

Review of: "The equality agenda: a clear case of smoke and mirrors"

Rosemary Sage¹

¹ Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an important article in view of the continual debate about equality for people living in communities. The historical comparison between nations is useful and using the DM article gave a realistic context for the discussion. The focus on intelligence and how it could be fostered is important and the evolution of intelligence tests is important to consider,

However, as the Medical Research Council projects (Sage, 2000) have shown, the common ones are very verbally based and focus on the components of a process rather than the whole, so are not an accurate indication of how knowledge can be applied in reality. Clinical studies show how people can test as normal on intelligence tests but have severe problems in assembling information as psycholinguistics find when having to diagnose learning difficulties. The Flynn studies tracking IQ in nations over the last 50 years use the Ravens Progressive Matrices, which are visual tests and more reliable for the linguistic issues now prevalent in our multicultural and multilingual societies. More over, many of the critical issues in thinking effectively such as creativity, curiosity, complex thinking, communication, compassion and cooperation, are difficult to assess but essential for equal opportunities.

To improve the article

1. Consider the equality concept in more depth
2. Unpack intelligence to include both positive and negative aspects
3. Consider some recent literature on diversity
4. Discuss the issue of inheritance and context - the nature-nurture controversy
5. Broaden the conclusion in view of these issues