

Urban schools in Sweden: Between social predicaments, the power of stigma and relational dilemmas.

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Urban schools in Sweden: Between social predicaments, the power of stigma and relational dilemmas

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2008 (English) Report (Other academic)

Abstract [en]

Multicultural urban schools in Sweden are facing two major challenges. First, the communities they serve are typically stigmatized and economically impoverished, leading to growing concerns regarding the quality of education, lack of credibility and an outflow of students. The second challenge is the ambivalent relations with students' parents (presumable consumers and partners, but who are also regarded as culturally conservative) and with a broader community, such as public authorities and universities. I argue that we cannot understand the practical operations and outcomes of multicultural schools if we only look at curriculum, individual attitudes or freedom of choice policy and do not examine the broader challenges facing these institutions. What is needed is a more relational approach linking together the interests of different groups, policy changes, modes of representation and the educators' practices.

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