

Preventative Parenting: Governmental Racialization of Migrant Families

Author(s)

Blankvoort, Nadine

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Preventative Parenting: Governmental Racialization of Migrant Families

*'Is everything okay with my husband? Is everything okay with my children? Only after that do they think about themselves... they are in service to their husband and children and need to learn to make choices for themselves.'*¹

Migrant families to the Netherlands, must together, or after reunification, complete the civic integration programme. Previous research conducted by this author² displayed, through a framework of governmental racialization,³ that these programmes participate in the continued normalization of a notion of *cultural distance*, essentializing this difference, attributing it as an inherent characteristic to individuals and their 'unmodernity'. This unmodernity becomes the target of new disciplinary practices, aimed at facilitating internalization of modern, 'Dutch' values.

This paper provides a continuation of this work by presenting how the notion of cultural distance is strengthened through discourses on migrant families and specifically parents. Analysis displays that multiple actors are discursively mobilized in 'shoring up colonially perceived deficiencies'⁴ regarding families, their familial roles, and their parenting competencies and approaches. The disempowered mother; the distant father; and the vulnerable child, are signifiers of 'inter-generational integration risk', which in-turn are disciplined through practices of *preventative parenting* and *empowerment*, discreetly embedded or overtly promoted throughout civic integration programmes.

Bio:

Nadine Blankvoort is a doctoral researcher in the Department of Health Inequities and Societal Participation and Maastricht University, as well as the research group Participation and Environment at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Health. Her doctoral research engages a critical discourse analysis of texts related to civic integration programmes in the Netherlands through a lens of modernity/coloniality, as well as critical ethnography which follows new practices within civic integration. She is a board member of Civic Foundation, an organisation aiming to promote a fundamentally different view on civic integration in the Netherlands.

¹ DIVOSA 2021, Pilot Inburgering van start tot finish deel 1: Vrouwelijke nareizigers en gezinsmigranten

² Blankvoort et al., 2023. 'New' Dutch Civic Integration: learning 'Spontaneous Compliance' to address inherent difference, Critical Discourse Studies, DOI: 10.1080/17405904.2023.2179648

³ Hesse, 2007, Racialized Modernity: An analytic of white mythologies, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 30(4), p643-663.

⁴ Idem, p. 656.