

Diversity and Multiculturalism: Present Practices and Possible Future Policies:

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Homogeneity Versus Heterogeneity

Common-sense notion of nation as homogenous, cohesive community

- homogenous (race, phenotype, culture)
- unity despite differences (regions, difference, contribute to oneness)
- national identity, identification, community or family

Nation as “imagined community”

- social diversity- gender, class, age, sexual orientation
- ethnic, linguistic and regional diversity
- porous, awkward, imposed nation-state borders
- construction, performance, imposition of cohesion

Canadian Diversity

Current assumptions of diversity of Western countries like Canada

- Aboriginals, Inuit
- Caucasian ethnics from Europe
- Ethno-racial immigrants from Asia , Africa, Caribbean and South America
- Multiracial people, Metis

Canadian Intra-Group Diversity

1. “Local Born” Chinese-Canadians
2. Hong Kong immigrant Chinese-Canadians
3. Mainland China immigrant Chinese-Canadians

Privilege, disadvantage and discrimination based on:
insider/outsider; nation-state/diaspora; authenticity/cosmopolitanism;
identity/identification; rich/poor

The Nation-State and Diversity

1. Nations and Nationalism

- construction and projection of homogeneity and unity
 - unity out of diversity
 - nationalism and discrimination (Us and Them)
 - history of the nation
 - national self image
- Institutions and practitioners have to work within nation and state policy

State, Institutional and Community Stances

- a) Homogenous cohesion
- b) Assimilation
- c) Liberal Multiculturalism
- d) Interculturalism (integration)
- e) Critical multiculturalism / Anti-racism

Canada's Shifting Approaches

- (a) Aboriginals on "Turtle Island" (before Europeans)
- (b) "two solitudes" (English and French)
- (c) assimilation (British)
- (d) race and ethnic relations (mostly about Eastern Europeans)
- (d) multiculturalism (within a bilingual framework)
- (e) shifting emphasis of multiculturalism (celebration, representation, responsibility)

Alternatives to Multiculturalism

Alternative Official Social Policy:

- Anti-racism (1990s Ontario)
- Quebecois and European interculturalism
- New Zealand biculturalism

Institutional, Activist and Praxis Approaches

Comprehensive Anti-Oppression Frameworks

- Critical Multiculturalism
- Integrative Anti-racism
- Third Wave Feminism
- Critical Pedagogy
- Queer Theory and LGBTTQ

Hong Kong Policy and Outlook on Difference?

- a) Homogenous cohesion
- b) Assimilation
- c) Interculturalism
- d) Liberal multiculturalism
- e) Critical multiculturalism / Anti-racism

Hong Kong Institutional, Activist and Praxis Approaches?

Anti-Discrimination Discourses and Minority Identity Politics Irrespective of National Policy

- Anti-racism? and “Ethnic Minority” Identity politics
- Anti-sexism and Feminist politics
- Anti-homophobia/heteronormativity and Gay and Lesbian Politics
- Overall Anti-Discrimination Framework