



2010-2011 MBC FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

ABSTRACTS

TITLE: ETHNO-LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCES IN POST-HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS

P.I.: ROBERT SWEET, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

This study traces the academic trajectories of immigrant students from school entry in the B.C. K-12 system to their transition to further education in the post-secondary system. Various administrative data bases are merged to form a longitudinal file that allows analyses of factors associated with students' K-12 academic achievement and post-high school pathways choice. The latter comprise university, college, high school graduation and dropout. The study defines immigrant status by home language thus distinguishing ethno-linguistic groups among newcomer youth. Ethnic group comparisons are made to examine variation in academic achievement and course selection as well as pathway choice, taking into account socio-economic status, selected school factors such as age-at-school- entry and ESL enrolment as well as individual differences including age and gender. The study extends the existing research in two ways. First, in predicting academic achievement at the high school level it utilizes information on students' elementary school experience and includes students who enter at any time in the K-12 period. Secondly, it extends the analysis of trajectories to post-high school pathways, with a particular focus on university and college transitions. In addition to modeling achievement and transitions, the study examines the specific issues of variation in immigrant resilience and the prevalence of gender differences across ethnic groups. It also examines ethnic differences in university field-of-study choice and institutional preference. The integrated analysis of school and post-secondary domains reveals areas of likely policy intervention (e.g. language instruction) to improve immigrant PSE access and participation.

**TITLE: INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR IMMIGRANTS: EVIDENCE FROM
AUSTRALIA, CANADA, AND NZ**

P.I.: ARTHUR SWEETMAN, SCHOOL OF POLICY STUDIES, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Although there is a belief in both academic and government circles (for example, see Beach et al., 2003; and Canada Gazette, 2008) that Canada is in direct competition with other developed immigrant receiving countries for potential skilled migrants, currently there is no empirical evidence that examines this issue. We use data from Canada, Australia and New Zealand to investigate the structure and the degree to which there is competition between developed countries for skilled immigrants. Using the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), we plan to examine what percentage of immigrants who came to Canada also applied to other countries, as well, whether or not they were successful in their application. Given that in the LSIC we will only observe immigrants who choose to come to Canada, we may obtain an incomplete picture if immigrants who successfully applied to other countries chose not to immigrate to Canada. Therefore, we use similar data from Australia and New Zealand; two countries that Canada potentially competes with for high skilled immigrants. (We could not locate relevant US data.) Using information from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Australia (LSIA3) and the Longitudinal

Immigration Survey: New Zealand (LisNZ), we examine what percentage of immigrants in these two countries applied to other countries, and in particular what percentage of immigrants to Australia and New Zealand applied to Canada. We also compare the reasons for selecting each country, opinions on the settlement success, and how economic outcomes differ.

TITLE: INVESTIGATING BARRIERS TO PSE ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR NEW IMMIGRANT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT SFU

P.I.: NANCY JOHNSTON, STUDENT LEARNING AND RETENTION, STUDENT SERVICES, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Simon Fraser University international (visa) students comprise approximately 12% of the undergraduate population, with planned growth over the next 3 year horizon. With a traditional catchment area predominantly in the lower mainland of B.C., SFU also attracts a large percentage of new Canadians, and demographic information indicates that this portion of future university applicants will continue to grow significantly well into 2020. SFU research indicates that approximately 40% of all SFU students speak a language other than English at home and received some education outside Canada. Academic continuance and success data indicates that both international students and students whose mother tongue is not English and are in the EAL category (English as an additional language) have significantly higher rates of academic difficulty and attrition than their domestic, English as a first language classmates. Compounding communication barriers are cultural transition issues comprising both socio-cultural factors and aspects relating to the differences encountered between academic “culture” abroad and that of Canadian institutions. It is apparent that many students experience language issues and cultural transitions that negatively impact their academic success in the post secondary system. With changing demographics in the Lower Mainland of BC, this problem will become predictably larger in scale each year.

