014; de Haas, 2010). The popular ‘push
and pull’ model framework, examines the components that forces or motivate people to
migrate, such as hardship, unemployment, fragmented farm size, lack of educational or health
facilities, political instability etc. While the Pull factors that seems to attract may include:
earnings, employment opportunities, improved healthcare and academic facilities, political and
state interventions (Van der Velde and Van Naerssen, 2011).

According to Simon (1982), the perception that humans in their decision to migrate or not
cannot be economically rational, due to the facts all the information they may need to make a
rational decision are unavailable. If they do some of the information may be distorted. Whereas,
Becker (1962), considered the influential concept of human capital that links the labour decision
to migrate, to invest in training or study experiences that could be worthwhile in the future.
Research of global migration results in compulsive responses as theoretical advocates claims
that present-day migration cannot be understood without reviewing the impact of migration on
both facets of the border. What is the impact of embarking on this sort of journey to the
immigrant? A consideration of the socio-economic and political ties linking migrants and non-
migrants are also crucial to be examined in the changing global economic structure. How these
socioeconomic and political issues essentially affect the conventional way individuals pursue a
career, earn livelihoods, increase their households, and other aspects of life (Basch et al., 1994;
Portes et al., 1999; Levitt 2001; Smith, 1995)? In view of this Straubhaar et al. (1988),
established the ‘insider advantage approach’ in which the researcher is also an entity in the
population under review. A skilled migrant must also consider the gains to be made as against
the loss of his mobility. Whereas, Greenhut (1956) consider the ‘intellectual income’ of how
skilled migrant get strongly socially entrenched in a region as he has developed the ‘feeling of
wellness in the destination country.

The main reason is that studies on migration and mobility tend to overlook the migration
process of individually skilled migrants. Researchers need to visualize the benefits skilled
migrants impact can have on their lives and the economy with regards to the trajectories of their
mobility. Many of the researchers do not emphasize on individual trajectory nor do they
consider skilled migration , others who have considered individual trajectories of West African
migrants had focused on the trajectories of clandestine or undocumented migrants and social

This research produces a niche to the migration discussion by focusing on the importance of skilled migrants’ aspiration, network, trajectories and the impact of their mobility on their lives and the EU State. This is particularly important currently when Europe is “closing” its borders towards African Migrants. Many skilled Africans with the ambition to be explored at full capacity especially during their useful lifespan are challenged with involuntary immobility in the country of origin (Carling, 2002; Jonsson, 2008) that could be a serious challenge for skilled migrants who are in the process of moving toward the European Union (EU) often face harsh border policies of the North. In addition, once in Europe, the certainty for several migrants is regularly tougher than they had anticipated.

This research contributes to filling this knowledge gap by creating new insights regarding the skilled migrants (im) mobility within the EU specifically the Netherlands in order to provide an understanding of their individual's trajectories and the impact on the migrants. Despite the advantages of studying migrant journeys, their long, fragmented, and ethical challenges that (Schapendonk and steel, 2014) coupled with the unpredictability of their beginnings and ends complicates the migration population. Journeys may be traced to different initiation points in a lifetime or even across generations. On the one hand, journeys can be understood as short affairs, making them difficult to witness, such as an airplane flight or a bus trip across a border. On the other hand, the migration journey may be understood as a protracted process, unfolding across time and space. The protracted nature of this process makes it equally difficult to capture by the academic parachuting in to conduct interviews during brief spells of fieldwork. Given these challenges, it is unsurprising that academics employing ethnographic methods have given the most sustained attention to the migrant journey (Khosravi, 2010: p.16-17). Others have used narrative approaches to access retrospective viewpoints on the journey (BenEzer and Zetter, 2015). However, there are limitations: migrants’ journeys are often punctuated with long
moments of immobility that blur the sharp edges drawn by academics and policymakers to demarcate the beginning and end of the migration process. For which Hess (2012) and Schapendonk (2011) consider as turbulence in the migration trajectories. Experience whereby, after arrival, ‘settled’ migrants may leave their ‘destination’ in the face of new opportunities or hardship, unexpectedly continuing their journey.

Indeed, the need to talk of journeys as discrete moments is born from methodological necessity, and to some extent, potentially arbitrary decisions by researchers, not a pre-existing logic of migration (Wimmer and Glick Schiller, 2002), but the lack of attention given to migrant journeys also reflects our methodological nationalism.
2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 The West African Migrant

This thesis focuses on the trajectory of West African skilled migrants and the impact of their mobility experiences towards and within the European Union. What is it that inspires people to move and more specifically the skilled individuals? Why is it that over the years many more skilled migrants are moving across borders? Recent trends show that across the world, people are on the move, these include the skilled workers, international students, business people, retirees, asylum seekers, refugees, nomads, and the many more escaping vulnerable or deplorable conditions in their home country.

Therefore, migration seems not to describe the movement of people across the world adequately, considering the advancement that has made mobility so much easier, enabling people to migrate beyond the borders of their countries (Williams and Graham, 2014).

Africans, basically like other inhabitants around the world have consistently been on the move following long-established migration routes and trajectories this had been due to unprecedented natural and man-made disasters of people fleeing conflict, war, persecution, escaping poverty while others are voluntarily in the quest for knowledge, technical and professional skills (ibid, 2014). Over the years, what has changed and is fast evolving is the aspiration of the migration, goals, the extent of the social transformations and the impact produced which is challenging nations about migration itself (Williams and Graham, 2014; De Bruijn et al, 2001). During the pre-colonial period, people moved in groups and caravans looking for better places of habitation to escape from authoritarian rulers, violent neighbours who much of the time attacked contiguous gatherings for slaves, war goods, women and children. The Major paradigm shift is in the scale and diversification of international migration which has altered significantly in relation to the trajectory of migrants over the last Century and even substantially more in the most recent decades (Steve et al., 2005).

2.2 Reasons for Migrating to the EU and the Netherlands

Throughout the past decades, scholars have conducted a lot of research in the field of migration. Several approaches have sought to explain why people move from one place to another. A typical classical scholar on migration, Lee (1966), viewed migration as that which involves and
cause by certain ‘push–pull’ factors. He describes the push factor as that which triggers migrants to leave their home while the pull factor tends to attract them to the destination. The movement tends to demographical, sociological and economical changes in both the home and destination Country. This is confirmed the reason pointed out by Massey (1990), stating that migration causes structural changes in both ‘migrant’ country of origin and destination, which is likely to trigger further migration. The NELM brought about by Stark (1982) gives another perspective in exploring the motivation for migration which is in contrast to the conventional theories of migration decisions based on individual assessment. The NELM see migration not as individual decision-making process but as a family and household decision and therefore equal importance to the consideration of both partners of the entire household. Mincer (1978), using the utility theory of economics, concludes that people will only embark on migration when the utility gain of the household members is more than the utility loss of this household (cost and benefit analysis) in emphasizing on the NELM’s point of migration decision taken by households instead of individuals. According to these New Economists, not individuals but families, households or even communities decide whether someone should migrate or not. Moreover, they claim that the decision-making process is not only determined by a cost-benefit analysis, but also by other factors, such as the reduction in income risks. These revealed reasons, however, contradicts a historical structuralist like Cohen (1987) in stating that migrants do not have a face choice in the decision whether to migrate or not. His standpoint has been challenged by several scholars on the basis that all his approaches described merely looked at ‘origin ‘and ‘destination’ whereas modern scholars (Schapendonk and steel, 2014; Nail, 2015; Toma and Castagnone, 2015) visualize the migrant on a journey. This makes the migrant not only to have a specific identity but consider the fact that the migrant themselves play a vital role in their mobility trajectory.

In examining the reasons of migration, supporters of Neoclassical theory, such as (Todaro, 1969; Harris and Todaro, 1970; Bauer and Zimmermann, 1995) acknowledge the importance of economic factor in migration decisions and propose that people migrate to areas with a higher wage level, and considers migrants as utility maximizing agents who migrate when they expect higher utility usually comparing net migration cost. According to Liebig (2003), migration is considered as insurance against income deterioration for the highly skilled individuals who migrate to diversify risk. A country, therefore, becomes more attractive when it provides more income security for migrants and their families. As migrations trigger off by the reason above, scholars such as Bhagwati and Hamada (1974), warns that too much emigration of skilled
migrants can undermine a developing nation’s productive capacity, that is to say the ‘brain drain’ has an adverse effect on sending country development: the migration of the skilled emigrant has the potential to slow down economic growth (GDP) and adversely affect those who remain, thereby increasing poverty.

According to Bilecen and Van Mol, (2017), many skilled migrant moves for knowledge acquisition, in science, arts and technology while maintaining a constant flow of contacts, connection and network in their country. The opportunities for career advancement also plays an important role as many skilled migrants move for knowledge acquisition in sciences, arts, technology, while remaining in connection with their home country thereby making use of training in regard to future earnings. Lowell & Findlay (2001) and, Findlay (1988), observed that increased movement of skilled migrant between developing and the developed nations bring about ‘brain exchange’ of knowledge and skills between the global North and the global South. Regarding advanced economies forcing one component of the flow of goods, information and finance that binds countries to one another, research indicates that cooperation between developed and developing countries in academic and research settings improves the conditions for economic growth in developing economies (Smallwood and Maliyamkono, 1996).

Most international migrants choose to move abroad with the intention of sending part of their earnings back to family and business in their home country. These migrants’ remittances form a positive inverse effect of the ‘brain drain’ concept as it is a source of income to many developing countries and contributes a significant amount to GNP (Hanson and Woodruff, 2003; Edward and Ureta, 2003). However, there are contrary views which shows that most of the money is spent on consumption commodities and non-productive expenses that do not foster domestic production, employment, export, but rather increased market volatility and inequality which increases national income and has a ‘GDP multiplier effect’ (Taylor et al., 1996).

Kaplan (1997) and Brown (2000), explain that skilled migrants organize networks that stimulate return flows of knowledge and lead to collaborative ventures with home country researchers. Considering the use of cyber network and fast internet services more e-based skilled migrants network are generated each year. Mountford (1997), argues in favour of emigration of skilled migrants that some optimal level of emigration, greater than none but not too much may stimulate persons to pursue higher education in anticipation of pursuing higher paying work overseas. Developing country educational production may increase and the share of skilled workers in the home country actually grows. Thus, as many more are enrolled spur
by the chance of emigration, the average human capital increase and therefore overall since
country growth can be stimulated by bringing about a ‘beneficial brain drain’. In assessing the
pros and cons of migration of individuals based on economic pursuit, I can clearly state that
one, if not the most, driving force of migration especially that of skilled migrants of West Africa
to the EU is economic empowerment.

