Living Apart, Living Together?
The Role of Intergroup Contact in Social Integration

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There’s many a difference quickly found
Between the different races,
But the only essential differential
Is living in different places.
(Ogden Nash, Goody for Our Side and Your Side Too, 1935)

Introduction

THE WORLD IS BECOMING a more diverse place, with the mix of groups in some localities so pronounced that it has been termed ‘super-diversity’ (Vertovec, 2007). Can these different groups co-exist and, better still, thrive together? The Cantle Report into social unrest in northern cities of England in 2001 referred to the ‘depth of polarization’ and segregated communities living ‘a series of parallel lives’ (Cantle, 2001); Sir Herman Ouseley’s (2001) Commission for Racial Equality report remarked that, ‘If left to their own devices it seems people will retreat into their own separate “comfort zones” surrounding themselves only by people like themselves.’ More recent surveys seem to support the view that members of different