

Resilience, Resistance, and Civic Transformation

In the past decade, Canada has institutionalized ‘two-step’ migration. Approximately half of all new permanent residents entered as temporary residents. Applying for permanent residence within Canada requires people to demonstrate their eligibility and admissibility as permanent residents, as they contend with complex and ever-changing laws, regulations, and bureaucratic processes. Several BMRC-IRMU case studies document the complex challenges faced by temporary migrants who seek permanent residence in Canada.

Researchers found that migrant activists’ detailed understanding of structural inequality underpins their success organising Tibetan and South Asian women in the GTA. According to a team of academic and community-based researchers led by Dr. Rupaleem Bhuyan, the goals of activism vary ranging from improving the economic integration of marginalized women to maintaining cultural practices in the diaspora. Organising and building solidarity within migrant communities is a shared strategy for enhancing migrant integration.

In Kitchener-Waterloo, Jenna Hennebry and Margaret Walton-Roberts, examined the resilience of immigrant-serving agencies and immigrants themselves in various KW communities. Special attention was paid to the effects of gender, precarity, and admission status on resilience. The research highlights how gender has structural, community, and cultural implications that challenge migrant women’s integration.

“EnGendering Resilient Pathways and Communities in the Long-Term” evaluated how well settlement programs and strategies serve temporary migrants in Kitchener-Waterloo. Based on interviews with service providers and temporary residents who were caregivers, high and low-skill temporary migrant workers, international students, refugee claimants, and without status, the study investigated strategies for enhancing the resilience of temporary migrants. Limited eligibility for settlement services, childcare subsidies and other publicly funded programs creates a disproportionate burden for migrant women with temporary residency. The research highlights the unacknowledged contributions of many women with temporary status who fill the gaps in services by fostering family and community resilience.

A comparative study of temporary residents examined the factors that cause them to lose legal residency status in Canada. Drawing on interviews with caregivers, temporary foreign workers, and migrants with precarious status, a multidisciplinary team of researchers examined how migrants lost status when family, employment and health issues intersected with complicated and rigid bureaucratic processes. A [webinar](#) on the “Ups and downs in immigration status” identified [factors influencing transitions in immigration status](#).

Fundamental changes to bureaucratic processes promoting flexibility and benevolence are recommended.

In “[Refugee families and building resilience in a second-tier city of Quebec: The resettlement experiences of Syrian refugees in Gatineau](#)”, researchers examined the resettlement and resilience of Syrian refugees. The analysis considered how the human resources available to refugees and the services to which they had access influenced their integration. The research underscored how municipal policies, services, and programs in Gatineau, a medium-sized city in Quebec affected resettlement trajectories.

Innovative policies were initiated in the city of Montreal to enhance the integration of vulnerable Syrian refugees and refugee claimants with precarious status. Led by the TCRI and Centraide (United Way) of Greater Montreal, the [Vivons nos quartiers](#) project offered training to front-line workers in several Montreal neighbourhoods, established communities of practice for front-line workers to compare and learn from each others’ experiences facilitating migrant integration, and conducted awareness-raising activities that evolved into training for neighbourhood facilitators. The training encouraged service providers to collaborate and pool resources with other neighbourhood actors. These practices fostered the inclusion of migrants and the resiliency of the agencies serving them. The project also provided detailed insight into the neighbourhood integration of migrants.