
Originally published in *Media International Australia*, (133), 170.

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Mediated Crossroads: Identity, Youth Culture and Ethnicity - Theoretical and Methodological Challenges is a volume that highlights the difficulties of reporting on workshops or colloquia. While discussion at the international workshop held in Sweden in 2007 that is the genesis of the volume no doubt enabled a synthesising of a range of ideas, this is an element missing from a publication that collects pieces from individual contributors. It is important to note at the outset that the concept of 'youth culture', which may have emerged as a point of discussion at the workshop, should have been omitted from the title of the volume since it is an idea that is explored neither in the introduction by Rydin and Sjöberg nor by any of the contributing authors. Quite apart from a lack of conceptual discussion of youth culture, young people don’t even appear as research subjects in the first three chapters and overall there is no sense that this is an empirically focussed volume.

The book works somewhat better as an exploration of the variety of theoretical frameworks and methodologies that may be deployed in the study of how local, international and global media are accessed by and impact upon the identities of migrants. The shift away from describing the media use of migrants as acts of assimilation or nostalgia and towards a transnational approach to the complex process migrants undertake in negotiating former and new cultures forms the starting point of most of the essays. The contributors to the volume draw upon a range of theoretical constructs, largely from cultural studies and sociology, to describe this process. The
work of cultural theorist Stuart Hall on hybrid identities, sociologist Anthony Giddens on ontological security, and post-structural notions of 'roots and routes' based on the work of Deleuze and Guattari finds its way into a number of the essays but is most fully explored by Andersson in his discussion of the media consumption of migrants in Sweden.

Perhaps the strongest element of the volume is discussion of the methodological challenges of examining media use by migrants. There is a clear preference for deploying qualitative tools in the field - an approach supported by an examination of epistemological and ontological issues by Storm-Mathisen and Helle-Valle in what is one of the best essays in the collection. The type of contextualised 'thick description' of social practice they advocate can also effectively be used to supplement more structured quantitative data. Indeed, the work of Elias and Lemish on internet use by former Soviet Union adolescents in Israel does this in a highly effective manner in what is the most enlightening discussion of empirical material in the volume. Discussion of the practice and limitations of participant observation, photo-elicitation, dialogic interviews, school-based action research, photo-documentary and a range of other research tools will be of value to those framing new research projects in this field. The more general reader is likely to find the volume a slightly frustrating collection of pieces that, in an attempt to combine theoretical, methodological and empirical discussion, make for an awkward read.