

Cohesion and Conflict in Contemporary Living

Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal is concerned with developing a better understanding of social change and cultural cohesion in cosmopolitan societies. The four papers in this issue demonstrate in different ways what may be at the core of this concern.

Both Froystad and Adami are interested in cultural and religious values in multi-religious societies and cosmopolitan spaces where individuals from different cultural contexts interact. Froystad throws the study of multi-religious sociality in Western context into relief by examining examples from India. For her, the key question is whether the current scholarship of cosmopolitanism has a monotheistic bias that should be accounted for. Adami suggests that human rights discourse can work in a cosmopolitan space where value systems meet in processes characterized by conflict and cohesion.

Collins and Reid take as their starting point the increasing global mobility of professionals for their study of immigrant teachers in Australia. They show that forces of inclusion and exclusion are part of the everyday experiences as of these teachers as they settle in to their professional lives as new migrants.

Bisen, Dalton and Wilson analyse media coverage of microfinance in the USA and India. Their study found that while there are some differences in subject matter and style in the newspaper articles, both sets of articles are dominated by business-oriented language, emphasizing the importance of the profit motive in microfinance schemes over the poverty-alleviation for which microfinance schemes were first recognized.

Together, these papers show how cohesion and conflict, inclusion and exclusion, shared experiences and difference are an integral part of experiencing contemporary life; individually and collectively they add to the richness of scholarly and societal debates.

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