According to Vertovec (1999). Another reason for skilled migration is that it stimulates trade
and investment with their home country by boosting trade from their home country thereby
increasing export and import between their destination country and home country. This, in
effect, makes development economies more attractive as a destination for both citizens and
foreigners. The highly skilled migrants are more likely to invest in their country of origin as
they earn more than their low skilled fellows. When the skilled emigrant sends money they do
send in large amounts which permit a greater level of expenditures on the goods that generate
multiplier effects throughout the economy (Lowell and Findlay, 2001). Therefore, the
transformation from a production base to a more service economy requires an even greater
skilled mobility if nations are to be competitive in the international trade and services.

Given the migrant’s intentions for migration, the state policy plays a fundamental role in their
migration. Shachar (2006) explains that developed nations have created selective migration
programmes designed to attract skilled migrants worldwide to help contribute to academic
research and intellectual industrial growth. These nations, therefore, introduced a fast-track
admission process for highly skilled professional especially those in information technology
(IT). The OCED (2001), considers that these policies do facilitate initial entry into the
destination country, but also make it easier for skilled migrant students and skilled professionals
to find work and establish permanent residency. The policy has been fruitful as there has been
a significant increase in the recruitment of skilled migrants in recent years especially in the EU
states such as France, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and more especially the Netherlands.
Therefore, it is not surprising that the world is now dissolved in a growing demand for skilled
migrants amongst developed nations especially in the EU and particularly to the Netherlands
which is currently the most attractive nation in the EU for skilled migrants as it has opened a
vast array of institutional and industrial placement for science and technological advancement
(Shachar, 2006).

In the new era of a highly competitive global environment, national policymakers are
increasingly engaged in a multilevel activity in formulating their migration policies. The
developed nations are willing to reconfigure the boundaries of political membership in order to gain the net positive effects associated with skilled migration (Shachar, 2006, p.155).

The EU tends to reopen the ‘Fortress Europe’ in a scientific and industrial design formation when it comes to luring the highly skilled industrialized nations must be isolated in this drive and take into consideration the selective migration initiatives of other countries. Thus, enabling EU states to design skilled migrant’s recruitment policies that extend across borders while engaging in the legal decision with other talent recruiting states. One of such instrument that has been effectively used is the English as a Lingua Franca in the research and industries domains which gives an edge for English speaking countries (Philippe Van Parijs, 2000) which has substantially attracted many skilled migrants to the EU states.

Another state policy used to attract skilled migrants has been the power to allocate citizenship to migrants, using this control power as part of their recruitment strategy, which according to Joppke (1999) does it imply that the EU is shutting the door and at the same time opening a window of opportunity for skilled migrants to remain? This provides a new dimension through which to observe the power of the state in regulating population mobility. The power of the state to secure membership rights to the highly skilled has become an important component in attracting skilled migrant. Thus, the assurance of a new home country that will permit skilled migrant and their families to stay and work under the security and prosperity that is attached to membership is a stable, democratic and affluent economy especially for migrants from developing states (Docquier and Rappaport, 2004).

From a general perspective, Sjaastad (1962) considered the human capital by emphasizing on the expectations of a migrant particularly the financial benefit and also a consideration of non-monetary costs. Whereas, Massey et al (1993), viewed migrants, especially refugees and asylum seekers mobility even when earnings are not higher but better living conditions are safe and attractive. Beine et al (1999) emphasizing that there should be an ‘optimal level of emigration’ of skilled emigration that stimulates the pursuit of higher education in developing countries and spurs economic growth. Thus, contrary if emigration is blocked, there are fewer incentives to pursue education. The hope of the younger generation is not motivated to higher education giving that for most developing countries, finance is not only necessary but knowledge and technology transfer is a primary way for developing countries to benefit from high skilled emigrants.
The skilled emigrants return may be the better response to the ‘optimal brain drain’ ideology on the notion that if they return after gaining experience and skills in a more advanced economy can increase source country average productivity (Lowell and Findlay, 2001). This is proven by Johnson and Regets (1998) and Appeared (1991), concluding that as more skilled emigrants return and are allowed to handle development projects, they become more effective in boosting development and wages than foreign assistance. Changing the idea to ‘brain circulation’. Basically, there are 3 main reasons as shown by the kinds of literature to explain why people move and stay in other countries: economic pursuit, trade and investment, education and attracting policy programs.

2.3 Trajectory and Network to Migration

Over the past decades a considerable number of study on international migration use, in one way or another, a social network perspective (Kearney, 1986; Grasmuck and Pessar, 1991; Portes, 1995; Massey et al 1999; Vertovec and Cohen 1999; Brettel, 2000). This is because network provides channels for the migration process. These networks link populations in origin and destination states and ensure that movement is not necessarily limited in time, space, permanent or unidirectional.

The decision and direction to which a migrant decides to migrate is interconnected with the events and experiences of others in their career trajectories (Bailey and Mulder, 2017). This trajectories of skilled migrants have been considered by some scholars as (Acker, 2004; Kofman, 2000; Kou and Bailey, 2014) connected to their aspiration, return migration and migration to other countries. While Cooke (2008) considers in the trajectory decision on who of the family members stays and who travels. Whereas, Smits et al., (2003) consider that it is the skilled partner preferably the males who influences the decision to migrate. However, most recently family usually travel together or follow each other soon afterwards. Although not great attention is on international migration trajectory; this is because it is a typical micro approach focusing on the behavior of individual mobility (Bailey and Mulder, 2017). While others have criticize this trajectory approach as too narrow and tend to propose a broader view to include aspects of the macro-economics of sending and receiving countries. According to Schapendonk (2018), in the study of migration it is important to conceptually demarcate the migration trajectories. To Castagone (2011) it involves an open and dynamic spatial-temporal process that is made up of possibly single to multiple departures and arrivals. Van der Velde and Van
Naerssen (2007) considers the migrant's trajectory as a mental spatial phenomenon involving strong and weak factors and the institutional settings of a border and border control tend to affect the migration flow. Boyd (1989) further emphasized that once this migration flow begins, it becomes self-sustaining based on the establishment of a network of information, assistance and obligation between migrants in the host society, friend and relatives in the resident region. As Mainwaring and Bridgen (2016) adds that, it might also involves multiple attempts and in different directions depending on the prevailing situation. Therefore, migration trajectories represents the results of multiple intersections of individual’s aspirations, social networking policy and mobility regimes in the home and destination (Glick Schiller and Salazar, 2013).

It is also important to acknowledge the mobility risk associated with migration trajectories. Thus, as that ‘follow the migrant’ Schapendonk and Steel (2014) of a perspective of the migrants narrative from inspiration, through departure to arrival and possibly others joining them after arrival as they change locations and careers. Taking into consideration the second risk aspect of the migrant constantly on the ‘move’, it might be viewed that trajectories are about emotionality and experiences as well as materiality, transport and impact (Schapendonk, 2018; Gunther, 2016). As different modes of mobility tends to generate different emotions and interpretations which according to Walters (2015) ‘that ship and air travel are very different media, and that they do generate different experiences and cultures of mobility’s and also different affordance for political action’ (ibid: p.3).

According to Schapendonk (2018) migrants do make decisions en route their trajectories involving people, financial resources, social encounters, officials at certain time and places. He further emphasizes that migration trajectories is a continuous entanglement of individual development with mobility across time and space. This mobility challenges and changes individuals identities and aspirations and so do their impact. I concord with the lens by Schapendonk in which he refers to t’ migrants trajectory research’ that proposes a broader view that covers different phases of migration and may involve different forms of challenges in the course (Scapendonk, 2018; Scapendonk and steel, 2014). The important aspect of this trajectory perspective is that it gives researchers an angle to recognize how migration projects changes over time, the social and economic dynamics involved and the possibility of (im) mobility in the course of their travel.
Indeed, Portes and Bach (1985; p.10) proposed that migration can be conceptualized as a process of network building, which depends and is reinforced by social relationship across space. For migrants, social networks are crucial as they often guide migrants into or through specific places and occupations. (Poros, 2001), includes the circulation of goods and services, as well as emotional support that maintains a continuous flow of economic and social information. Vertovec (2002) views the network in the migration as that which creates a considerable conditioning impact on migration process of social position and power such as class profile in society. This implies that connections of potential migrants to earlier migrants provides them with many resources that they need to reduce the costs and risks of migration such as information about procedures, financial support, administrative assistant, job prospects, physical attendance and emotional solidarity (Meyer, 2001). Meyer (2001) further explains that high occupation groups rely more on networks of colleagues or organizations and less on the kin-based network than unskilled workers, which depends on the composition of their friends, relatives, kin acquaintances, professional colleagues. We, therefore, see the necessity for networking when migrants enter a new country. Their networking, therefore, gives them a high sense of belonging as the various gaps in propelling their stay are bridged. Undoubtedly, the networks of individuals based on their respective motivations shape the type of network they would wish to utilize. Shah and Menon (1999) explain that the network utilized by migrants tends to vary considerably based on local migration histories, socio-cultural, national or Regional policy. Migration is also, sometimes, triggered based on the network the immigrant establishes from the home country. This shows that the migrant's network is interwoven with migration making them mutually exclusive. Researchers on migration have always recognized that migrants maintain contact with people in their places of origin through correspondence and the sending of remittances.

This blend of different mobility experiences, materiality and authority that are inherently intertwined with the concern of bordering, which may on its turn form a highly mobile landscape (Anderson, 2014; Schapendonk, 2017). Instead of focusing on single actors that facilitate the moments of departure or arrival of migrants, the mobility turn invites researchers to follow carefully the dynamics of facilitation and control during mobility processes. In so doing, scholars become sensitive to the ways and how identities, aspirations and travel needs may shift along the path of movement, and how this creates new markets for migration facilitation and control. Furthermore, they gain insights into the question of how migrant’s
mobility processes are impacted by the various ways different actors of facilitation and control liaise, bypass each other, or work in a continuum of practices (Spaan and Van Naerssen, 2018). This enables researchers to deviate from the idea that the migration business exists of clearly demarcated and stationary sub-domains, disentangling state actors from brokering and Humanitarian services that abound in the trajectories of migration (ibid, 2018).

