Parental ethnic socialization and intergroup antagonism among Muslim immigrant youth and native youth in the Netherlands

Diana van Bergen

The study compared the parental ethnic socialization of youth in the Netherlands who held either egalitarian ideals, or who were prone to intergroup antagonism, e.g. hostility, distancing and negativity toward other ethnicities or religions. Data come from qualitative interviews (N=30) with students (age 16-22) of native, Moroccan and Turkish descent. Intergroup attitudes were often shared by parents and their children in both groups. In families in both groups, societal tendencies to view anti-Islam views as politically correct reinforced anti-immigrant sentiments in native children, and increased feelings of stigmatization among Muslim youth. Minority youth who were more antagonistic than their parents, described a lack of parental responsiveness, poor parent-child communication, and/or authoritarianism. The findings are discussed in relation to the literature on ethnic socialization.

Key words: Intergroup antagonism, parental ethnic socialization, minority-majority relations, Turkish-Dutch and Moroccan-Dutch youth, native Dutch youth