



METROPOLIS BRITISH COLUMBIA

Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity

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Metropolis British Columbia

Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity

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WORKING PAPER 10-01

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND TEMPORARY FOREIGN WORKERS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND LIST OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

What is the current state of the research on religiously-affiliated settlement organizations in Canada? What are the profiles of some of the larger groups in the ten major cities in Canada?

IMPORTANCE:

Although religiously-affiliated settlement agencies have been actively engaged in integration for many decades, as complex processes of secularization and differentiation unfold in Canada, these organizations' contribution to Canadian society is less evident. Given the importance of immigrant settlement in Canada's current and future plans for economic and cultural growth, it is important to study these agencies.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

In this annotated bibliography, the authors provide an account of the major academic works (in Canada but also in the US) that explore the current state of religiously-affiliated settlement agencies. The bibliography reminds us of both the historical significance and enduring salience of this feature of Canadian integration. The template section of this document provides crucial information about the major religiously-affiliated groups involved in newcomer integration in ten Canadian cities.

IMPLICATIONS:

This bibliography and the template data should foster new research on this instrumental component of Canadian multiculturalism.

WORKING PAPER 10-02

SOCIAL CAPITAL FORMATION AND DIVERSITY IN CANADIAN CITIES: IMPACTS OF INDIVIDUAL AND PLACE RELATED CHARACTERISTICS

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

We examine the impact of individual and contextual influences on the social capital attributes of residents in different municipalities. Specifically, we look at three major domains underlying social capital—trust (in individuals and institutions), interactions with others, and, membership in organizations. We use structural equation modeling to assess the degree to which the characteristics of individuals and the cities where they live may affect scores in these three domains.

IMPORTANCE:

A number of academics from Canada, the United States, and Europe have suggested that increased diversity hampers our ability to build social capital. These scholars argue that cities with high proportions of minorities have lower levels of social capital than cities that are relatively homogenous. If they are correct, settler societies are faced with a particular challenge because immigration intake will increase diversity, particularly in large cities, where immigrants tend to settle. If increased diversity poses a barrier to the establishment of trust (both interpersonal and institutional) and network formation, and if the future of Canada is one of increasing diversity, particularly in large cities, then our ability to support and strengthen an inclusive society may be challenged.

FINDINGS:

We find that diversity, as it relates to both the individual and city of residence, affects social capital formation. However, the impact of diversity is not necessarily negative. As the proportion of visible minorities in a city increases, the average level of trust decreases, suggesting that on this dimension, at least, increased diversity can have a negative impact on this aspect of social capital formation. However, as contextual diversity increases, the level of participation in organizations and interaction with friends and families also increases. This suggests that both bridging and bonding social capital can increase as diversity increases.

IMPLICATIONS:

Results from this study suggest two things. First, that trust and institutional involvement reinforce each other, and second, that perhaps the diversity of cities in combination with individual characteristics are leading to novel pathways of social capital accumulation. This is particularly true in the case of large cities such as Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, where bonding activities are, for many minorities, essential mechanisms of social and economic survival. Regardless of socio-demographic traits and SES characteristics, minority members (immigrant or not) are developing networks with family and friends that provide them with various forms of cultural capital, a sense of well-being, and economic security.

WORKING PAPER 10-03**HOUSING IMMIGRANTS AND NEWCOMERS IN CENTRAL OKANAGAN, BC**

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

This study examines the housing experiences of new immigrants and the stresses they face in the Central Okanagan Valley (Vernon, Penticton, and Kelowna), as well as the coping strategies of these groups. The key questions in this study are: (1) What barriers/challenges do new immigrants face in securing affordable rental housing? (2)

What strategies are immigrants using to cope? and (3) Does ethnic background and race (the colour of one's skin) matter in looking for and locating rental housing in small and mid-sized cities?

IMPORTANCE:

The successful integration of immigrants into a new society is based on their attainment of several basic needs. One of the most important of these, particularly in the initial stages of settlement, is access to adequate, suitable, and affordable housing. While the Central Okanagan real estate market is one of the most expensive in the country, there is little published data/literature on the housing experiences of immigrants in small and mid-size cities such as Vernon, Penticton and Kelowna.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

The findings suggest that all levels of government must cooperate to help address the affordable housing crisis in Central Okanagan by funding affordable housing construction, regulating and cooperating with developers, facilitating dialogue between landlords and

renters, and supporting community organizations. Municipal governments lack both the resources and the constitutional powers to deal with this issue on their own. Although support from the Province of British Columbia has been strong, the contribution of the federal government has been lacking.

