

A discussion of multiculturalism in Australia from educators' perspective

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Key Words:

Multiculturalism, education, identity, inclusion

Research aim:

This study is an exploration of the views of non-indigenous Australian tertiary educators on multiculturalism and its effects on Australian society

Results/Conclusion:

The results from this study present an alternative perspective to what could be perceived as the dominant paradigm. To elaborate, media coverage of asylum seekers and tensions between Islamic values and the broader Australian values arguably generate a perception that the majority of Australians are anxious about new immigrants, concerned about the infringement of other cultures on what is "Australian," and are generally negatively pre-disposed toward cultural diversification of Australia. However, there are highly educated Australians who feel that government policies should facilitate the integration of asylum seekers into society, and who are able to identify an Australia in which core values do not preclude the harmonious co-existence of multiple cultures. If this group of individuals is able to communicate their values to the next generation of Australian policy-makers and opinion leaders, then perhaps, in the years to come, Australia will be closer to bridging the gap between the ideology and the practice of multiculturalism.

Implications:

Generational and continuity studies to assess the development of attitudes over time.

Cultural Group(s):

Anglo-Australians

Location of study:

Sydney

Age group:

Number included in study:

22

Type of participants:

Students undergoing or who have undergone tertiary education

Research approach:

Type of data:

Mixed

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: