

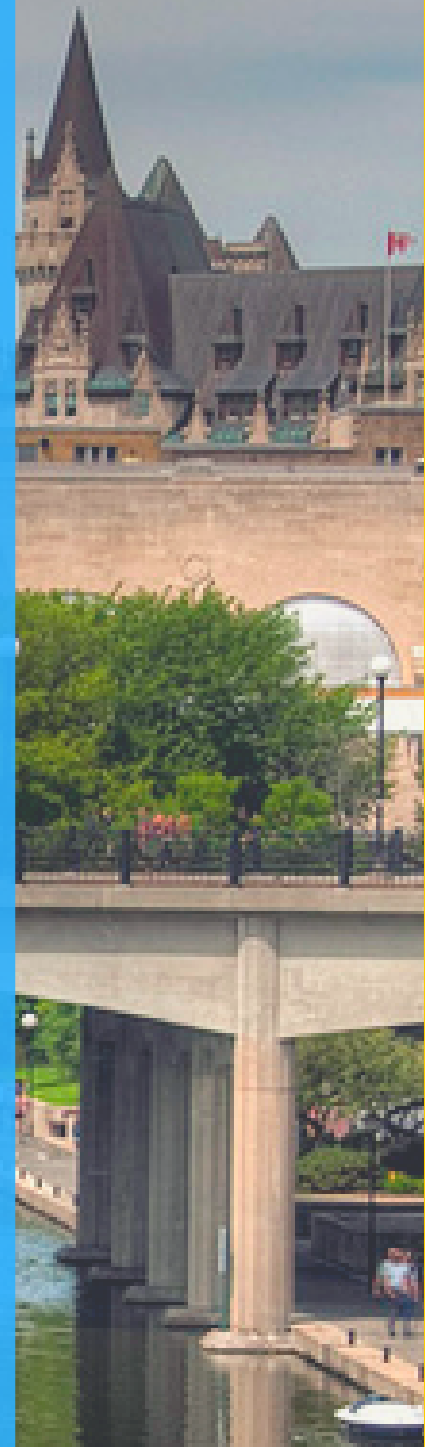
**BUILDING MIGRANT
RESILIENCE IN CITIES**

Fall 2017

**PARTNERSHIP GRANT
MEETING REPORT**

October 26,27 2017

1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa



OUR OBJECTIVES

The BMRC partnership, a collaborative network of Canadian researchers, community organizations and policymakers, meets physically quarterly to discuss important priorities and advance the partnership agenda.

In fall 2017, the partnership grant meeting took place at Carleton University, in Ottawa, from October 26 to October 27.



Prior to the meeting, partnership members had identified a set of topics they were interested in:

TOPIC 1

Community Academic Collaboration

The idea was to organize a panel discussion.

TOPIC 2

Resilience

We wanted to invite a keynote speaker and have a panel discussion on Resilience.

TOPIC 3

Longitudinal Studies

The objective was to invite several practitioners of longitudinal studies to learn from them.

Here is [a link](#) to the meeting agenda

WHAT HAPPENED?

The partnership successfully organized each activity that was planned, starting with a keynote presentation by Michael Ungar.

Dr. Michael Ungar is the founder and Director of the Resilience Research Centre and Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. Dr. Ungar's international program of research has changed the way resilience is understood, shifting the focus from individual traits to the interactions between people and their families, schools, workplaces, and communities.



PATHWAYS TO RESILIENCE FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

To introduce the concept of resilience, Michael Ungar presented a video that showcased a young Mexican refugee who is doing well in his community despite incredible exposure to adversity. In the video, the young refugee is seen helping his younger brother.

Michael Ungar argued that the young migrant performed well because of the supportive systems available to him. He had access to the services he needed for his well-being and he also could make a genuine contribution to the welfare of others. Michael Ungar emphasized that when we think about resilience, we need to think about multiple intersecting systems, not just individual factors or individual qualities.

We recorded Michael Ungar's presentation and it is available [here](#).

You can also consult [the short explanatory video](#) on "What is resilience?" according to Michael Ungar.

PANEL ON RESILIENCE

After Michael Ungar's presentation, a panel continued the conversation on Resilience. The panel was composed of Nimo Bokore from Carleton University, Irène Cloutier, from the Bureau de la résilience de la Ville de Montréal, and Hindia Mohamoud from the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership.

The panelists agreed on the fact that Michael Ungar's presentation really resonated with their work. Each presenter identified a set of barriers that prevents their communities from being resilient.

You can read the notes on the panel [here](#).

COMMUNITY-ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

The activity started with sector conversations. The audience was organized in three different groups. Each group was offered a list of questions. The discussions captured their thoughts on how to improve community-academic collaborations.

After the sector conversations, the panelists gathered for a roundtable. The panel was composed of Caroline Andrew from the University of Ottawa, Chedly Belkhodja, from Concordia University, Diane Dyson from WoodGreen Community Services, Stephan Reichhold from la Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes and Stan Shapson, from York University.

They presented some of the ideas shared in the sector conversations and they shared their experience of Community-academic collaborations.

You can listen to the recording of the conversations [here](#).



Longitudinal studies

We wanted to learn from longitudinal studies practitioners.

For that purpose, we invited Jill Hanley from McGill University, Elizabeth Hay and Michaela Hynie from York University.

Dr. Elizabeth Hay, Dr. Jill Hanley, and Dr. Michaela Hynie described longitudinal studies of the homeless, immigrant workers, and Syrian refugees in which each has been involved. Two studies of homeless people in Ottawa illustrated the importance of planning prior to initiating a longitudinal study.

The three presenters emphasized how difficult it is to stay in touch with research participants who most of the time experience a lot of adversity outside of the research process.

They are convinced that longitudinal studies are the best means for examining social processes, however, each emphasized the challenges of this type of research.

For more information on longitudinal studies, you can consult the notes of the session [here](#).

Highlights of the session

- Recruiting and staying in touch with research participants is a challenge
- Providing an honorarium at the time of each survey is a common practice
- Flexibility is extremely important when dealing with the participants because of the instability in their lives.
- Building relationships and trust with the participants is crucial.
- Longitudinal studies have a great potential and offer better insights than standard methodologies.



OTHER RESULTS

The partnership meeting was also the occasion for us to work on specific aspects of our research project.

The City profile consultation

The City profile consultation was led by Marshia Ackbar, a post-doc fellow at York University who plays a key role in the data analysis of the BMRC project. The main objectives of the consultation session were:

- 1) to give an update on the BMRC access to data
- 2) to discuss data analysis strategies,
- 3) to learn about the data interests of the city networks, particularly what the city networks need to know about migration flows, settlement patterns, integration and service provision.

For those interested in learning more about the city profile consultation, the notes are available [here](#).

The City network update

The session began with Chedly Belkhodja (academic co-chair of the Montreal City Network) reporting on the activities of his network. The network is expanding with the addition of new partners and participants. In his presentation, Chedly focused on two research projects that his network is currently involved in: 1) Résilience et immigration à l'échelle du quartier: Documenter l'initiative "Vivons nos quartiers" visant à créer des quartiers accueillants et des communautés inclusives; and 2) Projet transversal sur l'analyse de discours des politiques en matière d'immigration et de résilience, which is led by the Ottawa-Gatineau City Network.

The other city networks also presented their updates.

For more information about this, the notes are available [here](#).

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Knowledge Mobilization is a big part of this project. The Knowledge Mobilization Officer, Naolo Charles, presented a Knowledge Mobilization strategy and consulted the partnership on the current communication tools including the project's website and the newsletter.

The partnership meeting was also the opportunity to profile the partnership members themselves. A series of video interviews resulted from this meeting and they are all available on the Partnership Youtube Channel and on the project explanatory webpages.

THANK YOU

The Partnership would like to thank everyone who was involved in the success of that event including all the presenters, the panelists and the members of the organizing team in Ottawa.

We would also like to thank the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council(SSHRC) for funding this project. We invite everyone who is interested in participating to our conversations on migrant resilience in Canada to join us for our next partnership meeting in May 2018.

For more information about this, kindly contact Naolo Charles at naolo@yorku.ca or 416-736-2100 Ext 20544.



Valerie Preston, Principal Investigator



Thank you to the Ottawa-Gatineau city network!