IMPLICATIONS:

While the role of immigration as an important engine of economic growth, to say nothing of social change and development, has long been recognized by all levels of government with regard to Canada's major metropolitan centres—Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver—there has been significantly less attention paid to this phenomenon in terms of the country's small and mid-size cities. This exploratory study points out the need for more comparative studies on the housing experiences of immigrants in small and mid-size cities in Canada in order to better understand which groups of immigrants are more successful than others in finding affordable housing—a key factor in successful integration—and why.

WORKING PAPER 10-04

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY AND ETHNICITY IN CANADA'S METROPOLITAN WORKFORCE: AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF CENSUS CLASSIFICATIONS

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Using data drawn from 2006 Census classifications, this paper addresses questions related to the economic vulnerability of workforce members aged 25-54 from ethnic groups residing in the 15 major metropolitan areas of Canada. Using multivariate analysis techniques such as latent class and principal components analysis, it pays special attention to the interrelationships that exist between various indicators of vulnerability comprising labour market, employment, income and poverty-related attributes. The paper identifies the main dimensions of economic vulnerability, lists the most vulnerable groups in the various metropolitan areas, examines gender differentials as well as pinpoints the most important predictors of vulnerability.

IMPORTANCE:

This research is relevant because there is now a substantial degree of policy concern about the ethnic profiles of the economically vulnerable segment in the Canadian labour force. This segment appears to be quite substantial as well as a long-term phenomenon

in the labour force. Vulnerable workers are typically characterized as having a weak integration to labour markets and have limited influence on their conditions of employment, while many remain outside the reach of existing policy frameworks.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Census classifications corresponding to individuals reporting Non-European ethnic origins (i.e., Somali, Afghan, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Colombian, and Korean) as well as Aboriginal (North American Indian) were found ranking at top levels of global and income economic vulnerability scores. Higher levels of vulnerability were frequently found among visible minority groups of recent immigration history in Canada. The case of the Somali ethnic group appeared unique as their members (both men and women) appeared to be challenged across many economic fronts. The research undertaken also suggests that higher economic vulnerability is typical among ethnic groups who have with limited linguistic and human capital and have over-representation of first generation members.

IMPLICATIONS:

Profiles of the most economically vulnerable ethnic groups in Canada need additional study in order to get more insight into the factors that drive poor labour market and economic outcomes in metropolitan labour markets, and in turn, to better inform, design, and carry out appropriate intervention programs. Given that economic vulnerability may cut across generations and different periods of stay in the country, it is important to carefully design these interventions so that the most affected sub-populations may benefit from these programs.

WORKING PAPER 10-05

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND TRANSIT COUNTRIES: A CANADA-U.S. CASE STUDY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

International trafficking in persons is often facilitated by the movement of victims through one or more transit countries in order to reach a destination country where the victim will ultimately be subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labour. Despite this recognized pattern, there has been a relative lack of attention paid to the response of transit countries in addressing their role in this transnational criminal activity and systematic human

rights abuse. Furthermore, while Canada has been cited as a transit country for human trafficking to the United States, the nature and extent of this phenomenon remains under-researched. This working paper examines the role of transit countries in international trafficking in persons and seeks to identify legal and policy approaches to improve the abilities of these transit countries to confront this problem, with a particular focus on the Canada/U.S. case study.

IMPORTANCE:

Transit countries face heightened challenges compared to origin and destination countries, particularly with respect to distinguishing between trafficked persons and smuggled migrants. By synthesizing the legal obligations in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air into terms that are relevant to transit countries, a comprehensive set of standards emerges to enhance their ability to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers, and protect victims. Policies and programs that have been adopted by some transit countries are highlighted in this working paper, demonstrating how these standards can be implemented to engage transit countries in a more comprehensive response to trafficking in persons. The specific findings with respect to Canada and the United States are important to improve the bilateral response to this problem.

