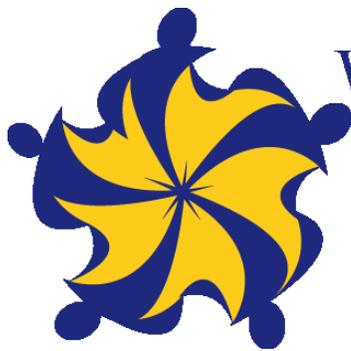


2011 February



WELCOMING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

bulletin

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Partnership Grant Letter of Intent Submitted to SSHRC – "Pathways to Prosperity: New Policy Directions and Innovative Local Practices for Newcomer Attraction and Integration"

As many of you know, we recently submitted a Partnership Grant Letter of Intent to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The goal of the partnership is to build an inter-regional network of researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners in Ontario, the Atlantic, and the Prairies so as to equip smaller centres in these regions with the analytic capacity to devise evidence-based plans to address critical challenges in respect of immigration, inclusion, local development, and economic and social sustainability. A key focus of the partnership will be the identification, assessment, and sharing of promising practices for newcomer attraction and integration.

The particular geographic alignment of the network was chosen to accord with current governance arrangements wherein the federal government retains direct responsibility for settlement services in Atlantic Canada, Ontario, and the Prairies (Manitoba is included because the prairie provinces have indicated a preference to work collaboratively in this partnership). Further strengthening the logic of the inter-regional alignment is the federal intention to extend the Local Immigration Part-

nership model, with which the Welcoming Communities Initiative has extensive experience, to the Atlantic and the Prairies. This will allow our inter-regional partnership to benefit from experience gained in Ontario to guide the building of Local Immigration Partnerships in other regions.

The aim of the partnership is to institute an ongoing, comparative, cross-regional program of research focusing on 2-3 common themes per year in response to partner priorities. The resulting cross-regional research will include at least ten cities and towns from each region, chosen for their comparability and relevance to the themes. The three regions will have a shared voice in identifying the scope and focus of the cross-regional research studies and the researchers who are enlisted to conduct them. Outside of this shared program of research, the three regional nodes will be responsive to local issues and priorities, addressing new concerns as they arise, either collaboratively with other nodes or separately, as appropriate. In either case, dedicated teams of researchers and partners will develop research projects with an eye to both scientific rigour and practical application. The initial list of potential themes to be investigated includes:

- ◆ Attraction and retention of newcomers in new destination communities, including Northern sites
- ◆ Immigration and its relation to local and regional economic development
- ◆ Labour market recruitment and

training of newcomers

- ◆ Optimizing multilevel governance to respond to diversity and to promote newcomer attraction and inclusion
- ◆ Working with the francophone networks to develop strategies for utilizing immigration to maintain vibrant francophone minority communities
- ◆ Analyzing the implications for settlement and other policy goals of recent shifts in immigration policy toward international students, temporary foreign workers, and provincial nominees
- ◆ Host society receptivity to newcomers and the drivers of public attitudes
- ◆ The role of local institutions and integration programs in fostering political and civic involvement
- ◆ The institutional arrangements for delivering settlement and integration services, including the role of service provider organizations, ethno-cultural and religious associations, 'mainstream' not for profit agencies, and public and quasi-public institutions such as schools and libraries
- ◆ Adapting mainstream services and using outreach to assist Northern and remote communities
- ◆ Measuring settlement service and community welcome outcomes in order to evaluate promising practices and drive innovation
- ◆ Configuring education services for diverse communities
- ◆ The role of cultural and recreational services in fostering a common identity

Researchers from 40 universities and over 50 community and policy partners are included in the partnership proposal and have pledged substantial commitments. Should we be successful at the Letter of Intent stage, we will hold broad consultations to seek input into the full proposal and to ensure that the collaborative nature of our partnership is firmly established.

Settlement and Social Work

As the number of newcomers in Canada has continued to increase, and the geographic distribution of this population has expanded, it has

become increasingly important to assist communities outside of traditional destination cities like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to become welcoming. It has also become increasingly apparent that the range of actors involved in the settlement of newcomers has expanded from newcomer-specific agencies to a far broader range of institutions and organizations.

In this quest to engage a wider range of actors in more Canadian communities, the Canadian Association of Social Workers, the Welcoming Communities Initiative and the Integration Branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada have partnered to produce a special issue of "Canadian Social Work" focused on settlement of newcomers to Canada. The collection of twenty-six articles fills an obvious gap in Canadian literature and reaches out to more than 17,000 active social workers that belong to the Association, as well as a wide range of policy-makers, practitioners and researchers working with newcomers. The articles address numerous aspects of the newcomer experience and offer potential resources that can assist workers to better meet the needs of this clientele, regardless of the community in which they work. The four thematic groupings of articles focus on vulnerable populations; sectoral challenges, such as those involving employment or justice; settlement services; and, finally, challenges and opportunities in a variety of communities both large and small.

