

Iben Jensen

Introduction to

CULTURAL
UNDERSTANDING

Roskilde University Press

Introduction to Cultural Understanding

Translated by Anna Jensen and Asmus Birch

by Iben Jensen

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Translated from *Grundbog i kulturforståelse*

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Preface

Introduction to Cultural Understanding is my professional contribution to the development of Denmark as a culturally diverse society. The aim of the book is to provide a research-based introduction to issues such as cultural understanding, intercultural communication and intercultural competence, all central to the transition to culturally diverse society.

The book is based upon three extensive academic works, including my Ph.D. thesis on intercultural communication, a research project on ethnic minorities in the mass media and a research project on the role of ethnicity and gender in job interviews.

My hope for this English edition is that it will be used in many different ways: in Denmark by the many foreign students to help them to understand and discuss their intercultural encounters; in other Scandinavian countries to reflect on how cultural understanding and intercultural communication are part of everyday life. And finally outside Scandinavia as an introduction to how Danish, and more generally, Scandinavian countries, are dealing with the transition from relatively homogeneous ethnic countries to culturally diverse societies.

The book has been translated from Danish into English by Anna Jensen and Asmus Birch. Louise Phillips has carried out language revision.

Thanks

I would like to express my appreciation for rewarding co-operation in the production of this edition to:

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