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**Hostages in the homeland, orphans in the diaspora :
identity discourses among the Assyrian/Syriac elites
in the European diaspora**

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Curriculum Vitae

Naures Atto was born in Mzizah (Tur 'Abdin) in 1972. In October 1980 she settled in the Netherlands with her family. She holds a BA in Personnel Management (Hogeschool Enschede, 1991-1995). During her internships for AKZO Nobel (Netherlands) and Eastern Group (England) she conducted research on the organizational policy relating to highly educated personnel. Spurred on by her interest in development-oriented policy and work, she continued her study with an MA in Culture, Organization and Management (Organizational Anthropology) at the Free University in Amsterdam, from which she obtained her MA degree in 1998. From 1999 to 2003 she worked with several consultancy agencies as researcher and consultant. Since 2003 she has been affiliated to the *Leiden Institute for Religious Studies* (Leiden University). This dissertation is the result of the research which she conducted in the framework of the PIONIER Project *The Formation of a Communal Identity among Syrian Orthodox Christians (451-1300)*. Since 2008 she has been working as a post-doc researcher in the Euryi Project *Identity and Migration: Christian Minorities in the Middle East and in Diaspora*. Her work has been awarded the *Helga-Anschütz-Preis 2010*, 'Als Anerkennung ihrer Verdienste um die aramäische Sprache und Kultur' and in 2004 she was the recipient of a 'Certificate of Appreciation in Recognition of Her Outstanding Efforts and Distinctive Contributions' from the *Syriac League of Lebanon*. She is co-founder and chairman of the *Inanna Foundation*.