



## Eurozine News Item

### Parallel lives

"We are encountering a rise in inter-ethnic conflict and the development of separate identities, reinforced by segregated or parallel lives [...] The concept of 'multiculturalism' is no longer adequate to describe the extent and nature of diversity and must be seen as a means of legitimizing separateness and division." So [writes](#) Ted Cante, introducing a feature on cultural diversity in Britain published in *Index on Censorship* (2/2006).

Cante's response to "the failure" of multiculturalism is to re-evaluate notions of commonality: nationality, citizenship, and community. Responding in a [panel discussion](#), Yasmin Alibhai-Brown says commonality must work both ways: "If we are going to achieve commonalities and an equal status where all may be criticized, where we may all be called to account within a single framework of human rights and freedoms, then surely white Britain has got to be called upon to do its bit."

Elsewhere, Irena Maryniak and Salil Tripathi [discuss](#) the experience of the migrant in the city, referring, respectively, to the Cold War eastern European diaspora in London and the Indian diaspora in New York and Durban. And British-born Ekow Eshun [describes](#) his mixed sensations when travelling to Ghana, his parents' home, to find an answer to the familiar question: "Where are you from?"

Also in the feature, an extraordinary [essay](#) by Moris Farhi proposing that "All history is the history of migration". "Without the Other," writes Farhi, "There would be no vision of a united family of humankind in our bounteous but fragile planet. It is the immigrant, the outsider, seeking admission into a host nation, who has developed the concept of such a union."

The articles published here represent a selection of papers and debates from the *Index on Censorship/Cultural Cooperation* conference "Know your place: Diaspora literature and the subversion of borders", held earlier this year.

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