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PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

Promoting Welcoming Communities in Canada

bulletin

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Hold the Date

Pathways to Prosperity 2018 National Conference

We are pleased to announce that the Pathways to Prosperity Partnership will hold its Sixth Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Montreal on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23, 2018, with a full-day Pre-conference on Wednesday, November 21. Standing Committee Meetings will take place on the evening of Wednesday, November 21, and the Board of Directors Meeting on the morning of Saturday, November 24.



The conference will include plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables, poster presentations, and opportunities to network with colleagues.

Conference and Preconference details, workshop and poster calls for proposals, registration information (rates retained at the same levels as last year), hotel booking information (room rate \$169 per night), and exhibitor opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks.

Feedback on the

Pathways to Prosperity 2017 National Conference

"I really enjoyed the conference and found that I was able to interact with a lot of different stakeholders in immigration issues that I was not able to interact with at other conference venues. I found the conversations I engaged in very thought provoking and made me think about immigration issues in a whole new light."

"P2P puts on the best conferences in the immigration sector. The combination of academics, practitioners and officials is a very potent one. The diversity of topics covered in this conference kept it lively and relevant."

The Pathways to Prosperity Student and Postdoctoral Exchange Program – 2018

Call for Expressions of Interest from Students/Postdoctoral Fellows and Those Who Would Be Willing to Host Them

The P2P exchange program provides relocation travel funding so that students and post-doctoral fellows have opportunities to participate in new research or broaden the scope and breadth of research they already have underway; collect and/or analyze data at another university, at a settlement agency, or at a government department; and take courses at another university while also conducting research there. Descriptions of previous exchanges can be found on page 8 of this issue and starting on page 6 of the [May 2017 eBulletin](#).

The Details:

We will provide travel funding of up to \$2500 to four individuals this year, with placements to begin in the Fall or Winter of 2018-2019. This arrangement might also be eligible for additional funding through the [Mitacs Accelerate program](#), for which the Pathways to Prosperity has pre-approval.

The due date for applications is May 28, 2018. By applying to the exchange program, you are giving us permission to circulate your application to interested applicants or hosts. We will facilitate discussions and negotiations between applicants and hosts, with the goal of ensuring that when a successful match is made and funded, there is clear agreement about the duration and responsibilities of both parties.

Application Process for Interested Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows Who Would Like to Participate in the Exchange:

Electronic applications of maximum eight pages should be sent to admin@p2pcanada.ca and must contain:

1. An application letter of no more than 4 pages indicating:
 - ◆ Why you are interested in this program and how it would help advance your research
 - ◆ A description of your research interests and skills (please provide as much detail as possible), and the type of exchange in which you would like to participate
 - ◆ Your expected timelines
 - ◆ Expected budget (only travel and accommodation can be covered)
2. A short curriculum vitae of maximum four pages, including your current and previous academic studies and your research achievements
3. The name and contact information of your thesis or post-doctoral supervisor who we may contact for a reference

Application Process for Interested Partners, Collaborators, and Co-Investigators Who Would Be Interested in Hosting an Exchange Student or Postdoctoral Fellow:

Electronic applications of maximum four pages should be sent to admin@p2pcanada.ca and must contain:

1. A description of the type of research opportunity you would be able to offer to a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow
2. The skills you anticipate being required for the research you have in mind
3. Your expected timelines
4. Resources you would be able to offer (e.g., space, data, salary, matching funds for a Mitacs internship)

We will form a committee from among the Board members to evaluate the proposals and try to match applicants with interested hosts.

Pathways to Prosperity Partnership and Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria Workshop on International Students as Future Permanent Residents



On April 20, Pathways to Prosperity, in partnership with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, hosted a full-day workshop in Victoria BC on International Students as Future Permanent Residents. The level of interest and enthusiasm shown for the topic was outstanding, with 90 attendees actively participating in lively discussions throughout the day. We would like to thank all presenters, chairs, and facilitators who worked so hard to ensure that the workshop was a success. Thanks also to the workshop planning committee – Christine Covell, Michael Haan, Sonja Knutson, and Karima Ramji – who selected dynamic speakers and topics for the day.

