Paradoxes of Multiculturalism
Essays on Swedish Society

Sweden is reputed to have the most avant-garde welfare and immigration policies in Europe. But behind this image lies a more complex reality. Recent changes are turning an explicit commitment to multiculturalism into a kind of cultural repression that conceals the structure of power underlying racial, ethnic, gender and class inequalities. Drawing fruitfully on comparisons with Britain and other European countries, Aleksandra Ålund and Carl-Ulrik Schierup examine some of the paradoxes of multiculturalism that have come to light during the course of public debates about Sweden’s ‘over-programmed’ society. They critically reassess the dominant political, institutional and academic discourses: they look at changes in refugee policy, at how immigrant women and youth are represented and at the limited voice given to immigrant communities and contemporary social movements. In discussing the dilemmas faced by a welfare state under the twin threats of globalization and localization, the book focuses on the emerging notion of ‘trans-ethnicity’ and, in so doing, exposes the need for more comprehensive definitions of ‘politics’, ‘class’, ‘state’, ‘civil society’ and ‘everyday life’.

Research in Ethnic Relations Series

The aim of the series is to publish books based on research carried out at the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations, University of Warwick. It will also publish works from external authors, and the editor welcomes manuscripts from other writers and researchers working in the field of race and ethnic relations. The main emphasis of the series will be on books based on original research, although theoretical and policy discussions will also be included when they provide a practical understanding of issues of social and political relevance for students of race and ethnic relations and for those implementing equal opportunity and anti-racist policies.

Editor: Dr John Wrench
Senior Research Fellow

The Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick is supported by the Economic and Social Research Council.

ISBN 1 85628 233 3

AVEBURY

Avebury is an imprint of the Academic Publishing Group
Gower House, Croft Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3HR, England