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**Title/ Título:** Minority parents, integration and education in a changing society; the Netherlands as an example

Padres de minorías étnicas, integración y educación en una sociedad en cambio; Los Países Bajos como ejemplo

**Topic:** Cultural, technological and multicultural aspects of school, family and community partnerships

Aspectos culturales y multiculturales de las relaciones que se establecen entre las familias, los centros docentes y las entidades y servicios sociales comunitarios

**Presentation time/Día de presentación:** Session in English. Thursday 15, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Room 1, Third Floor

Sesión en Inglés. Jueves 15, 12:15-1:45 p.m. Sala 1, Tercer Piso

### **Abstract**

After the Islamic-inspired murder of Dutch film director Theo van Gogh, there is a growing tendency among Dutch politicians and teachers to draw attention to parents' responsibility for the way their children function in a multicultural society. In the Netherlands the problems of stimulating social cohesion and fostering the moral education of citizens are high on the social and political agendas. In the last few years, social tensions and latent conflicts between ethnic groups have changed the political atmosphere in this country. As always, people ask for educational efforts to compensate these difficult problems. Changes are expected from both parents and schools. Two studies were conducted, aimed at getting a better understanding of what groups of parents expect from education and how teachers feel that they should act in intercultural educational circumstances. Both studies were carried out in Rotterdam, a city that hosts a very diverse population of ethnic minority groups. One important conclusion of the first study is that Muslim parents want to be much more involved in the education at school. An important conclusion of the second study is that teachers at the investigated secondary school vary much in their intercultural consciousness and knowledge. They do not have organized or structural discussions on the cultural differences and problems at their school.