It is clear that the very fact of being new in Canada, and the attendant stresses and strains of the migration process – not to mention the difficulties associated with various immigration statuses – means that social workers and others seeking to assist newcomers need to know more about their particular circumstances in order to help them effectively. It will entail learning about immigration and forging partnerships with organizations that already provide a wide range of services to newcomers.

Articles will soon be available on the Welcoming Communities Initiative website in both official languages.



Recent and Upcoming Conference Presentations*

Andrew, Caroline. (2011, février). *"L'initiative des communautés accueillantes": la recherche pour un changement social*. Présentation - Forum provincial - L'immigration francophone et les réseaux de soutien en Ontario : avancées, défis et perspectives, Ottawa, ON. (Presentation to the Provincial Forum on Francophone Immigration, Ottawa, ON.)**

Brochu, P. M., Esses, V. M., & Maio, G. R. (2011, January). *Discrimination is not dead: Systematic discrimination in forced choice employment decisions*. Poster presented at the 12th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Antonio, TX, USA.

Esses, V.M. (2011, February). *The myths and truths of Canadian immigration and how diversity benefits us all*. Keynote address at Algoma University Diversity Symposium, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.

Esses, V.M., Medianu, S., & Lawson, A.S. (2011, March). *The dehumanization of immigrants and refugees*. Keynote address at the Congress on Racism, Ethnic Prejudice, and Xenophobia in Italy: Theoretical Perspectives and Empirical Research, Torino, Italy.

Hamilton, L. K., & Esses, V. M. (2011, March). Objective and perceived underemployment: An examination of their consequences for individuals and organizations. In L. K. Hamilton (Chair), *Underemployment among immigrants in Canada: Causes, consequences, and solutions*. Workshop at the 13th National Metropolis Conference, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Hamilton, L. K., & Esses, V. M. (2011, April). *An examination of the consequences of underemployment among immigrants*. Paper at the 26th annual meeting of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Chicago, IL, USA.

Newbold, Bruce. (2011, February). *Exploring the Links: Housing and Homelessness amongst Newcomers to Hamilton Ontario*. Roundtable at the New Research Findings on the Intersection of Immigration, Housing and Homelessness, Metropolis-CIC, Ottawa, ON.

Newbold, Bruce et al. (2011, March). *Housing and Homelessness amongst Newcomers to Hamilton, Ontario*. Paper presented at the 13th National Metropolis Conference, Vancouver, BC.

Tolley, Erin. (2011, February). *Visible minorities, the media and politics in Canada: A case of racial mediation?* Paper presented at Canadian Democracy at a Crossroads?, Ottawa, ON.

Tolley, Erin. (2011, March). *Framed: Visible minorities, the media and politics in Canada*. Invited presentation to the Queen's University Board of Trustees, Kingston, ON.

Tolley, Erin. (2011, March). *Citizenship from coast to coast to coast: Citizenship outside the centre*. Workshop organized at the 13th National Metropolis Conference, Vancouver, BC.

* Presentations available in English only.

** Presentation available in English and French.

Call for Book Chapter Proposals

Title: Health Communication in Contexts: Research and Applications

Health communication research plays an important role in demonstrating how lessons learned from research can help in efforts to prevent diseases, promote health, and shape public health policies and practices. Editors, Rukhsana Ahmed and Benjamin R. Bates, are soliciting chapter proposals for a volume that will offer exemplars of both completed and ongoing health communication research and applications in interpersonal, cultural, group, organizational, mass media, and technological contexts. They welcome original submissions from scholars and practitioners in any disciplinary field (including communication studies, media studies, telecommunications, journalism, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies) as well as the health professions and allied health fields (e.g., medical science, nursing, psychology/psychiatry, medical informatics) following any methodological approach.

Contributions exploring any context of health communication are welcome. These may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Interpersonal Contexts (e.g., provider-receiver communication, communication between physicians and nurses)
- ◆ Cultural Contexts (e.g., cultural competence efforts, programs to address issues of linguistic, racial, ethnic, and other forms of diversity in health settings)
- ◆ Group Contexts (e.g., support groups, family communication about health)
- ◆ Community Contexts (e.g. community health programming, community-based participatory research projects)
- ◆ Organizational Contexts (e.g., communication within and/or by health care organizations, communication between health care organizations and other organizations)
- ◆ Mass Media Contexts (e.g., health campaigns, television representations of health, entertainment-education efforts)
- ◆ Policy Contexts (e.g., risk communication, health regulatory reform lobby communication, examinations of specific government health intervention efforts)
- ◆ Technological Contexts (e.g. telemedicine, e-Health/m-Health)

For further information and full details regarding submission, please contact editors Rukhsana Ahmed (rahmed@uottawa.ca), or Benjamin R. Bates (batesb@ohio.edu).