Unfortunately current institutional policies and therefore services do not appropriately reflect the scope or nature of this problem, and resultant support programs and services are often directed at one group (e.g. International students) vs. another (e.g. new immigrants, or domestic students), who may in fact share many similar challenges to succeeding in the post secondary system. This research project proposes to more fully explore assumptions about the shared and different challenges faced by both International students and EAL students (most of whom are new immigrants) who have struggled academically at SFU in an effort to better design support programs and services and appropriately target scarce "at risk" group resources. The greater numbers of these students that successfully complete their PSE, the more effective their transition to the labour market and by extension the greater their economic contribution to the community post-graduation.

**TITLE: WHY DO EMPLOYERS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST IMMIGRANTS?
EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FROM TORONTO, MONTREAL, AND VANCOUVER**

P.I.: PHIL OREOPOULOS, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MBC recently sponsored the first resume audit study in Canada to look at why skilled immigrants struggle in the labour market. Thousands of resumes were sent online in response to job postings across multiple occupations in the Greater Toronto Area after randomly varying characteristics on the resume to

uncover what affects employer's decisions on whether to contact an applicant. Overall, the results suggested considerable employer discrimination against applicants with ethnic names and experience with foreign firms.

This earlier work leaves many important policy questions unanswered. This new research would address these questions. In particular:

- 1) Is name discrimination as severe for Vancouver or Montreal as it is for Toronto?
- 2) Are the returns to foreign experience lower when considering applicants with foreign experience and poorer quality experience, or are the returns lower simply from listing experience from a different country?
- 3) What roles do references and legal visa status play?
- 4) Would providing local accreditation for an applicant's foreign education lower the callback rate gap, as recent laboratory experimental work suggests?
- 5) Do employers discriminate more by name and foreign status when the job under consideration involves more language and social skill than not?
- 6) Is the discrimination observed likely intentional or unintentional?
- 7) What do employers themselves believe explain the results from these audit studies?

The extended research would help narrow policy options for addressing these gaps. The goal is to estimate how important discrimination is in explaining labour market differences, and why employers discriminate in the first place.

TITLE: 'HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN?' NEW SUBURBAN RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPES AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

P.I.: DAVID LEY, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

This project investigates the challenges – and opportunities -- posed by increasing diversity in Canadian suburbs and the expansion of new immigrant religious centres. Research on changing residential and commercial landscapes (Ley 2010, Preston & Lo 2000) and mosque building (D'Addario et al. 2008) highlights barriers for immigrants in negotiating planning regulations amid the 'spatial manifestation of multiculturalism' (Hoernig 2006,7). Religious centres are sources of social capital (Ley 2008), facilitating migrant integration and offering possibilities for wider civic participation. This project examines new faith communities in Richmond, BC through a study of No. 5 Road, 'The Highway to Heaven'. Research Aims:

- (1) to analyze the emergence of new suburban religious landscapes: How were planning regulations negotiated? What new forms of religious architecture are evolving in Canadian suburbs? What conflicts/negotiations have emerged?
- (2) to explore the social, cultural and religious activities of faith communities and their role in the social integration of immigrants : What networks underpin these religious structures and their congregations? How are they connected to the broader suburban community of Richmond? What forms of social capital are being developed? (3) to investigate how the religious and cultural diversity of the suburban landscape of Vancouver is explored and understood by local residents and visitors to Richmond: What kinds of networks and partnerships have been, or could be, developed between municipal agencies to promote

intercultural interaction or multicultural engagement with the diverse religious communities located on No. 5 Road and the wider population?

