

Review of: "International Education and the Crises of Cosmopolitanism and Global Citizenship"

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This is an interesting article but it covers familiar ground covered in many articles and other publications around global citizenship. The linkages with cosmopolitanism are valuable but again this has been well covered by authors such as Dill, Tarozzi and Dower.

What perhaps I found a bit too simplistic was the summaries of African and Asian perspectives. Whilst I accept that much of the literature and debate around global citizenship has been either European or North American led, there has been a major expansion of literature reflecting a range of views from Asia, including Alviar-Martin and Baildon, and Africa, most notably Waghid and Jooste. The recently published edited volume by Bosio and Waghid on Global Citizenship Education in the Global South provides a rich source of literature that takes the debates forward.

The focus on cosmopolitanism whilst an important theme within the discourses in and around global citizenship have come under considerable criticism for minimising questions of power and inequality. The work of Andreotti, Stein and Pashby for example should be looked at in this regard.

Global citizenship as a term can be seen from a range of perspectives and it is important as educationalists we are aware of the wide range of viewpoints but what is needed is a more critical engagement with how the term is used. All too often it is seen as a marketing tool by universities and civil society organisations. There is a need to go beyond the rhetoric and pose how can the promotion and usage of the term help in challenging xenophobia and nationalism and encourage debate for a more socially just and sustainable world.