FINDINGS:

This working paper identifies several characteristics common to transit countries, including: (1) geographic proximity by land, sea or air to attractive destination countries; (2) insufficient legislation and weak enforcement against trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling; (3) liberal immigration policies; and (4) an operational criminal infrastructure to facilitate illegal entry to, and exit from, a country.

Canada is confirmed to be a transit country for human trafficking to the United States, involving a greater range of source countries than has been publicly acknowledged to date. The qualitative findings of these documented cases include characteristics of potential victims, modes of entry, methods of exploitation, prevalence of debt bondage, and outcomes of criminal prosecutions against alleged traffickers involved in these cases.

IMPLICATIONS:

Measurable criteria to assess efforts by transit countries to combat trafficking in persons are provided, which can enhance global and regional efforts to monitor and evaluate governmental responses to the problem. With respect to Canada and the United States specifically, while these countries have undertaken important bilateral efforts to combat trafficking in persons, this working paper proposes the following recommendations to improve their joint response:

1. Increase training and capacity of border officials to identify potential trafficking victims in transit;
2. Continue to cooperate in joint enforcement activities to disrupt illegal movement across the shared border;
3. Enhance mutual legal assistance and engage in cross-border human trafficking investigations and prosecutions to dismantle the entire network involved in identified cases;
4. Ensure victims of human trafficking in transit are afforded assistance and protection, including through enhanced cross-border cooperation between governmental and non-governmental victim support organizations;
5. Build public awareness in border areas about human trafficking, the needs of victims, and where to report suspicious activity; and
6. Cooperate with major source countries as well as enhance trilateral cooperation between Canada, the United States, and Mexico to prevent human trafficking.

WORKING PAPER 10-06

CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: MAINLAND CHINESE RETURN MIGRATION, HUKOU CONSIDERATIONS AND THE CITIZENSHIP DILEMMA

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

How do Mainland Chinese returnees (with Canadian citizenship) navigate China's dual citizenship restriction and its implications for their hukou (household registration) status, which confers residency, working, and other social rights in China?

IMPORTANCE:

This research explores the politics of citizenship by considering the issues faced by former Chinese citizens (now with foreign citizenship status) returning to reside in China. It examines the dissonance they experience in terms of claims to cultural belonging and the actual loss of residency, working, and other social rights in China. In so doing, this paper also contributes to the extant literature on the Chinese hukou system by considering its relationship with the international entry and exit administration in China.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

The study's Mainland Chinese returnees moved back to China due to expectations of limited economic advancement in Canada, and in the case of former "astronaut" families, a desire for family reunification. Returnees who have already given up their Chinese citizenship (and thus hukou) status have to apply for limited duration visas to remain in China, not all of which confer working rights.

Those who work are usually employed on "local" (rather than expatriate) terms and conditions, but their foreign citizenship status means limited social entitlements in terms of healthcare, pension plans, housing subsidies, and education subsidies for their children. A few participants covertly retained their hukou status but fear being found out by the Chinese immigration authorities and the implications for their future residency status in China.

IMPLICATIONS:

The findings in this paper raise questions about the issues faced by returnees with foreign citizenships. In the case of Mainland Chinese returnees with Canadian citizenship, their residency and working rights in China are precariously contingent on their visa status, and they have limited access to social security rights despite their economic contributions. Theoretically, they have full rights in Canada but are forced to leave because of employment difficulties and social marginalization. It is in this sense that they become citizens "caught between two worlds." The paper argues that more academic and policy attention needs to be given to this particular group of migrant returnees.

WORKING PAPER 10-07

MISSING LINKS: YOUTH PROGRAMS, SOCIAL SERVICES, AND AFRICAN YOUTH IN METRO VANCOUVER

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Do existing youth programs and social services meet the needs and concerns of African youth and their families in Metro Vancouver? If not, how can services be better coordinated to overcome the challenges they identify?

IMPORTANCE:

Compared to adults, youth face unique challenges, yet there is a lack of targeted programs aimed at meeting their needs. By providing an overview of the challenges African youth and their families face, and identifying gaps in available services, the study findings can be used to improve existing policy and service provision.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

For many African youth, the challenges of trying to navigate a new country, culture, and language are overlaid with discrimination, family separation, low incomes, and refugee status. These complex stresses affect family stability, housing, employment, education, and personal well-being. Under- and unemployment is pervasive. Additionally, youth must integrate into a new school system and are vulnerable to negative influences as they try to "fit in." At the same time, gaps in service provision result in interruption of services for vulnerable clients and may create a sense of mistrust among African youth and parents. Some African youth are consequently left without the supports they need to thrive.

