Enculturation', not 'acculturation': Conceptualising and assessing identity processes in migrant communities.

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Abstract

Following a critique of Berry's model of 'acculturation strategies', the paper considers the relationship between heritage culture and ethnic identity. Analysis of processes of development, maintenance and redefinition of identity in contexts of alternative cultural norms contends with the assumption of conscious choice or strategy towards mainstream and heritage cultures. From the perspective of identity issues, *enculturation* of cultural elements rather than *acculturation* is often the more significant process. Going beyond critique to consider issues of the persistence of ethnic identity and processes of cultural reformulation, brings attention to the origins of *primordialist sentiment* within ethnic identity and the possibilities for generating

situationalist perspectives. Reference to empirical investigations using Identity Structure Analysis (introduced as a conceptual framework for explicating complex identity processes) provides evidence for different identity processes and structures according to socio-historical context and the greater malleability of situationalists compared with primordialists in their empathetic identifications with alternative cultural groups.

Keywords

Acculturation; Enculturation; Ethnic identity; Primordialism; Identity Structure Analysis; Ethnic identification

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