

Reflecting on Resilience and Canadian Immigration

Presentation prepared for Toronto Newcomer group, Dec. 4 10, 2017, Toronto.

This research is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Grant No. 895-206-1004. Special thanks to Adnan Turegun and Marshia Akbar. The presentation has benefited from discussions with everyone in the partnership, however, I alone am responsible for any errors or omissions.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SETTLEMENT?

- The barriers and challenges facing permanent residents still confound us (Hou and Picot 2016)
- Human capital indicators don't explain settlement challenges:
 - Entry earnings for skilled workers remained constant as earnings of Canadians rose after 1980s
 - Wage disparity between immigrants and Canadian-born is bigger than in 1980s

Research shows settlement is...

- Dynamic
 - Impacts of immigrant characteristics, even of immigration class, change over time
- Contextual
 - When:
 - What year immigrants arrive
 - Where:
 - Source region Discrimination
 - Destination Provincial, municipal policies & services
 - Immigrant characteristics interact with context
- Multidimensional
 - Involves belonging, trust, participation

Resilience Approach



- How do newcomers overcome barriers?
- Multiple pathways to integration
- Newcomer characteristics are only a few of the relevant factors
 - All types of institutions, especially provincial & municipal, influence settlement
 - Institutional interactions matter
- Acknowledge local conditions

Research

CITY NETWORKS

- City of Toronto
- Gatineau
- Kitchener-Waterloo
- Montreal
- Ottawa
- Windsor
- York Region
- Sherbrooke
- Academic, government, NGO, migrant communities, and employers

• Local research projects

- Settlement narratives of successful immigrants
- Comparative study of welcoming neighbourhoods
- Information needs of newcomers
- Pathways to permanence for international students

Partnership wide projects

- Policy discourses about resilience
- Longitudinal study of immigrant settlement

QUESTIONS/ COMMENTS



THANK YOU

Building Migrant Resilience in Cities/ Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain <u>http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca</u> <u>bmrc-irmu@yorku.ca</u>

> Valerie Preston, York University vpreston@yorku.ca