The Powerpoint presentations from the workshop are now available in the Library section of the [P2P website](#). The videos of the plenary sessions will be available in the same location in the coming weeks.

NEW REPORT

Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project

Understanding the Psychological Underpinnings of Public Beliefs about Immigrants, Refugees, and Immigration in Canada

By Danielle Gaucher, University of Winnipeg, and Katelin Neufeld, University of Manitoba

Public beliefs and attitudes toward immigrants and refugees play an important role in influencing immigration policy as well as the warmth of newcomer welcome (Esses, Hamilton, & Gaucher, 2017). Much of what is known about public attitudes is collected through public opinion polls. These polls tend to assess citizens' support for immigration and immigrants, focusing on how citizens' demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, and political party affiliation influence their support. Relatively little research focuses on an empirical, theory-driven analysis of why people support immigration — or not — in terms of underlying personality characteristics and social-psychological motivations. Thus, in a recent Pathways to Prosperity research project, we (Gaucher, Friesen, Neufeld, & Esses, 2018) set out to empirically investigate how Canadians' beliefs about migrants changed around the 2015 Canadian federal election — a time when migration was especially politicized.

Specifically, we investigated how the beliefs and values espoused by the government in power—termed system-sanctioned ideologies—are related to Canadian citizens' perceptions of migrants' warmth and competence. We conducted a cross-sectional national survey of Canadians at three time points around the 2015 federal election (N = 1,080). Results indicate that as the system-sanctioned ideology became more pro-migrant, citizens came to see migrants as more warm and competent. Moreover, after statistically accounting for other political ideologies, the increases in perceptions of migrants' warmth and competence were linked to citizen's motivation to justify their sociopolitical systems, such as the federal government. This motivation to justify sociopolitical systems is represented by agreement with statements such as, "The Canadian government operates as it should." Taken together, our findings suggest that pro-migrant system-sanctioned ideologies may be especially likely to influence positive views of migrants when citizens are motivated to justify their sociopolitical systems.

This research is published in *Social Psychological and Personality Science's* special issue on "The Social and Personality Psychology of Geopolitical Events."

The journal article can be [accessed here](#).

NEW REPORT**Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project****Examination of Older Immigrants' Contributions to Canadian Society**

By Ping Zou, Nipissing University, and Tony Fang, Memorial University

Previous research on older immigrants in Canada focused on their health problems and utilization of health care services. Despite the fact that older immigrants consistently support their families and communities, there is a lack of research on older immigrants' contributions.

Research objectives were: (1) To understand the self-perceived health status of older immigrants in Canada; (2) To explore the challenges which older immigrants encountered in their health care experiences; (3) To describe older immigrants' contributions to families, communities, and society in Canada.

A sequential explanatory mixed methods design was used. Using non-probabilistic convenience sampling, 241 older immigrants were recruited from the community. Older immigrants completed the Participant Information Questionnaire and Older Immigrant Health Status and Social Contributions Survey. The qualitative phase comprising eight one-on-one interviews followed the quantitative phase. Quantitative data were analyzed with SPSS 20 and qualitative data were analyzed with NVIVO 11 using thematic analysis.

Four themes were identified. The first theme was current health status and health care challenges. The majority of participants perceived their health status to be good. Health care challenges were encountered in language and communication, waiting time and inability to navigate the health care system, future concerns, and winter weather. Theme two was working at home. Older immigrants supported their families through caring for grandchildren, assisting with housework, offering financial support, and resolving family conflicts. Theme three was working outside of the home. Related subthemes included taking any available job, transferring knowledge and skills to the Canadian context, and not being satisfied with job opportunities in Canada. Theme four was volunteering in the community. Older immigrants' volunteer experiences revolved around peer support, taking on leadership roles in non-profit organizations, enriching Toronto's multicultural environment, and motivation to contribute.

The findings contribute to an understanding of older immigrants' roles in our society, promote respectful social environments, reduce discrimination, and may help to better integrate older immigrants into Canadian society.