TITLE: ACCULTURATION STRESS AND HEALTH: THE MEDIATING EFFECT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

P.I.: SEAN LAUER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Using data from the Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), the proposed research examines the degree to which acculturation stress is associated with self-reported health and how this association is mediated by social capital. Previous literature indicates that immigrants who tend to experience acculturation stress in the form of discrimination report poorer mental health (Noh, Beiser, Kaspar, Hou, & Rummens, 1999). Prior research also shows that social support, a form of social capital, may buffer the effects of stress on health outcomes (Noh, & Avison, 1996). Based on this literature, our proposal will examine four hypotheses: (1) Acculturation stressors are negatively related to health; (2) Acculturation stressors are negatively associated with social capital; (3) Social capital is positively related to health; and (4) Social capital mediates the association between acculturation stressors and health. Although the literature provides evidence that acculturation stress is negatively associated with health outcomes, there are some noteworthy limitations in this previous research. For example, a number of studies use a single-item measure of discrimination as opposed to several different indicators or scales of discrimination. The reliance of most previous research on cross-sectional designs is another important limitation. Finally, few studies have investigated the effect of different types of social resources such as ethnic and non-ethnic sources of social support. The proposed research will overcome these shortcomings through its use of the LSIC. In addition to its longitudinal design, the LSIC includes detailed measures of discrimination and social resources.

TITLE: IMMIGRANT PARTICIPATION IN REGULATED PROFESSIONS IN CANADA

P.I.: ROSS HICKEY, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - OKANAGAN CAMPUS

Immigrant access to labour market activity is of paramount importance for Canada and Canadians (current and prospective). But are immigrants participating in regulated professions to the degree that they could?

We use data from the Census of 1996, 2001, and 2006 to study the evolution of immigrant participation in both self and government regulated professions. By exploiting the differences in occupational regulation practices across Canadian provinces and over time we will learn what factors explain the difference between immigrant and non-immigrant participation in regulated professions.

In particular this project will shed light on whether or not occupational regulation serves as an additional barrier to the labour market integration of Canadian immigrants. We also discuss the factors that explain the intensity of the burden that this barrier places upon the immigrant population.

TITLE: THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN FERTILITY AND WORK DECISIONS: EVIDENCE FROM CANADIAN IMMIGRANTS

P.I.: ANKE KESSLER, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Many OECD countries have experienced a significant decline in fertility rates since the 1960. This development has propelled the question of demographic change to the top of the policy agenda, and as decreasing fertility rates and female labor force participation rates have threatened to undermine public pension systems, many states have responded by increasing public expenditures on family services (through availability and financial support for purchased childcare, and parental leave benefits, etc.). But how much can policy achieve? Some recent studies have tried to explain the observed differences in female labor force participation and fertility rates across countries and over time, based on differences in purchased child care use and other measures related to policy, but a large fraction of the variance in the data is still unaccounted for. This research attempts to address the problem from different angle; in particular, the project is aimed at clarifying the role of culture in explaining the diversity of outcomes. Culture, understood as a set of beliefs (that, among other things, shape people's attitudes towards women and their role in society) is likely to be an important determinant in women's fertility and labor market decisions. Isolating the effects of culture – as opposed to institutional and economic variables – on female labor supply and productivity will therefore help us understand better the large variation in outcomes that we observe across socio-economic classes, countries, and time.

TITLE: 'SUPERDIVERSITY' AND ETHNO-CULTURAL INTEGRATION IN METROPOLITAN VANCOUVER

P.I.: DANIEL HIEBERT, GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

This project has two components. The first is to build a better understanding of the challenge of diversity in Metro Vancouver as a whole and in its constituent municipalities and neighbourhoods. The concept of 'superdiversity' is employed to highlight the intersections between ethno-cultural and other differences, including admission category, legal status, and religious identity. This research will show that Vancouver is an exceedingly diverse society and that even those areas that are considered monocultural are actually culturally complex. The second is to explore the extent to which differences across the many groups in Vancouver are bridged. Are people engaging across cultural difference or, conversely, restricting their social interaction to people like themselves (i.e., living 'parallel lives')? This question will be approached in general through an examination of social survey data, and also more specifically through two case studies. These have been selected to concentrate on one non-profit organization that has been established with the idea of diversity in mind, and which makes deliberate efforts to foster inter-cultural dialogue (ISS of BC), and another institution that was created for economic purposes but nevertheless brings people from different groups together (Chinatown night markets in Vancouver and Richmond). This research will be matched with complementary projects in Europe and the United States which will help us understand how this issue is approached specifically in Vancouver/Canada compared with other societies.

