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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

bulletin

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Preliminary Conference Agenda Now Available

Pathways to Prosperity 2017 National Conference Canada’s Place in the World: Innovation in Immigration Research, Policy, and Practice

November 15 – 17, 2017 | Hilton Hotel, Toronto

The fifth annual Pathways to Prosperity National Conference will take place in Toronto on Thursday and Friday, November 16-17, 2017. On Wednesday, November 15, we will also be hosting two full-day preconference workshops: Workshop for the Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs) and the Réseaux en immigration francophone (RIFs), organized in conjunction with the LIPs and RIFs; and Workshop on Developing Immigrants’ Literacy and Essential Skills, organized in conjunction with Actions Interculturelles.

As an ongoing practice at the Pathways to Prosperity National Conferences, we will be offering English–French simultaneous interpretation for all plenary sessions of the National Conference and all presentations at the Preconference Workshops.

To register for the Conference and Preconferences, submit a workshop or poster proposal for the conference (deadline August 18), apply for a travel subsidy (deadline August 18), book accommodation, and find out more about exhibitor opportunities, [see this link](#).

Pathways to Prosperity 2017 National Conference

The theme of this year’s P2P National Conference is *Canada’s Place in the World: Innovation in Immigration Research, Policy, and Practice*. As we celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday, it is apt that we reflect on current Canadian innovation in immigration research, policy, and practice, and look ahead to how we may continue to demonstrate our leadership in this area.

The conference will include plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables, poster presentations, and opportunities to network with colleagues. More than 350 participants are expected to attend, including researchers, service providers, LIP and RIF representatives, graduate students, policy and program officials from the three orders of government, and others working in the field of immigration.

Preliminary Conference Agenda

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Time	Session
7:30 AM to 8:30 AM	Breakfast and Registration
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks, Distinguished Guests
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Plenary Building Bridges between Indigenous and Immigrant Communities
11:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Refreshment Break
11:15 AM to 11:30 AM	Poster Pitches
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Plenary Intercultural Dialogue and Mediation for Living Together
1:00 PM to 2:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 PM to 3:45 PM	Concurrent Workshops
3:45 PM to 4:00 PM	Refreshment Break
4:00 PM to 5:30 PM	Concurrent Workshops
6:30 PM to 8:00 PM	Evening Cocktail Reception and Poster Session

Friday, November 17, 2017

Time	Session
7:30 AM to 8:30 AM	Breakfast
8:30 AM to 9:30 AM	Special Keynote Speaker
9:30 AM to 11:00 AM	Plenary New Strategies for Determining the Effectiveness of Settlement Programs
11:00 AM to 11:15 AM	Refreshment Break
11:15 AM to 12:15 AM	Concurrent Regional Roundtables
12:15 PM to 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM	Plenary Understanding and Addressing Public Anxiety about Immigration
3:00 PM to 3:15 PM	Refreshment Break
3:15 PM to 4:45 PM	Plenary What Have We Learned about Refugee Resettlement: Lessons from the Syrian Refugee Program
4:45 PM to 5:00 PM	Summing Up and Closing Remarks

Workshop for the Local Immigration Partnerships and the Réseaux en immigration francophone

This full day workshop focuses on issues of central concern to the Local Immigration Partnerships and the Réseaux en immigration francophone, as determined by consultations with LIPs and RIFs and their involvement in planning the Workshop. The Workshop brings together the RIFs and LIPs to discuss common challenges, share achievements, and learn from each other on topics such as improvement of LIP and RIF operations, strengthening of relationships with other organizations, promotion of more welcoming communities, promising practices in obtaining funding from sources other than IRCC, and measurement and research on RIF and LIP outcomes. This year the Workshop will focus on promoting interaction among the LIPs and RIFs, and will involve roundtables, discussions, and speed-networking, as well as a few presentations.

Workshop on Developing Immigrants' Literacy and Essential Skills

For more details about the preconference workshop on Developing Immigrants' Literacy and Essential Skills, please turn to page 4.

Standing Committee and Board of Directors Meetings

The P2P Standing Committee meetings will take place on Wednesday, November 15, 5:30 – 7:00 PM. The P2P Board of Directors meeting will take place on Saturday, November 18, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing you in Toronto!

Upcoming Deadlines

Poster submission: On the evening of November 16, a poster session accompanying a cocktail reception will be held to showcase the work of attendees. For more details on poster submission guidelines, [click here](#). The poster proposal submission deadline is August 18, 2017.