ABSTRACT:

This paper provides an exploration of African youths' access to integration and settlement resources by examining their relationships with organizations serving youth in Metro Vancouver. The main finding is that a series of missing links exists between African youth and information and resources related to employment, education, and social services, as well as among service providers themselves. This may lead to mistrust among parents and youth in relation to settlement and social service organisations, and underrepresentation of African youth in programs that could help them settle in Canada. The author sug-

gests the need for a better coordinated service approach, arguing that integrated services should be available throughout youths' settlement and integration processes.

IMPLICATIONS:

The report makes four key policy and programmatic recommendations:

- 1) Enhanced outreach and more personal connections with parents to promote more proactive and effective follow up.
- 2) Increased availability of programs aimed at African youth to bridge the time of their arrival in Canada until they are ready to enter mainstream programming.
- 3) More long-term and ongoing programs in addition to short term projects.
- 4) Better coordination and information sharing among service providers.

WORKING PAPER 10-08

EMPLOYMENT STANDARD VIOLATIONS AND LIVE-IN CAREGIVERS'
CHARACTERISTICS
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

What factors explain employment standards violations against live-in caregivers and in particular, are their personal characteristics sufficiently heterogeneous to explain these violations?

IMPORTANCE:

Many studies have identified clear shortcomings in the Live-in Caregiver Program that lead to violations of their rights. The reasons for abuse are often linked to the design of the program in that some administrative rules foster caregivers' dependency on employers. For example, the conditions to be fulfilled to access permanent residency may increase caregivers' tolerance toward employers' violations of rules. However, self-confidence can encourage caregivers to stand up for their rights, and many factors affecting self-confidence are related to personal characteristics. For example, financial commitment to family members left in the home country or job experience in countries with little legal protection for domestic workers are likely to increase tolerance for abuse and dependency, while knowledge and information such as mastering the Canadian national languages or knowing their rights can decrease it. Clearly if weaknesses in caregivers' characteristics

are responsible for violations of employment rights, they must be addressed by changing administrative rules or by developing adequate policies to alter those characteristics.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

The statistical analysis of data from a survey of 161 caregivers, mostly from the Philippines and collected in Metro Vancouver in the Fall of 2009, shows that about two-thirds of them suffered from at least one kind of employment standards violation (i.e., violation of contract and administrative rules or living conditions requirements). Generally speaking, different employers commit different types of violations, thus many employers do not respect a few rules (rather than a few employers violating many rules). Concerning the possible causes for violations from the viewpoint of caregivers' characteristics, very few matter. In fact, most personal characteristics are very homogenous among caregivers in part because of the conditions set by the program and they cannot justify the type or level of abuse that occurs.

Two, however, significantly impact the possibility of violation: higher proficiency in English and better information about employment rules and rights.

IMPLICATIONS:

There is some possibility to decrease live-in caregivers' dependency and the risk of employment standards violation by reinforcing caregivers' confidence in their ability to speak English and by ensuring they have the necessary information about rules and regulations that govern their employment. However, this is not sufficient, and reforming some of the features of the program to eliminate adverse incentives to employers and directly addressing their reluctance to comply are necessary.

WORKING PAPER 10-09

TRADE, VARIETY, AND IMMIGRATION

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the gains from international trade? And how do immigrants to Canada influence this process?

IMPORTANCE:

While economists have considered these questions before, particularly in the context of aggregate trade flows, there has been no work assessing the relation between immigration and international trade in varieties—that is, the trade of particular goods from particular geographic areas. We consider the case of Canada, document its impressive experience with import variety growth in the period from 1988 to 2007, and relate this variety growth to the process of immigration.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Our results indicate that Canadian import varieties grew 76% from 1988 to 2007, that this growth is associated with a welfare gain as large as 28%, and that enhanced immigration flows may be responsible for 25% of this variety growth and its attendant welfare gains. Taken at face value, our results would imply that the average Canadian consumer was roughly 7% better off in 2007 than in 1988 simply due to the enhanced varieties of import goods associated with immigration.