Since the early sociology of migration in the 1920s-30s, however, most migration research has focused upon the ways in which migrants adapt themselves to their place of immigration. The past decade has witnessed the ascendance of a new approach to migration that accents the attachments migrants maintain with people, traditions and causes outside the boundaries of the nation-state to which they have moved (Glick Schiller et al. 1992; Smith and Guarnizo 1998; Vertovec and Cohen 1999; Portes et al., 1999a). While noting the similarities to long-standing forms of migrant connection to homelands, the new approach underscores the numerous ways how, and the reasons why, today’s linkages are different or more intense than earlier forms (Foner 1997; Morawska 1999; Portes et al., 1999b).

2.4 Skilled Migration with Respect to Academic Mobility

The extent to which international academic mobility is related to skilled migration has significantly increased over the past decades. According to the Institute of International Education-IIE (2016), the mobility of scholars increased worldwide from 89,634 million in 2005 to 124,861 million in 2015. The numbers of international students are even more impressive, increasing from 565,039 million in 2005 to 974,926 million in 2015. When we consider the relative growth of international student mobility to the international mobility of students it can be noticed that the former is growing faster: international student mobility increased by two thirds, compared to one third for the international mobility of faculty members (Bilecen and Van Mol, 2017).

In general, international academic mobility is directed towards the countries in the Global North, thereby intensifying existing global inequalities. Börjesson (2017) explains how international students mainly head towards a selected group of countries in the Global North: more than half of all international students move to the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, and Germany. A similar pattern can be found among doctoral students as well (Van der Wende, 2015). Although educational activities such as international exchange
programs are also on the rise within the South-South regions, initiatives and programs, coming largely from the north, are focused on the south. Northern institutions and corporations own most knowledge, knowledge products, and IT infrastructure’ (Altbach and Knight, 2007; p. 291). Evidence proves education to be one of the greatest reasons for migration in this dispensation. This calls for the inequalities in relation to international academic mobility to be examined from both inequality debates on opportunities as well as outcomes, as they are fundamentally connected. The equality of opportunity perspective assumes that a person’s chances to get further education and employment should be unrelated to assumed characteristics such as race, sex, or class (or socioeconomic) origin’ (Breen and Jonsson, 2005; p. 223).

Studies with this perspective explore the cumulative series of actions that led to unequal positions (Platt, 2011). Higher education is a field where access is often restricted mainly based on socio-economic background (Bourdieu and Passeron, 1977; Shavit and Blossfeld, 1993). Although the numbers of higher education institutions and enrolments from a variety of class backgrounds increased in recent decades, potentially enhancing their opportunities for education and labour market changes, the already privileged are disproportionately favoured (Arum et al., 2007). With respect to an increased pool of tertiary educated graduates, the value of such degrees for attaining jobs decreases (García Ruiz, 2011). Today, it is not just having a tertiary degree which matters, but the place where this degree was obtained plays an important role in enhancing and possibly securing better chances in the labour market. As the place where degrees are obtained and whether and how they are recognized in different places is becoming increasingly important, academic mobility is potentially a key source in the production and reproduction of inequalities. Nevertheless, international academic mobility is not equally easy to realize for all individuals as it can involve significant financial and personal costs (Ackers, 2008; Scheiblhofer, 2006; Van Mol, 2017).

On the other hand, studies looking into inequalities of outcome investigate disadvantages and disparities in societies as a result of heterogeneities mainly focusing on gender, ethnicity, and class. Inequalities of outcome in international skilled migration pinpoint the ways in which such mobility yields to advantageous or disadvantageous positions. This way, skilled migrants moving across international borders would acquire important symbolic capital or ‘reputational capital’ (Ackers, 2008) in terms of prestige, credibility, and specific skills that would be valued by employers. International migration is hence considered to be leverage for advancing academic skills, expertise and the development of careers in a competitive labour market both in the countries of destination and origin (Zeng and Xie, 2004). In policy discourses,
international skilled migration is considered inherently beneficial for mobile individuals, higher education institutions, and the labour markets through the exchanges of knowledge and skills (Bilecen and Faist, 2015; Jöns, 2009; King and Raghuram, 2013; Madge, Raghuram, and Noxolo, 2015), fostering intercultural understanding (Jackson, 2010; Williams, 2005), and tolerance (Bilecen, 2013) together with the development and improvement of language skills (Magnan and Back, 2007; Aveni, 2005).

Although those who engage in international skilled migration might experience their investment as a way of differentiation, associated with better educational and labour market perspectives compared to their non-mobile counterparts, this might not necessarily always be the case (Brooks et al., 2012; Netz 2012; Bilecen and Van Mol, 2017). Even when a stay abroad is transferred and fully recognized in other countries, employers and colleagues might not always be aware of the value of foreign degrees and experiences, thus treating mobile individuals as strangers (Weiss 2005, 2016). Furthermore, by going abroad, skilled migrants might weaken their local social networks which can be vital for ensuring access to jobs and new positions in the former employment. Moreover, employers might favour individuals who are familiar with how things are done over people who worked for some time abroad. Besides inequalities in access to international mobility, mobility itself can create new inequalities or reinforce existing ones.

2.5 Impact of Skilled Migration

The Mobility of skilled migrants from one region to another certainly has an impact on the migrants themselves and the community. This usually begins before, during and after departure from home country and arrival in the destination. In order to be able to analyze the trajectory impact, it is important to consider the migrant's network on migration patterns. Massey et al (1994) considered a cumulative theory approach to migration, noting that first migrants usually come from the middle-class society with enough resources to absorb the costs and risks of the journey, but are not so affluent that working abroad is unattractive.

Their family and friends then draw on ties with these migrants to gain access to employment and assistance in migrating, substantially reducing the costs and risks of movement to them. This increases the attractiveness and feasibility of migration for additional members, allowing them to migrate and expand further the web of people with the connections (Bauer et al., 2002;
Munshi, 2003; McKenzie and Rapoport, 2007). This migration network can then be viewed as reducing the costs and possibly increasing the benefits of migration.

Hence, past migration progressively raises the expected return to education (net of migration costs) and, therefore, domestic enrollment in education. This raises the optimal number of individuals engaging in education and the share of educated workers remaining in the country (Docquier and Rapoport, 2008). Another type of network effect that create an impact on the skilled migrant business and trade networks; such a “diaspora externality” has long been recognized in the sociological literature and, more recently, by economists in the field of international trade. In many instances indeed, and contrary to what one would expect in a standard trade-theoretic framework, trade and migration appear to be complements rather than substitutes (Gould, 1994; Lopez and Schiff, 1998). Interestingly, such a complementarity has been shown to prevail mostly for trade in heterogeneous goods, where ethnic networks help overcoming information problems linked to the very nature of the goods exchanged (Rauch and Trindade, 2002; Rauch and Casella, 2003). This impact shows the active part played by skilled migrants in the creation of business networks leading to Foreign Development Initiative (FDI) project deployment in their home country particularly in the software industry (Saxenian, 2001, Arora and Gambardella, 2005; Commander et al., 2004).

Present day national and local state policies, though broadly displacing conventional assimilation models with those of multiculturalism, still have not caught up with the new approaches in migration theory that recognize ways in which contemporary migrants live in ‘transnational communities’ which according to Alejandro Portes (1997:p. 812) migrants are not inorganic matters that can simply be configured into explaining and predicting the flow between nations and different regions of the world. Faist (2000) argues that social networks elucidate why people stay or move to become transnational as the case with Ghanaians’ migration flow to and from Ghana, Germany and the Netherlands. Migrants should certainly be viewed as real human beings with a world to understand what is happening and to be better prepared for what might happen in the future.

An increase in temporary cross-border movements for tourist reasons is encouraged, while border control has been sharpened with regards to workers and asylum seekers. There is now a greater contradiction between the existence of international sovereignties and territories in a world that is increasingly cosmopolitan and transnational (van der Velde and van Naerssen, 2007). These migrants who tend to move easily between different cultures are often bilingual and maintain homes in two countries. They pursue an economic, political and cultural interest
that require their presence in both countries, thereby creating a dense network across political borders. In the quest for economic advancement and social recognition, the advancement of science and technology which gives a more efficient, reliable and dependable, cheaper and more efficient mode of communication and transportation, migrants maintain transnationally their home-based relationships and interests. Through these networks and establishment, we can see the impact of migration in the lines of culture, economic and trade, personal and community building as migrants seek to create a haven for potential ones. Their job engagements with tax contributions go a long way to build the economy of the resident country.

Today, globally ‘stretched’ patterns of activity affect a variety of migrants’ social relations including friendship, kinship and status hierarchies, modes of economic exchange, processes political mobilization. Many observers see remittances as the exemplary forms of migrant transnationalism (Vertovec, 2002) and the practices of cultural reproduction (including religious practices, institutions like marriage, images and symbols affecting group identity), forms of information transfer, and nature of the professional association. As Iredale (2001) points out that few professional labour markets can be described as truly international at this stage as training, accreditation, ethics and standards continue to be managed mostly at the national level (ibid: p. 21). Poros (2001), details how migration networks that are founded on personal ties may lead the migrant into a limiting ethnic niche occupation or domain, or into a downward occupational trajectory as the migrant, through a specific network, gains a post-migration job incommensurate with his level of education. Migration networks based on organizational ties (schools, professional associations, agencies) serve better to match skill levels and jobs, although they are open for competition and therefore less certain in conditioning migration outcomes. Poros also describes the development of migration patterns involving mixed interpersonal and organizational ties where who-you-know within an organizational framework may lead to successful migratory and occupational processes by way of channelling people into the most appropriate jobs abroad (ibid,2001). The migrant, therefore, stands the opportunity to get a job which improves livelihood, gives value added, in terms of the expertise in the career environment and gives a greater opportunity for further education that is related to his career.

Thus, the issue of border plays a significant role in relation to the international skill migration and the extent to which state policies are made and implemented could either enhance or retard the flow of migration.
2.6 The EU Borders and Border Policy

Over the centuries, as society evolved the border have often signified a more or less sharp division between ‘here’ and ‘there’, ‘inside’ and ‘outside’, ‘us’ and ‘them’ and acts as a simple tool for demarcation and control (De Genova et al, 2015) around the world and especially in Europe. How the border retain a clear and categorical function for the management and regulation of migration and how it has been made governable on two streams of legal and illegal (Walters, 2015). How then does the border relate to migration? According to De Genova et al (2015), the rule of nation states constitutes a device used to manage migration across the border, check labour market, and operationalize policies on citizenship rights and other humanitarian issues. This Thesis challenges the status quo of state power and control on the lives and trajectories of skilled migrants. It recoils the power of the state and its dominance in the migration, especially as it concerns skilled migrants.

