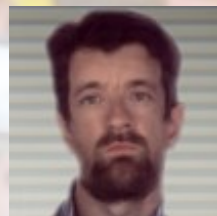


ARE WE ALL COSMOPOLITAN NOW?

THE STRUGGLE FOR BELONGING AND SECURITY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

One of the key challenges facing the social sciences at the current time is developing new theoretical frameworks for making sense of what has been labelled, a 'borderless world' (Beck, 2006). The idea of the cosmopolitan has become the subject of renewed interest as attempts are made to understand (the significance of) new patterns of mobility, interactions between previously distant social groups and the emergence of institutions to manage these processes.

In this paper, I build on the arguments of those who have emphasised the strategic aspects and temporal dimensions of cosmopolitan expressions and practices, (Skrbis & Woodward, 2007, Kothari, 2008, Muller, 2011), by focusing on the resources and constraints that different actors operate with, or under, and, as a result, the varying commitments they have to different 'others'. Using data use data from my own qualitative research among the ethnic majority in England (alongside insights from researchers working on similar issues in the Netherlands, Sweden, US and Australia), I analyse those moments when individuals 'build bridges' with others but also emphasise the importance of established social frameworks, including those associated with the nation, in underpinning a taken-for-granted and ontologically valuable sense of self, community and place. Such an approach, which specifically attends to questions of power, allows us to more effectively assess the extent to which global mobility, in increasing interactions between disparate peoples, may be generating novel forms of sociability and community that are both *meaningful* and *durable*.



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His work has also featured in a range of journals, including: *Sociological Review*, *Communication Theory*, *Nations & Nationalism*, *Journal of Cultural Geography* and *Ethnicities*. He has just published: 'What does it mean to be cosmopolitan?': An examination of the meaningfulness and commensurability of everyday engagements with 'otherness' in *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1070289X.2013.799476#preview>

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