IMPLICATIONS:

These results are an important contribution to an emerging literature on the effects of immigration on host countries which moves beyond standard considerations of competition (or complementarity) in local labor markets. Thus, future debates on further immigration must consider the costs and benefits to host countries not solely in terms of immigrations' impact on wages and incomes, but also in terms of immigration's impact on consumer welfare via the type of variety effects documented here as well as the effects of immigration on the prices of other traded and non-traded goods.

WORKING PAPER 10-10

**SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN CANADA'S URBAN
NEIGHBORHOODS**

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

Does the social integration of immigrants improve from one generation to the next? Is living in an ethnic enclave (or residential segregation) a barrier to the social integration of immigrants? Does the social integration of immigrants and their children differ between visible minorities and whites?

IMPORTANCE:

This study examines the complexities of the social integration process, focusing on whether immigrants feel they belong to Canada or feel out of place there. It contributes to our understanding of this process by examining whether intergenerational progress is conditional on local context and racial status. In general, a lack of integration decreases a person's incentive to contribute to collective enterprises or community institutions. Hence, promoting the social integration of immigrants and their children is essential for preserving social cohesion.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

The core finding is that the relationship between immigrant status and integration is not straightforward but instead depends on a combination of things, including intersections between generational status, place of residence, and racial status. For sense of belonging to Canada, the generational effect is mainly a function of individual-level characteristics (who you are), such as ethnic status. Some residual effects remain, depending on where immigrants live: first generation immigrants living in ethnic enclaves have a lower sense of belonging to Canada than all others. In regards to feeling out of place, first generation immigrants are worse off than third and higher generation Canadians. This generational effect is most pronounced for visible minorities and does not depend on where immigrants live.

IMPLICATIONS:

The high proportion of visible minorities among the first generation is not a trivial matter, and other Canadian research suggests that concentration of these recent immigrants in urban enclaves could be a barrier to their integration. However, our findings also suggest a small protective effect of enclaves, as feelings of discomfort are the lowest among immigrants living in these neighborhoods. It is important not to overstate the size of these effects, which are modest.

WORKING PAPER 10-11

(Dis)ADVANTAGES OF ILLEGALITY: EXPLORING UPROOTEDNESS AND HOMELESSNESS AMONGST
NON-STATUS MIGRANTS IN VANCOUVER AND TORONTO

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

Under what circumstances do refugee claimants shift between legal and illegal immigration status, and what effect does this shifting have on people's vulnerability to homelessness? How do refugee claimants who may live "underground" before making a claim, or after receiving negative decisions as refugees or protected persons, manage to survive in two of Canada's largest and most expensive cities?

IMPORTANCE:

This working paper focuses on precarious status in Canada, its intersections with refugee protection, and the everyday survival of those living without immigration status. This research provides a snapshot of migrants' experiences navigating Canada's refugee determination system and the effects of transitioning into and out of legal status on people's housing stability and well-being in Vancouver and Toronto, two of the country's major ports of entry and centres of immigrant settlement. This study contributes to our understanding of hidden and visible homelessness amongst refugee claimants in Canada through the experiences of thirty-four claimants who had lived without status before making a refugee claim and/or after receiving a negative decision.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

Non-status migrants in Canada face both official and unofficial barriers to emergency welfare supports and programs. As a result, critical levels of destitution, homelessness, or poor health compel some of these migrants to access support by applying for asylum after entering Canada. In such cases, the refugee claim may be a pathway out of homelessness and a strategy to stabilise situations of dire poverty. This trajectory, from non-status to refugee claimant status, was also evident for migrants who were either reluctant to claim asylum on arrival in Canada or uneducated about their right to do so. In such cases, homelessness brought migrants face to face with settlement and other frontline workers who revealed inland refugee protection as a legitimate option. Migrants who were underground before making a refugee claim, or after receiving a negative deci-

sion, experienced a trajectory characterised by hidden homelessness intertwined with multiple episodes of absolute homelessness, including rough-sleeping. Immigration legal fees and application fees further influenced experiences of destitution, housing instability, and eviction.

