



Title: The Growing Culture of Exclusion: Trends in Canadian Refugee Exclusions

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Research Question:

What effects have heightened security concerns had on Canadian refugee law following 9/11?

Importance:

This research seeks to empirically test competing claims that, alternatively, Canadian refugee law is 'soft on terrorists' or that Canadian refugee law tramples individual rights by excluding people inappropriately.

Research Findings:

Exclusion numbers have increased sharply since 2001, but remain very low (less than 0.5%) as a proportion of overall claims. Judicial analysis of exclusion law appears strongly influenced by concerns about terrorism.

Implications:

It is clear that some individuals who have not committed any criminal acts will be excluded from refugee protection in Canada as terrorists, and that this is more likely to occur now than it would have prior to 2001.