



**Title:** Settlement as Process: Investigating the Everyday Routines of Three Cohorts of Immigrants from Beijing to Vancouver

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**Research Question:**

How do immigrants settle into new routines of everyday life upon arrival, or work to re-establish old routines? What do immigrant routines look like prior to arriving in Vancouver, shortly after arrival, and years later? What spheres of activities are important in establishing new routines? How do immigrants come to settle into Vancouver as a new home?

**Importance:**

Understanding how the everyday routines of immigrants change through time provides an important window into how immigrants make themselves at home (or not) in new places. We carried out repeated qualitative interviews with three cohorts of immigrants from Beijing to Vancouver, including one set of immigration applicants living in Beijing, one set of recent immigrants to Vancouver, and one set of more established immigrants to Vancouver. This provided some of the first data we are aware of to describe settlement through changes in everyday routines.

**Research Findings:**

Our findings indicated a great deal of heterogeneity in the everyday routines of immigrants, very often related to events in the life course apart from immigration itself. Three spheres of activity: institutional affiliation (primarily with work and school), household maintenance, and leisure oriented, organize most aspects of everyday routines. Work tends to diminish as an organizational activity at first, and then become either stabilizing or disruptive of routines, counter to older theories of settlement as a process. School and household maintenance rise in importance, and leisure activities often become more individual and insular.

**Implications:**

For immigrants to feel at home in Vancouver, it is necessary to support the establishment of stable and sustainable everyday routines. Institutional barriers remain. Immigrant routines often come to revolve around their families in new ways. This may strengthen families, but it also presents challenges to promoting a broader sense of belonging.