Workshop submission: On the afternoon of November 16, we will be holding two sets of concurrent workshop sessions, with a total of 12 workshops. For more details about workshop proposal submission guidelines, [click here](#). We encourage workshops in French as well as those in English so that there are English and French workshops taking place at all designated workshop times. The workshop proposal submission deadline is August 18, 2017.

Travel subsidies: A limited number of travel subsidies are available to cover a portion of the travel costs (transportation and accommodation only) for P2P partners and collaborators who would otherwise not be able to attend the conference. For more details, [click here](#). The travel subsidies application deadline is August 18, 2017.

Registration: [Register for the conference here](#). Note that early bird registration closes on October 6, 2017.

For any questions, email Sonali Advani at: communications@p2pcanada.ca



Preconference Workshop on the Research Project “Developing Immigrants’ Literacy and Essential Skills”

A preconference workshop, during which results of the research project *Developing Immigrants’ Literacy and Essential Skills* will be presented, will take place November 15, 2017, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The research project followed francophone immigrants (both those enrolled in educational programs and those not enrolled) to collect data which was used to develop a tool able to demonstrate the effects of improved levels of literacy and essential skills on the socio-economic integration of francophone immigrants. These results led to the development of a cost-benefit model analysis which will be presented during the preconference workshop. The following points will be discussed during the day:

1) Overview of the research:

- Research objectives
- Action plan
- Research challenges

2) Background reports for each province that participated in the research project (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia):

- The demographic profile of francophone immigrants
- The profile of training programs offered to immigrants
- Partners’ profile and what training they offer
- The profile of immigrants that participated in the research

3) Research project results:

The effects of improved levels of literacy and essential skills on francophone immigrants’ performance in the workplace, their socio-economic integration, and the companies which hire them will be presented.

4) An example of the use of the cost-benefit model

People from different sectors, such as education in general, more specifically from adult education, literacy and essential skills, immigration, francophone, and different departments of Ministries of Education, will be attending the event. Researchers, project partners, representatives of immigrant-serving agencies, training centres, and employers are also expected to attend.

This preconference workshop is organized by Actions Interculturelles and Pathways to Prosperity Partnership.

Register Now

[Register for the preconference here](#)

Note that early bird registration closes on October 6, 2017.

For any questions, email Sonali Advani at communications@p2pcanada.ca

Projects Funded Through 2017 National Call for Proposals

In May 2017, a call was issued for projects bearing on the P2P's national research themes. Support was offered for initial research projects leading to larger, cross-regional projects for which outside funding would be sought. The research was required to have a policy or practice component, and eligibility was restricted to projects led by P2P collaborators or partners. The selection committee comprised Herbert Schuetze, James Baker, Christophe Traisnel, Zenaida Ravanera, Jean McRae, and Victoria Esses. The seven funded proposals are:

1. Are SMEs with Immigrant Owners Exceptional Exporters?

Research Team: Horatio Morgan and Sui Sui, Ryerson University

The research aims to examine why immigrant entrepreneurs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) might be drawn to global markets, and how they might fare, compared with their non-immigrant counterparts. It will help in understanding whether immigrant owners primarily shape their export decisions and financial performance through a *social capital* perspective (immigrant-owned SMEs conducting business abroad tend to rely on their owners' personal networks for access to internationalization-relevant resources), or a *cognitive* perspective (immigrant entrepreneurs are susceptible to overconfidence in decisions to conduct business beyond their host country, and thus imprudently intensify their operations in high-risk foreign markets, and incur greater financial loss than their non-immigrant counterparts). The study will use data from Statistics Canada's Survey on Financing of SMEs and from Schedule 50 of the Corporation Income Tax Return and General Index of Financial Information. The research has the potential to help practitioners, business leaders and policy makers take informed actions that foster the development and growth of immigrant exporting businesses, and thus help accelerate the economic integration of immigrants in Canada.

2. Who Stays and Who Leaves Atlantic Canada?

Research Team: Howard Ramos, Yoko Yoshida, Dalhousie University; and Michael Haan, Western University

The research aims to explore factors that are relevant to immigration and retention in the Atlantic region and seeks to answer the following four questions: (1) Are there differences in retention of immigrants in rural versus urban regions? (2) Does the National Occupational Classification (NOC) of employment affect retention? (3) Does immigrating with other family members affect retention? and (4) Does how one measures retention affect levels of retention? To answer these questions the 2004 and 2014 Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) will be used, and information for the general population will be extracted from the 2016 Census. Simple tabular and graphical results will be created by province, breaking down retention by 1, 3, 5 and 10 years after landing for different cohorts of immigrants. The study will provide important insight that can contribute to the evaluation of the Atlantic Immigration Pilot Program.