When exploring the intriguing aspect of the EU border, it is important to inquire as to its geographical extent and to establish if it is finite or an infinite line (Carlings, 2007). Has the EU become a very strong geopolitical empire ‘EU sans Frontier’? Or has the EU ambition to extend the invisible borders with Africa, the Middle East and Russia? Van Houtum and Boedeltje (2011: p.121), argues that the inauguration of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the 2004 additional ten-member states seems to communicate the end of the EU. According to Ferrer-Gallardo and Kramsch (2016), this does not seem likely to hold firm in the near future as the commission physically tries to stamp its superiority along the Mediterranean coastline. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the ENP contains a geopolitical contradiction, as it blurs the limits between the EU and its neighbours by means of an eloquence of shared geo-strategic interest across the external boundary while it constructs and differentiate limits between members and non-members states (Bialasiewicz et al., 2009; Kramsch, 2011; Casas-Cortes et al., 2014).

Apart from the persistent ‘ghosts’ of past border stories and the division between North and South that is still prominent. The issue of the border is not only manifested in physical distance but also in a mental distance (Mayer, 2006:p.96). In which Ward referred to as ‘Die Mauer im Kopf’ (the wall in the head) (Ward, 2011). Although this idea of the geopolitical border encourages us to see the border as a physical geographical line, demarcating the territories of sovereign states, it would be mistaken to reduce it in this way, but to also take into cognizance the geopolitical border consisting of the diplomatic, legal, geological and geographical
knowledge practice and not just of Military system (Dean, 1992:p.245). Whereas, Ward challenges the many new frontiers and boundaries on social and economic planes have emerged within the changing pattern of globalization that seems to be stretching beyond its anticipated projections. The ghosts of past clouds around the old border memorials, new trajectories of borders, formation and division are building up as people travel across territories (Ward, 2011). More than three decades ago, the geographer Edward Said, came up with the concept of imaginative geographies in his book Orientalism (1979), stating that imaginative tactics plays a large role in the ways certain places and spaces are perceived and that this image is created through certain imagery, texts and discourse. According to him the complexity of geographies is that they are about the physical as well as about the non-physical, which he famously described as follows:

“Just as none of us is outside or beyond geography, none of us is completely free from the struggle over geography. That struggle is complex and interesting because it is not only about soldiers and cannons but also about ideas, about forms, about images and imaginings” (Said, 1993:p.7).

How do we visualize the geographical borders in and around nation states? Does it act as a bridge or a barrier to the modern trend of migration? This idea was advanced upon by Gregory (1995) who explored the ways in which social life is embedded in these imaginatively contracted places, spaces and landscapes. It is acknowledged that Imagination is highly political and always has a powerful performative force (Giudice and Giubilaro, 2015:p. 93).

In order to obtain and maintain meaning a border needs a certain degree of symbolization accompanied by narrations and images to transform it into a real instrument of definition and separation that which reproduces exclusion, difference and inequality (Giudice and Giubilaro, 2015:p.83). This imaginative apparatus of the border stretches into different media and strategies like literary landscape, iconography, film, information, and mindscapes (Paasi, 2011; p.13). Thence, it can hide the border’s intents and hierarchical consequences.

The imaginative apparatus of internal European ‘borderwork’ is made up of a fluid assemblage of functions, mechanisms and actors in the everyday life of citizens (Rumford, 2008; Bialasiewicz, 2012). In the contemporary context where borders are ‘vacillating’ (Balibar, 2009) and run through Europe’s societies, regions and cities, ‘borderwork’ is thus not static nor apparent in one place only but interwoven in daily life and carried out by not only state-level actors. Borders might be created and imagined in many places, by various diverging actors at
different societal levels, which makes it important to be attentive to various places, actors and levels to carry out the border phenomenology fundamental task.

According to Kramsch (2011), this geopolitical dynamics of desire and rejection from the EU towards its surrounding geopolitical environment can be conceptualized as an assemblage of contradictory logic, one which is most clearly expressed in the wish to reduce, ‘difference’ and homogenize the ‘other’, this is the daunting task and challenges of migrants as they maneuver their way to ‘Fortress Europe’. Are migrants only moving from the global South to the global North? If so, then what role does the trajectory of skilled migrants play in their individual well-being and the community they belong?

Thus, it is important for scholars of this Era, to visualize clearly and to question the geographical arena in which we are. While some scholars see it as an age of Migration (Castles et al., 2014), it seems rather we are living in an age of a serious migration crisis that seems to be slipping from the hands of the state to some sort of public opinion and deliberations. Are we creating a globalized world of mobility opportunities for mankind? This thesis tries to answer in retrospective the trajectory of skilled migrants in this Era.

2.7 Paradigm Shift to Migration

The changing migration policies have brought about changing trends in the trajectory of skilled migrants. Migrants can now select the destination most suitable to them, in terms of earning economic and citizenship rewards in exchange for contributing to the global competitiveness of the destination country. As the cross-border mobility of the highly skilled has risen, so has the changing requirements of the EU states (Shachar, 2006).

The EU now operate to encourage skilled migrants with regards to cross-border policy and to liberate the chains around Fortress Europe. The skilled migrants have also become seasoned as increasing number of advanced degree foreign students enroll in European Universities especially in highly lucrative sectors. That larger reception awaits them in smaller countries or in their home country thereby creating an ever-increasing avenue for knowledge and skills (OECD, 2002).

For several years, the migration of skilled workers from developing countries was regarded as a problem of ‘brain drain’. With the recognition of networks of skilled worker circulation, many
Social scientists and national policymakers have tended to shift from a discourse of ‘brain drain’
to notions of the globalization of human capital, brain exchange, brain circulation and the
creation of a globally mobile workforce. The idea is to accept the fact that skilled persons may
want to migrate for personal, family and career development while seeking to encourage the
skilled migrants’ return, mobilization or association with home country development. Indeed, it
is the transnational networks of professionals that are deemed crucial to realize such goals. As
the concept suggests, transnational networks of skilled workers are not merely bi-national
avenues of movement. They regularly entail the mobility of workers throughout an international
arena, such as Indian IT workers who work, at one time or another, in Singapore, Australia and
the USA as well as in India (Vertovec, 2002).

Many studies show that the experience of being a foreign student significantly increases the
likelihood of being a skilled migrant at a later stage (Li et al., 1996; Salt, 1997; Khadria, 2001;
Hugo, 2002). Schools and Universities are a foremost source of skilled migrants considering
the differential networks characterizing various kinds of workers influences and the ways in
which skilled migrants are recruited. The networks that foreign students develop may also serve
subsequently to provide opportunities for colleagues and friends from the home country as well.

Findlay (1990), indicates that researchers tend to enter the migration stream through their own
ad hoc networks of colleagues and project collaborators; engineers and information
technologists, for example, tend instead to move through more institutional ‘migration
channels’ such as recruitment and relocation agencies. Skilled migration processes have also
witnessed an ever-increasing role taken by global professional organizations in providing
access to migration channels and jobs abroad. Other facets of recruitment have globalized, as it
were, by way of setting up conditions that simplify and speed up the search for, and employment
of, skilled workers from abroad. Within the area of IT, to take one noteworthy example,
worldwide opportunities and competition are stimulated by the extension of a kind of common
playing field.

Meyer and Brown (1999) have identified at least forty-one formal knowledge networks linking
thirty countries to their skilled nationals abroad. The networks range from a few hundred to two
thousand members. Just as such networks exist to ‘tap the diaspora’ for home country
development, they can also be utilized for skilled labour recruitment and movement outside of the homeland.
The issue of return migration is not a new phenomenon, neither is seasonal migration nor repatriation, but the new trend of ‘circulatory migration’ (Daniels, 1990:p.25). All of this casts into question the assertion that there is something qualitatively different about current immigrants compared to those of the past. Today’s trans-migrants do not look as different from yesterday’s immigrants as Glick Schiller et al. (1992) presume them to be. Thus, if the terms transnationalism and transmigrants are to be embraced as useful concepts, they should not be limited to present immigrants. On the other hand, should all immigrants today and yesterday be viewed as transnational? What about the immigrants from either era that disconnect family ties, care little if at all about homeland issues, and never return home? Would not it be more appropriate to consider which immigrants from both periods qualify as trans-migrants and which ones do not? While a reasonable expectation (ibid, 1992), fail to provide criteria by which we could make such a distinction. Instead, we are left with a dichotomy between immigrants from the past and trans-migrants of the present.

New mobilities have emerged which confound the conventional divide between migration on the one hand and other forms of human spatial mobility such as, adventure travel, diplomatic travel, business travel, tourism, commuting. Globalization and the post-1989- New World order create new geographies of movement into and around Europe - from new globe-spanning migrations which have no historical precedent, to local-scale cross-border dynamics where none existed for half a Century before. The NELM theory draws attention to the role of transaction costs in determining migration choice. The challenge of non-recognition, devaluation or accreditation procedure on migrants’ educational qualification or other job-related achievements, therefore, bears crucial relevance for migration decisions. According to Florida (2005, 2006), those that belong to the ‘creative class move to areas with an attractive lifestyle and a tolerant atmosphere as people have preferences for certain types of amenities.

These types of migrant, described above, are still largely to be characterized as ‘economic migrants’ although they do differ from the classic ‘labour migrant’ type where recruitment is managed by the host country. Another difference is the diverse educational, skill and status levels of recent immigrants to Europe, whether they come from Arab countries such as Morocco, Kurdish areas of Iraq or Bangladesh. Many are highly educated, and some have considerable professional experience, but the opportunities available to them are severely restricted to the low-status jobs rejected by Test European nationals. Rhode (1993) has described this phenomenon as ‘brain waste’; highly educated migrants and refugees are attracted to menial jobs in Europe because the pay they get, even for cleaning houses or selling
newspapers at street corners, is much higher than pursuing a professional career in their home countries where jobs are often extremely scarce and incomes very low and unreliable only if one excludes the quality of life.

The motivations for migration have essentially changed. Under the previous migration eras of European transatlantic settlement and post-war European labour migration, linked to the relatively fixed restrictions of the respective productive governments of colonization, mass production and consumption, the migration variables were specific to the type of profession, the level of income, the means of transport, the likelihood of stay or return (King, 2002). Consistent with the old era of mass production and consumption of goods and services initiated a kind of ‘privatization’ of migration. Cohen, (1997) and Guiraudon (2000) consider it the creation of a kind of ‘migration plc’ that come along with it other market forces such as the growth in the number of agents, intermediaries, traffickers, and a pricing structure for each route, each origin nationality and each destination country. Within this new privatized, semi-illegal international migration regime, some migrants, especially with undocumented migrants set off with no particular destination country in mind. They go where the agents and smugglers take them or abandon them. Others are able quite explicitly to ‘shop’ for opportunities and destinations, measuring the costs and benefits of risk, insecurity, quality of life, anticipated income, cultural (un)familiarity, and the existence of social and kin contacts (ibid,2000).

