

European Perspectives
on Exclusion and Subordination:
The Political Economy of Migration



Edited by
Anders Neergaard

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Scholarship on migration and ethnic relations is today an established field. This book and the articles within it contribute to a critical understanding of the issue of Europe and migration. The book is organised around three themes. The first theme focuses on the construction of the European Union and its borders. We see the exclusionary processes in the policing of Europe and in the militarisation of borders to control and keep out 'the others'. Understanding migration to Europe and within the European Union entails an understanding of material and symbolic borders. The second theme of the book concerns issues of labour and labour market participation, and the labour situation faced by migrants and racialised groups. While the focus is on the racialisation of labour, the articles, in an intersectional perspective, weave in aspects of gender and class. The third theme of the book is concerned with the issues of social cohesion, social exclusion and multiculturalism. Together they form a book that interrogates issues of citizenship linked to processes of racialisation and the construction of national and European identities. The themes are discussed and analysed through different approaches and perspectives, although they emphasize the importance of power relations, discourses of power and practices of power. In doing so, the book also shows that an understanding of migration, migrants and racialised groups is central to understanding reconfigurations of class and gender. In this book, a number of scholars approach the themes from a multidimensional perspective. It is a bleak picture that unfolds, a picture characterised by racialised subordination and exclusion, framed in interesting and thought provoking articles.

A central concern throughout the book is the contentious issue of citizenship. In many countries of today, there are important scholarly debates and political discussions concerning the scope of citizenship and the rights connected to it. The situation and location of migrants is a sort of prism through which changes of European identity and citizenship may be understood. While national governments of Europe as well as the European Union pursue the rhetoric of social inclusion, there is at the same time an increasing awareness of the actual processes of ethnification and racialisation taking place - a tension between creed and practice, which Schierup et al. distinctly capture when they refer to this as a 'European Dilemma'. This book takes this dilemma as a point of departure.

This volume is an offspring of the recently established Institute for Research on Migration, Ethnicity and Society (REMESO - a centre of excellence funded by the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, at Linköping University) directed by Carl-Ulrik Schierup, and its international networks of scholars. It is a book encompassing contributions by senior international as well as junior scholars focusing, through critical perspectives, on issues that are of fundamental importance for understanding Europe of today.

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