3. Recognizing the Informal Sector: The Welcoming of Francophone Immigrants in Saskatchewan by Established Immigrants

Research Team: Jérôme Melançon, Michael Akinpelu, and Daniel Kikulwe, University of Regina

The main question that this research project aims to answer is: How can the welcoming and settlement capacities for French-speaking immigrants from Africa be improved? This project has two objectives: (1) to develop a profile of the Francophone community of African origin in Saskatchewan; and (2) to analyze the existing capacities and know-how within the Francophone African community in Saskatchewan (FACS) to contribute to the Francophone communities of the province. These goals are designed to first and foremost answer the questions asked by the FACS to the Canadian Institute for Research on Linguistic Minorities (Centre canadien de recherche sur les francophonies en milieu minoritaire – CRFM). The research will use mixed methods to collect data. For the quantitative approach, the researchers will conduct a survey in French, which will be the key instrument for data collection in Saskatchewan. For the qualitative approach, the researchers will conduct six focus group interviews, each with 5 to 6 participants who will be recruited in Regina. As Francophone immigration must increase in the coming years, the results will contribute to the development of welcoming capacities before they are necessary on a larger scale.

4. Portfolio-based Language Assessment in LINC Literacy Classes: The Need for Data to Guide Policy and Practice

Research Investigator: Marilyn L. Abbott, University of Alberta

The project aims to examine the validity of the newly mandated Canadian Language Benchmark-based progress assessment in LINC entitled Portfolio-based Language Assessment (PBLA) from the perspectives of beginning adult English language literacy learners (ELLs); to understand the impact of PBLA on beginning adult ELLs' learning goals, strategies, motivation, and achievement; and to examine the relationships between instructor assessment knowledge and PLBA practices on ELLs' assessment knowledge, practices, and learning over time. The grant from Pathways to Prosperity will fund the local pilot study in year one. Four LINC instructors (one instructor of each of the beginning Canadian Language Benchmark levels) and their students will be recruited from local post-secondary institutions to participate in the pilot study. At the end of the study, approximately fifteen of these students (one from each level and first language group) will be selected for individual interviews.

5. In Search of Welcoming Neighbourhoods and Adequate Housing: The Experiences of Recent Immigrants in Northeast Ontario

Research Team: Natalya Brown and Anahit Armenakyan, Nipissing University

This project's initial phase focuses on recent immigrants in North Bay and Timmins. It aims at identifying community characteristics that facilitate or hinder housing integration; examining newcomers' behaviours and interactions with their neighbours, and perceptions of their neighbourhoods; and studying the use of social marketing by settlement and municipal agencies to foster welcoming neighbourhoods and to create a sense of community for newcomers. The research will involve recruiting newcomers to participate in an online

survey; conducting 2 focus groups, each with 8 to 12 participants; conducting interviews with key informants such as settlement workers and landlords; and conducting a content analysis of materials related to anti-racism, integration, tolerance and diversity. To determine whether, over time, immigrants improve their housing situation faster in these communities in comparison to those living in the Greater Toronto Area or in other gateway cities, a study tracking the housing trajectories of a group of immigrants in northeastern Ontario will be conducted with funding sought from a SSHRC Insight Grant.

6. Paternity in a Migration Context: Redefinition of the Paternal Role?

Research Team: Saïd Bergeul, Oumar Mallé Samb, University of Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue; and Jean Ramdé, Laval University

This research aims to develop knowledge about the realities facing immigrant fathers. It will examine: (a) the peculiarities of their paternal roles; (b) the influence of immigration on their paternal function and involvement; and (c) their post-migration adaptive strategies, in order to design interventions and initiatives that will facilitate an efficient exercise of their paternal roles and involvement. This research will attempt to understand the influence of immigration on their paternal function and involvement from the interviewed fathers' perspectives. The participants will be recruited among fathers from African, North-African, European, Asian and South-American origins. This range of diversity is chosen because of the need to have a large variety of viewpoints and to have as much information as possible on a reality that is still largely little-known. This knowledge will be especially useful to mental health practitioners and policy-makers.

