


## Book Review: Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementaton by Ricard Zapata-Barrero

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**Zapata-Barrero, Ricard, ed. *Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementaton*. Northampton: Edward Elgar, 2015. xvi + 200 pages. Hardcover, \$110.00.**

*Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementation* is a highly useful addition to current integration and immigration literature, applicable to a wide range of social science disciplines. Represented within this text are articles from political scientists, urban planning experts, sociologists, and public policy specialists. These various papers come together to provide a picture of interculturalism as both a theoretical concept and a functional policy. Scholarly research on this topic is still in its infancy and currently “occurring at a largely rhetorical level” which makes this book very valuable to the field (p. viii). Theories of interculturalism abound, but very little work has been done on how these ideas can be applied in real-world contexts, in either governmental policy or local implementation. Zapata-Barrero and the other authors of the book take a major step toward advancing this goal.

The articles in *Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementation* are split into two main sections: (1) From Concept to Policy (Chapters 1-5), and (2) From Policy to Implementation (Chapters 6-10). This underscores the main purpose of the book, which is to take the concept of interculturalism out of the abstract and into the practical. In Part 1, political scientist Zapata-Barrero addresses major holes in the current intercultural paradigm. Specifically he provides a theoretical framework for encouraging interaction between different groups. Political scientists Caponio and Ricucci discuss the merits of interculturalism as a successful tool to guide policy at a local or city level. Rocher, also a political scientist, compares and contrasts governmental diversity policy in Montreal and Barcelona. Wood, an urban planning specialist, discusses how cities can facilitate interaction among diverse groups through adjusting their physical infrastructure. Cante, an honorary professor of politics, ends the first section of the book by bridging the gap between theory and implementation.

In Part 2 of the book, Ludwinek, a research manager for the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND), begins the application section by discussing European understandings of diversity, as shown through mass surveys conducted by her organization. Economist Wagner measures the effectiveness of intercultural policies, while Guidikova, the Council of Europe’s Intercultural Cities program manager, discusses the advantages of diversity. Political scientist Triandafyllidou and law professor Ulasiuk focus on how the media can promote integration. Finally, Harell, a political scientist, provides a discourse on how to measure diversity outcomes in primary and secondary schools.

*Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementation* greatly advances our scientific knowledge of interculturalism by beginning the conversation on how this theoretical concept can be, and has already been, applied. Yet, the book also includes some significant deficiencies. Too great of a focus is placed on city government and local institutions, with not

enough discussion concentrating on the individuals who may be affected by these policies and organizations. Policy analysis and large-scale surveys, which are pervasive throughout the text, can be useful especially when looking at interculturalism through an institutional perspective; however, additional local case studies at a neighborhood or city district level would have significantly strengthened the implementation section. Furthermore, the price of the book and the publishing company's directive have ensured that this text will primarily stay within the purview of academia, when in actuality these ideas and applications should be disseminated much more widely if they are to be adopted.

*Interculturalism in Cities: Concept, Policy, and Implementation* is a useful primer for those unfamiliar with recent developments in integration, immigration, and migration studies, and it provides an excellent start to a serious dialogue regarding the implementation of intercultural policies at a city level. This book can be of great use to anyone interested in diversity studies, both inside and outside the social sciences.

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