HERITAGE MAKING AND MIGRANT SUBJECTS IN THE DEINDUSTRIALISING REGION OF THE LATROBE VALLEY

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Abstract: This Element argues that community-initiated migrant heritage harbours the potential to challenge and expand state-sanctioned renderings of multiculturalism in liberal nation states. In this search for alternative readings, community-initiated migrant heritage is positioned as a grassroots challenge to positivist state multiculturalism. It can do this if we adopt the migrant perspective, a diasporic perspective of ‘settlement’ that is always unfinished, non-static, and non-essentialist. As mobile subjects, either once or many times over – a subject position arrived at through acts of mobility, sometimes spawned by violence or structural inequality, which can reverberate throughout subsequent generations – the migrant subject position compels us to look both forwards and backwards in time and place.

Keywords: migrant, industrial, heritage, memory, emotion

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