7. Accessing Canadian Healthcare for Immigrants: Empowerment, Voice and Enablement (ACHIEVE)

Research Team: Setareh Ghahari, Queen's University; Robert Gilmore, Loyola School of Adult and Continuing Education; and Madeleine Nerenberg, KEYS Job Centre

Accessing Canadian Healthcare for Immigrants: Empowerment, Voice & Enablement (ACHIEVE) is a program designed to enable immigrants to build knowledge, experience, and self-confidence in navigating the health care system. This research will undertake a preliminary pre-post effectiveness evaluation of the program, including an assessment of potential outcome measures and testing its feasibility of use in practice. The study participants will be 60 adult immigrants recruited from Kingston and surrounding area, whose ability to speak and listen in English is at the Canadian Language Benchmark 3 or above. They will participate in an *ACHIEVE* program workshop that covers: *An overview/introduction to Ontario's health care system; Connecting with your family doctor; Communicating better with your healthcare provider; and Overcoming barriers to access health services.* Demographic information will be collected from the participants before the start of the program, and the Health Education Impact Questionnaire and Patient Communication Self-Efficacy Scale will be administered before and after completion of the program.

NEW REPORTS**Pathways to Prosperity Funded Projects****The Transformation of the Quebec Model : First Mapping of the Impacts****By Mireille Paquet, Chedly Belkhodja and Sarah-Monique Chanona**

In February 2016, the Government of Quebec launched a new government immigration policy entitled "[Together, We are Quebec. Quebec Policy on Immigration, Participation and Inclusion](#)" as well as a 2016-2021 implementation strategy. The new policy represents a concerted effort — led by Quebec's Department of Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion (MIDI) — to revitalize Quebec's approach. The objectives of our research project were: 1) to analyze the new orientation of the Government of Quebec regarding immigration and integration; and 2) to assess the impact of this orientation on societal actors, especially on service providers. This project was carried out by members of Concordia's Center for Immigration Policy Evaluation (CIPE).

This research was based on focus groups with immigrant service providers. A total of four focus groups were conducted in Montreal, Quebec, and Sherbrooke between September and December 2016. The main findings suggest that stakeholders were not all aware of the existence of this new policy and that, as a result, they had not had the chance to see an impact on their daily work with newcomers. With regard to content, the participants shared great satisfaction with the modernization project while noting that the policy was extremely dense. In the face of this, we have noted significant concerns regarding the implementation of the policy. Participants also noted that several elements could have been better included in the policy, including employer awareness. We believe it will be important to replicate this study in two years, when several of the measures of the new policy will be implemented.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

**How Can We Engage Diasporas as International Entrepreneurs:
Suggestions from an Empirical Study in the Canadian Context****By Jean-Marie Nkongolo-Bakenda and Elie V. Chrysostome**

This study intended to identify the critical determinants of the start-up and growth of activities of Canadian Diaspora international entrepreneurs (DIE). These are immigrants or descendants of immigrants who reside permanently in Canada while maintaining a psychic link with the country of origin and who carry out economic international activities between the two countries on a regular basis. In 2015-2016, 67 DIEs responded to a questionnaire on entrepreneurial attributes, organizing and strategic capacity, and perceived impeding/facilitating factors in Canada and country of origin. Out of the 67 responses, 59 have been

analyzed using SPSS Software and SmartPLS Software. For these entrepreneurs, the most determinant motivations to engage in cross-border activities were similarity of shared values, need to challenge themselves, and better understanding of the two business environments. Alertness and systematic observation of these environments were the most important determinants that helped them to identify the opportunities.

To succeed, they depended on close contacts with customers and use of both low cost leadership and differentiation strategies. The most frequently mentioned factors impeding the start-up and development of firms in the countries of origin were taxes, legislation, corruption, time spent to negotiate with local government, lack of funds, competition from local businesses, and scarcity of reliable and competent employees.

In Canada, the three most frequently mentioned facilitating factors of start-up and growth were: tolerance of the community, recognition and validation of credentials from the country of origin, and government programs and services supporting immigrant organizations.

The analysis of findings with regard to the success of the firms revealed that, for the entrepreneur, motivation and entrepreneurial orientation were the most determinant factors. Regarding the strategic behavior, the adequate choice of competitive strategies, choice of partners, and product/service development/adjustment were important.

