



# WELCOMING COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

## E-Bulletin – September 2010

### In This Issue....

- Canada Research Chair in *Human Displacement and International Migration*
- Who is Running (in) our Diverse Cities? Ethnic and Visible Minorities in Ontario Municipal Elections
- Travel Funding to Metropolis Conference in Vancouver Available to Student and NGO Members of the WCI
- Spotlight on Student Research
- Policing Newcomers: Discrepancies Between Policy, Training and Practice

### Canada Research Chair in Human Displacement and International Migration

The Department of Anthropology at the University of Western Ontario is inviting applications for a Tier II Canada Research Chair in the area of Human Displacement and International Migration. The Department is seeking a researcher whose work can shed light in both theoretical and ethnographic terms on the processes driving migration and displacement and the consequences of such movement. This research will be integrated into the Department's graduate program and will be closely allied to the Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations in the Faculty of Social Science, which is also home to the Welcoming Communities Initiative. Detailed information about this position can be found at: [http://www.anthropology.uwo.ca/pdf/jobs/crc\\_ad\\_sept\\_2010.pdf](http://www.anthropology.uwo.ca/pdf/jobs/crc_ad_sept_2010.pdf)

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### Who is Running (in) our Diverse Cities? Ethnic and Visible Minorities in Ontario Municipal Elections

Despite significant increases in ethnic and visible diversity across Ontario cities, the composition of the political elite across these cities has remained virtually unchanged. Especially puzzling is the fact that, while we have seen gradual increases in the number of visible minorities participating as

candidates and being elected at the federal and provincial level, the same cannot be said of local politics. This research project seeks to assess and understand the causes of this disparity in municipal politics. The larger project has three components: 1) a baseline inventory of socio-demographic characteristics of candidates across the 22 Ontario municipalities with over 100,000 inhabitants, focusing on the ethnicity, gender and socio-economic background of municipal candidates and elected councillors; 2) follow-up interviews with a number of visible minority candidates to better understand obstacles and pathways to election in their cities; and 3) an on-line experimental survey to assess voter responsiveness to visible minority candidates. The first element of this project is presently being implemented with support from the Welcoming Communities Initiative. This involves a survey of approximately 1500 candidates, across 22 cities, who are running in the October 2010 municipal elections.

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### Travel Funding to Metropolis Conference in Vancouver Available to Student and NGO Members of the Welcoming Communities Initiative

Once again, the WCI has funding available to subsidize the travel expenses of WCI students and NGO representatives who are on the program at the 2011 Metropolis Conference in Vancouver. A maximum of \$750 will be allocated to individuals presenting work (in either the plenary sessions or workshops) on issues that fit with the WCI's mandate: the attraction, retention, and inclusion of immigrants in cities across Ontario. Please note that we will fund a maximum of one person per paper, and that priority will be given to individuals who have only limited travel support from other sources. If you are interested in applying for this funding, please send a note with the following

information to [wci@uwo.ca](mailto:wci@uwo.ca) by November 30, 2010:

- 1) Name
- 2) Institutional or organizational affiliation
- 3) Full contact information
- 4) Description of your association with the WCI (e.g., as a student at a WCI university or a representative of a WCI community organization)
- 5) Information about your presentation at the Metropolis Conference, including the title of your session and paper, and your abstract
- 6) Other sources of funding for your travel to the conference: source, amount, and whether support has been confirmed.

Results will be announced in January 2011.

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### **Spotlight on Student Research**

This month's spotlight on student research within the WCI is on PhD candidate Marisa Casagrande at McMaster University in Hamilton. Marisa can be reached at [marisacasagrande@rogers.com](mailto:marisacasagrande@rogers.com).

Marisa's dissertation emerges from an interest in wellbeing and in understanding how different localities forge partnerships and construct institutions to produce wellbeing at both community and individual levels.

The dissertation seeks to contribute to a more coherent understanding of the interaction between multi-level governance structures and local individual and family dynamics. It attempts to do so by drawing on two bodies of thought: one on place-based governance, the other on wellbeing. The concept of wellbeing is informed by Amartya Sen's 'Capability Framework' for understanding poverty and wellbeing.

In practical terms, the dissertation considers the Local Immigration Partnerships (LIPs), introduced under the Canada Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA), as a policy innovation which reflects both place-based thinking and Sen's Capability Approach. The research first examines how LIP plans and processes are addressing individual/family wellbeing as well as community wellbeing. It then seeks to better understand the relations between governance structures and processes and their impact on various wellbeing constructs.

In terms of policy relevance, the dissertation seeks to contribute to questions on how best to coordinate multi-level governance to respond to the wellbeing needs of communities and individuals. The dissertation will also propose an evaluative framework for assessing the relations between local practices and conditions and emerging governance frameworks.

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### **Policing Newcomers: Discrepancies Between Policy, Training and Practice**

Many small and medium sized cities in Ontario are attempting to make better use of the skills, human capital and other resources that newcomers bring to Canada. In the context of making cities more welcoming to newcomers, this project aims to understand how policing organizations define the challenges and opportunities associated with the increasing presence of newcomers in their midst.

The three objectives of this research project are to examine: 1) how police services in small and medium sized Ontario cities understand the challenges and opportunities that newcomers pose for policing in their respective communities; 2) the extent to which newcomer issues have been incorporated into the policies and mission statements of police service organizations, and into the training that police services provide to their staff; and 3) possible discrepancies between policies and training in place to deal with newcomers and the degree to which police and diversity officers within police forces believe the policies and training to be effective.

William Shaffir and Vic Satzewich are currently in the process of analyzing official documents of police services and conducting interviews with police officials in various cities in Ontario. They hope that this study will help police organizations develop better training and better practices for dealing with newcomer communities. The work is also anticipated to be of interest to justice ministries at the federal and provincial level.

#### **Thank you**

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