

Third Generation Greek Identities

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Abstract : Greek diaspora communities with their specific cultural identity are found throughout the world and exist on a continuum of redefinition and renewal. This paper investigates Greek migration to Australia, followed by a discussion of findings from a qualitative study of sixteen third generation Greek Australians conducted by the author in Melbourne, Australia, in 2021. The Greek-born population in Australia increased from 15,000 in 1930 to well over 300,000 by 1970. Over the next decades, first-generation Greek migrants successfully sustain a Greek identity that promotes difference within Australia. Their Australian-born children, while constructing Greek Australian hybrid identities through an encounter with difference, integrate successfully into Australian society and maintain strong connections to Greece. This study explores the third generation Greek Australian identities, the children of the second generation, and their having horizontal and vertical orientations, where the former designates transgression of borders and space and the latter is connected to the movement across time. This approach is particularly interesting in the context of Greek Australian migrant and diasporic experience as hybridity understood as movement and translocation can offer new perspectives on migrant identities in multi-and transcultural worlds.

Keywords : diaspora, migration, hybridity, ethnicity

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