

# **Skilled Nigerian Migrants in Toronto and Structure and Value of Social Networks**

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# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
  - Increased skilled migration from Nigeria
  - Heterogeneity and networks in diaspora
- Methodology
- Main Topics
  - African/Nigerian Diaspora
  - Migrant Networks
- Summary & Conclusions

# Nigeria as a case study

## About Nigeria

- Estimated population – 186 Million
- 7th largest oil producer in the world (OPEC, 2017)
- GDP of US\$405 billion (National Bureau of Statistics, n.d.)
- 8<sup>th</sup> largest source foreign students in Canada, representing 2.56% (Canadian Bureau for International Education, 2016)
- top 20 in the world with net migration of - 0.2/1000 (World Bank, 2012)
- 7th overall in the world in 2018 by receiving almost twenty-five billion (\$24.3) dollars (World Bank, 2019)
- Top 10 source countries for IMG's (Health Force Ontario, 2011)

## Why Nigeria

- Nigeria has difficulty providing infrastructure and is unable to sustain its middle class as 53.5% of the population lived below poverty line in 2009 (World Bank, n.d.)
- A higher percentage of healthcare professionals come from Nigeria than other African countries
- Nigerians value education and mostly immigrate to Canada with the whole family as an economic migrants rather than as refugees
- Nigeria has transformed itself from a net immigration to a net emigration country (Blackwell and DeHaas, 2007),
- Relatively less research focuses on Nigerians in Canada

# Nigerians in the Diaspora

- The African diaspora is actually *defined* by the African union (2015) as development agents for their home nations:

*The African Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.*

- The Nigerian diaspora can be considered as Nigerians living outside the country without an immediate plan to return (Akinrinade & Ogen, 2011; Ogbuagu, 2013).
- The Nigerian diaspora has tended to be subsumed under the African diaspora, or as part of the Black community (Ogbuagu, 2013), with its history yet to be written (Akinrinade & Ogen, 2011)

# Heterogeneity in diaspora

- Nigeria and its diaspora are culturally and religiously diverse (over 250 ethnicities, and over 400 languages) (de Haas, 2006; Adogame, 2010).
- Nigerians established religious as well as social, faith-based, cultural, professional and ethno cultural organizations and practices.
- There are deep socio-cultural and religious divisions within Nigerian society which are extended to Nigerians in the diaspora.
- Social, cultural, regional and religious migrant identities transform and reformulate after migration (Kurien, 2002).
- Embeddedness in ethnic networks can increase cooperative support, but the 'other side' of embeddedness' can be closure and exclusion for ethno-cultural specific networks (Waldinger , 1995).

# METHODOLOGY

## Modified Surveys

- 98 respondents
- Canada
  - Nigerian Trained Health care workers in Canada for at least 4 years
- Nigeria
  - Health care professionals in Nigeria
  - Purposive Sampling
  - April – May 2015

