

ABSTRACTS

**TITLE: OUTSOURCING THE BORDER: FOREIGN WORKER RECRUITMENT AND THE
MANAGEMENT OF MEXICAN MIGRATION TO CANADA**

DOMAIN: Economic & Labour Market Integration

P.I.: Geraldine Pratt, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

In recent years, Canada has shifted toward micro-level temporary migration policies to address economic and demographic challenges. Unprecedented numbers of migrants are arriving with temporary status through programs such as the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, increasingly from developing countries to work in lower-skilled occupations (CIC 2009). In the context of ever more circular global labour mobility, contracted labour brokers have become pivotal actors, in many cases taking on traditional state practices of gatekeeping that impact the size, composition, and geography of migrant pathways. Building on a burgeoning literature on the migration industry and neoliberal globalization, this research will examine the largely unexplored role third-party recruiters play in enabling and regulating foreign labour mobility and how the recruitment process itself impacts program outcomes, specifically in terms of employer goals and migrant worker integration. The project will, first, trace the recruitment process for foreign workers by third-party agents, considering the difference between state-run and third-party recruitment; second, explore possible disjuncture(s) between state policy, market demands, and the reality of immigrant selection; and third, analyze how the recruitment process impacts the migration and integration experiences of foreign workers in Canada. The project focuses on Mexican migration to British Columbia and Manitoba for work in unskilled or semi-skilled hospitality/tourism occupations through the Temporary Foreign Worker and/or Provincial Nominee Programs.

**TITLE: MEETING THE NEEDS OF NEWCOMERS: UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES
FACING RECENTLY ARRIVED IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO ACCESS
SETTLEMENT SERVICES IN THE VANCOUVER REGION**

DOMAIN: Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration

P.I.: Daniyal Zuberi, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

As the inner city sections of Canadian metropolitan areas undergo gentrification, visible minority newcomers are increasingly settling suburban communities, where many are living in areas with higher levels of residential concentrations of poverty (Hiebert 2005, Wang and Truelove 2003). The relocation of settlement services for newcomers to suburban neighbourhoods has lagged behind, creating a mismatch between newcomer settlement patterns and service provision. Some researchers have suggested that a change from core funding to contract funding agreements between government and non-governmental settlement agencies contributed to the spatial mismatch and reduced diversity of service alternatives because the competitive bidding process forced ethno-specific immigrant settlement agencies to co-locate and follow the directives of larger immigrant multi-service agency partners (Sadiq 2004). However, more recently in British Columbia, the introduction of new programs in the suburbs surrounding Vancouver

aims to improve access to services for new immigrants residing in suburban areas, especially those in higher poverty communities. Yet this relatively new phenomenon of immigrant incorporation in suburban communities remains understudied, and additional research on the match between services available to new immigrants in the suburbs as compared to inner city communities has the potential to help assess the effectiveness of these new programs as well as identify new gaps and concerns that could be met to improve the resources available to newly arrived immigrants in these contexts. How does service provision from immigrant multi-service provider organizations and ethno-specific organizations to newcomers living in residential concentrations of poverty differ between the suburbs and the inner city of Vancouver?

TITLE: THE ROLES OF RELIGIOUSLY AFFILIATED SETTLEMENT AGENCIES IN BC: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DOMAIN: Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration

P.I.: Paul Bramadat, Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria

Religiously affiliated settlement agencies (RASA) have always played, and continue to play, vital roles in immigration to Canada in general and British Columbia in particular. However, we know very little about these groups themselves, the kinds of social capital or social cohesion they may foster, and the ways they may or may not work effectively with governments. This lacuna in research and policy knowledge is problematic, since we are arguably witnessing major changes in both the formal policies toward and public narratives about refugees and immigrants in Canada and the state of religion both in Canada and abroad. The goal of this project is to assess the effects of secularization processes on Canadian RASA, the obstacles and opportunities RASA experience in light of the changes occurring in Canadian religion(s), and the ways they do or might partner with provincial and federal governments. Researchers will conduct interviews with key organizers of five BC RASA about their groups as well as the role their RASA plays in the integration of newcomers to BC. The data from the project will be compared and contrasted with analogous information from a parallel research project to be undertaken simultaneously by three colleagues affiliated with the Prairie Metropolis Centre. These two projects will form the foundation of a future comprehensive national and international analysis of both RASA organizers and the community members they serve. Both the BC and the comparative studies will be of use to Canadian policy makers, scholars, and secular settlement groups that wish to interact meaningfully and effectively with RASA in the present and to anticipate new ways to interact with them in the future.