Now migrants’ motives and the outcomes of their actions are far more diverse, as are their geographical origins, destinations, routes and modes of travel. As ‘Fortress Europe’ imposes its own policy of migration control, new migration courses and patterns open up, driven by new market dynamics. Migration has become a new global business with a constantly shifting set of agents, tactics, routes, prices and niches. Very different from the system of Europe in the 1960s and early 1970s of mass production and consumption that required labour migration, the new migration regimes of the 1980s and 1990s were based on fast-evolving European and global conditions, the escalation of push pressures from the global South, the discovery of economic prosperity in southern Europe combined with ease of entry and the removal of the barrier to emigration, that is partly replaced by a set of barriers to immigration including a new ‘Fortress Europe’ frontier along the border of the former Soviet Union. Checking the flow of migrants from political chaos and environmental disaster add to the blend of the new migration factors (King, 2002).
3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design and Methods

In this world of advanced globalization and multiculturalism the study of migrants calls for new forms of approach and techniques to investigate mobility. Thus, this research investigates the trajectory of West African skilled Migrants and the impact of their mobility experiences towards and within the EU. Using an auto-bio/ethnographic approach makes it possible to capture the social, political and cross-cultural intricacies of skilled migrants. Considering the fact that in recent years, geographers have become more interested in the subjective experiences that shape the environment and identities of individuals and groups. Stories and particularly migrant’s stories have become an ideal way to address the interplay of identity and migration (Halfacree and Boyle, 1993; Lawson, 2000). Stories told by migrants about their migration lives or the stories told by the researcher about their direct or indirect encounters with migrants (Gilmartin, 2008). It uses the auto-bio/ethnographic methodology to capture the “self” and “others” and then using the thematic analysis method of the narrative of the respondent to analyses their responses. Rouse (1991) calls for the usage of ethnographies of migration as it enables researchers to theorize space, belonging and connected in new ways. This implies that research that engages migrant’s narratives gives a better understanding of the social dynamics emerging through migration processes and to recognize that the spaces of modernity are sociality constructed. Using the auto ethnography of self-narratives form which according to (Burdell and swadere, 1999; Humphreys, 2005; Spy, 2001) is a method that blends the personal with the cultural, social and political. This is a form of writing that can be “described in much the same way as any object in the natural and physical world” (Crossley, 2000:p.529). This research uses the perspective of Patton ethnographic approach which considers the ‘creative narrative of a writes personal experiences within a culture and addressed to academic and public audiences’ (ibid, 2002:p.9). The individual interview method was used in the research as it enabled the researcher to explore individual aspiration, beliefs, value and to get an in-depth understanding of individual feelings, experiences and perspectives in their trajectory to the EU. This enabled the researcher to ask sensitive and complex issue questions that involved individual experiences. The interview was conducted in English and in the base area of the respondents which was either within the relaxed atmosphere of their home or office. This greatly encouraged their willingness to participate. The individual interviews were semi-
structured by having certain vital subjects that need to be answered by the interviewee, while it is mainly focused on the theme ‘aspiration, trajectory, barriers and network and the impact.

The entire fieldwork took about three months (April-June, 2018). Connecting the central conceptual themes of the thesis of aspiration, trajectory, barriers and impact. The questions were pre-set in advance prior to the interview. The questions were focused on these main categories listed above and the length of each interview was approximately 40 minutes. However, the order of the questions tends to vary in the course of the interview but was important as it could help probe further insight which led to the collection of more data and for a clearer ‘picture’ of the migrant's trajectory.

It is interesting to know that the researcher was able to get the perspective of the individual aspiration and trajectory in conjunction with the influence of the political, economic, cultural and social factor faced by the migrant in the course of their journey. Two scientific strategies were used to gain access to my respondents in the field. This was the ‘Snowball’ approach and the ‘Site’ approach. Using both the ‘Snowball’ method and the ‘site’ method made it possible to get access to different West Africans Skilled migrants.

The ‘Snowball’ Approach which according to Clifford et al.,(2012) is a “technique used by researchers whereby one contact, or participant, is used to help recruit another, who in turn put the researcher in touch with another”(ibid p.535). Using this technique enabled me to get an exclusive loop into the personal events of respondents for the research in a circuit network process. This was really rewarding as an interviewed respondent did proposed potential West African skilled migrant whom they considered relevant for the research.

Then using the ‘Site’ approach as most of the snowballed respondents were reached at specific places of interest or importance to them such as academic institutions, Grocery stores, African Restaurants and Bars, Sports complex, conference centres, carnival, festivals, Religious worship centres and public parks. Participation in the daily activities some of the respondents such as football and cycling. These activities provided occasions to observe and experience the realistic events migrants encountered.
3.2 The Sample Population

Based on the nature of the research, a total of 20 people were contacted, but only 12 respondents took part and were interviewed. The respondents were carefully selected based on their West African heritage and personal experience to and within the EU. The respondents consisted of 7 males and 5 females West African migrants between the ages of 20-55 years and were all residents in the Netherlands as at the time of the interview.

Academically the respondents had obtained at least a Bachelor degree from their country of origin or within the EU. All the respondents selected for this research had come to the EU on a voluntary basis and irrespective of whether they initially entered as students, for family reunification or as refugees. Five of the respondents had Nigerian nationality, three from Cameroon, two from Ghana, one from Liberia and the last from Côte d'Ivoire. Five of the respondents are married with children, four of them as singles, a divorcee and the remaining two were Theologians. Two of them had lived in another country for more than 5 years after departure from the home country, with three of them between 2-4 years and the remaining seven respondents below 1 year, an average of 3 years within the EU. Among the twelve respondents, nine were still holders of their country of origin, while three of them had obtain the Dutch nationality based on their social status and residence in the EU.

3.3 Data Collection-Personal Migration Stories

This research employed the critical auto-bio/ethnographic methodology in collecting the data by creating a scenario which is not completely or purely detached, but scientifically focused to objectively analyze and report the implicit systematic study of skilled migrants and their experiences (Simon and Dippo, 1986). As with most qualitative research, the data was collected by conducting interviews and collecting personal stories. This is because migration narratives are considered as the greatest storytelling device and give a vivid image of the event that happened in the course of migrants journeys. As with most people with ancient traditions in West Africa narratives of trajectories had form a part of their norms and values.

A formal meeting was convened with the migrant verbally and an appointment was made at the preferred location of the migrant. I had to keep the scheduled time in check, using the mobile phone network as a means of communication to keep in contact while going to the agreed venue.
or confirming the appointment. At the venue, this was very important to avoid being off-track during the interview an informal conversation will be conducted as it keeps the respondent at ease. The interview was structure, based on a chronologically ordered questionnaire and a recording of the conversation of my respondent was made by his consent. Obtaining information about individuals and the lived experience of the skilled migrants’ journeys in this way reveals aspects of migrants’ experiences that might be intentionally obscured within the global political economy of migration.

3.4 Ethical Challenges and Limitation of the Study

From an ethical point of view, the trajectory approach used in the study had some important limitations, which also advances ethical inquiries and challenges, which are also replicated in the words of Khosravi ‘Studies of migration and border crossings,... are often conducted by researchers who have not experienced it themselves. How can we scholars understand the life world of migrants? What can we really know about a migrant’s emotions, political subjectivity, and migratory experiences? ... To “experience it” ourselves in order to “understand it”? (ibid, 2018:p.1). Some of which apply to the study of vulnerable migrant populations in general (Düvell et al, 2010; Van Liempt and Bilger, 2009). However, researching the journey of skilled migrants presented its own unique ethical challenges. The initial aspect of this was to get the migrant’s consent to participate in the research. This was tasking as it involved narrating their personal and possible ordeal experiences of their journey. Timing and the good geographical forecast was my greatest asset taking into consideration that I was dealing with a social class of people who needed to focus on making a living to sustain their physical and economic well-being. Then, an academic consideration to the level of sincerity and the reliance on migrant’s responses during the interview.

Finally, Jason de Leon reminds us that researcher observation during migrant journeys must avoid the issue of ‘follow the migrant’ syndrome that characterizes such a research, which focused on the experiences of the author rather than the migrants (De Leon, 2015). However, according to Simon and Dippo (1986), it is important that the researcher employing this approach position themselves as being intrinsically linked to those being studied and inseparable from their context. In order to overcome such situation the researcher avoided meeting respondents late in the night, at a certain travel point such as train station, where one could be tempted to embark on the migrant journey as against the ethics of the research , also
with female respondents the researcher ensured that the meeting for the interview was in a neutral public place to create a sense of safety and security to the respondent and to avoid being carried by the sight and sounds produced by certain environments that may hinge on the result response of the respondents.
4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 The Skilled Migrants

‘When I went to Nigeria in 2002, I considered myself equipped and skilled. I had enrolled at the University of Calabar and there I was engaged in teaching High School students Cartography. Then in my final year in my undergraduate programme, I was engaged as draft assistance in the Ministry of Town planning and Housing. Three years later, I was working with a private organization as their Port representative and Logistic Manager in Lagos. I did not go through a specific migration channel, nor did I use any migration bureaucracy. I just found my way through and wonder if whether I would have fitted the definition of a skilled migrant in Nigeria at that time?’ [Njoh, M.Sc., Researcher].

Do I consider myself as a skilled migrants? Having studied in Nigeria in two of their prominent universities and a school teacher for over five years. There seems to much more to skills than just academics. In line with my own experience, while in the Netherlands. I myself applied to several job opportunities in and around Nijmegen, even within the University of Nijmegen. The “language issue” and the numbers of applicants were always the excuses for not giving me the opportunity to go for the job interview. This is one of the barriers that skilled people from Africa are still facing.

‘I had always been nursing the idea of studying out of the country. While I was in Nigeria I had to ensure that my family was happy and as with those of us from the Western part of Nigeria, Education is one of our legacies. I guess last year (2017) was just the right time...I am presently studying human Geography, specialization in migration and development’ [Falomo, 28, BSc. Nigerian].

