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News and Updates. August 2023 - Issue # 51

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



Hello Everyone,

As September looms on the horizon, preparations for the Final Partnership Meeting are well underway. I look forward to seeing many of you in Ottawa and Gatineau on **October 12 and 13**. We are planning to collaborate with the Ottawa Local Immigration Partnership on some activities. The Working Group of Anyck Dauphin, Florina

Gaborean, Brian Ray, Henry Akanko, and Michael Johnny along with Hindia Mohamoud of OLIP is working hard to develop an exciting program. Please watch for more information.

As we wind up partnership activities, we are looking forward to publishing information about every project. Please check the Steering Committee report for information about deadlines for submitting Research Reports, Research Digests, and Policy Previews. Check out the KM News for information on three new Research Digests. The first assesses the transportation needs of recent immigrants noting that women are much more reliant on public transit, walking, and biking than men. The second examines the administrative and bureaucratic hurdles that face many temporary residents as they transition to permanent residence. Finally, the third is a French translation of a Research Digest on the effects of linguistic capital which explores English- and French-speaking international students' experiences at a bilingual university.

I am also glad to report that the first of two manuscripts under contract to McGill Queen's University Press will be submitted by the end of August. The authors and editors have done a great job responding to comments and reviewing each other's work.

It is my pleasure to introduce [Emily Baldesarra](#) who is working at the Secretariat as a KM and Communications Assistant. Emily is an education student who just completed a summer course in France. Having overcome the hesitation that often accompanies using a second language, she is eager to practice her French. I know everyone joins me in welcoming Emily.

Check out the Executive Committee report for information about requests for open access funds. If you did not have time to complete the contributions report, please submit it as soon as you can. This is one of the

All the best,

Valerie

Knowledge Mobilization News



List of Research Digests:

1. [Gender, Immigration and Commuting in Metropolitan Canada](#) by Valerie Preston, York University, Sara McLafferty, University of Illinois, and Monika Maciejewska, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.
2. [Bordering non-citizenship assemblage through migrant legibility: A conceptual framework for tracing hidden forms of legal and bureaucratic violence](#) by Rupaleem Bhuyan, Jill Hanley, Lindsay Larios, Delphine Nakache, Sonia Ben Soltane, Cathy Schmidt, Heather Bergen, and Oula Hajjer.
3. [Les effets du capital linguistique: Les expériences d'étudiants étrangers à une université bilingue](#) by Luisa Veronis, University of Ottawa, Xiaohao Wu, and Rachel Walker.

Research Report:

1. **Coming Soon:** *The role of the city of Ottawa in immigrant settlement and integration* by Luisa Veronis, University of Ottawa, Daniel Boutin, and Virginie Mesa, University of Ottawa.

Call for Research Digests:

We welcome and strongly encourage the submission of Research Digests, Research Reports, and/or Policy Previews. Please note:

- All BMRC Research Reports and Policy Previews are due for initial review on **October 1, 2023**.
- All BMRC Research Digests are due for initial review on **November 1, 2023**.

Please email your proposals and submissions to bmrcirmu@yorku.ca.

Committees

Steering Committee

In its May meeting, the Steering Committee discussed how to wrap



following submission deadlines for Research Reports, Research Digests, and Policy Previews:

- **Research Reports and Policy Previews: October 1, 2023**
- **Research Digests: November 1, 2023**

These deadlines will enable the KM Committee to review proposed publications and for them to be formatted and publicized. For information about all upcoming deadlines concerning requests for funds, claims for reimbursement, reporting, and requests for KM products, please refer to the **Partnership Activities Timeline** found [here](#).

Executive Committee

The committee received requests for open access fees for three articles. The requests were approved with the caveat that only one open access grant can be used for each research project.

Get to know our research projects and our researchers!



Migrant Resilience in the Context of Transitions in Immigration Status

By Rupaleem Bhuyan (Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto)

The “Migrant Resilience in the Context of Transitions in Immigration Status” working group was formed during the spring of 2019, when Rupaleem Bhuyan and Jill Hanley proposed a unique collaboration to exchange and learn from findings of previous research with immigrants who have a precarious status in Canada. The working group included doctoral students, academic researchers, and community-based researchers in Ontario and Quebec, who met monthly over a three-year period. Our objectives were to 1) develop a theoretical framework for understanding the dynamic, heterogeneous, and multi-scalar factors that shape of immigration trajectories in the context of Canada’s (so-called) “two-step” immigration system and 2) conduct secondary qualitative data analysis using interviews conducted with immigrants in Canada.