IMPLICATIONS:

Research attention should be directed toward assessing the social, economic, and political effects of universal access to services in support of human dignity and human rights. In particular, the struggles and needs of mothers with children both in Canada and abroad, and intersections with the racialisation of statuslessness, require further academic and policy attention.

WORKING PAPER 10-12

ACEH-MALAYSIA-VANCOUVER: SETTLEMENT AMONG ACEHNESE REFUGEES FIVE YEARS ON

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

How are Acehese government assisted refugees (now Canadian permanent residents and citizens) faring in Canada five years after arrival?

IMPORTANCE:

Between 2004 and 2006, the Canadian government resettled 154 refugees originally from Aceh, Indonesia in Metro Vancouver. In some ways, they are representative of the majority of government assisted refugees (GARs) resettled to Canada since the 2002 Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) in that they arrived from a protracted refugee situation with relatively high settlement needs. In other ways, their resettlement was unique: they were the first group of refugees resettled entirely in one Canadian metropolitan area, they were the first Acehese refugees ever resettled in Canada, and among adults, the gender ratio was disproportionately skewed towards (young, single) men. Ideally, the Canadian government, researchers, and/or service providers would trace the settlement outcomes of government assisted refugees from various countries over time, but such data is expensive to collect and challenging at the national scale. In a modest effort to fill this gap, we follow up on research conducted in 2005 to ascertain settlement outcomes in the areas of housing, official language acqui-

sition, employment, and participation in Canadian society. While these findings are but a snapshot of social and economic relations among the Acehnese at the time, they offer the fullest available picture of how these GARs are doing; what their concerns, priorities, and challenges are; and what Canadian policies do to facilitate or hinder their aims as new Canadians and permanent residents.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

More than five years after their arrival, low levels of employment and official language skills persist. This affects many aspects of settlement, including the ability to come together in a community centre, the continued geographic concentration in Vancouver, and a sense that everyone will stay in Canada permanently. Family reunification policies are proving difficult to negotiate; spousal sponsorship is a particularly salient goal for the majority of men who are still single, and are working towards, saving for, and waiting for such relationships to materialize. In an upcoming working paper, we contend that such hopes combined with government policies impede integration aims. The decision to locate residences near one another has proven popular and is a factor in retention.

IMPLICATIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

We outline fourteen specific policy recommendations to better facilitate post-IRPA GAR settlement. These include changes to the pre-departure orientation program, the Resettlement Assistance Program and its National Working Group, GAR spousal sponsorship, language training, and childcare. We also suggest the provision of community spaces and linguistic/ethno-specific official language training for “new and few” GARs such as the Acehnese.

WORKING PAPER 10-13

ENGAGING THE MIGRANT COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF CANADA’S MAIN METROPOLITAN CENTRES. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT—THE WELCOMING COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AND THE CASE OF GREATER VICTORIA

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the opportunities and constraints in implementing a community engagement strategy in smaller urban centres (such as Victoria), centres that often have few well established community organizations representing immigrant and ethno-cultural mi-

norities? What are the main arenas for political participation and institutional change? To what degree and in what form are the main stakeholders involved in the political process and how do they interact with different levels of government in promoting institutional change and new policy initiatives?

IMPORTANCE:

Political inclusion is one of the pivotal modes of promoting the successful integration of newcomers and minorities into Canadian society. This paper conceptualizes the urban context as both the primary site for political debates over the meaning of cultural diversity in public life and as an arena for policy formation.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

With a focus on political inclusion outside of Canada's main metropolitan centres, the authors argue that a meaningful community engagement process relies on a political-discursive and institutional context that is locally specific. The case of Victoria demonstrates that the relative small size of ethno-cultural groups, the severe financial constraints that settlement agencies have to face, and the legacy of relative indifference in particular by municipal authorities regarding issues of migration and integration all create a challenging environment for the implementation of a politically significant community engagement process.

IMPLICATIONS:

A genuine political engagement process is critically dependent on the ongoing fostering of trust among community stakeholders, as well as the facilitation of community involvement through the provision of necessary organizational resources. Accordingly, smaller urban centres require a long-term strategy designed to engage community stakeholders as well as to foster exchanges between those stakeholders and representatives in the (municipal and provincial) policy community.

