Abstract
THE IDEOLOGY OF MESTIZAJE (MIXTURE) IN LATIN AMERICA HAS FREQUENTLY BEEN seen as involving a process of national homogenization and of hiding a reality of racist exclusion behind a mask of inclusiveness. This view is challenged, with the argument that mestizaje inherently implies a permanent dimension of national differentiation and that, while exclusion is an undoubted reality, inclusion is more than a mask. Case studies drawn from Colombian popular music, Venezuelan popular religion and Brazilian popular Christianity are used to illustrate these arguments and present inclusion as a process linked to embodied identities and kinship relations. In conclusion, a critique is made of approaches to hybridity that highlight its potential for destabilizing essentialisms.

Keywords
Mestizaje-miscegenation, identities, nationalisms, popular music and culture, reflexivity.