Concerning the home country, the most important impeding factors were the lack of human and financial resources. In the host country, the community attitude toward the immigrants was the most important facilitating factor to succeed.

In light of these findings, preliminary suggestions to increase the business activities of immigrants between Canada and their home countries were drawn.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Spaces of Encounter: French-speaking Migrants' Experiences of Social and Cultural Integration and Participation in Francophone Minority Communities

By Luisa Veronis and Suzanne Huot

This study examined the role of community spaces in the social and cultural integration of French-speaking immigrants and refugees living in two Francophone minority communities (FMCs) in Ontario: Ottawa and London. We adopted an instrumental case study methodology (Stake, 1995) that combined different dialogical data collection methods and included four stages with different target populations. For stage 1 (key informant interviews), we discuss three key themes stemming from our results: the challenges faced by Francophone communities in maintaining their community spaces, the issue of FMC (in)visibility, and the role of community spaces in the integration and participation of French-speaking immi-

grants and refugees. In stage 2 (focus groups with immigrants and refugees) we describe the types of community spaces discussed by participants, as well as the role these spaces play in facilitating their social and cultural integration experiences. We then present the challenges they have experienced in this regard as well as their suggestions for practices that could help facilitate their integration. During stage 3 (interviews with representatives from community spaces), we address three primary themes: the issues and challenges faced by organizations serving French-speaking immigrants, the role of community spaces in immigrants' integration, and the challenges these spaces confront. Our primary recommendations are informed by these results, as well as by stage 4 (community meeting), and address: the Francophone community organizations and institutions as well as the socio-economic and political context in which they operate; communication and information dissemination strategies; the nature of and access to Francophone community spaces; and the Francophone communities themselves. Ultimately, Francophone community spaces play an important role in integration and show potential to help immigrants participate in FMCs. However, barriers and challenges facing immigrants, the organizations that serve them, and the communities that welcome them need to be addressed for integration to be further facilitated. Additional resources are required to support community infrastructure and to enhance the role of Francophone community spaces.

[Click here for the full report.](#)

P2P Find an Expert Now Available Online

Find an Expert — the new online search engine and database of experts working in the field of immigration — [is now available on the P2P website.](#)

The Find an Expert section of the P2P website has been designed to give users quick, efficient access to the P2P's expertise and experts. The database includes academic researchers; graduate students and postdoctoral fellows; service providers; representatives of Local Immigration Partnerships and of Réseaux en immigration francophone; policy and program officials from federal, provincial, and municipal governments; and others working in the area of immigration.

The first set of expert submissions is now available online, with many more to be added. We are currently inviting P2P co-investigators, collaborators, partner representatives, LIP and RIF representatives, policy and program officials working in the area of immigration, and affiliated graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to join the expert database. Experts can submit their information [at this link.](#)

The database is searchable by: a) name of the expert; b) expertise; c) location; and d) sector. Categories of expertise include: Settlement and Service Provision; Social and Cultural Integration; Economic Integration; Political and Civic Integration; Health and Well-being; At-Risk Immigrants; Temporary Foreign Workers and International Students.

Workshop Program

Welcome and Introductions 8:30-8:45			
	Time	Name & Affiliation	Paper Title
Session I Migration, Identity and Belonging	8:45-9:15	Duygu Gul Kaya, Department of Sociology, York University <i>Discussant:</i> Prof. Radhika Mongia, Sociology, York University	Diaspora, Memory, and Identity: Young Armenians' Narratives of the Past, Present, and Future
	9:15-9:45	Mabel Ho, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia <i>Discussant:</i> Prof. Luin Goldring, Sociology, York University	Resources and Channeling: How Ethnic Organizations Facilitate Transnational Practices
Break 9:45-10:30			
Session II Migration and Mental Health	10:30-11:00	Srijita Sarkar, Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan (with Sarah Knudson and Abhik Ray) <i>Discussant:</i> Prof. Melissa Milkie, Sociology, University of Toronto	Triangulating Science Technique, Sentiment Analysis and Qualita- tive Interview to Assess Post- Emotions of Migrant Settlement
	11:00-11:30	Sarah Shah, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto <i>Discussant:</i> Prof. Rupaleem Bhuyan, Social Work, University of Toronto	The Context of Birth Country Gender Inequality on Mental Health Outcomes of Intimate Partner Violence
	11:30-12:00	Fei-Ju Yang, Department of Sociology, McMaster University <i>Discussant:</i> Prof. Gerald Cradock, Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, University of Windsor	Is Childhood Migration a Mental Health Risk? An Examination of the Interplay Between Health Behavior, Social Support, and Interpersonal Strain

Event Report:

Imagining Canada's Future: How Will Canada Continue to Thrive in an Interconnected World and Evolving Global Landscape?