[Full report is available on P2P website.](#)

NEW REPORT**Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project**

Examining Microaggressions in Two Canadian Cities: A Brief Overview of Results

By James Baker, McMaster University

While immigration scholarship notes that both immigrants and refugees experience racism, discrimination, and prejudice, such experiences have additional physical and mental health implications for refugees. Most forms of contemporary racism experienced by refugees are subtle and experienced in everyday life. Yet, this area has remained largely under-researched and under-examined, especially within the Canadian context. For this reason, my research sought to examine racial microaggressions as experienced by 25 young refugees aged 14-25 who have resettled in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador and in Hamilton, Ontario. First coined in 1970, racial microaggressions can be understood as brief, daily verbal or non-verbal exchanges that communicate negative views, ideas, or beliefs to people of colour because they belong to a racial minority group. To expand upon this covert/cultural type of racism, Derald Sue and his colleagues developed a racial microaggression taxonomy that comprises three types. The first type — microassaults — refers to verbal or non-verbal acts designed to defame an individual through name calling, avoidant behaviour, or purposeful discriminatory actions. Microinsults, the second type, are statements/comments that convey insensitivity while demeaning an individual's racial heritage. Finally, microinvalidations focus on subtle communications that negate the lived experience of the person of colour.

Preliminary results indicated that the most commonly experienced microaggression was microassaults. Respondents noted being called the n-word, slurs related to being Muslim, and being avoided due to the color of their skin. Some respondents also identified examples of microinsults – for example, their youth peers laughing at their accent or commenting on their difficulty in speaking English. Such actions/comments no doubt are designed to convey insensitivity towards those who are different. Finally, one respondent noted that she felt insulted that she was mistaken for an international student rather than a refugee. This may be considered an example of a microinvalidation as it had the effect of negating her refugee experience. While these are just some of the microaggressions shared, it should be noted that their examples could be categorized as either a microassault, microinsult, or microinvalidation. Moreover, many of the youth reported feeling sad, hurt, and angry as a result of the actions of white Canadians while others felt ashamed of their identity. Perhaps one of the more troubling outcomes from this research is the supposed “normalizing” of racism such that some youth were advised by teachers, friends, and/or family members to expect and/or ignore it. Indeed, such approaches are problematic as they may lead to higher degrees of isolation, alienation, segregation, depression, and concomitant stress among such a vulnerable population.

NEW REPORT

Pathways to Prosperity Funded Project

Art and Immigration: *Hidad* by Nadia Seboussi

By Sheila Petty, University of Regina

This research explores how newcomer experiences and experiences of immigration are expressed through the creative arts and how experiences of migration, immigration, trauma, memory, longing, and belonging become factors or motivators of innovation and creation.

Achille Mbembe (2002) has described migration as a “movement of worlds,” creating histories that must be understood as “culture[s] of mobility” emerging in response to internal and external contacts. Arjun Appadurai has written that the “disjunctive flows” of “globalization” have produced “floating populations, transnational politics within national borders, and mobile configurations of technology and expertise” that in turn create “problems that manifest themselves in intensely local forms but have contexts that are anything but local” (2000: 5-6). Despite the economic, political, and cultural challenges facing immigrants, artists (both immigrants and otherwise) are creating spaces of transnational exchange in art and popular culture that not only undermine the barriers facing them, but also write their existence on the face of globalization itself. Appadurai argues persuasively that “imagination” has the power to permit “people to consider migration, resist state violence, seek social redress, and design new forms of civic association and collaboration” and fuels “collective patterns of dissent and new designs for collective life” (6). Immigrant artists participate in, and are the product of, the disjunctive flows described above. Working through issues of cultural identity and social and political justice, these artists define and re-define the very essence of artistic practice, creating a new language in the process.