Call for Papers - "New Communities, New Racisms"

AAI 4: The 4th Asian Australian Studies Research Network (AASRN) Conference will be held November 10-11, 2011 at the MiFA Gallery in Melbourne, Australia.

Confirmed Speakers for this event include:

- ◆ Poh Ling Yeow (Poh's Kitchen, Australian Broadcasting Corporation)
- ◆ Professor Ghassan Hage (University of Melbourne)
- ◆ Professor Meaghan Morris (Lingnan University and University of Sydney)
- ◆ Benjamin Law (The Family Law, Frankie magazine)

The conference committee is now inviting submissions for individual papers. Suggested topics include: Emerging communities – issues and engagement; Political activism and community representation; Social media and Web 2.0; New queer politics; and Asian Australian Studies internationally. The committee would also be happy to consider papers that address other Asian Australian issues.

Please send abstracts (200 words) and biographical notes about the author(s) (50 words) to the Conference Committee (asianaustrianstudies@gmail.com) BY FRIDAY, MAY 13th, 2011.

A flyer for the event and additional information can be found at: <http://bit.ly/hDtx58>

Update on the Opinion Leaders Study

In urban and rural centres across Ontario, leading individuals from the governmental and non-governmental sectors play a critical role in shaping community life for all residents, including newcomers and members of cultural minorities. Elected and permanent municipal officials, chiefs of police, the heads of public libraries and educational institutions, major employers and labour unions, the directors of foundations and service organizations, and media professionals, among others, make decisions that profoundly affect the economic, social, cultural and political/civic opportunities for area residents. The vast majority of these individuals are also long-time residents of their communities. They have a deep understanding of civic priorities and local public opinion – of what makes their communities “tick” and of how immigration and diversity unfold at the local level.

It is within this context that confidential interviews were conducted with ten opinion leaders in each of 15 Ontario centres about their perceptions of the importance of immigration and diversity in their communities, the capacity of the community to offer a welcoming environment to immigrants and refugees, and local attitudes about immigrants and visible minorities. The interviews also explore the demographic background of community leaders, with an eye to assessing whether community leadership reflects social diversity in the broader community. The fieldwork was launched in Spring 2010 in St. Catharines-Niagara and London, and is drawing to a close in the final two communities of Kingston and Brantford.

The responses by the local contacts have been knowledgeable, thoughtful and candid, and the study owes a great deal to their generosity in sharing their specialized insights. The study team is looking forward to reporting the results of the research and to exchanging views on what needs to be done to enhance the appeal of mid-sized and smaller centres for newcomers and minorities.

Making Ontario Home Study – Online Survey Launched

On January 26th, the *Making Ontario Home Study* launched its online survey. The survey is part of a wider research project that seeks to develop a deeper understanding of the service needs of Ontario immigrants, to assess their satisfaction with services and to determine how best to meet their needs.

The survey will seek feedback from three categories of immigrants: those who have used settlement services in the past, those who are currently using them, and those who have not used them at all. Details about services used, needs for additional services or modifications in current ones, and the demographic characteristics of users and non-users will be recorded. Among other things, this will provide insight into why some services are used more than others, why some immigrants use services more than others, and what new settlement issues bear careful observation. The survey employs twelve languages including Arabic, Simplified Chinese, Hindi, Russian and Spanish.

As a follow up to the survey, focus group discussions will be undertaken with service providers to gather their reactions to the survey and to obtain their insights into emerging issues, trends and best practices in making services more accessible and useful to immigrants.

All 15 Census Metropolitan Areas and 5 of the 27 Census Agglomerations that are home to more than 1,000 immigrants who have arrived in the past ten years are included in the study. To undertake the research, the WCI is partnering with CERIS, through Ryerson University, which is responsible for conducting the study in the Greater Toronto Area, and the Centre for Community Based Research which is looking after the survey in small towns that are not presently included in the WCI.

The survey can be accessed at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/383142/MOH>. Further information, including posters in various languages and electronic flyers, can be obtained by contacting s.cliff-jungling@queensu.ca. The project leads are Mehrunnisa Ahmad Ali, (Ryerson University), Audrey Kobayashi, (Queen’s University), and Joanna Ochocka, (Community Based Research, Kitchener-Waterloo). This research was commissioned by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) and is funded by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration.

Update on the study: “Who is Running (in) our Diverse Cities?”

There is a woeful lack of data on the demographic diversity of candidates for municipal politics in Canada. As a step towards filling this gap, a survey was conducted in October 2010 of candidates for local elections in Ontario. The survey was sent via e-mail to all declared candidates across the 23 largest cities in the province and produced 702 responses. In addition, data on background characteristics was drawn from candidates’ websites and local newspaper articles. Data were collected on gender, visible minority status, and incumbency for at least 1340 of almost 1500 candidates. Other background information (e.g., country of birth) was gathered exclusively through the survey.

Preliminary results reveal that visible minorities, women, and people born outside Canada are all strongly underrepresented in municipal politics in Ontario’s most cosmopolitan cities. Following the 2010 elections, less than eight percent of council seats (including the office of mayor) across these municipalities were held by visible minorities, despite the fact that visible minorities comprise over 32 percent of the general population of these cities. Only 28 percent of council seats were held by women, while 19 percent were held by citizens born outside Canada. The latter two groups each have a little more than half of the seats that would be expected if city councils ‘mirrored’ the diversity in the population, while visible minorities hold less than one-quarter of seats relative to their proportion in the population. The low numerical representation of these groups is noteworthy in light of the conventional wisdom that there are fewer barriers to election at the municipal level, than to provincial or national office.

The data in Table 1 point to candidacy as a major possible barrier for all three groups. However, Table 2 suggests that visible minorities may face additional obstacles once they become candidates. The rate of success of visible minority candidates – whether they are incumbents or non-incumbents – is systematically lower than the rate of success of other groups. The next stage of this research will begin to explore the reasons for these differences.

Table 1: Municipal Elections in Ontario’s Largest 23 Cities, 2010 (%)

	Candidates	Elected Councillors	Population
Women	19.6	27.9	50.6
Foreign-born	25.0	19.3	36.9
Visible minorities	18.0	7.6	32.4

Table 2: Success Rate of Municipal Candidates (%)

	Incumbents	Non-incumbents
Women	78.3	13.5
Men	79.3	8.7
Foreign-born	77.8	9.2
Canadian-born	79.1	11.0
Visible minorities	70.0	0.9
Non-minorities	79.5	11.9
OVERALL	79.0	9.2

Spotlight on Student Research

This month's spotlight on student research within the WCI is on Master's student Andrew Roberts at Brock University in St.Catharines. Andrew can be reached at ar06br@brocku.ca.

The focus of Andrew's research project is the social conservative movement in Canada and its bid to win support from the country's immigrant and ethnic communities. The present Conservative government's attempt to reach out to "swing" ethnic communities could pave the way for the creation of a majority government after the next elections. These outreach efforts have been partly based on the argument that social conservative principles and "family values" appeal to many ethnic communities.

Andrew's research will examine the 2010 Toronto municipal election as a case study of whether and how members of various ethnic communities mobilized support for candidates and issues associated with social conservative appeals. The study will involve conducting interviews with the leaders of immigrant and ethnic associations and activists in municipal politics, as well as comparing electoral and census data to determine if wards with high concentrations of immigrants and visible minorities also elected candidates espousing social conservative values.

Niagara-Welland Local Immigration Partnership News

On October 15th, 2010, 25 local agencies gathered for an Agency Showcase event in Niagara. Attendees recommended that the gathering be repeated semi-annually or quarterly. Niagara has also been active on the research front partnering with Brock University on several studies. The Welland Heritage Council & Multicultural Centre is participating in a study that seeks to determine whether students with certain levels of language proficiency are able to qualify for university acceptance. Many students and international professionals who have gone through the evaluation have been accepted into Bachelor's and Master's programs. The long term goal is to facilitate their integration into the local labour market. As well, the director of the Welland Heritage Council's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) program recently presented a paper developed in collaboration with Brock on strategies for teaching higher level language skills at a conference for Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESL).

Progress is also continuing on Niagara-Welland's LIP Strategic Plan which will be released in March 2011. In support of this, various activities are underway: Executive Directors of immigrant employment agencies were recently presented with recommendations for the LIP strategy; similarly, feedback from a related discussion forum was presented to the LIP Task Force for reaction and guidance.

These efforts have been recognized. On January 22, Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, met with representatives from Niagara's ethnic communities for a round table discussion at Welland's City Hall. Minister Kenney was quoted as saying that "I got the impression that Welland and the Niagara region really have their act together when it comes to collaboration between the communities".

Thank You

We would like to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Citizenship and Immigration Canada, Ontario Region for their continued financial support.

