Difference, deficiency, and devaulation: Tracing the roots of non-recognition of foreign credentials for immigrant professionals in Canada

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ABSTRACT

Many immigrant professionals experience devaluation and denigration of their prior learning and work experience after arriving in Canada. The roots of nonrecognition can be traced to the following. First, epistemological misperceptions of difference and knowledge lead to a belief that the knowledge of immigrant professionals, particularly those from Third World countries, is deficient, incompatible and inferior, hence invalid. Second, an ontological commitment to positivistic and universal measurement exacerbates the complexity of this process. The juxtaposition of the misconceptions of difference and knowledge with positivism and liberal universalism forms a new head tax to exclude the undesirable and perpetuate oppression in Canada.

Résumé

Beaucoup de professionnels immigrants voient leurs expériences de travail et leurs connaissances professionnelles dévaluées et dénigrées lors de leur arrivée au Canada. L’origine de la non-reconnaissance peut être attribuée aux raisons suivantes. Tout d’abord, il existe de fausses perceptions épistémologiques sur la différence et la connaissance conduisant à la conviction que les connaissances des professionnels immigrants, en particulier celles des pays du tiers monde, sont défectueuses, incompatibles et inférieures, et donc invalides. Deuxièmement, un engagement ontologique au positiviste et à la mesure universelle accentue la complexité de ce processus. La juxtaposition des idées fausses de la différence et de la connaissance avec le positivisme et l’universalisme libéral forme une nouvelle forme d’exclusion des «indésirables», perpétuant ainsi l’oppression au Canada.
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