



## Superdiversity

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### What is it?

The term superdiversity is used to describe the changes in population diversity in major Western hubs, linked to newer migration patterns observed in the past 15 years. First highlighted in Britain, the term was later associated with other countries' immigrant communities, characterized as much more complex, smaller, and scattered than they were in the past. People from multiple origins, various socio-economic backgrounds, and various legal statuses, connecting beyond national boundaries, now make up the new migrant populations around the world.

### Who uses the concept?

The term has primarily been used by sociolinguists and linguistic anthropologists, arguing that these new patterns of diversity influence language use and pose significant challenges for both policy and research focusing on immigrant populations.

### Fit with intercultural dialogue?

The term fits perfectly with intercultural dialogue, as discussions around superdiversity help to dispel myths and assumptions about the impact of migration on Western societies.

### What work remains?

It is important to continue to challenge and think critically about terms like this one, which adopt a

Western, Eurocentric view of language and diversity.

It is worth highlighting that this phenomenon has been framed as problematic, reflecting on the agendas behind this perception and portrayal of diversity, and examining data in various regions and countries before attempting to draw hasty conclusions.

Here, the contribution of researchers and scholars of non-Western European origins is key to help deconstruct terms and notions such as this one and offer perspectives that will encourage readers to question their assumptions about the population diversity of Western nations.

### Resources

- Blommaert, J., & Rampton, B. (2011). Language and superdiversity. *Diversities*. 13(2), 1-20.
- Pavlenko, A. (2018). Superdiversity and why it isn't: Reflections on terminological innovation and academic branding. In B. Schmenk, S. Breidbach, & L. Küster (Eds.), *Slogazation in language education discourse* (pp. 142-168). Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.
- Vertovec, S. (2007) Super-diversity and its implications, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 30(6), 1024-1054, DOI: 10.1080/01419870701599465