After my MFA student Zaheer Shahid created a database of 79 newcomer artists to Canada, I chose to focus specifically on the work of Algerian-born, Montreal-based artist Nadia Seboussi, who immigrated to Canada with her family in 2002. Seboussi’s artwork was especially interesting to me because of the way it embraces trauma and memory and inscribes them into narratives of migration. Seboussi borrows inspiration for her installations from Algerian-based narratives and draws on histories of immigrants who fled during the black decade in Algeria (1990s), blending the personal and the abstract, in which remembrances in “one’s own voice” are painstakingly pieced together to create documents of freedom of expression on the right to mobility and migration as a human right. Seboussi investigates the spaces in between documentary video and the reified space of the art gallery. These spaces become spaces of enactment and mobility in which the spectator must engage with the artist in participating in and creating new narrative structures. The research involved a detailed analysis of Seboussi’s three-screen video installation *Hidad* (which means “mourning” in Arabic), curated by France Choinière for [Galérie Dazibao in Montreal](#), Nov.19, 2015-Jan. 30, 2016 and a forthcoming article in *Cahiers d’Etudes africaines*.

References:

Appadurai, Arjun. 2000. “Grassroots Globalization and the Research Imagination.” *Public Culture*, 12(1): 1-19.
Mbembe, Achille. 2002. “African Modes of Self-Writing.” Trans. Steven Rendall. *Public Culture*, 14(1): 239-273

[Full report available on P2P website.](#)

Student Report:

The Pathways to Prosperity Student and Postdoctoral Exchange Program

By: Marc Yvan Valade, PhD Candidate, Ryerson University

Title: Attracting Immigrants to Smaller Canadian Cities: The Capacity of Local Networks
Supervisor: Dr. William Ashton, Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

With the support of the Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Student Exchange Program I was able to conduct research field work in Brandon, Manitoba, during the fall of 2017. Using a network analysis approach in conjunction with qualitative methods, my research aims at assessing the capacity of smaller communities in designing strategies to attract and permanently settle immigrants.

Social network data collection requires access to core members of a networked structure and commands higher response rates than conventional surveys. Being located at a local research institution such as the Rural Development Institute and introduced to key network players created trust and motivation among them to participate. As a result, 85% of my data collection goals were easily met. Additionally, meeting participants in their own environment was a factor in creating rapport and collecting content-rich qualitative data. Finally, it helped ground me as a researcher in the specificity and historicity of the locale, which is important to the kind of analysis community case studies require.

Preliminary findings show a community that learned to become more welcoming to immigrants and succeeded in retaining them. This outcome results from the collaboration of key public and community stakeholders congregating around the proposed vision of facilitating the settlement of flown-in temporary workers hired by a hog-processing plant. Brandon is a community that used to receive fewer than 70 immigrants per year throughout the 1990s before a surge of foreign workers during the 2000s, thanks to the hiring strategy of one private employer. Consequently, hundreds of temporary workers chose to settle permanently over the years after being helped to transition toward permanent residency. They then brought in their families, to the benefit of both the local economy and demographic renewal. Instead of being inherited from outside, policy capacity is acquired in this case through a collective iterative process supported by municipal economic development, the private sector, unions, research institutions, and provincial immigration and labour agencies.

People on the Move

Bayan Khatib has joined the Syrian Canadian Foundation in Toronto as Executive Director. Previously, she worked as the Communications Director at The Al-Qazzaz Foundation for Education and Development.

Sarah Wayland has begun a new position in March as Senior Project Manager for the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (the Hamilton LIP). She can be contacted at Sarah.Wayland@hamilton.ca

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.

