

Confusions about multiculturalism

Author/s: Jan Pakulski | **Year:** 2014 | **Publication type:** Journal | **Peer reviewed:** | **Topic area/s:** Ethnicity, Integration, Immigration

Reference: Pakulski, Jan. "Confusions about multiculturalism." *Journal of Sociology* 50, no. 1, 23-36. doi:DOI: 10.1177/1440783314522190.

Key Words:

Ethnicity, Pluralism, Multiculturalism, Integration, Immigration

Research aim:

This article aims to outline the principles of Australian multiculturalism, identifies its theoretical foundations, and highlights some of the popular confusions about its meaning, focus and objectives.

Results/Conclusion:

The confusions are likely to grow with multiculturalism torn by two trends. On the one hand, its key principles have been accepted in 'planning for diversity'; on the other hand, it has been drawn into culture wars triggered by anti-immigration movements and social pathologies of mal-integration.

Implications:

In order to assess the overall 'record of multiculturalism' in a fair and accurate way – a task that is not undertaken here – we must start by clearing the confusions. When this is done, critics will realise that they have to do much more than pin the well-known problems and pathologies that accompany mass migrations on multiculturalism. Any fair assessment has to start by clearing the confusions, but then continue with a wide comparative analysis: monitoring the levels of social integration/ cohesion, comparing the outcomes in societies embracing multiculturalism with outcomes in societies that embraced rival policies; and comparing the outcomes before and after the introduction of multicultural strategies. Criticisms based on confused interpretations of multiculturalism are not able to do that.

Cultural Group(s):

Refugees

Location of study:

Age group:

Number included in study:

Type of participants:

Research approach:

Type of data:

Mixed

Secondary data sources used:

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: