

## **Stay or Go? A Path Model of Highly Educated Individuals' Migration Desires**

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This study aims to understand the psychological factors, such as psychological attachment to place, underlying the migration desires of these highly educated individuals. A sample of 174 adults was recruited to test a model proposing that psychological place attachment mediates a previously reported relationship between social ties to the community and desires to migrate from the community. Participants completed a survey measuring their psychological place attachment using a newly developed Psychological Place Attachment Scale (PPAS). This scale was based on theoretical view of place attachment proposed by Scannell and Gifford (2010). Several indicators of local ties, including residential length in one's community, perceived local friendships, local family ties and migration desires were assessed in the survey. The proposed model predicting migration desires from residential length, perceived friendships and family ties, mediated by psychological place attachment was supported in the path analysis using a structural equation modeling framework. The hypothesized model fits the data well. These data supported a more complex understanding of qualities that predict migration desires and the important role of psychological place attachment to these desires. Data also supported the reliability and validity of the newly developed Place Attachment Scale. Future studies may further develop the scale by testing using different target places and across different countries.

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