By James Baker

On Thursday, May 18, 2017, I had the pleasure to attend the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) sponsored event *Imagining Canada's Future: How Will Canada Continue to Thrive in an Interconnected World and Evolving Global Landscape?* on behalf of the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership. The opening remarks were delivered by several speakers including Ted Hewitt and Ursula Gobel, SSHRC, and Peter Lundy, Global Affairs Canada. The speakers noted how global realities are shaping local policies and to develop new ways in which to answer the big questions facing Canada in the twenty-first century. Hewitt concluded the panel by noting that the event is designed to allow participants to discuss emerging global trends that may impact Canada as well as to provide an opportunity to network.

The second panel was an armchair discussion with Ümit Kiziltan, IRCC, Tina Dacin, Queen's University, and Oonagh Fitzgerald, Centre for International Governance Innovation focusing around three questions: what do they see as the important issues of change, how well positioned is Canada to respond to these changes, and is Canada well positioned to respond to refugee crises? In terms of key issues, panelists identified global migration, demographic shifts, rural/remote communities, climate change, among others. With regard to the second question, there was a general consensus among the panelists that Canada had done well compared to other countries and that there is motivation/commitment among the various levels of government and civil society to move the issues along. For the final question, there was agreement that Canada is well-positioned to respond to refugee crises. Indeed, it was noted that refugees destined to Canada tend to do relatively well though it may take longer than other immigrant groups.

The final part of the day focused on two sharing circles on knowledge synthesis grants that were awarded by SSHRC in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada. The morning session was broken into four circles and the afternoon session was broken into three circles. The sessions were followed by a moderated armchair discussion with grant-holders. Attendees could attend two circles and I participated in Circle A: Gender, Inclusion, and Belonging in Diverse Societies and Circle E: Changing Global Trends: Conflict, Populism, and Radicalization. The circles provided grant-holders with the opportunity to discuss their proposals and to gain feedback from attendees. All circles shared similar themes including the challenges in conducting their research, the relationship among government, public policy, and research, as well as the ways in which their research can help Canada move forward. Overall, the event was an excellent opportunity for academics, NGO representatives, and policymakers to learn from one another and to engage in valuable discussions.

Graduate Student Profile: Dania El Chaar (Graduate Program in Education, University of Calgary)



Research topic: Factors Affecting Academic Outcomes Among Immigrant and Refugee Youth From Arab Descent in Calgary, Alberta
This research looks into the factors that might help or hinder the academic outcomes among immigrant and refugee youth of Arab descent in the Canadian high school system in Calgary.

What drew you to this area of study? Why did you choose it?

As an immigrant myself, and having teenage children, I was intrigued to look into factors which might help or hinder the success of late arrivals (immigrants and refugees who arrive to Canada as a middle or high school students). Looking into the literature, many studies have been focusing on specific ethnic groups of immigrants and refugees; however, very few explored the Arab population. The significance of such research comes at a critical time, where Canada has welcomed more than 40,000 Syrian refugees, with more than 50% of this population under the age of 18 (Stats Canada, 2017).

What advice do you have for other researchers in the field of immigration?

The field of immigration is an interesting field of study as the variables might change with a political or humanitarian act. For example, very little was known about Syrians except for the ongoing war since 2011. However, when the government decided to alleviate some of the people's agony and sponsor 25,000 Syrian refugees, researchers from all over Canada started to work on this population in particular. Researchers had projects pertaining to social settlement and adaptation to the new country, language acquisition, domestic violence, mental health as well as education. Hence, the field of immigration studies is vast, full of opportunities and ready for those who have the passion to explore it.

People on the Move

Beth Clarke has joined WES-Canada as Director of Strategic Partnerships. In this role, Beth will lead the development of WES' Global Talent Bridge program in Canada. Beth was previously the Senior Director, Employer and Stakeholder Relations at the Toronto Region Immigrant Employment Council (TRIEC), and has over 18 years experience in the not for profit sector, focusing on employment services for newcomers.

Suzanne Huot joined the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of British Columbia at the rank of Assistant Professor on July 1, 2017. She was previously in the School of Occupational Therapy at the University of Western Ontario.