Famolo is a 28 years married woman with two kids and hails from the Yoruba tribe, with a traditional large extended family. She has an agile mind for academic knowledge, after having finished her undergraduate programme. She wanted to further her studies in the European
continent. The aspiring to travel abroad had been her childhood dream. She then gained admission into one of the universities in the Netherlands where she travelled to study.

*I had a very lucrative job with a financial institution, so I thought it was time to improve my educational career, rather than doing the same thing over and over again*. I wanted and believed I could do much more... I was not satisfied with doing the same thing over and over the day in day out... although I had a comfortable salary, which did not actually match my level of qualification... but was able to meet my needs at the time’ [Enita, 33, Msc., Researcher].

Enita is a 33 years old woman from Ghana, one of the most renowned educational nations in the West of Africa, she too is married with three kids. Presently she is studying her second Masters in the one of the Netherlands. Before coming to Europe she had a very lucrative job in her home with an accounting firm, a prestigious industry to work in West Africa, Enita is thus one of the examples that feels a general under appreciation of her skills. She wanted to live up to her skills and explore the opportunities of further studies and to develop herself further.

‘While I was in Nigeria, I was a student...in Babcock University. This is a private University and the standard required had been very demanding...I was enrolled in this interesting programme... and obtained a Bachelor in Accounting’ [Stedo, 23, BSc. Student].

Stedo is a 23 years multi-linguist Nigerian lady and an indigene of one of the Mid-Western States, who considered herself as being skilled. For her, she had studied at the Babcock University, where she obtained a bachelor degree in Accounting. She even referred to her high school time, where she had taken out time for vocational classes in beads making and cookery. She believed that as a lady, it is important to study as much as you can before getting married, as most Nigerian men love ladies who are able to support them in as many tasks as they can. Skills cannot be merely defined by ICT sectors and others.
This section dives into the experiences of skilled migrants in relation to this specific categorization of migration. As stated in the theoretical chapter, some scholars question what and who the skilled migrant really is. This brings the question into my mind – who is the skilled migrant? What does s/he thinks about this categorization of being skilled?

All the respondents had a higher level of education having a minimum of a First degree or its equivalent obtained in the Netherlands or from their respective country of origin. The respondents that were already working in their respective country reported not to be satisfied with their jobs and their living conditions. While, the others as students had completed their bachelor’s degree before moving to the EU. This shows that the respondents were already classified as skilled people earlier on. Even after migrating to the EU. Thus, with the exception of two who have the aspiration of pursuing the master’s degree programme to increase their chance? The rest of them currently have jobs in the Netherlands. Among the field of works of these migrants in the Netherlands are as researchers, engineers, IT specialist and NGO consultants which to them is related of the job type in their home country.

4.2 Reasons for Migrating To the EU

‘When, I look back at my childhood days, exploring places in the neighboring towns and villages was a part of study and adventure. The beautiful mountain scenery and the many rivers in the Bamenda highlands will always give a breathtaking view full of geographical questions of nature around my homeland. Including the many folktales of ancient inter-tribal wars in the region, has been an intriguing factor to know the biogeography of other places and the prospects that lie beyond the horizon. Learning had been an intrinsic part of my travel experiences, so my move to the EU for further studies was just another trip for such accomplishment, with more hope and expectations in the academic domain’, [Njoh, MSc., Researcher].

My life had been full of travel experiences, even within my home country. To me, it is a mental social asset, more especially in dealing with people the from different ethnic background. For me, the more knowledge one acquires in a place the more he wants to venture into other domains and countries. The quest for skills and knowledge seems never-ending.
‘I was told that if I come to Europe and particularly to the Netherlands I will get work and things will be better for me and my family, so I followed some person to process my passport and board a flight the Netherlands’ [Akanji, 55, Bsc., NGO Consultant].

Akanji, is a 55 years old Ghanaian, who had graduated from a technical University in Ghana. He was very optimistic about finding a better employment in other African country or better still travel to Europe that strongly motivated his move to seek employment in the Netherlands. A few months after his arrival he was able to secure an employment that could sustain him for a couple of years while searching for a better one upon his arrival. According to local verbal information that was spreading at that time in Accra.

‘I decided to come to the Netherlands because of their Educational system and I am a kind of Familiar with the Netherlands because I had friends living here. Also, the majority of my Dad siblings live in the UK and mum siblings live in Malaysia...my Dad and friends motivated me to come to the Netherlands’ [Stedo, 23, BSc. Student].

For Stedo, she had come based on reliable information she had from close family members and friends in the Netherlands on the educational system in Europe.

‘I came to the Netherlands after there had been a series of Civil War in Liberia, I had initially moved to Ghana to stay with my aunt while my mum had taken a flight to the Netherlands. A few years later she sends words to me in Ghana that she had made an arrangement and I could join her in Europe. Although I had made new friends in Ghana, education, and science was of importance to me. So I decided to make the trip to Europe and to study computer science’ [Deebami, 28, BSc. IT Specialist].

Deebami is a 28 years intelligent youth from Liberia, who was forced from his home country due to the political unrest that had engulfed the nation in a civil war. He was forced to flee for safety and providentially found refuge with the extended family in Ghana. His further move to the Netherlands was for the family reunion and education.

The reasons for the migration of these respondents from their home country reported being mainly for the family reunion, studies and work. Thus, it can be inferred that their migration
from West Africa is predominantly for social and economic reasons. In that for those who came in as students held the view that EU education will place them on a platform to attract a good paying job to earn a living. Education, on a larger scale, has, therefore, become the conduit between West African migrants and the EU destination.

4.3 Trajectory to Migration

‘I had booked my flight to travel to Europe and specifically to the Netherlands one month later. After obtaining my passport from the Dutch Embassy in Cotonou. I stayed with my cousin in Lagos for another three weeks. Thus, because I was scheduled to depart from Douala airport (Cameroon). I had to make the return journey all the way home. I decided to travel same route from Lagos through Onitsha to Abakaliki. Then I made a change over vehicle from Abakaliki through Ekom (towns in Nigeria) to Ekok (Cameroon border town). From Ekok I got a direct vehicle to Buea. There I spent a night at my sister residence, then drove to Douala airport to catch my flight... The flight that was scheduled to make a three hours stop over at Casablanca (Morocco) was later changed had a further delayed and a detour was announced of change in flight route through Istanbul (Turkey). I finally arrived the Netherlands six hours behind schedule due to the above changes.’ [Njoh, M.Sc., Researcher]

This can be very challenging reality especially considering the mobility challenges one has already encountered on the road. Then hoping that by air ones movement will be a smooth journey, which was not the case but a more travel on the alert position. The reality of such skilled migration can also be physically and emotionally demanding.

‘I travelled to Germany on a privately sponsored platform, my husband wanted to see that I get the best he could pay for, with so much zeal and enthusiasm I got admission to study International business in Germany for 2 years where I did my First master degree also learned the German Language before moving to the Netherlands’. [Enita, 33, MSc. Researcher,].
For Enita, after having put in over 17 years of education. That took her from Accra to Kumasi, then to Germany because of the tuition-free programme and now she is undergoing a second Masters in International Management in the Netherlands.

‘I made my trip via Air France, the usual route took me through France, there we had a short transit of about 3 hours and then finally landed in Amsterdam’...
...This was in respect of my initial flight to the Netherlands ... However, I have travelled to other European countries for work and tourism.’ [Seydou, PhD., 48, Engineer]

Seydou is a 48 year-old Engineer with three kids, who has put in over 20 years in academics and graduated from a Teachers Training College in Cameroon and was teaching in the Government Technical School. In the winter of 2001, he moved to the Netherlands after gaining admission into the Technical University, Eindhoven. Before graduation, he had a job with an American engineering firm, where he worked for three years, then moved to work with a Dutch oil and Gas Company in Assen (Netherlands) in which he has been with for the past five years as one of their project engineers.

‘I left Ghana in 1983 and headed for Libya, where I stayed for 6 years there I worked for the Consulate service’ then I returned to Ghana after enduring the desert journey. I then made a direct flight to Amsterdam in the winter of 1989 where I had to live and work ‘without papers’ for almost three years until I decided to face the judicial system in the Netherlands for official documentation and residence permit’. [Akanji, 55, BSc, NGO Consultant]

Akanji had earlier on moved to Libya in an attempt to cross the Mediterranean by boat to Europe. But he considered his inability to endure the long sea voyage. Which made him returned to Ghana. His small savings and sale of some of his personal belonging was able to make up enough money for a visa and flight ticket to Europe. On arrival, he did other odd jobs for about three years because he had no residence permit. After three years and with a legal status he was able to fully integrate into the Dutch labour market where he worked with the Dutch railway and other private organization for over ten years. Presently he is engaged with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).
‘I have been involved in a lot of studies, I have a Bachelor of philosophy after finishing from secondary school as a science incline student in high school. I had undergone a high graduate study in spirituality and had been a parish priest and a Lecturer teaching in many places before leaving Cameroon. I first entered continental Europe in 2012 and because I had been invited by a Caritative Organization in Germany to deliver a lecture on spirituality. The flight was scheduled on a one stop over in Brussels before touching down in Berlin ...this visit lasted six months...and retuned three months later this time from an academic institution. ... In 2015 I applied for a PhD in spirituality, which has kept me busy till date in the Netherlands. I do travel a lot and have moved to and through a lot of the EU countries for scientific and academic reasons. In France in 2015... There I stayed for one and a half year. Then in 2016 I was in Italy for 2 weeks, in Spain for 2 weeks... in Switzerland and Belgium for two months respectively [Fabio, 43, PhD, Researcher].

Fabio is a 43 year old, Multi linguist research theologian from Cameroon. Who has been dedicated to community service on religious matters especially as it relates to spirituality and theology? Each year since 2012, he has been travelling from one European country to the other for interviews, lectures, and radio and television presentations.

This implies that the respondents’ destination, education and career trajectories are meant to bridge the distance between places of destination. Vis-a-vis destination trajectory, the skilled migrants in this research reveals that the route appears to be similar. Albeit their unique and independent individual destination trajectories, the paths of passage are similar depending on the society/country in which they came from. Of the total respondent travelled on a direct flight to their destination country in the EU 5 had a transit flight through African or other EU states. These respondents had undergone both forms of trajectories as a skilled migrant while undergoing a career trajectory she was compiled to due to family reasons to be on a geographical trajectory in respect to her family residing in the Netherlands. These long years of migration characterized these respondents possibly because of the met expectations, although all the respondents had been in the Netherlands for at least 1 year since departure from their home country. Regarding the educational and career trajectory, 3 of the respondent had made it to the level of Doctorate (PhD). All of which were obtained in the Netherlands. 6 have had a Master degree in the EU, while 3 had obtained only Bachelor degree (BSc), of the Master degree
(MSc) respondents 1 female had her MSc. in Germany and was now pursuing another Master degree in the Netherlands.

