



GÖTEBORGS
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Locating, Constructing, and Disciplining Self and Other

A Discourse Ethnography of Civic Orientation in Sweden

GÖTEBORGSSTUDIER I NORDISK SPRÅKVETENSKAP 46

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In recent decades, a large number of countries in the Global North have converged around common integration policy. More specifically, in establishing educational programmes directed at migrants as the main way of achieving such a goal. In this thesis, Simon Bauer critically engages with and analyses the programme Civic Orientation for Newly Arrived Migrants (Samhällsorientering för nyanlända) in Sweden. As such, the thesis is concerned with identifying and analysing (1) the discourses and discursive constructions that surround Civic Orientation at the level of policy, media, and classroom practices, and (2) the lived experiences of those taking part in this programme.

By introducing and applying a multilevel framework for discourse ethnography, the study analyses (1) policy documents regulating Civic Orientation; (2) media discourses pertaining to the provision; (3) interviews with people involved in interpreting and implementing the programme; and (4) ethnographic classroom observations from six courses in three large Swedish municipalities. Thereby, through a granular analysis, Bauer illustrates the processes through which certain values such as gender equality, democracy, and human rights become nationalised and discursively constructed as 'Swedish values'. He further shows how Sweden as a nation state is constructed in relation to an imagined 'Arab World'. The thesis also contributes to describe and analyse how governmentality is executed discursively in very subtle ways in educational and migratory settings. Lastly, the study highlights the importance of understanding language as local practice, as context seems to affect what is said just as much as shifting linguistic code.

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