In the past decade, Canada has further institutionalized a two-step immigrant selection process, whereby more than half of all new permanent residents are selected from a growing number of temporary residents living in Canada. Applying for permanent residence within Canada, however, requires people to demonstrate their “legibility” (i.e., official recognition) to the state as both eligible and admissible as permanent residence, while also contending with the complex and ever-changing laws, regulations, and bureaucratic processes that shape their experience as immigrants with a precarious status in Canada.

To gain a deeper understanding of complex challenges faced by immigrants who seek permanent residence in Canada, we developed an analytical framework (Larios, et al, in press) for exploring the dynamic, unpredictable, and dialectic relationships among state-centric immigration categories, state bureaucracies (e.g., immigration, labor market, education, health care), and immigrants’ informal and formal networks. Through two case studies, we also shed light on the hidden forms of legal and bureaucratic violence experienced by migrants within Canada’s two-step immigration system.

For the secondary qualitative analysis, we analyzed 42 qualitative interviews from eight studies. These interviews, conducted between 2010 and 2020, focussed on a range of topics including precarious employment, gender inequality, settlement experiences, and pregnancy. In a forthcoming paper in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (Schmidt, et al, in press), we examine the administrative burden that migrants with precarious status encounter in their interactions with state immigration bureaucracies as they try to attain permanent residence through economic programs. Among a subsample of 20 immigrants living in the Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec, participants describe the stressful life consequences resulting from confusing and opaque administrative processes, unpredictable wait times, costly application fees, bureaucratic errors, and a lack of accountability. We theorize how such experiences of administrative burden can prolong migrant precarity, exacerbating the legal violence inherent in state immigration categories which deny full social rights to migrants without permanent residence.

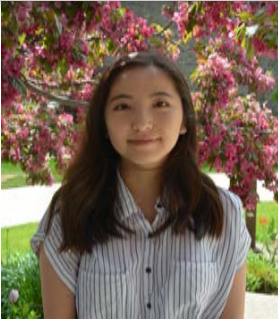
As our collaborative research was deeply shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also writing a reflexive methodological paper to discuss the ethical, methodological, and practical challenges of engaging in secondary qualitative data analysis, while also noting the potential for collaborative, “slow scholarship” to foster community resilience among academic researchers.

This study is co-led by Rupaleem Bhuyan and Jill Hanley, with Heather Bergen, Oula Hajjar, Lindsay Larios, Delphine Nakache, Margarita Pintin-Perez, Cathy Schmidt, and Sonia Ben Soltane.

For more information regarding this project, please [click here](#).

We are pleased to feature **Kelly Sung**, an MA candidate in the Department of Politics and Public Administration at Toronto Metropolitan University. Kelly holds an Honor’s BA degree in Political Science, Criminology and Sociology from the University of Toronto. Throughout her academic career, Kelly has worked on a wide range of policy proposals surrounding labour-market-focused immigrant settlement strategies. She currently works as a Junior Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services within the Community and Developmental Services Policy Branch.

Prior to this, she worked for multiple student-run organizations that raise awareness and advocate for newcomers, refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in the local community and abroad. As part of HanVoice,



she played a significant role in the development and implementation of a clothing drive and student mentorship program to support refugees in Toronto. She hopes to continue her involvement in similar initiatives to support vulnerable populations.

Currently, she is a graduate research assistant in the BMRC/IMRU partnership under the supervision of Dr. John Shields and Dr. Valerie Preston with the Future of the Settlement Sector project. Kelly's contribution to the project primarily focuses on analyzing survey responses from managers and frontline workers of Immigrant

Serving Agencies in Ontario and Quebec to understand their experiences serving clients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Highlights



Evaluating change in industrial sectors of employment

PI: Dr. Brian Ray

Co-applicants: Dr. Anyck Dauphin (Université du Québec en Outaouais), Dr. Gerry Kerr (University of Windsor), and Dr. Valerie Preston (York University).

Since the early 2000s, a number of public policy and national economic changes have occurred to influence the industrial sectors in which new immigrants can find employment. For instance, Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (2001) strengthened permanent residence provisions that emphasize many immigrants' human capital characteristics for admission. In addition, the economy overall experienced innumerable shifts and changes brought about by the 2008 global recession, as well as a protracted period of economic restructuring, both of which have influenced employment opportunities in urban economies.