4.4 Network to Migration

‘As an individual, I would still be in Nigeria or Cameroon without my network. I have asked my Uncle to support me in me academics. I am an individual migrant, but am I really? I move with the assistance of some family members, they put pressure on my shoulder. My aspirations has been shaped by other people’s expectations. This network also brings so many opportunities and obligations. In the near future I am expected to be like my Uncle and take up similar responsibility. I am expected to help someone cross the border and build up network and trajectories in academics and other commercial domain’ [Njoh, M.Sc., Researcher].

In my own experience as a skilled migrant, the aspirations and expectation are affected by the network. Especially with the nature of the African Family and community. The need to be able to continue to maintain the return on investment is a very important aspect of the African society.

‘Since I left Ghana for the Netherlands I have only been able to keep in touch with my friends via social media, visiting them in real time has not always been possible. However, we could chat and discuss lots of issues via social media. I have also been able to make lots of friends around the world by using social media especially those connected to Information Technology’ [Deebami, BSc., 28, IT Specialist].

For Deebami, being an IT specialist has changed his world in the computer industry. This has made it possible for him to work with organizations and people from various works of life. But his concern has been the integration of as many international skilled
migrants in the European labour market and particularly the area of information technology.

‘I was recommended by my Bishop for further studies based on the church affiliation and my commitment to spiritual refinement to members of the congregation. So when fund for educational purposes was declared I was shortlisted and sponsored for further studies’. [Kalu, 38, MSc. Priest].

Kalu is a theologian Researcher in one of the Dutch University, who had been a serving priest for the local congregation back in his home country. His move to the EU has been propelled based on a global network and affiliation of his local parish. His mobility was also fueled by his desire and good public relation he had created with his local congregation, when the opportunity came for further studies he was nominated based on his good public relation in his community.

‘I have friends in the Netherlands and I had always wanted to be in the Netherlands. Last year I wanted to do my internship in Nijmegen, but was not given the opportunity because I did not have a Dutch or European degree...my Dad had been to the Embassy so many times, so he had experience in the Visa and travel ... so he directed and guided me through the process...’ [Stedo, 23, BSc. Researcher].

Stedo a Nigeria lady who had been in touch with friend in different parts of the world and had network in Netherlands was encourage. For Stedo, her migration to the Netherlands had also been influenced by her friendship ties. This shows the importance and role network places in the international mobility.

This shows how various network play a vital role in the trajectory of migrants. Explaining how a migration trajectory has evolved in the course of their career and lifestyle. Subsequently showing how migrants deal with issues especially in the phase of critical events as their network evolved. This implies migrant’s networks are as dynamic as the career path. The local parish had had a very close religious collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church and its affiliated institutions. This was a big global network to connect members of its smaller congregation in West Africa The case of Innocent who moved to the EU based also on his commitment with
his local Parish and the need to get more of their priest trained in the aspect of spirituality and theology.

All the respondents had one form of network or the other, with the present age of improved science and technology most of them were a connection to people and places in other parts of the world. All the respondents indicated to have a close relative already living in the European Union. Most of whom were residing in the UK and the Netherlands. Of the 12 respondents, 5 students tend to have many of their friends in the academic sectors and the community around where they were schooling, whereas for the 3 who were already gainfully employed had their network around their job sphere. 3 were already living with their nuclear family while 1 was staying with an extended family. While 2 were living with family friends 7 had friends in other EU state whom they could visit at will while the rest did not have as such. However, with the social media 11 had made many more friends via social media whom they were always in touch with them through the internet service. This shows that experience as a skilled migrant, the aspirations and expectation are affected by the network

4.5 Encounters and Challenges

Home encounters and challenges before

‘I was in the suburbs of Mbengwi (Cameroon) where the network service was inconsistent and the previous week the government had ordered that the internet service is disconnected in the North West and South West region of Cameroon due to political tension in the Country. The long journey to Cotonou (Benin) republic was a journey many would not like to undertake in the midst of political tension in Cameroon and Nigeria’ with no communication I was compelled to undertake the journey, as I journeyed, no Family member knew my location and what was  [Njoh, MSc., Researcher].

Then as I journeyed

‘On my way to Cotonou, I had met with some regular business travelers from Nigeria on their way to Cote d'Ivoire where they buy goods for sale in the Nigerian market. As we travelled and discussed along the way they talked of how
they had travelled to many European countries to buy goods and the challenges of getting a business visa...one of them discussed of a tout who collected N100,000 (~€200) from him for an express visa, and vanished with his money. [Njoh, MSc, Researcher].

The political situation in Cameroon and most West African countries can hinder mobility and in some cases endangers the lives of migrants especially traders who had their goods in transit. The traders I meet expressed their dissatisfaction in getting a Dutch Visa for the past 2 years but found it much easier getting a Belgian visa, but were however, able to enter the Netherlands based on the Schengen agreement.

‘Previously Nigeria used to have the Dutch Embassy to issue Visa, I think they had issues with the Dutch Embassy, ... I had to go to the Republic of Benin to get my Visa, so that was like a challenge ...this was an unplanned logistic cost as almost all EU embassy or affiliates are in my Country, I also had to consider the aspect of changing currency and the use of the French language while in the Benin Republic’ so I had to travel to another country to get it(visa)...the visa policy are hard ,as compared to ...the past... that is why there are a lot of irregular migration going on’ [Alamo, 28, BSc. Researcher].

She express her logistic challenges for students visa of travelling from Nigeria to Cotonou due to the fact that there was no Dutch Embassy in Nigeria to get her visa and how she had to deal with the issue of transportation, foreign currency, and the language considering the position of Nigeria in Africa, which she considered too might be the increase in the rate of clandestine migration.

‘I initially had to pass the English test which was about €100to register. I was also required then to open a bank account and deposit an amount equivalent to cover the cost of tuition, housing and living cost before departure, amounting to over €10,000.00. This is no small money in Africa’ [Enita, 33, MSc. Researcher].

Enita recount of how her family had to meet up with these requirements by Dutch immigration service (IND) via the University. This was an expensive foreign language examination and they were few centres in most developing countries. Most of the respondent had to travel to major
cities and towns in their respective country of origin to take the examination. Furthermore, they were all required to present a financial bank statement showing enough financial capability or support prior to their departure. When one considers the financial implication of travelling to Europe. It can be a very challenging especially when the people back home are looking forth for a return to such investment.

Destination encounters and challenges:

‘In the course of my Master programme I was confronted and challenged by my colleagues in the specific way of doing academia. My colleagues argued me of not contributing in the same approach as they do. They told me that I had not the right viewpoint as they do in producing academic knowledge...here I encountered a challenge... a border. I stand to question their ideology ...Is academia strictly defined and tailored in a ‘modus operandi’ and if so is it restricted to particular cultural process? I view academic knowledge from my own perspective and my colleagues view it from their own perspectives.’ [Njoh, MSc. Researcher].

To me academia should not have one definition. It should be open for debate, deliberations and for cross cultural dialogue as we bring in this academic arena of Radboud University. It is this cultural diversity and intellectual combination that enriches the academic world.

‘I got employed soon after graduation from University, as a mechanical engineer with Shell international company. This was a unique experience for me. The job was also very tasking, but well enough it administrative and documentation was in English. Although the fieldwork proved challenging as one needed to communicate with the locals in Dutch.’ [Amina, 34, MSc., Nigeria]

Most of my respondents currently have jobs in the Netherlands with the exception of two who have the aspiration of pursuing the master’s degree programme to increase their chance of getting a good job in the Netherlands. I myself applied to several job opportunities in and
around Nijmegen, even within the University of Nijmegen. The “language issue” and the numbers of applicants were always the excuses for not giving me the opportunity to go for the job interview. This is one of the barriers that we – skilled people from Africa – are still facing. Falomo, a Nigerian student at a Dutch University also pointed to the difficulty of finding a job. She stated: “It is very difficult to get a job, especially when you are from a Non-EU country. It is like “pay as you go”. With the latter, she hinted at the restrictions of short-term labour arrangements, which is something different than a fixed monthly salary.

‘I had the attention of the police officer on duty as I moved along the terminus hallway, I call the attention of the police officer on duty for further direction as to where to follow in the subway in Amsterdam in order to board a train to Eindhoven’ Although the initial spoke in Dutch when, but realized that I did not understand what he said, he quickly said it to me in English’ [Seydou, PhD., 48, Cameroon].

This was a great experience for Seydou, who had was just coming into the Netherlands. With the police officer, he had a friendly encounter and was pleased of the situation. This can be very contradictory in some other country where police officers are known for bribery, extortion and molestation of foreigners especially at the port of entry and departure across borders.

‘To me, the European are very conservative, they do not really know what is happening to their neighbour, or is it their business as to his or her welfare. The populace seems to keep a safe distance from each other. This is not the culture I grew up in as a child in my home country, every child belongs to the whole community and the people know where and how things work in most households and neighbourhood’ [Seydou, 48, PhD., Cameroon].

As an Engineer Seydou lives in the Northern province of the Netherlands close to one of their oil-producing plant. The Neighborhood is very quiet, although over 700 people in the housing units in that locality. Yet many of them do not who he is and for him, he rarely gets to know their routine or their whereabouts as compared to the social community in his home Country where it is possible to know each individual in details.

Whereas in a contrasting encounter,
‘While I was still studying at the University of Eindhoven I had bought a secondhand car in Netherland and was awaiting shipment. Unfortunately, one of my friends took the vehicle and was driving it within the city. The police stopped him and impounded the vehicle, two days later when I was then notified that the car was under police custody, by the time I got to the police station. The news was that the vehicle had been destroyed in the recycling plant. The case was charged to court and I was acquitted and discharged and the full cost of the vehicle was refunded to me, during the days of the prosecution I felt the strong arm of the law’ [Seydou, 48, PhD. Engineer].

In this encounter the state came to the rescue of Seydou, to ensure that justice was done. Although the case was charged to court, this gave him a sense of belonging as a skilled migrant and to understand the position of the state in respect to human rights and justice. Whereas across many other border an events involving migrants the rule of law and justice usually takes a different turn.

These two scenario shows how event can unfold in the Netherlands regarding skill migrants. In the initial case, the Dutch seems not be concerned about your issue. Whereas in the second situation it was the authority who came to defend his cause.