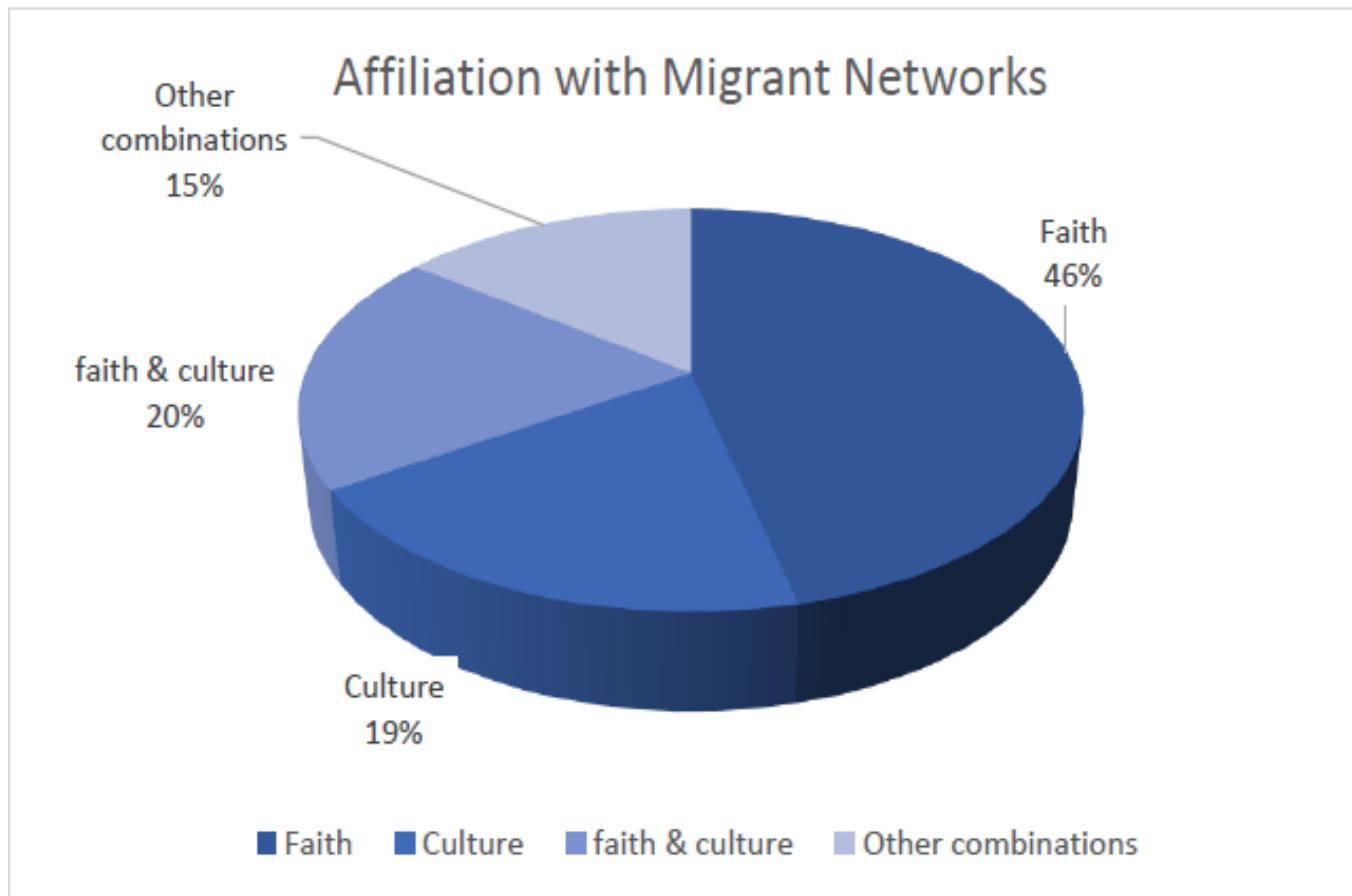
## Interviews

- 24 participants
  - Canada: 12
  - Nigeria: 12
- Snowball sampling
- 2016

## Key Informant Interviews

- Total of 11 participants
  - Canada – 8
  - Nigeria - 3
- Community leaders, advocates, employers
- 2015-2016

- 69% affiliated with at least one migrant network



### Religion:

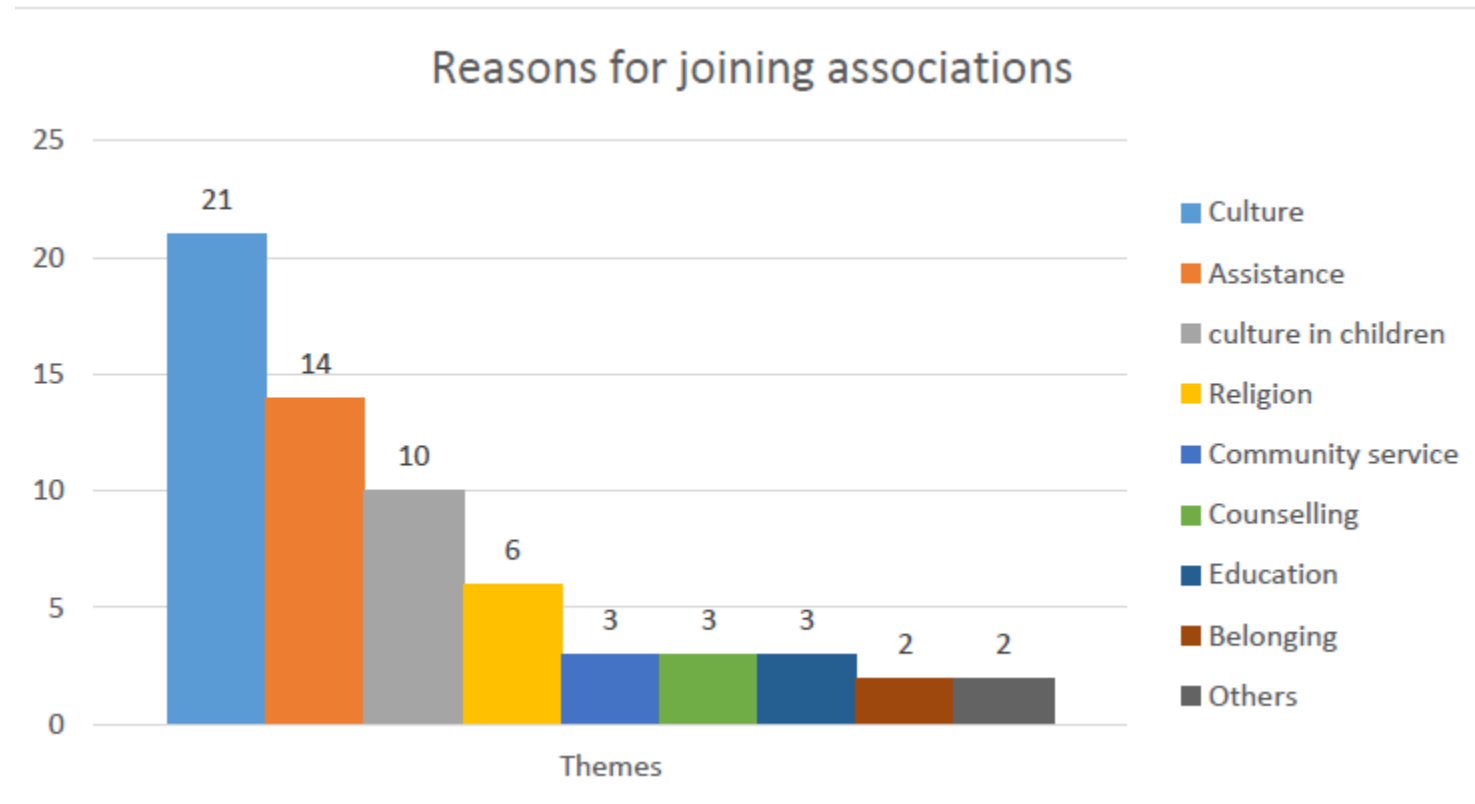
“To worship and **stay in contact** with my friends. Also to make sure my children know their culture and have a chance to marry from that culture. These days, we have intercultural marriages more than intra-cultural, and it’s affecting the kids and their parents” (Female, nurse, over 60 years of age).

