Political Engagement Amongst Ethnic Minority Young People
Making a Difference

Therese O´Toole and Richard Gale

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About the book

This book engages with debates on ethnic minority and Muslim young people showing, beyond apathy and violent political extremism, the diverse forms of political engagement in which young people engage. It situates its analysis of ethnic minority young people’s politics in relation to four areas of social and political change: changing patterns of citizens’ democratic participation manifested in a shift towards more informal and everyday activism; the emergence of more decentred and participatory forms of governance that have pluralized the sites of political participation; shifting conceptions of identities and ethnicity and their implications for identity politics; and the significance of different scales of activism enabled by new information communication technologies. In so doing, the book identifies ‘new grammars of action’ among ethnic minority young people that help to explain their disaffection with mainstream politics and through which they creatively politically participate to make a difference.

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This book engages with debates on ethnic minority and Muslim young people showing, beyond apathy and violent political extremism, the diverse forms of political engagement in which young people engage. It situates its analysis of ethnic minority young people’s politics in relation to four areas of social and political change: changing patterns of citizens’ democratic participation, the diverse forms of political engagement in which young people engage. Politically (In)different? Political Engagement amongst Ethnic Minority Young People. When the political engagement of ethnic minority young people has featured in public debates in the UK, it has typically been connected with concerns about disengagement, disaffection or extremism. For instance, in the anxious debates about youth political apathy in the UK in recent years (Hay 2007), connected to the low levels of electoral participation among 18–24 year olds in elections since 2001 (Marsh et al.). Such concerns about ethnic minority young people’s political engagement sit within wider histories of crisis narratives on ethnic minority young people in the UK (Bhattacharyya and Gabriel 2004; Gunter 2010). In the 1970s, Hall et al.