Tom Sproat joined the St. Thomas Elgin Local Immigration Partnership in June 2017 as Project Facilitator. Tom holds a BA in Political Science and Sociology as well as a post graduate certificate in Immigration Law Consultation. He has lived and worked as an ESL teacher and immigration practitioner in Asia and South Africa.

Immigration in the News: Top Stories of the Past Month

Below are links to top stories that the P2P is following. These stories and other material can be accessed through the [Media Corner](#) of the P2P's website. The Corner provides links to articles appearing in the national and local media. Some international content is also included. Articles are updated weekly.

- ◆ **National Post – July 25, 2017** – [Federal Court Accepts Long-term Immigration Detention Is Legal but Cautions on How It Is Used](#): The Federal Court of Canada rejected a constitutional challenge attacking the legality of detaining immigrants, saying checks and balances give enough protection to keep Canada's immigration act on the right side of legal.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – July 23, 2017** – [New Citizenship Study Guide Highlights Indigenous Peoples, Canadian Responsibilities](#): Respecting treaties with Indigenous Peoples, paying taxes and filling out the census are listed as mandatory obligations of Canadian citizenship in a draft version of a new study guide for the citizenship exam.
- ◆ **TVA Nouvelles – 22 juillet 2017** – [L'immigration illégale au Canada en six questions](#) : Quatre migrants sont arrivés cette semaine dans le Port de Montréal cachés dans un conteneur, et des dizaines de personnes traversent illégalement la frontière terrestre pour demander refuge au pays.
- ◆ **Globe and Mail – July 21, 2017** – [Increase in Asylum Seekers Apprehended in Quebec, June Figures Show](#): The federal government data, including preliminary figures for June, show a drop in the number of people being apprehended in Manitoba, but a major increase in Quebec.
- ◆ **Radio-Canada – Le 20 juillet 2017** – [Des autocollants anti-immigration au centre-ville de Sherbrooke](#) : La Fédération des Québécois de souche, un groupe nationaliste, appose depuis quelques jours dans différentes villes du Québec, dont Sherbrooke, des autocollants pourfendant l'immigration. Des autocollants sur lesquels il est écrit « Ils ne nous feront pas taire » [...].
- ◆ **Radio-Canada – Le 20 juillet 2017** – [Consultation sur le racisme systémique au Québec dès septembre](#) : Le gouvernement du Québec a annoncé jeudi que sa consultation sur la discrimination et le racisme systémique sera confiée à la Commission des droits de la personne. Des séances auront lieu partout dans la province dès cet automne.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – July 16, 2017** – [Thousands of Refugee Cases Suspended Due to Border Agency Delays](#): Despite law that requires all refugee hearings to be heard within 60 days once a claim is initially deemed eligible by an immigration officer, more and more asylum hearings have been suspended indefinitely because of delays at the CBSA in issuing clearances of what is known as front-end security screening.
- ◆ **CBC News – July 7, 2017** – ["Impossible to Close the Gap": Immigration Board Boss Says More Resources Needed to Process Legacy Refugees](#): Faced with a swelling backlog and a promise to resolve 5-year-old asylum claims, the chair of the IRB Canada admits he needs more funding and more people. Mario Dion insists the IRB has become more efficient in dealing with cases, but it's not enough. Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen recently announced a review of the asylum system, but he's offered no guarantee of additional funding.
- ◆ **ONFR – 8 juillet 2017** – [L'immigration syrienne « francophone » en hausse en Ontario](#) : Les Syriens représentent dès lors un peu moins de 4 % de toutes les admissions de résidents permanents « d'expression française » (2 380) accordées en 2016, d'après les données d'Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada (IRCC).
- ◆ **Toronto Star – July 3, 2017** – [High Number of Women Failing Citizenship Test Reflects Barriers They Face, Advocates Say](#): According to data obtained under a freedom of information request, far more women than men have their citizenship applications rejected because they are unable to meet the knowledge or language requirements.

Recent and Upcoming Publications

Duan, Y., & Zou, P. (2017). [A fall prevention quality improvement project in a long term care facility: Critical analysis](#). *Journal of Nursing & Healthcare*, 2(2), 1-5.

Huot, S. (2017). [‘Doing’ capital: Examining the relationship between immigrants’ occupational engagement and symbolic capital](#). *Migration Studies*, 5(1), 29-48.