TITLE: PATHWAYS TO IMMIGRANT EMPLOYMENT IN THE PORT-LOGISTICS SECTOR

DOMAIN: Economic & Labour Market Integration

P.I.: Peter Hall, Urban Studies Program, Simon Fraser University

The port-logistics sector consists of a network of activities that begin at the waterfront and that extend to suburban distribution centres. In the process, jobs are created in traditional transportation industries, such as stevedoring, trucking and warehousing, as well as in information technology from data entry to logistics planning. Since the late 1980s, the BC Lower Mainland port-logistics industry has undergone rapid growth and profound transformation (Hall and Clarke, 2010). Although still under-represented relative to the immigrant share of overall employment in Vancouver CMA, between 1991 and 2006 the share of immigrants increased from one-fifth to one-third of all port-logistics workers. Furthermore,

different immigrant populations appear to be concentrated in specific industry and occupational segments. Examining how immigrants find employment in a single but diverse sector can add to our overall understanding of immigrant labour market outcomes. How do immigrants find work in sub-sectors that comprise port-logistics in the BC Lower Mainland? How do pathways to employment differ by industry sub-sector and occupation? What are the implications of this differentiation for immigrant labour market outcomes, as well as for policy? This project combines quantitative and qualitative analysis, and builds on my ongoing port-logistics research. Further analysis of Census microdata from 1991 to 2006 will identify immigrant employment patterns and outcomes. Employment life-histories of immigrants in the various sub-sectors, as well as interviews with employers, unions, labour brokers, government, training and assistance organizations will uncover the training, search, recruitment and hiring processes behind the Census numbers.

TITLE: IMMIGRANTS' HOUSING EXPERIENCES IN THE OUTER SUBURBS OF VANCOUVER AND TORONTO

DOMAIN: Housing & Neighbourhoods

P.I.: Carlos Teixeira, Human Geography: Community, Culture and Global Studies, University of British Columbia - Okanagan Campus

Immigrants must have several basic needs met before they can be successfully integrated into a new society. One of the most important of these 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 of Vancouver (Richmond and Surrey) and Toronto (Markham, Richmond Hill, and Vaughan).

Key questions to be addressed include: what are the socio-demographic profiles of immigrants living in the outer suburbs? How does the availability of different types of housing inform an immigrant's decision to locate in the outer suburbs? What housing services exist to support immigrant settlement in the outer suburbs? What is the immigrant's current housing situation, and what barriers (e.g. ethnic background/race, language, income, source of income) have they faced in obtaining affordable housing in a suitable neighbourhood? What coping strategies are immigrants using? How 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?

TITLE: IMMIGRATION AND SOCIAL COHESION IN METROPOLITAN AREAS: THE EFFECT OF NEIGHBOURHOOD ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND IMMIGRANT GENERATION

DOMAIN: Housing & Neighbourhoods

P.I.: Zheng Wu, Department of Sociology, University of Victoria

The proposed research project is an investigation into the relationship between immigration and neighbourhood cohesion in Canada's metropolitan areas. This project builds upon our previous research on how immigrant status influences social inclusion and national belonging (see MBC

Working Paper No. 10-10). This previous research concluded that the local environment (place of settlement), life stage at immigration, and living in an immigrant-headed household are important indicators of the social integration of immigrants and their descendants. The purpose of the proposed research is to determine whether these factors are also relevant for understanding community well-being and the strength of neighbourhood social relations, focusing on perceived cohesion. Cohesion is a manifestation of the material and social structural conditions that bind individuals together and encourage positive interactions within and between groups – hence, it is a pillar of civil society and social order. Perceived cohesion represents an attitudinal attribute that captures an individual’s subjective appraisal of the local social environment and quality of her or his membership within it. In our research, perceived cohesion will be operationalized (measured) according to (a) sense of trust in neighbours, (b) sense of neighbourhood social support, and (c) sense of belonging to the local community.

TITLE: NATIVE-IMMIGRANT DIFFERENCES IN PROMOTION OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ROLE OF FIRMS

DOMAIN: Economic & Labour Market Integration

P.I.: Andrew McGee, Department of Economics, Simon Fraser University

Labor market discrimination against immigrants and the income inequality that it encourages may occur through promotion decisions rather than through hiring and wage decisions.

