



Qualifications, Tests and Contracts: regulating migration and citizenship

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Context and Assumptions

Problematising the cultures of ‘other’ ethnic groups, or immigrants or refugees – not least immigrant women – as backward traditions that creates differences and conflicts with the ‘normal’ population. Culturalisation – a culture-related disguise of social inequality and discrimination – occupies a prominent place in the processes of change currently affecting European society....becomes the basis on which to select people as being suitable and adaptable (skill is increasingly used as the surrogate for nationality and culture). Cultural differences described as imported ‘immigrant problems’. (Alund 1991)



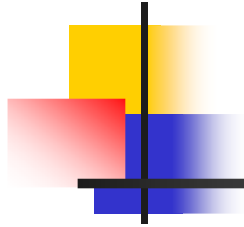
Immigrant Women

- Women from ethnic minority groups have a considerably lower level of education than native Dutch women. Of the Turkish women between 40 and 65 years of age, a maximum of 80% have had basic education, whereas this is true for not less than 90% of the older Moroccan women. They have a very low rate of participation in the labour market. They are usually housewives, jobless or occupationally disabled. A quarter of them have jobs, and about 15% of the women on average are jobless as against 4% of the native Dutch women. They have little or no contact with native Dutch people and display proportionally the most traditional attitudes towards emancipation (Amendments to Aliens Act 2000).



Immigrant Women - UK

- Women, as border guards of cultural difference and reproducers of the migrant population, now and in the future, serve to demonstrate the backwardness and maintenance of traditions. Bernard Crick (The Guardian April 12 2004), the advisor to the Home Secretary on citizenship, referred to the necessity of compulsory English tests directed at isolated women, supposedly prevented by patriarchal community structures from participating in the public sphere. This was the image of the subordinate and passive women generated by the disturbances in three Northern cities in the summer of 2001.



- the new integration requirement, as a condition for the admission of newcomers to the Netherlands, will also serve as a selection criterion. The aliens who do not already succeed in mastering a certain basic knowledge of the Dutch language and Dutch society before their arrival in the Netherlands, and could therefore encounter serious problems in their integration, will not receive permission to settle in the Netherlands. Reducing the flow of migrants with respect to whom it can be foreseen that they will lag behind in their integration in the Netherlands will also relieve the integration problem.

