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Interculturalism in Europe: Fact, Fad or Fiction The Deconstruction of a Theoretical Idea

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The concept of 'interculturalism', particularly under the direction of the Council of Europe (CoE), in contemporary European societies is being seen as a useful tool to address marginalisation and achieve social cohesion. However, there is little theoretical and/or empirical development of this concept and how it differs from its older sibling – 'multiculturalism'. This lecture will outline the concept of interculturalism and consider the utility of this model in relation to multiculturalism.

Ravinder Barn is Professor of Social Policy at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is an experienced empirical mixed-methods researcher with a particular interest in migration, multiculturalism, social justice and human rights. She has over 60 publications, which includes 6 books.

As Principal Investigator, she has successfully led on a number of externally funded research studies for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the former Commission for Racial Equality, The Canadian High Commission, and the Department of Health. Her research is empirically and theoretically grounded and key findings are disseminated to a wide variety of potential beneficiaries ranging from academic researchers, central and local government, international organizations including the Council of Europe and the European Union, and third sector organizations.