The research objective is to study systematic differences in promotion opportunities between natives and immigrants in Canada and address the following specific questions:

- 1- Do immigrants, on average, face a lower probability of promotion compared to their native-born counterparts in Canada?
- 2- To what extent are differences in promotion opportunities related to individual characteristics such as language proficiency, education, labor market experience, job seniority, etc.?
- 3- To what extent are differences in promotion opportunities related to observed employer characteristics such as industry, size, profitability, existence of a grievance system, on-the-job-training, existence of collective bargaining agreement, etc.?
- 4- If immigrants face a lower probability of promotion than their native peers, to what extent is this difference due to within-firm glass ceilings (i.e., barriers within firms that prevent immigrants from getting to higher hierarchical levels compared to their native counterparts) versus sorting across firms (i.e., overrepresentation in firms that offer fewer opportunities for promotion/underrepresentation in firms that offer more opportunities for promotion)?
- 5- How do differences in promotion opportunities vary at different parts of the wage distribution? Do immigrants face an economy-wide glass ceiling insofar as they face a lower probability of promotion at the top of the wage distribution?
- 6- Do differences in promotion opportunities vary among recent and non-recent immigrants? Among white and visible minority immigrants?

TITLE: THE IMMIGRANT REAL WAGE GAP

DOMAIN: Economic & Labour Market Integration

P.I.: Nicolas Schmitt, Department of Economics, Simon Fraser University

This study will investigate whether conventional estimates of the immigrant real wage gap are understated because they do not account for regional variation in living costs. It is motivated by four observations: (1) Canadian and U.S. immigrants earn less than comparable native workers, and this wage gap has widened; (2) Real wages (wages of individuals in terms of purchasing power) are typically calculated by dividing nominal wages by a single, nation-wide consumer price index; (3) Housing costs, the largest component of these indices, vary substantially across metropolitan areas; and (4) Immigrants tend to concentrate in metropolitan areas with high costs of housing. Recent research indicates that the real wage skill premium is smaller than previous estimates suggest since college graduates concentrate in metropolitan areas with a high cost of housing (Moretti, 2010). Analysis of this kind has not been performed on the immigrant wage gap. Given observations (1)-(4), accounting for differences in living costs may imply a larger gap in real wages between immigrants and native workers. We will use the Canada and U.S. Censuses to investigate this idea. If the wage gap is wider than previously thought, this leads to a secondary research question: Why do immigrants cluster in expensive cities if they already earn less than native workers? The theoretical model presented in Moretti (2010) provides a useful starting point here, and may be modified to accommodate features of models of immigrant clustering (e.g. Gross and Schmitt, 2003) and culturally specific local amenities or government services.

TITLE: HABITS AND HOMEMAKING ACROSS THREE IMMIGRANT COHORTS

DOMAIN: Settlement, Integration, and Welcoming Communities

P.I.: Nathanael Lauster, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia

"Please make yourself at home" is both an everyday invitation and a welcome extended through policies encouraging immigration to Canada. Given the widespread concern over the making of home, it is especially striking that we have so little idea how people do it. Securing housing, for instance, is clearly connected with making a home, but the terms of house and home are not at all synonymous. Here we suggest that people make themselves at home through the habitual relationships they develop with their built and social environments. In this project, we propose to study what sorts of habitual relationships people have to their environments, both before and after migrating to Vancouver from China. What are daily habits of prospective immigrants like in China? What are the daily habits of recent immigrants to Vancouver like? How do they differ from the habits of more established immigrants? Do immigrants find ways to re-establish old habits in order to feel at home? Or do they develop new ones? Which paths of habit establishment best correspond to feeling at home in Canada? These questions have been little studied, in part because of the lack of good data. But recent advances in conceptualizing and recording habitual behaviour, mapping relationships to place, and gauging individuals' sense of home allow these concepts to be empirically observed, both qualitatively and quantitatively. A multimethod approach will be taken incorporating the mapping of daily lives across space, activity diaries, intake inventories, photo elicitation, and two in-depth qualitative interviews.