**TITLE: IMMIGRANTS' HOUSING EXPERIENCES IN THE SUBURBS OF VANCOUVER
(RICHMOND AND SURREY)**

**P.I.: CARLOS TEIXEIRA, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA -
OKANAGAN CAMPUS**

The successful integration of immigrants into a new society is based on their attainment of several basic needs, of which one of the most important is access to adequate and affordable housing. While this has long been a concern in cities such as Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, it is also increasingly an issue in the growing outer suburbs of major metropolitan areas where the supply of affordable housing and immigrant settlement services is limited. This study will evaluate the social characteristics and housing experiences of immigrants in the rental and homeownership markets in the outer suburbs - Richmond and Surrey - of Vancouver. There is very little published data/literature in Canada on the suburbanization of immigrants, and much less on immigrant housing experiences in outer suburbs (Preston et al., 2009; Hiebert, Mendez and Wyly, 2008; Bunting, Walks and Fillion, 2004; Teixeira, 2007).

In this context, key questions addressed in this study include: What are the socio-demographic profiles of immigrants living in the outer suburbs (Richmond and Surrey)? Does available housing matter in their decision to locate in outer suburbs? What housing services exist to support immigrant settlement in the outer suburbs? What is their current housing situation, and what barriers (e.g., ethnic background/race, language, income, source of income) have they faced in locating and obtaining affordable housing in a suitable neighbourhood? Are immigrants at risk of "hidden homelessness" in the outer suburbs? What strategies are immigrants using to cope? Do their housing conditions change over time? What integrative role, if any, does a welcoming community play in the successful inclusion of immigrants in the outer suburbs? Finally, what policy changes are recommended to remedy issues identified in this study? The above research questions fit within the M.B.C. research agenda/areas where future research might be needed (settlement/residential patterns and housing affordability problems).

**TITLE: OUT-MIGRATING OR RETURNING MIGRANT: A STUDY ON YOUNG CHINESE-
CANADIANS IN HONG KONG**

**P.I.: MIU CHUNG YAN, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND FAMILY STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Recently, the increasing number of Canadian diaspora has become a policy concern. However, research on this issue is still in the early stage. A major study conducted by the Asia Pacific Foundation finds that people have many reasons for choosing to leave Canada. The lack of economic opportunities in Canada seems to be the major one. Among the estimated three million Canadians living abroad, a significant percentage are young adults born in Canada. They also find that Hong Kong and the United States have the highest numbers of Canadian diasporas. A group of single, well educated and fluent in English Chinese-Canadian has been the major group of Canadians living in Hong Kong. Given the history of the Chinese community in Canada, it is reasonable to expect that many of them are children of Chinese immigrants from Hong Kong. However, unlike the conventional understanding of return-migrants, a label which tends to signify adult immigrants, these are young people born in Canada. So, are they returning migrants to Hong Kong or out-migrants from Canadian?

Studies have shown that visible minority youth, including Chinese Canadians, many of whom are from immigrant families, have had more disadvantages in the Canadian labour market. So, is the search for

better economic opportunity the motivation of their relocation to Hong Kong? If so, then why did they choose Hong Kong instead of the States which is geographically closer to their family? Meanwhile, their leaving may have impacts not only on the Canadian society but also their own family and the local Chinese community as well.

What are those impacts? How do they perceive their civil-political and socioeconomic connections with Canada? What policy concerns and suggestions may they have regarding their diasporic identity and connection with Canada? This exploratory study is thus to seek answers for these questions.

TITLE: ASSISSENG THE MINORITY EARNINGS GAP 1971-2006

P.I.: RAVI PENDAKUR, PUBLIC & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

There has been a longstanding debate over whether Canada's minority population is subject to discrimination in the labour force (see Wanner 1998, daSilva and Dougherty 1996, Hum and Simpson 1998, and daSilva 1992, Baker and Benjamin 1997, Zian and Mathews 1998, Pendakur and Pendakur, 2002, Coulombe and Hu, 2010). The goal of this research project is to assess the degree to which the earnings gap between Canadian-born minority and majority men and women has changed from 1971 to 2006 using consistent data and econometric methods.

