BOOK REVIEWS

WILEY

Welfare Work with Immigrants and Refugees in a Social Democratic Welfare State

Edited by Trine Øland

Abingdon: Routledge, 2019. ISBN 9781138578418; £115.00 (Hbk)

In the context of increasing globalisation, it is often assumed that the Nordic, social democratic welfare states are an ideal example for integrating immigrants and refugees into society. *Welfare Work with Immigrants and Refugees in a Social Democratic Welfare State* by Trine Øland reveals the less visible aspects of the Danish social democratic welfare state when it meets immigrants and refugees in praxis. Through a sociological interview study with 48 welfare workers in Denmark, it provides an insightful and probing narrative that invites the reader to question the assumption of the progressive and egalitarian social democratic welfare state. The book argues that welfare work in Denmark is subjected to stereotypes that legitimise the idea of immigrants and refugees as not only culturally problematic but also culturally inferior. Consequently, the book places welfare work in the margins of the Danish society as central to the reproduction of the state and concludes that welfare and race are deeply intertwined.

In *Welfare Work with Immigrants and Refugees in a Social Democratic Welfare State*, Øland uses examples of welfare workers in different areas such as healthcare, education or social work to critically examine the status quo: One of the key arguments of the book is that immigrants and refugees are problematised and stereotyped within welfare work. Welfare work, therefore, simultaneously authorises Danish culture as a superior welfare culture, which is in contrast to the egalitarianism that it usually promotes. The immigrants and refugees that should benefit from welfare work are consequently expected to connect and submit to the Danish welfare culture. One of the many welfare workers used to exemplify this argument in the book is Caroline, a nurse employed in an integration project for traumatised immigrant and refugee women. Øland demonstrates how Caroline connects her own stereotypes about immigrants on refugees and her own assumptions about what she thinks her welfare work can do and accomplish for them. Hereby, the book indicates that the reasoning of welfare workers comprises an ambiguous and contradictory process, as well as symbolic boundaries of legitimate behaviour and membership of the Danish community.

Despite the book's compelling proposals to the discipline, two potential areas for improvement can be identified. First, while the book skilfully zooms into the inner workings of the Danish welfare state, this leaves it without the broader global context. In particular, processes of othering and differentiation of ethnic groups have been proven to be prevalent across several welfare states. It can therefore be argued that the reproduction of the state through welfare work with the result of undermining refugees and immigrants is a universal phenomenon and might not be unique to the Danish, or social democratic welfare states for that matter. Second, after problematising processes surrounding the highly practical area of welfare work in Denmark, potential policy implications would be appreciated. In other words, can welfare work in Denmark dissociate from or even help to transform the normative, institutional environment that embeds it? And if so, what are the author's thoughts about how to achieve that?

Nonetheless, this book provides a thorough, detailed and highly engaging analysis of the inner workings of the Danish welfare state and its relationship to immigrants and refugees. Using a high number of interview extracts and

further analysis, Øland portrays a coherent picture of the racialisation of immigrants and refugees through welfare work in Denmark. *Welfare Work with Immigrants and Refugees in a Social Democratic Welfare State* can help to explain how welfare work with immigrants and refugees within a national welfare state functions. The book will be especially valuable for scholars of sociology, social policy and social work with interest in the inner workings of contemporary welfare states. In sum, the book is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the intersections between welfare states and immigration.

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Social innovation: How societies find the power to change

Edited by Geoff Mulgan

Bristol: Policy Press, 2019. ISBN: 9781447353812; £14.99 (Pbk)

Advanced introduction to social innovation change

Edited by Frank Moulaert | Diana MacCallum

Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019. ISBN: 9781785360398; £15.95 (Pbk)

Two titles have been published in the last year by protagonists in the field of social innovation, positioning the concept as a mechanism for social transformation, Mulgan's *Social innovation: How societies find the power to change* and Moulaert and MacCallum's *Advanced introduction to social innovation*. Each promote a solidarity-based approach to addressing societal challenges, Mulgan promoting Anglo-American entrepreneurial models, while Moulaert and MacCallum hold up European social economy models. Both books describe an ever-evolving field, and agree in their definition that social innovation is concerned with addressing unmet needs in society. Mulgan's compendium brings the discourse together in one place, good reference material for ideas around social innovation at a point in time, moving from design 'thinking' to design 'doing'. While more academic in its structure Moulaert and MacCallum's book is clear about what it considers to be social innovation, sharing illustrative examples and methodology from communities around the world. Their motivation is to emphasise the 'social'—grass-roots networks that are affecting change around the world. Mulgan's book on the other hand is quite Anglo-centric, both in how it positions the