

Singla's Abstract

Negotiating mixedness in the Danish context of 'homogeneity': Intermarried couples, children of mixed parentage & Psychosocial well being

My presentation covers some psychosocial aspects of intermarried couples and children of mixed parentage in Denmark. Scandinavian countries are characterised by egalitarian principles and 'homogeneity' on one hand and increasing, polarisation between *us & the others* as well as ethnic diversity on the other, especially in Denmark.

Though the number of partnership formations, across the ethnic borders, is relatively small yet it is on increase. However, intermarried couples and children of mixed parentage are almost invisible as a Statistical category and psychosocial services.

In Danish context, these couples and children challenge the stereotype binary and at the same time face challenges - possibilities and difficulties in relation to their self understandings, family and networks due to their "mixedness" in interplay with the broad society and transnational relations.

This talk is based on an ongoing research project about intermarried couples, where one of the partners is from South Asia and the other a native Dane. Some praxis based experiences are also included. I would focus on the life world of these couples and children in which their gendered positions intersect with socio economic position, ethnic 'mixing', and life course phase.

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Ph.D. , Masters Degree in Psychology from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark as well as Master of Science in Child Developmental & Family Relationships, University of Delhi. Born and raised in North India, moved to Denmark in 1980.

Main fields of academic interest and research are family relations, youth development and psychosocial intervention with focus on ethnicity and movements across borders. Besides, interplay between Eastern and Western Psychology is an area of interest. Has published books, a number of peer-reviewed journal articles as well as broad media articles within above mentioned fields. Among the published books are:

- *Etnisk minoritetsungdom i Danmark - om deres psykosociale situation (1995)*, (Ethnic Minority Youth in Denmark – About Their Psychosocial Situation), Danish Psychological Publishers, Copenhagen.
- *Youth Relationships, Ethnicity and Psychosocial Intervention, (2004)* Books Plus, New Delhi.
- *Now And Then - Life Trajectories, Family Relationships and Diasporic Identities: A follow-up Study of Young Adults (2008)*, University of Copenhagen.