Our exploration of earnings differentials is divided into 3 parts. The first looks at 3 broad ethnic categorizations of interest: Aboriginal, visible minority and white. These categories match those used in Canada's employment equity policy. The second assesses the earnings differentials faced by European and visible minority men and women born in Canada (17 European and 9 visible minority groups). The third takes an in-depth look at earnings differentials faced by Canada's Aboriginal population (registered vs. not registered, on-reserve vs. off reserve as well as non-registered North American Indian, Métis and Inuit) as compared to majority men and women. All three sets of analyses will examine differentials both with and without occupational characteristics. We will thus be able to define the degree to which the earnings differentials faced by minorities are a product of lower pay, or an inability to obtain the same quality jobs as majority workers.

TITLE: UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS AND POLICIES FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR

P.I.: STEEVE MONGRAIN, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

The informal economy affects not only the size and scale of productive outputs, but it also affects government policy, revenue, and employment conditions. This sector arises for a variety of reasons: as a method of evading taxes or avoiding labor regulations, but also as a source of employment for undocumented workers. The literature has tended to study illegal immigration separately from the study of employer tax and regulation evasion. This is perhaps surprising since these issues are clearly linked – the size of the informal sector has implications for the number of undocumented workers, which itself has implications for wages in the informal sector and the profitability of operating there. Any study of a policy to address one of these issues will have consequences for the other.

The goal of this proposed research is to construct a framework for looking at these interrelationships and to construct a model to consider some of the most important and pressing current immigration issues. This will allow us to characterize optimal government policies; including not only tax rates and public good provision levels, but also the monitoring of both tax evasion activities and the hiring of undocumented workers. The presence of undocumented workers should have a large impact on the nature of those

optimal tax and enforcement policy. It should interact with standard tax evasion incentives, playing an important role not only in the determination of equilibrium wages, but also in the organization of production across the formal and informal sectors.

TITLE: EDUCATIONAL AND LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES FOR FILIPINO YOUTH IN VANCOUVER

P.I.: GERALDINE PRATT, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

This project investigates the experiences of Filipino youths in Vancouver to better understand their educational and labour market outcomes. Whilst Filipinos on the whole have one of the highest rates of university education among recent immigrants to Canada, previous research has identified low rates of university graduation (and even high school completion) among Filipino youths in a number of Canadian cities (Abada et al, 2009; Pratt and PWC of BC, 2008) -- a seeming failure of social integration. No research has systematically explored the reasons for this anomaly between parents' and children's educational achievement. A limitation of my earlier research into this issue (beyond the small sample of interviews with youths given its focus on women coming through the Live-in Caregiver Program or LCP) is that it was impossible to identify through available data sources the migration histories of Tagalog-speaking youths who drop out of high school, and thus the posited links to particular migration experiences, such as the LCP, and claims to the differential experiences of second and first generation Filipino youths were to a large extent conjectural. This project proposes to investigate this empirical gap and explore further the settlement and integration experiences of Filipino youths for critical factors that contribute to their educational outcomes. Indications that a significant proportion of even second-generation Filipino youths (particularly young males) do not aspire to or complete postsecondary education underline the need for further research.

This study has a quantitative and qualitative component: it seeks 1) to assemble recent statistics on the educational outcomes for the growing number of Filipino youths in the Vancouver Mainland, and 2) to delve systematically into the educational and labour market experiences of all Filipino youths in the Vancouver area. We will examine and compare the experiences of Filipino youths enrolled in post secondary educational programs, with those currently enrolled in high school, and those who have dropped out of high school. We will attend to how factors such as migration experiences, and pressures and supports within the family and at school structure aspirations and educational outcomes. We ask: what are the factors that lead to successful integration, measured by educational and labour market outcomes, and what are the factors that cause the low educational aspiration and attainment, so atypical within the Filipino community as a whole, of many Filipino youths.