Important questions emanate from the changes. Have employers responded to the shifts with respect to the hiring of newcomers? If so, how are the changes manifest in local economies? Are new immigrants being hired into particular industrial sectors? Are they being hired in even greater numbers in some sectors that have traditionally hired immigrants? Are there differences between women and men with respect to industrial sectors that have seen a growth or decline in hiring over time? Are there differences between large and small metropolitan areas with respect to the industrial sectors in which immigrants find employment? This project examines these questions using labour force data from two Canadian censuses – 2016 and 2006. Two basic objectives guide the analysis: to investigate whether a shift has occurred over time in the number of recent immigrants employed in industrial sectors and to evaluate basic working conditions experienced by recent immigrants in these sectors.

The project considers the situation of immigrants as a group, as well as the specific experiences of women and men particularly in recognition of gender segmentation in employment and pay inequality in the labour

more common in some metropolitan areas than others, and it is well known that women are more likely than men to be employed part-time; hence, the analysis focuses on full-time workers in order to enable fair comparisons.

The focus of attention is on a small number of metropolitan areas in Ontario and Québec in which an important number of recent immigrants settle: Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo, Toronto, Ottawa-Gatineau, and Montréal. "Recent immigrants" are individuals who attained permanent residence status and arrived in Canada within 10 years of a census. A metropolitan scale of analysis recognizes the fact that newcomers face the challenge of finding employment in specific urban economies, each of which holds a particular mix of industries and opportunities.

The results of the Toronto and Montréal portion of the project were presented at 25th Metropolis Canada Conference. The analysis indicates that recent and established immigrants are over-represented in industrial sectors of slow growth or employment loss when compared to Canadian-born workers. However, recent immigrants are more likely than established immigrants to find employment in industries in which employment growth is strong. Employment earnings growth varies considerably between the two cities and industrial sectors; nevertheless, earnings growth over the ten-year period was more often positive and strong for workers in Montréal. A detailed report about Toronto-Montréal comparative project is currently being drafted. The PowerPoint slides from the Metropolis presentation are available on the [BMRC-IRMU website](#). For more information about this project, please [click here](#).

Community Partner



We are pleased to feature **Parvine Bahramian**, Bilingual Senior Coordinator-Policy and Research/Coordonnatrice Principale Bilingue-Politique et Recherche at the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI). Parvine joined OCASI in July 2022.

She has worked in the non-profit sector in Toronto for 20 years. Additionally, Parvine has been involved in social and community projects that address social, political, and economic issues related to new immigrants, refugees, women, and youth in Toronto and Ontario. She was particularly involved in service and research programs related to employability, entrepreneurship, settlement and dynamic living during her work in

Francophone organizations in Toronto.

Parvine has also worked full-time for more than seven years in services for Francophone women victims of violence and/or war and has participated in multiple initiatives addressing the issue across Ontario.

Parvine has more than 12 years of professional and full-time experience in post-secondary teaching and research in the field of literature and social movements.

At OCASI, she manages and analyzes the annual Salary Survey and the annual Membership Survey (for non-profit organizations in the sector). She represents OCASI on advisory committees of academic or community research

Announcements

- **Save the Date! The BMRC-IRMU Final Partnership Meeting** will take place on **October 12-13, 2023**, in Ottawa and Gatineau. The agenda and locations of the meeting will be made available on our website in the coming weeks. **Réservez la date ! Le dernière rencontre du Partenariat** aura lieu les **12 et 13 octobre 2023** à Ottawa et à Gatineau. L'ordre du jour et les lieux de la réunion seront disponibles sur notre site dans les semaines à venir.
- [Débats sur la laïcité et sentiment d'appartenance chez les immigrants racisés au Québec : Mieux comprendre l'impact des « événements focalisateurs »](#) by Antoine Bilodeau (Université Concordia) and Luc Turgeon (Université d'Ottawa). Canadian Journal of Political Science | Revue canadienne de science politique – FirstView. Published online June 16, 2023 | Publié en ligne le 16 juin 2023. Open access article | Article en libre accès.
- A friendly reminder to please [e-mail us](#) a current copy of your CV or list of BMRC-related KM activities and products to date. As per the [Partnership Activities Timeline](#), all CVs and lists of KM activities and products must be submitted by September 8, 2023. Please remember to highlight all BMRC-related activities and products.

In Case you Missed It...

- Marshia Akbar released a Policy Brief on [Ensuring the Success of International Students: A collaborative model between governments, post-secondary institutions and the settlement sector](#).

Other Important Information-Autre Information Importante

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