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News and Updates. December 3, 2019- issue # 27

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Migration and resilience in urban Canada-Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain



Hi Everyone,

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Windsor on January 23 and 24, 2020 at the partnership meeting that will include a public forum, opportunities for working groups and research teams to meet, and consultations at the New Canadian Centre of Excellence. Please watch for more announcements. An exciting workshop entitled International Student Pathways and Supports in Canada took place at York University on November 29, 2019. Watch for more news about the discussions.

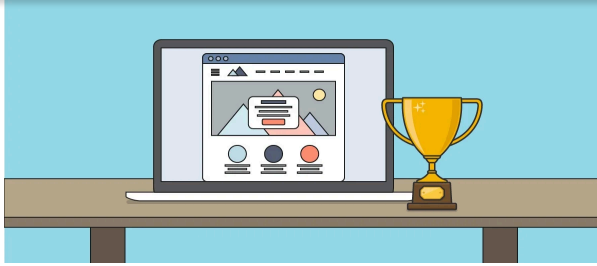
Check the KM News below.

Once again, there are many comings and goings at the partnership. It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Amber Gaszo from York University as a co-investigator; and Dr. Marshia Akbar, from Ryerson University, Dr. Carla Angulo-Pascal from the University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, Dr. Gabrielle Desilets from the Province of Québec, Dr. Guida Man of York University, Western University and Dr. Carvalho de Azevedo from UNIFESP in Sao Paulo, Brazil as collaborators. Their participation will strengthen the York Region, Montreal and Windsor city networks. Read more about them [here](#).

We also have two key departures. Dr. Chris Hendershot left his job with the partnership on Nov. 8 when to become a Research Officer at York University. Duncan Lam who has been an indispensable member of the Windsor network is also starting a job as the Chief Operating Officer for a start-up called CAManufacturing on Jan. 1, 2020. I know everyone joins me in thanking both of them for their invaluable and indispensable contributions and wishing them all the very best in the future.

Cheers

Valerie



We need your help! On the redesigned website, an individual page has been created for the biography of each partnership member. The research project pages have also been redesigned to offer a quick overview of the goals and outputs of our research projects. To customize these pages, the Secretariat needs information about your activities and research projects. To help you provide this information, brief

postings to the Trello board are ideal for notifying the Secretariat to follow up and to inform everyone in the partnership about the activities. Detailed instructions about how to post to Trello can be found [here](#). Timely updates, no matter how brief, will keep all of us up to date and help the Secretariat ensure knowledge mobilization is effective.

Please send questions and comments to bmcircmu@yorku.ca

Get to know our research projects and our researchers!



Members of SAWRO singing Amar Protibader Bhasha (The Language of my Resistance) at the November 2nd community forum for Promoting Migrant Collective Action

Promoting Collective Action in Migrant Communities

This participatory action research project explores collective civic actions organized by immigrant communities in the Greater Toronto Area to better understand (i) how and why immigrant communities organize; (ii) how collective civic actions impact immigrant and other communities; and (iii) what institutional factors enable or impede collective civic action among immigrant groups. Under the guidance of a community advisory committee, we designed case studies to investigate community organizing by the Tibetan community in Parkdale and by the South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO) in Teasdale.

with South Asian women living in Teasdale and eleven interviews with key information who shared their perspectives on immigrant-led organizing in the GTA. We shared our preliminary findings at a knowledge exchange forum on November 2nd with leaders and community members from SAWRO and the Tibetan Community in Parkdale.

What are the preliminary findings?

In both communities, participants organized through pre-existing social networks. Most of the Tibetans came to Canada as refugees and maintain close ties through shared faith and links to the Tibetan diaspora who are exiled in India and Nepal. The “Free Tibet” Movement is the primary concern and shared sense of purpose which guides community efforts to retain Tibetan language and cultural knowledge, fosters a sense of Tibetan identity, and informs various activities to support freedom struggles in their home country. The South Asian women who organize with SAWRO primarily entered Canada as economic immigrants. To address the isolation, poverty, and underemployment confronting South Asian immigrant women who often live in high rise apartment buildings in Teasdale, SAWRO goes door to door offering supports for obtaining decent work, child care, and access to education.

Both communities engage in a range of activities to build capacity within their communities to address individual and collective problems related to low-wages and precarious work, rising rents, increasing anti-immigrant sentiment, and intergenerational cultural dissonance. Both also organize actions to address economic insecurity including participation in the \$15 and Fairness minimum wage campaign, the rent strike in Parkdale, and a strike at Ontario’s Food Terminal in 2017. In some cases, community members have lobbied their Members of Parliament to assist with family reunification, and to testify before Parliament about their experiences of economic and racial marginalization.

We are in the process of finalizing our analysis and will produce a visual report that highlights the transformative actions led by migrant communities in the Toronto Area.

Michael Haan, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Migration and Ethnic Relations at Western University



Dr. Michael Haan (PhD, University of Toronto, 2006) is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Migration and Ethnic Relations at Western University. From 2005-2010, Dr. Haan held an academic appointment at the University of Alberta, where he was Winspear-Archer Research Fellow in Immigration and Social Policy. From 2010-2015, he was Canada Research Chair in Population and Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick. He is also research associate at the Prentice Institute for Global Population and Labour at the University of Lethbridge, and at the McGill Centre for Population Dynamics.

His research interests intersect the areas of demography, immigrant settlement, labour market integration, and data development. Dr. Haan is widely consulted by provincial and federal governments for policy advice in the areas of immigration, settlement services, the Canadian labour market, and population aging. Dr. Haan is currently investigator or co-investigator on over ten million dollars of research focused on immigrant settlement, developing welcoming communities, and identifying the factors that predict successful retention of newcomers. Since receiving his PhD in 2006, he has already published over 75 articles and reports on these topics.

Announcements

22ND METROPOLIS CANADA CONFERENCE

The partnership will be well represented at the 22nd Metropolis Canada Conference taking place at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg, Manitoba from March 19-21, 2020. Marshia Akbar and Luisa Veronis are submitting proposals for sessions that will highlight the partnership's activities. Please let the Secretariat know if you are participating in the conference with a quick message to bmrcirmu@yorku.ca In the next newsletter, we hope to report fully on partnership participation.

SANCTUARY CITIES

The Sanctuary Cities project led by Mireille Paquet invites everyone to visit their project [website](#) Please have a look.

IWYS Research Reports

The Immigrant Women, Youth, and Seniors (IWYS) project has recently released research reports conducted in three Ontario locations: GTA-Hamilton, Ottawa, and Windsor. The research has focused on settlement services and outcomes for these three migrant groups with multiple vulnerabilities in Canada. [Click here](#) to learn more.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN CANADA

[Check out](#) the recent article in The Conversation Canada by Leah Hamilton, Luisa Veronis and Margaret Walton-Roberts about how Syrian refugees are faring in Canada

Damaris Rose has published an in-depth report about the strategies used to overcome the housing challenges facing Syrian refugees in cities across Canada. [Check it out](#).

Other Important Information-Autre Information Importante

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