TITLE: LEARNING TOGETHER: THE SETTLEMENT OF KAREN GARs IN LANGLEY, BC

DOMAIN: Settlement, Integration, and Welcoming Communities

P.I.: Jennifer Marchbank, Explorations in Arts and Social Sciences, Simon Fraser University

The arrival of a large number of government-assisted refugees (GARs) from protracted refugee situations poses challenges for settlement, particularly given the lack of a pre-existing community for most of these refugee groups coming to BC. Beginning in 2006, approximately 750 Myanmarese (ethnic Karen from Thailand in exile more than 15 years) have been destined to BC. These refugees are a relatively new group to settle in British Columbia, and represent the first to be settled in large numbers outside of the usual receiving municipalities, with over 250 (or 33%) of Karen GARs destined to Langley BC. As such, this study aims to assess how and how well settlement has transpired in this new area of refugee residence, which is a smaller centre on the edge of the Lower Mainland. In an effort to strengthen the analytical value of the study and its methodological rigour, we also aim to create a comparative context with other equivalent groups (Acehnese and Bhutanese refugees in Vancouver) for which data are available. Specifically (a) what are the settlement and integration outcomes five years after arrival (e.g. housing, employment, language acquisition, participation in Canadian society)? (b) how, if at all, did pre-departure orientation prepare the Karen for life in Canada/BC? (c) what is the impact of settling a large group of GARs in a new settlement location, from the perspective of the GARs and of Langley-based stakeholders actors? A focus on youth that mirrors earlier research with the Bhutanese will strengthen the value of the project.

TITLE: INITIAL HOUSING CONDITIONS AND IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION

DOMAIN: Economic & Labour Market Integration

P.I.: Fernando Aragon Sanchez, Department of Economics, Simon Fraser University

New immigrants to Canada often face harsh economic and social conditions initially after arrival. Many of them lack the social networks, experience, or language skills to find a suitable home or employment (Hiebert 2009). These initial differences may hinder their ability to develop as individuals and to integrate to Canadian society. In this project we focus on one important initial difference: housing conditions. After landing, immigrants tend to start their new life in relatively crowded, poor quality housing, far from job opportunities. The research question we address in this project is whether initial housing conditions, such as crowding and neighborhood quality, matter for new immigrants' future development and integration.

In particular, we will address the following questions:

1. What are the effects of initial housing conditions on new immigrants' economic and social performance?
2. How do these effects differ by immigrants' characteristics, e.g., country of origin; class of immigrant; educational background, existing social and family ties?
3. Do these differences persist over time?

A priori it is not clear what the effect of initial housing is. Take for example living in a remote neighborhood. This may increase the costs of finding a job and of developing a social network. On the other hand, if distant housing is more affordable, then it can help the newcomers to save. The objective of this research is to provide credible empirical evidence of the net effect of these initial settlement conditions.

TITLE: REGULATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION: EXAMINING THE US-CANADA SAFE THIRD COUNTRY AGREEMENT SIX YEARS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

DOMAIN: Justice, Policing, and Security

P.I.: Catherine Dauvergne, Faculty of Law, University of British Columbia

On December 29, 2004, Canada and the United States implemented the *Safe Third Country Agreement* ("STCA"), a bi-lateral agreement designed, among other things, to enable both states to better manage the problem of unauthorized or irregular migration and to exercise greater control over their shared border. Shortly after its implementation, the validity of the STCA was challenged before the Federal Court of Canada. In November 2007, the Court released its judgment, declaring the STCA to be of no force and effect, and outlining many of its problems and deficiencies. In May 2008, the Court of Appeal reversed this ruling to restore the validity of the STCA, but did not address its many shortfalls. The proposed research project picks up where the Court of Appeal left off: its aim is to evaluate the effect of the Safe Third Country Agreement since implementation. More specifically, it aims to critically evaluate whether the STCA has been successful in enabling Canada to exercise greater control over its border so as to curb the problem of unauthorized migration. By combining qualitative data collection with a rigorous literature review, the project will provide a comprehensive treatment of the STCA's implementation in Canadian law. In addition to producing a scholarly publication, the project will produce a data bank to be used for future projects of its kind, and also offer positive proposals for law reform.

In stark contrast to some recent media portrayal of refugees as "potential terrorists" are the work of civil society groups in interior B.C and the resultant supportive media in those communities striving to sponsor refugees and create welcoming inclusive communities for their reception.

Through promoting a deeper understanding and commitment to ensuring that the voices and actions of civil society groups regarding commitment to embrace newcomers, this project has huge potential to contribute to enhancement of our rural social fabric.