

The Postmigrant Nation

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How to live together in diversity is one of the most intractable and pressing questions of our time. As demographic projections for Western European societies point to a constant demographic change, who belongs to the majority society becomes even more open to question and contestation. In order to find new spaces where togetherness in diversity can be lived and practiced, scholars have increasingly turned to the city as a cosmopolitan place of conviviality. Yet, in this move, they have also turned their back to the nation, often dismissed as a site of discrimination, oppression and marginalization of diversity. In this paper, I make the case for bringing the nation back, rescuing it from its xenophobic and exclusivist manifestations which nowadays monopolize the discussion around nation. I do so by attending to the bodies, voices, music, videos and novels of the 'new Italians', children of migrants born and raised in Italy who claim a sense of identity, attachment and belonging to Italy. This allows me to reflect on the limits and possibilities of the notion of a plural inclusive nation in the present postmigrant condition.