Part 1
Citizenship
The first theme, citizenship, is about the city and its inhabitants. Jan Willem Duyvendak and Fenneke Wekker get straight to the point: how do we feel at home in the city? They make a case for amicability as a common foundation that allows a diverse group of people to feel at home in the city and to share the city with each other without immediately resembling one another. The tolerance that goes with this and that characterises the big city, and Amsterdam in particular, is analysed by Thijl Sunier. Using the example of places of worship for new religions, he shows how newcomers to the city have had to fight for their place. Another facet of Amsterdam’s legendary degree of tolerance – sex – is critically scrutinised by Gert Hekma.

In each of the chapters in this section, the city is seen as an integration machine with the mandate and the capacity to involve new groups in society. Jeanine Klaver and Arend Odé show that this integration is difficult, even for highly educated EU citizens from Central and East Europe, while Blanca Garcés-Mascareñas and Sébastien Chauvin identify exclusion and inclusion mechanisms for migrants without valid residence permits. International migration has steadily made the city more diverse. Virginie Mamadouh and Nesrin El Ayadi argue that linguistic diversity has become a fundamental feature of the city: multilingualism is now commonplace. However, as Orhan Agirdag shows in his contribution about schools’ language policy, not every language is treated equally. Urban children have a life also after school, but these city dwellers are often overlooked. This is something that Lia Karsten is trying to change. Another group that tends to be invisible are the city dwellers who come under pressure as the city changes rapidly – for example, the residents of those working-class neighbourhoods that are becoming increasingly attractive for gentrifiers. Fenne Pinkster gives the inhabitants of such a place a voice, some of whom feel like exiles in their own neighbourhood. In the final chapter, Guido Snel, Sepp Eckenhaussen and Fien de Ruiter look at Amsterdam through the eyes of foreign exiles. Once again, the city’s dynamism plays a central role here: as home base and passageway, fixed and fluid.