Molloy, M., Duschinsky, P., Jensen, K., & Shalka, R. (2017). *Running on empty: Canada and the Indochinese refugees, 1975-1980*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press.

Zou, P. (2017). [Diet and blood pressure control in Chinese Canadians: Cultural considerations](#). *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 19(2), 477-483.

Zou, P. (2017). [Recruitment process of a Chinese immigrant study in Canada](#). *Applied Nursing Research*, 36, 84-87.

Zou, P., Dennis, C. L., Lee, R., & Parry, M. (In press). Hypertension prevalence, health service utilization, and patient satisfaction. *Inquiry: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*.

Recent and Upcoming Presentations

Bobadilla, A., Huot, S., Bailliard, A., & Laliberte Rudman, D. (2017, April). Reproducing stereotypes of asylum seekers through designations in the ‘Protecting Canada’s Immigration System Act’. Paper presented at the University of Ottawa Migration/Representation/Stereotypes Conference, Ottawa, ON.

Esses, V., Hamilton, L., & Gaucher, D. (2017, May). The role of attitudes in migration. Paper presented at the Attitudes Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Francophone International Conference

Women and Feminisms in Dialogue: Mediation Approaches, Intercultural and Intersectional Readings

November 28-29, 2017
University of Sherbrooke,
Longueuil Campus

With over 20 speakers from a dozen countries in the Global South and Global North, this interdisciplinary conference offers an international space for exchanges, discoveries, and learning on intersectionality, intercultural mediations, and plural feminisms. By presenting diverse feminist stances, the conference offers an opportunity to take stock of knowledge and approaches founded in different social, political, economic, geographic and religious contexts. These two days of exchange aim to create research networks and solidarities. The conference is open to researchers, students, representatives of national and international NGOs, stakeholders, social movement actors, policy-makers, advocates, and others.

For more information or to register, please contact:
Jade Fauteux (Coordinator):
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Hamilton, L., Esses, V., & Gaucher, D. (2017, May). The global refugee crisis: Empirical evidence and policy implications for improving public attitudes and facilitating refugee resettlement. Paper presented at the Politics and Policy of Migration in Europe and North America Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Huot, S., & Veronis, L. (2017, October). Places of encounter: Enhancing the social and cultural participation of official language minority immigrants and refugees in Canada. Paper accepted for the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Occupation: USA (SSO:USA), Seattle, WA.

Lewis, L., McLeod, H., & Li, X. (2017, March). The Open Studio Project. Presented to the Memorial University Research Exchange Group for the Arts in Health, St. John's, NL.

Lewis, L., McLeod, H., & Li, X. (2017, May). Exploring immigrant and refugee students' experiences of belonging: The Open Studio Project. Presented at the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association Annual Conference, St. John's, NL.

Lewis, L., McLeod, H., Li, X., & Boachi, A. (2017, July). Belonging and inclusion: Exploring immigrant and refugee youth experiences through community-based arts practice. Presented at the World Alliance Dance Symposium, St. John's, NL.

Petty, S. (2017, May). Mapping mobility as migration, displacement and exile in the video installation artwork of Nadia Seboussi. Presented at the Improvisation and Mobility Conference, University of Regina, SK.

Torres, S., Spitzer, D. L., Kaddour, N., & Bebos, A. (2017, March). Pre-departure orientation seminars: Expected and realized learning needs amongst current, former live-in caregivers. Session presented at the 19th National Metropolis Conference, Montreal, QB.

Veronis, L., Huot, S., Akl, J., Fleurant, M., & Kasine, Y. (2017, April). Disjunctured representations of the Canadian Francophonie: Mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in the lives of French-speaking immigrants and refugees. Panel presented at the Migration/Representation/Stereotypes Conference, Ottawa, ON.

Zou, P. (2017, September). Effects of a dietary intervention on hypertension control in Chinese Canadian community: Lessons learned. Abstract accepted for the Association for Canadian Studies in China (ACSC) 17th Biennial Conference and Canadian Studies, Kunming, Yunnan, China.

Zou, P., Lopez, S., Hazel, T., Sutherland, T., Grzelak, S., Mudrick, E., Oh, S., Easton, L., & Nair, J. (2017, April). Strength-based student-led presentations in clinical reflection seminars: An exemplary clinical group. Poster presentation at the 19th Global Nursing Education Conference, Current Challenges and Innovations in Nursing Education, Las Vegas, NV.

Thank You

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