- ◆ **Global News — April 25, 2018 — [2017 An All-time High for Anti-Semitic Acts According to B'nai Brith Canada](#)**: The year 2017 was record-breaking for anti-Semitism in Canada, according to a recent audit by the League for Human Rights — B'nai Brith Canada. The audit found that incidents of vandalism more than doubled across the country. Quebec now has the dubious distinction of ranking second in Canada for the number of reported anti-Semitic acts.
- ◆ **Toronto Star — April 20, 2018 — [Asylum-seekers Will Be Fast-Tracked to Ontario Starting Next Week](#)**: Starting next week, asylum-seekers arriving through the Canada-United States border could be fast-tracked to shelters and services in Ontario. After a cry for help from Quebec, which claims there could be 400 refugee claimants coming into Canada each day this summer, federal officials said they are working on a "triage" plan. It's not clear yet whether refugee claimants will be flown, bussed or sent on a train, but those who indicate, upon arrival, that they want to go to Toronto will soon be hustled out of Quebec.
- ◆ **CBC News - April 18, 2018 — [Black Parents Ask Ottawa Public Schools to Collect Race Data](#)**: A group of parents from Ottawa's black community are calling on the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to collect race-based data so they can fight discrimination in the education system. Richard Sharpe said his 16-year-old son has faced undue discrimination at school. He said it makes a climate where children like his don't feel safe or trust the administrators and often feel disengaged from the educational system.
- ◆ **Global News — April 16, 2018 — [Trudeau Liberals to Overhaul 'Discriminatory' Immigration Law Targeting People with Disabilities](#)**: The Liberal government has announced major changes to Canada's immigration policy that will make it far easier for persons with disabilities and their family members to immigrate to Canada. The government will no longer consider certain social service spending when deciding if someone can immigrate to Canada, particularly social service spending related to special education needs.
- ◆ **Toronto Star — April 12, 2018 — [Immigrant Women in Canada Earn Less, Face More Employment Challenges, Says Government Report](#)**: Immigrant women in Canada face greater employment barriers and earn less money than both male immigrants and Canadian-born women, data compiled by the immigration department suggests. The data also shows that more women arrive in Canada as the spouses of economic immigrants or as non-economic newcomers or refugees and have lower employment rates and earn less than the average wage.
- ◆ **CBC News — April 9, 2018 — [Canadians Split Over Accepting Dreamers from U.S., Survey Finds](#)**: A new public opinion survey from the Angus Reid Institute finds 64 per cent of Canadians say America's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program should remain. 38 per cent of Canadians say this country should offer DACA recipients the opportunity to come to here, while 34 per cent say the offer should not be made. The rest, 28 per cent, are unsure.

- ◆ **CBC News — April 4, 2018** — [Charlottetown Welcoming to New Immigrants, Study Finds](#): The Perceptions of Change Project reached 460 Charlottetown residents by telephone, and asked them a variety of questions about changes in the city. Virtually all respondents, 99 per cent, had noticed an increase in immigrants living in the city in the last five to 10 years. A majority, 57 per cent, said the changes were for the better, with another 40 per cent not seeing the immigrants making a significant difference. Just three per cent judged things as changing for the worse.
- ◆ **Toronto Star – April 3, 2018** – [Report Urges Canada Take Lead to Aid Rohingya Refugees](#): The Liberal government’s special envoy to the region, Bob Rae, has called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to more than triple the amount of money spent on aid to the region, to \$150 million a year over the next four years; to accept thousands of largely Muslim minority refugees who have fled Myanmar without specifying a particular number; and to maintain targeted economic sanctions against individuals responsible “for the abuses of human rights and the crimes against humanity in Myanmar.”
- ◆ **Globe and Mail - April 2, 2018** – [Canada’s Offer to Resettle Asylum Seekers from Israel Still on Table Despite Freeze on UN Deal](#): Hours after he announced a plan on Monday to resettle about half of the approximately 39,000 African asylum seekers to countries including Canada, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu put the deal on hold because of a political backlash. But Canadian and Israeli officials told The Globe and Mail that the Prime Minister’s decision will not affect the resettlement of asylum seekers in Israel who have requested to immigrate to Canada.

Upcoming Event

Centre for Community Based Research

WEBINAR

Setting Immigrants and Canada Up for Success – Toolkit for Faith and Settlement Partnerships

Dialogue with the authors and learn how to facilitate partnerships between faith-based groups and settlement organizations.

MAY 3, 2018 12 PM — 1 PM

To register, contact : Jessica Dyck (jessica@communitybasedresearch.ca)

To learn more about the Faith and Settlement Partnerships project, [click here](#)

Thank You

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