WORKING PAPER 10-14

OPTIMAL POLICIES WITH AN INFORMAL SECTOR

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

This paper characterizes optimal policies in the presence of tax evasion and undocumented workers.

IMPORTANCE:

The informal economy affects not only the size and scale of productive output but also optimal government policy. This sector arises for a variety of reasons: perhaps primarily, as a source of employment for undocumented workers and as a method of evading taxes for employers. These two motivations have been studied independently; in this paper, we look at them jointly and find that illegal immigration has a large impact on the nature of optimal tax and enforcement policy, and interacts 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.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

In equilibrium, domestic workers may work exclusively in the formal sector or in both the formal and informal sectors. Surprisingly, in equilibrium, wages are always equalized between domestic and undocumented workers, even if they do not work in the same sectors of the economy. This is driven by the interaction of firm-level decisions with optimal government policy. We also find that enforcement may not always be decreasing in its cost and that governments will optimally enforce labour market segmentation if enforcement costs are not too high.

IMPLICATIONS:

We find that optimal policies play a crucial role in the wage determination process and lead wages to be equalized even when domestic and undocumented workers are not competing against each other in the same sector. This result does not arise in previous papers that have considered illegal immigration. We also find that enforcement may not always be decreasing in its cost and that governments will optimally enforce market segmentation if

enforcement costs are not too high. We consider several extensions. First, we consider the consequences of a marginal amnesty. Second, we introduce a minimum wage as a means of breaking the wage arbitrage condition and altering agents' responsiveness to enforcement policy. Finally, we make the amount of illegal migration endogenous and find a novel role for the public good. The public good can be used to depress wages in the informal sector and thereby redistribute income from undocumented workers to entrepreneurs. In this environment as well, we see that firm level enforcement is socially more desirable than border controls.

WORKING PAPER 10-15

ASSESSMENT FOR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN THE PERINATAL PERIOD: WHEN, WHERE, AND WHAT NEXT?

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RESEARCH QUESTION:

The best time during the perinatal period (pregnancy, childbirth, or the postpartum period) to respond to questions about violence, from a woman's perspective, is unknown.

We compared disclosure rates among women attending maternity care services at Richmond General Hospital during the prenatal period, hospitalization for delivery, and a postpartum home visit.

IMPORTANCE:

Violence perpetrated against women is associated with a multitude of physical (injuries, infection, chronic pain) and mental (depression, substance abuse, posttraumatic stress syndrome) health problems. Women experiencing violence during pregnancy have a threefold increase in risk for antepartum hemorrhage, preterm delivery, and intrauterine growth restriction and an eightfold increase in perinatal death. Studies have shown that 50–60 percent of men who batter their wives also batter their children. A study of immigrant and refugee women in Canada showed that among those experiencing violence, only 12 percent disclosed to a physician. This low rate of disclosure may result from both the unwillingness of care providers to ask women about violence and women's reluctance to disclose as they are not aware of available resources to support their choices. There have been no Canadian studies of prevalence of violence during pregnancy among immigrant women and none among Chinese women. Pregnancy imparts both a unique

opportunity and unique challenges with respect to assessment for violence exposure because women present for care accompanied by their partners. It is therefore important to measure which time and which approach during pregnancy and childbirth is most conducive to women's ability to disclose and ask for help.

RESEARCH FINDINGS:

We assessed 321 antenatal questionnaires from women registered to give birth at Richmond General Hospital which asked a question about exposure to physical, emotional, or sexual violence. Among these, 6.2 percent indicated that they had experienced violence. Among 330 women asked during their hospital admission for delivery, 10 percent expressed that they were afraid of their partner but none disclosed current abuse. Among women visited at home, none disclosed violence.

IMPLICATIONS:

It is clear from our study that women are more comfortable disclosing violence in the antepartum period using paper forms, even although these were not anonymous, compared to in speaking in person with a nurse. A new national Canadian survey on intimate partner violence has reported that 5.7 percent of women experience violence in the year preceding pregnancy. Among 60 percent of this group, violence ceased during pregnancy and the early postpartum period and later resumed. Our findings support maternity health provider assessment for violence after the initial postpartum (eight weeks) period. It may be more acceptable for women to disclose using a paper-based assessment rather than an interview.