‘I had to book my flight myself, this was a very expensive one due to the peak period for travellers returning to Europe from vacation. I had to also be at the airport on time because I had been informed that the flight had been fully booked and any delay will definitely miss the flight… then as I tried to scout for which gate leads to the flight …I was stopped for search by two airport officials. This was the second time I had been interrupted that year at the airport… in the course of them carry out their duty I missed my flight and had to wait in Oslo for another four hours to catch the next flight’. [Nnamdi, 40, MSc. Engineer].

Whereas, Nnamdi talked of his encountered in the Norway airport where he was screen aside for immigration search and check, although he considered it a normal routine but was not comfortable when he realized that he was the only black in the group of all those who were being checked after the normal computer scan.
‘I started working in the student cafeteria, while I was pursuing my graduate programme, it was a time-consuming task and sometimes I had to get up early enough to catch the train and also meet order and customers request’. [Nnamdi, 40, MSc. Engineer]

Breaking out from the traditional African rhythm of transport moving only during the day and based on the volume of passengers available at that time to a more advanced mode of transport based on an almost non interruptible transport schedule was a challenge for him. Although the respondent above had made it to the Netherlands for employment. He did not have a job matching his qualification. This was because they were strictly guided by the EU and Dutch policy regarding Labour market situation. While all the respondents were still in search of better opportunities in the labour market. The majority of the immigrants who came to the EU for the purpose of studies or employment discovered the difficulties they encountered in securing a job or gaining an admission into for higher education.

Every journey in life has its challenges so also is the mobility from one continent to another, across international and cultural territories. All the respondents encountered one form of social, economic or cultural challenge. People tend to meet others who propel or hinder their mobility. This has been the case of the skilled migrants in this research. The common opinion of the respondent showed that they encountered.

With regards to language, they all accepted that it was necessary that they could speak the language. All those who were working with multinational companies for which language was not a mandatory requirement for their employment. This was particularly the case of Amina. The need to meet with the consulate or Ambassador on an official visit to the diplomatic office in their respective home country is another country as the case may be.

In their respective home Country, all the respondent encountered the issue of the break in communication and logistics and so was the case with the researcher. The logistics of moving to and from the Dutch embassy at one time or the other, due to the constant power failure and the fluctuation in the availability of internet service. Getting up to date information as to the visa procedure and the stage was usually interrupted by one of the above causes. The researcher himself as a skilled migrant recount of his challenges.
4.6 Impact of Migration

‘Although I had been to several West African Countries for both academic and social reasons, I had travelled to the Netherlands in the summer of 2017, with the primary aim of further studies as many of my respondents. The acquisition of new skills and academic knowledge in the Netherlands and the appreciation of others cultural values. Who are the winners or losers of my mobility? I am proud I am here in the Netherlands, but I am cautious to relate my being with broader economic impact. The impact of my academic pathway will leave some impression in the discussion I had with my colleagues regarding migration and borders in Africa’. [Njoh, MSc, Researcher]

If there is something that can transform a person, I believe is Education in all its dimensions. When scholars travel from one region to another in the quest for Knowledge they tend to create a mobile human capital for self-empowerment and societal growth.

‘I am proud to be a female engineer, this has greatly encouraged me in a male-dominated profession, more especially on the impact it has had on my wellbeing, in the area of intellectual maturity and development. Which has posted me as a positive role model for the many Nigerian and African girl child who come across me in the practice of my profession.’ [Amina, 34, MSc. Engineer]

Amina further considered it as a gender challenge in respect of female education and to be a positive role model for the younger generation, especially in a male-dominated profession such as engineering.

‘I have a few Dutch friends, I have people from my country and it has been nice socializing with them. They have been very helpful active in the organization Some have been detrimental to my stay ...I have met some Africans who have not been nice to me...travelling to the EU...it takes a lot of money, before you relocate, you need to come well equipped financially... know of ‘internationals’, it involves people in diaspora and I am part of the group, But I am not fully active ...they hold all sorts of social gatherings for people all over the world and give information.’ [Falomo, 28, BSc. Researcher]
‘The level of connection and interaction I have had in the EU is far more productive than when I was in my home country. The people I meet daily are academically inclined and the sharing of new ideas is the type of social challenge that I like.’ [Enita, 33, MSc. Researcher]

Falomo and Enita discussed on the social interaction in the Netherlands and how the people have contributed to their lives.

‘The extent of exposure with people in the telecommunication industry has been overwhelming. This has created a vast network of skilled migrants from any organization. I can interact with people from different countries more as it concerns creative ideas in the technology industry.’ [Deebami, Bsc.28, and IT Specialist]

Deebami expresses his own intellectual experience especially in Studies and works with a private organization on Information Technology (IT) world. Where he has been able to gain more insight in science as compared to his studies in Africa.

‘During my studies in Netherland, I have learned the long-term destructive nature of industrialization and the harmful effect of pollution on individuals and the society which calls for concern and urgent attention. I have seen how many companies pollute the environment in the production of modern goods which in effect endangers the life of the consumers themselves. Now, ‘I work with an NGO that is concern about the welfare and wellbeing of West African in the Diaspora and those that are left behind by an immigrant in their home Country. Creating a cordial relationship with the home base as well as developing a sustainable local environment.’ [Tibanda, 46, BSc. NGO Consultant]

Tibanda talked about her encounter and connection with people in the diaspora and how she and the NGO organization she works for are helping people in their issues on residence and diplomatic matters. She commented on her studies on sustainability and development and the industrial environment in the European Union.
She then concludes to say:

‘We will all will be losers if migrants who come to the diaspora and accept the poor and unhealthy conditions of capitalism in industrialized Europe...which is creating an expanding area of polluted soil and water and spread of abnormal diseases.’ [Tibanda, 46, Bsc. NGO Consultant]

From the responses of all the respondents, it was found that nine of them had come to the EU and particularly to the Netherlands for studies including myself [Njoh, MSc., Researcher], they confirmed that they had wanted to acquire more knowledge and expertise, international exposure diversity of ideas and the positive impact that immigration had on their lives.
5. Conclusion

‘In my own travel experiences, I can conclude that, I have encountered quite some challenges during my studies and academic career. I was confronted with the European perspective of doing science. Is there a specific method in academia in carrying out work in the social science? If so, why then are students from other parts of the World invited into an international academic arena? This reflection adds to discussion on the diversity in the academic World. Emphasizing that scholars should accept the possibility for academic debate and dialogue even in a white dominated research institution’ [Njoh, MSc, Researcher].

This research has analyzed the trajectories of the Researcher [Njoh] and twelve other independent West African skilled migrants from their country of origin to the European Union and the impact of this mobility on their lives. It has revealed how the conscious decision to migrate is based not only on the individuals’ aspiration, but also on the societal influence, social network and possibly the foreign policies, research institute, employment and diploma recognition. It unraveled their mobility experiences as independent entities in a global community. This implies that investigating the trajectories of migration gives the pattern of population mobility and possible changes in this era of advanced technology and communication from the global south to the global north.

Further findings from the respondents reveal their personal challenges network experiences. The period of changing career and the impact on their lives. From their home country, it portrays the educational preference of male over females and most West African Skilled women get married much earlier than their male counterparts in most West African families. Although there has been increasing number of females attending college, for international skilled migration, males tend to travel more over long distances (Adepoju, 1995). Also, the economic and financial implication of long distance travel and the logistic requirements involved which is relatively expensive and few households can afford.

This thesis pattern of skilled migrants’ trajectory across regions and space in this modern era of technological advancement and specifically from West Africa, calls on scholars to challenge narratives of the state with grounded empirical work in conjunction with the migrants at various points in their trajectory, and to collaborate in bringing back a rich fieldwork into migrants lives.
impact perspective. This study identifies the crucial themes of skilled migration, trajectories, impact and experiences. This implies that understanding the lived experience of migration trajectories in this way reveals the journeying of a large, and often deliberately concealed, the global political economy of migration control (Mainwaring and Brigden, 2016).

Even though skill migrants could be considered as a privileged form of mobility. This research shows that there are many barriers and borders involved in skilled migration. The academic use of qualitative research and especially the auto-bio ethnographic account to an extension in understanding of where and how border make a difference. That with the advancement in science and technology the number of skilled migrants to the global North is likely to be on the increase and in the Netherlands in particular, the rate of its skilled population is likely to be positive in the near future.
6. Recommendation

As an international student and skilled migrant, I visualize a society that tends to ‘catch up’ with expectations set by others. The use of information and how they are processed. But perhaps it's wise that we listen more to each other’s experiences, so that we can strengthen our voice and position on our academic, social and global environment’ [Njoh, MSc., Researcher]

This thesis has provided an auto-bio/ethnographic perspective regarding the mobility of skilled migrants from West Africa. Being a qualitative research study it will not provide a generalized conclusion that would help change policy, but can however, provide the recommendation needed to build a human dimension to the work environment. According to Khadira (2001), the mobility of skilled migrants should be seen as an integral part of international migration systems. This is because the network they create often lay a foundation for future skilled migrants. Whereas Aneesh (2001) emphasized the advancement of science and technology which can creates multiple impacts on skilled mobility. Furthermore, when lectures, seminars and symposiums are presented regarding skilled migrants, they should be in attendance to speak for themselves, regarding the provision of an implementation of best practices. Where they can be able to propose concise information that can make immigration policies more relevant to peoples livelihood strategies and be more sensitive to the negative consequences brought about by certain policy decisions.

Also, these migrants might be able to voice out the challenges of how the continuous creation of borders has cause major setbacks to the paths of migrants’ mobility. Finally as Ley and Kobayashi (2005), to emphasize on more circular migration flow between the global north and global south which is further strengthened by Koser and Salt (1997) of skilled mobility which will be able to transfer and acquire knowledge without a physical presence of the skilled migrant at the destination. Taking into the consideration and implementation of the triple-win approach that benefits the migrant, the host and the country of origin (Angenendt, 2014) that will enable legal migration to be more productive considering Europe’s ageing population.

Therefore, it is important for present scholars to continue to consider trajectory perspective that will pay attention to public policy and migrant subjectivity connections, yell for a
reconfiguration of future intellectual and policy discourse concerning international migration on issues of visa status, as an extension on the working period on students’ visas and their spouses, entry point, dual or multiple state citizenship, integration rules. To also consider events that would empower researchers and the state to develop concise assimilation of the multicultural and national scenario engage on immigration control with skilled migrants.
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