

Book Reviews/Comptes rendus

ROSE BAABA FOLSON (Ed), *Calculated Kindness: Global Restructuring, Immigration and Settlement in Canada*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2004.

This collection of nine essays on contemporary migration issues in Canada is welcome for a number of reasons: it offers a polyphonic perspective on a number of topics often disregarded in standard migration works; it is the product of a new generation of researchers who bring current and diverse perspectives to the field; it pulls no punches as an unapologetically critical view of how Canada has been handling migration in the recent past. It is not a flawless work: the tone is sometimes overly accusatory and the empirical material a bit thin. This does not, however, diminish the collection's value as an important contribution to debates on Canadian immigration.

For one, it offers some striking insights. Folson rightly points out for instance that migration in the modern world can only be understood within the context of a "hierarchy of nations" (24) that largely determines the fate of migrants. No simple theory of migration can explain the complex forces that drive modern population movements, but close attention to power relations between and within nations can help uncover reasons for persistent inequalities.

Among the variety of issues raised by the other contributors, several are particularly noteworthy. For example, the migration policies and geopolitics of western powers are identified as having created entire classes of people based on arbitrary and frequently colonial practices. Women in particular have been relegated to vastly subordinate positions through racialized migration processes. The issue continues to matter on many levels today, with another contributor to the collection showing that immigrant women have unequal access to language training in Canada.

The critical point that many immigrant-serving programs ignore the internal diversity of immigrant communities (African newcomers, for instance, speak a great variety of languages) receives attention. Another pertinent argument suggests that the language used in immigration policy documents tends to be highly biased – and implicitly or explicitly exclusionary. The devastating consequences of sex trafficking and of targeted, racialized sexual harassment are strikingly discussed in one chapter. In addition, one contributor discusses the daunting obstacles

highly skilled immigrant women face in their attempts to enter the Canadian labour force. The penultimate chapter shows that Canadians who move to the South (for instance as aid workers, etc.) face no such obstacles or often display problematic hierarchical relations with their hosts.

The final chapter of this edited work raises perhaps the most important point of the book: the need for immigrants to be given a voice and the ability to engage in critical dialogue with the rest of Canadian society. Islamic fundamentalism serves as the case study in the chapter, receiving careful and yet vivid discussion. More generally, Folson's edited volume offers a fine contribution to the ongoing dialogue, as well as stimulates and invites further engagement and participation in the process. In short, the collection of essays should be on the readings lists of all who care about the present and future of migration in Canada and the world.

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