TITLE: SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES OF LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL NEWCOMERS IN BC

P.I.: BRIAN O'NEILL, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

What are settlement experiences of lesbian, gay and bisexual immigrants and refugees in British Columbia? The purpose of this study is to add to information regarding the needs of LGB newcomers that can be used to inform policies and programs of immigrant settlement services. Preliminary study of

settlement services in relation to the needs of LGB newcomers (O'Neill & Sproule, under review) suggests 'coming out,' one of the fundamental strategies advocated by LGB movements for social change, may not be consistent with values and beliefs of some newcomers. Therefore, organizational changes based on newcomers identifying themselves as LGB may not be effective for making settlement services more responsive for this population. Objectives of this study are to gain an understanding of: LGB newcomers' settlement experiences in BC and their perceptions of how their needs could be met by settlement agencies; settlement service providers' perceptions regarding the needs of these populations and ways to serve them; members of LGB community organizations perceptions of how they could better respond to the needs of LGB newcomers. A literature review will be conducted to identify issues important in the provision of social services to LGB people, and individual interviews will be conducted with LGB newcomers, settlement service personnel and LGB community organization members in Vancouver, Victoria, and Kamloops. The validity and trustworthiness of findings will be supported by detailed description of data generating and analysis processes and member checking with the various relevant groups. A key limitation of this study is the inability to recruit representative samples.

TITLE: COUNTERING RADICALIZATION OF DIASPORA COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

P.I.: RICK PARENT, SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY, SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

“Countering Radicalization of Diaspora Communities in Canada” will provide an initial, comparative assessment of the state of radicalization amongst immigrant groups within Canada’s largest metropolitan areas. By comparing Canadian immigrant populations prone to radicalism and terrorism with those in other parts of the industrialized world, policymakers and public officials can gauge the relative security threat posed by these groups and manage the unique challenges they create. This study will examine the history of North American terrorism connected to immigrant populations, determine a current picture of groups at risk of radicalization, and identify best practice techniques for de-radicalization of individuals and communities. The project will seek to uncover the dynamics of assimilation, acculturation, and self-segregation at play within Canadian society that may be contributing to this problem. Through a thorough literature review and examination of case studies, this project will lay the groundwork for future related research and identify associated data collection and fieldwork requirements. With a better understanding of this phenomenon, leaders can develop new tools for preventing future terrorism and integrating immigrants within the host society.

The research questions for this project are: What factors may promote radicalization and terrorism from diaspora communities in Canada? What strategies can security, policing, and justice organizations employ to detect or reduce radicalization and prevent terrorism within these communities?

**TITLE: INFORMAL AND FORMAL SOURCES OF SUPPORT AND INFORMATION FOR
SOUTH ASIAN IMMIGRANTS' SETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION: EXPLORING
OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS**

**P.I.: HABIBA ZAMAN, DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES, SIMON
FRASER UNIVERSITY**

Every year a large number of South Asian (SA) women immigrants migrate to Metro Vancouver, BC. Most of them are usually accompanied by their families. After landing in Canada, women immigrants (along with their families) go through tiring, frustrating and demanding settlement and integration process (Agnew 1996; Chandrasekhar 1985; Thobani 2007; Zaman 2006 & 2007). Gender roles, cultural and religious expectations, educational backgrounds and language skills, lack of social networks as well as lack of knowledge about socio-economic-political system are some of the major factors, making the settlement process difficult and time consuming. For settlement and integration, it is assumed that most of the immigrants rely on their relatives, friends, acquaintance, community networks or religious institutions; however there is no significant study to update us about the formal and informal sources of information and support used by the SA women immigrants. There are governmental and non-governmental organizations in Metro Vancouver to help the process of settlement, nonetheless we do not know what sources and networks, women immigrants consider more appealing, reliable and significant in the process of their settlement.

This study will investigate: (i) what sources of information/ support are used by SA women immigrants for their settlement and integration in Canada; (ii) do SA women immigrants benefit from governmental and non-governmental organizations working in Metro Vancouver? (iii), what are the reasons for either utilizing or not utilizing the services of these organizations; (iv) and how do available sources of support/ information impact the process of settlement and integration of South Asian women immigrants?