

Abstract

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Modes of Solidarity. A Theory Encompassing Collectivism, Education and the Demarcation of Community

Which factors determine a population's acceptance of and good-will towards strangers? We answer the question with a general theory of demarcation of communities. It distinguishes between two conflicting conceptions of the strong community. According to the exclusive version a strong community remains strong by virtue of its exclusiveness. According to the inclusive version a strong community remains strong by virtue of tolerance and forbearance towards strangers and deviant behavior.

Immigration may expose the demarcation of any community. During the 1980s liberalization of the Danish policy toward political refugees opened the borders and exposed the limits of solidarity among Danes. The Danish case provides a possibility of testing our ideas.

The theory of demarcation of communities leads us to expect the existence of two distinct reactions towards refugees. Whether the response becomes exclusive or inclusive depends upon the respondents' level of education and degree of collectivism. We predict a pattern of interaction between education and collectivism in their impact on conceptions of the strong community. We test our predictions against Danish survey data from 1987 using logit analyses, and we find strong corroboration of the proposed theory.

Charlotte Hamburger

Assimilation as a Fundamental Feature in Danish Immigration Policy

Despite the stated political goal of integrating »the new immigrants« into Danish society, an analysis of Danish immigration policy reveals that it is fundamentally based on principles of assimilation. Moreover, the concrete political provisions concerning immigrants are assimilatory in nature. This policy has two unintended consequences. First, there is a tendency toward segregation among some immigrant groups, e.g. the Turkish immigrants. Secondly, the policy legitimates and maintains the negative attitudes in society towards the immigrants and their indigenous cultures.

Jan Hjarnø

The Situation of Immigrants on the Danish Labor Market: Structural Changes and the vicious Spiral of Stereotypes

The picture of Denmark as a tolerant society, where ethnic minorities are spared of discrimination, does not fit with the real conditions today. In recent years the »new immigrants« have increasingly been marginalized, a tendency that is especially apparent on the labor market. A disproportionate number of immigrants are unemployed and faced with a bleak future. The cause must in part be attributed to structural changes in the economy and in part to the sharp rise in negative stereotypes with regard to the immigrant population. These structural changes and negative stereotypes are tied together in a mutually reinforcing relationship pointing in a direction that in the near future might earn Denmark a reputation as one of the most racist societies in Western Europe.

Anne Brøcker

Immigrant Legislation in Denmark 1983-86: Factors in the Political Decision-Making Process

The legislation regulating conditions for immigrants and refugees in Denmark was changed radically twice during the 1980s (1983 and 1986). At both occasions the media's treatment of the issue had a decisive influence on the outcome of the political decision making process.

The conditions for immigrants and refugees can be seen as an example of an issue area with weak and poorly organised interest, which leave the political decision making process open to be influenced by the random changes of mind by central placed individuals and by current mediatreatment of the issue concerned.