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Katarina Pettersson · Emma Nortio
Editors

The Far-Right Discourse of Multiculturalism in Intergroup Interactions

A Critical Discursive Perspective

palgrave
macmillan

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Preface

This book delves into a topic that has become one of the most prevalent societal issues of the twenty-first century: the discourse of multiculturalism. From a critical discursive social psychological perspective, the book explores how multiculturalism and the related topics of immigration, intergroup relations, prejudice and racism are constructed and discussed in both political talk and various forms of intergroup interaction. Specifically, the book focuses on how these topics as articulated by far-right political actors are received—accepted, contested, circulated and reproduced—in intergroup discussions both on- and offline. In so doing, the book builds a bridge between the two fields of discursive research focusing on either political or lay discourse, thus offering a much-needed contribution to the discursive psychological literature. Through utilizing empirical material from the Nordic context, the contributions to this book shed light on this specific setting and relate these insights to international research on the discourse of multiculturalism. Finally, in bringing the discursive perspective into interplay with media and communications, sociological, philosophical and gender studies perspectives on (political) discourse, the book makes a strong

case for interdisciplinary research initiatives in the field. We hope that this book will be useful for scholars, students and professionals with an interest in the complex interplay between political and lay discourse in the current era of digitalization.

Helsinki, Finland
June 2021

Katarina Pettersson
Emma Nortio

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Praise for *The Far-Right Discourse of Multiculturalism in Intergroup Interactions*

“At a time when populist and far-right rhetoric so permeate the public sphere, this is a book for the ‘must-read’ list. Carefully dissecting language and imagery, those contributing to this edited volume take a serious look at the digital world and provide an interdisciplinary masterclass on how to explore contemporary rhetorical attacks on multiculturalism and the options for counter-argument.”

—Professor Nick Hopkins, *University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, UK*

“As the social sciences come to terms with the realisation that ‘old-fashioned’ racism may be depressingly prevalent in the third decade of the 21st century, this new and exciting volume presents a collection of fascinating analyses of the intertwining of discourses of race, racism and multiculturalism in the online and offline contexts of contemporary political debate. Drawing on the tools of critical discursive and rhetorical psychology, the authors shed light on how the language of extremism and exclusion is enacted, reproduced and reinforced, but also how it can be challenged and resisted. It will be essential reading for scholars interested

in matters of race and racism, the stubborn persistence of the far right, and in the analysis of political discourse more broadly.”

—Professor Stephen Gibson, *Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom*

“In the current cultural and political conjuncture it is more important than ever to analyse the discursive formations and affective practices which sustain right wing extremism. This richly layered exposition of contemporary research from leading scholars is essential reading for all those who seek to understand the power of populism and far right discourse.”

—Margaret Wetherell, Emerita Professor, *The University of Auckland, New Zealand and The Open University, UK*

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