### Faith

“To praise my God and for financial assistance. While in school, my **church provides some money** and counselling to those in need” (Female, PSW, under 30 years of age).

“In terms of faith-based, my **church supports every** family in prayers and help them to achieve their dreams” (Female, student, 40–50 years of age).

# Reasons for Joining Migrant Networks





# Migrant Network – Community Service

Participant ID	Reasons for joining the organization	Description	Years in Canada
2	To help the my community here and in Nigeria	Female, Nursing, 50–60 years	5
9	Want to help people and gain more knowledge about Nigerian Association	Female, Nursing, 30–40 years	5
22	To help through charity works	Female, PSW, 50–60 years	3
23	Community development	Female, Retired, over 60 years	6
32	To make a difference by giving back to my community. (helping those in need)	Female, Nursing, 50–60 years	15–20
33	To make a difference in the community	Female, Nursing, 40–50 years	Over 20

- ✓ *“I didn’t even invite myself to the community when I lost my husband; someone told them, and **they reached out to me**. Even my husband is part of a different social group, and they came around as well. The money to transfer his corpse home and my fare were donated to us since we just came to Canada then” (Female, nurse, over 60 years old)*

# Divisions within Nigerian Migrant Networks

	Total - n=94	Percentage
Social	25	27%
Professional	13	14%
Religious	4	4%
Ethnocultural	49	52%
Political	1	1%
Not listed	2	2%

“Some Nigerians **don't want to lend helping hands** to another Nigerian because of past bad experience. I notice that Indians and Chinese don't have the same problem Nigerians have with one another because they work together. They do not need anyone outside their community to get the help they require.”(Key Informant Interview: Participant 4).

“One thing that I notice among Nigerian Professional migrants that is different from migrants from other countries is that Nigerians **do not mentor** their youth and do not patronize each other”. (Key Informant Interview: Participant 10).

“The challenge I have with our community members is getting them to **work collaboratively** as one body and with love” (Key Informant Interview: Participant 4).

“There is a need for a paradigm shift for our community to have **a political voice**. In the past, immigrants have steered away from having their interests advocated for in the corridors of power. However, the last elections indicated that the Nigerian community is leaning towards this change. Four Nigerians ran for political offices, both federally, provincially and municipally in Ontario. It was a clear indication that change is near for the community.” (Key Informant Interview: Participant 6).

# Conclusions

- African skilled migration is increasing, we need to understand the processes and patterns of migration and settlement in more detail
- This research examined the experiences of Nigerians in Toronto who had trained as health care workers
- Social networks are important, but ethnocultural diversity may result in exclusions from some networks, and respondents referenced how such divisions may reduce collaboration within the community

**Thank You!**