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Internationalisation and Cosmopolitan Approaches

For some time issues of social diversity have been understood within the perspectives of multiculturalism. These perspectives have been of much importance in generating a culture of respect for difference. Increasingly, however, there is a recognition that we need a new lens through which to explore questions of diversity and equality (Gilroy, 2000). I will put the case that such a lens is provided by contemporary cosmopolitan approaches (Appiah, 2005, Beck, 2006, Fine, 2007). These approaches attempt to grapple with the complex relationships between human difference and commonalities; they have a concern for the ways in which the category of nation and its attendant associations with boundaries, religion, ethnicity and lifestyle can limit our understandings; and they are suggestive of ways in which we can imbue higher education with a cosmopolitan ethic. This keynote will centre on what such an ethic might look like for our universities.

Appiah K T (2005) *The Ethics of Identity: a rooted cosmopolitan*, Friedman

Beck, U (2006) *The Cosmopolitan Vision*, Polity, Cambridge

Fine R (2007) *Cosmopolitanism*, Routledge, London

Gilroy P (2000) *Between Camps: Nations, cultures and the allure of race*, Allen Lane, London