



Sixteen Years Fostering Immigration, Integration and Diversity Research

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Prairie Metropolis Centre



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What is the Prairie Metropolis Centre (PMC)?

- ❖ 1 of 5 Metropolis Centres in Canada for research on immigration, integration and diversity
- ❖ National Metropolis Secretariat in Ottawa
- ❖ International Metropolis centred in Ottawa

What is Metropolis?

- ❖ an international network of >20 countries for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in Canada and around the world
- ❖ funded by SSHRC and 15 federal government partners



PMC Mandate

- Foster policy relevant research related to immigration, integration and diversity
- Build research capacity
- Facilitate knowledge transfer

Fostering Policy Relevant Research

- ⊕ Network of academic researchers, immigrant settlement agencies and government policy makers (federal, provincial & municipal)
- ⊕ Annual research grant competitions for research affiliates
- ⊕ Contract research
- ⊕ Seed money
- ⊕ Consultation for research proposals; letters of support
- ⊕ Graduate student award

Building Research Capacity

- ⊕ Funding new researchers
- ⊕ Graduate student thesis research
- ⊕ Access to data sources
- ⊕ Data and proposal development workshops
- ⊕ Adjudication and data committee membership
- ⊕ Collaboration with government and NGO staff
- ⊕ Internship program (opportunity for students to work with immigrants)

Facilitating Knowledge Transfer (KT)

- ✿ Journal of International Migration and Integration (JIMI)
- ✿ Research symposia (Regional Conference, Edmonton, Nov. 4-5, 2011)
- ✿ Brown bag and other community presentations
- ✿ Scholarly presentations at conferences
- ✿ Publications in books and peer reviewed journals as well as grey literature (Metropolis & other)
- ✿ Webcast presentations sponsored by the Metropolis Secretariat
- ✿ Organized three national conferences
- ✿ Travel grants to national and international Metropolis conferences (National Metropolis Conference in Toronto 29 Feb. – 3 Mar.; International Metropolis Conference in Beijing, Oct. 2012)

PMC Website (KT cont'd)

- ⊕ PP presentations from research symposia
- ⊕ Annual reports (list publications of research affiliates)
- ⊕ Working papers (49)
- ⊕ Research reports
- ⊕ Connect to Metropolis Websites (national & international) and to other Metropolis research centres across Canada
- ⊕ <http://pmc.metropolis.net>

Key Research Products on PMC Website

- ✦ The Settlement Experiences of Refugees in Alberta (1999)
- ✦ Lessons Learned: An Evaluation of Northern Alberta's Experience with Kosovar Refugees (2001)
- ✦ Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in the Prairies: A Statistical Compendium (from 1991 and 1996 Census data – new updated version ready for distribution in 2011)
- ✦ The Attraction and Retention of Immigrants to Edmonton (2005)
- ✦ A Profile of Economic and Labour Market Integration among Immigrants in Canada (2011)

Metropolis Research Priorities

- ✦ Citizenship and Social, Cultural and Civic Integration
- ✦ Economic and Labour Market Integration
- ✦ Family, Children and Youth
- ✦ Housing and Neighbourhoods
- ✦ Welcoming Communities: The Role of Host Communities in Attracting, Integrating and Retaining Newcomers and Minorities
- ✦ Justice, Policing and Security (not at PMC)

Selected Research Findings

(can find working papers on PMC website)

- ✿ Wanner, R. (2011). Immigration Policy and the Economic Integration of Immigrants: A Cross-national Study
 - Data from 23 European countries, Canada, USA & Australia
 - Examined a number of predictors of economic integration (including education, marital status and many more)
 - Only consistent finding – immigrants from higher income countries were observed to have higher average household incomes, higher average levels of occupational status, and lower likelihoods of being unemployed or receiving welfare benefits

Selected Research Findings

- Hua, P. (2011). Models Explaining Exogamy – A Study of 1.5 and Second Generation Asian Immigrants in Canada
 - Integration, transnationalism or pan-ethnicity models as predictors of exogamy; Exogamy defined as marriage between spouses of a different caste or ethnic group
 - Chinese, East Indian, Filipino & Japanese
 - Exogamy highest in Filipino (68.6%) and Japanese (57.1%) in 1.5 generation but more convergence across groups in 2nd generation; least likely in Chinese; females 11 times more likely to choose exogamy; exogamy more likely if English/French most common language with friends; experiences of discrimination affect exogamy;
 - Integration and transnationalism models do not predict exogamy; pan-ethnicity model has weak association

Selected Research Findings

- ✿ Lokhorst, J. (2011). The English as a Second Language Needs of Temporary Foreign Workers in Alberta
 - Interviews with 1 gov't representative and 10 employees of immigrant serving agencies/Community adult Learning Councils
 - Needs are varied but overall they are not being met
 - access to programs varies
 - increased proficiency enhances integration; want access to higher level courses but finances a barrier (international fees); few employers provide assistance
 - some have such low English skills that it could be hazardous to them and to co-workers (need gov't intervention); may be unaware of what is available and can take courses < 6 months in length

Selected Research Findings

- ✦ Pandey, M. & Townsend, J. (2011). Provincial Nominee Programs: An Evaluation of the Earnings and Retention Rates of Nominees
 - PNPs have increased roles of provinces in selecting economic class immigrants
 - Compared earnings and retention rates of Nominees to federal economic class immigrants in the two years after landing
 - Nominees had substantially higher earnings
 - Manitoba was the only province in which Nominees were more likely to stay than the observationally equivalent economic class immigrants



My PMC Funded Research

- ✿ Minority Nurses for Minority Populations: A Pilot Study in Public Health Nursing

 - ✿ Examining Culturally Appropriate Assessment Practices in Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programs

 - ✿ New Canadian Children & Youth Study
- * All three studies had multiple co-investigators/collaborators

Concluding thoughts for NGOs

- ✦ Need NGO participation to develop relevant research proposals and research agendas
- ✦ Need NGO collaboration to access research participants
- ✦ Need NGO assistance to find interviewers, translators, interpreters or to collect data
- ✦ Need NGO input to interpret findings, draw conclusions and make policy or practice recommendations
- ✦ Community/academic research partnerships an ideal
- ✦ Constraint – SSHRC only funds academic researchers (PMC funding routed through SSHRC)
- ✦ CIHR now willing to fund community researchers but very competitive to access grants



Questions & Comments