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(Re)membering diaspora: Uneven geographies of Indian dual citizenship

Jen Dickinson ... Adrian J. Bailey ¹

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Abstract

Although the concept of diaspora is sometimes regarded as oppositional to the interests of existing political regimes, we argue that it can become a site where the negotiation of new terms of membership embraces the transnational and de-territorialized networks of overseas populations. Drawing on work on transnational governance, we explore the uneven geographies that accompany India's recent discussions of its dual citizenship provisions. Constructions of diaspora membership are revealed by mapping the discourses contained within the Dual Citizenship legislation of 2003, the 2003 *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas* (Overseas India Day) campaign, and the 2001 report of the Diaspora Committee onto the case of South Africa. The results suggest that the construction of diaspora membership focuses on professional success, ecumenical Hinduism, and multicultural incorporation. We also trace how diaspora membership betrays a continuing anxiety over the terms of Indianness. The results

remind us that diasporic times and spaces mediate transnational governance.



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Keywords

Diaspora; Transnationalism; Citizenship; State; South Africa; India; Governmentality; Membership

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