WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES OF IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA’S WEST?

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Objectives of Today’s Presentation

• **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**: to better understand the settlement experiences of immigrants in western Canada and how they may compare to immigrants in other western provinces
  - Labour market, service use, social integration, discrimination, official language knowledge

• **TODAY’S OBJECTIVES**
  - Examine and compare various outcomes among immigrants in Manitoba and the rest of Canada with special attention to: labour market inequalities faced by newcomers
Datasets used

- Pan Canadian Settlement Survey (N=20,818) and Western Canadian Settlement Survey (N=3,006) Alberta Settlement Survey (N=1003)
- Random samples drawn from a CIC data file
  - Telephone survey conducted in late 2012-early 2013
- IMDB
  - Landings records (LIDS) combined with tax files for all immigrants and refugees landing between 1980 and 2012
  - Census of the immigrant population
- Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (2006)
  - Followed 5,000 immigrants for their first two years in Canada (landing between 2002-2004)
How representative are the surveys?

- Surprisingly good match between IMDB (Census of immigrants) and the other surveys

- Western Canada Settlement Survey
  - Under-represented female economic class dependents
  - Over-represented female economic class principal applicants
  - Under-represented male and female refugees

- Pan Canadian Settlement Survey
  - Under-represented men from BC
  - Over-represented women from SK and MB
  - Over-represented men from SK and MB
Immigrant Arrivals by Province, 2003-12

Immigration Trends, 2003-2012 by Province of Residence

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2014
TFW, International Students, & Permanent Residents by Province

TFW, International Students, and Permanent Residents by Province, 2013

Number of Respondents

TFW International Students Permanent Residents

Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2014
Select demographics

Percent rural immigrants, by province
- BC - 5.5%
- AB - 12.7%
- SK - 16.3%
- MB - 8.2%

Imigrants as % of provincial population
- BC – 27.5%
- AB – 16.2%
- SK – 5.1%
- MB – 13.3%
It is relatively easy for immigrants to find information related to finding a job in the west.

Source: Pan-Cdn

\[ X^2 (\text{Male}) = 158.677 \text{ df}= 18 \quad P \leq 0.000; \quad X^2 (\text{Female}) = 172.974 \text{ df}= 18 \quad P \leq 0.000 \]
Unemployment rate by immigration class and province

Source: WCSS, 2013
$X^2$ (SP) = 12.672, df = 6, p ≤ 0.05; $X^2$ (PN) = 23.897, df = 6, p ≤ 0.001; $X^2$ (R) = 39.315, df = 6, p ≤ 0.00

Rates for Canadian born taken from Annual Labour Force Survey
## Factors influencing employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>British Columbia</th>
<th>Alberta</th>
<th>Saskatchewan</th>
<th>Manitoba</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>3.12**</td>
<td>2.12**</td>
<td>2.19**</td>
<td>2.18**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education in Canada</td>
<td>1.52*</td>
<td>0.48*</td>
<td>.34**</td>
<td>0.61*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English ability</td>
<td>1.74*</td>
<td>2.61**</td>
<td>1.66*</td>
<td>1.39*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Months in Canada</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.19*</td>
<td>1.33**</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic class</td>
<td>3.5**</td>
<td>0.54*</td>
<td>2.85**</td>
<td>1.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racialized minority</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>0.57*</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Urban residents in MB and BC feel lack of Canadian experience makes it difficult for them to find work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Province of Residence</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BC</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>36.7%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>431 (100%)</td>
<td>365 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some newcomers would like more connections with employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province of Residence</th>
<th>BC</th>
<th>AB</th>
<th>SK</th>
<th>MB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
<td>1488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(52.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>55.8%</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>40.8%</td>
<td>1368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(47.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>2856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
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$X^2 = 50.613$, df=3, $P \leq 0.01$
Immigrants to the prairies are highly educated and have good jobs prior to arrival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Birth</th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Central/South America &amp; Caribbean</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trouble finding work that matches my qualifications by province and class
Post-arrival job status, immigrants compared to Canadian-born

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Immigrant</th>
<th>Born in Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-arrival</td>
<td>Post-arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC A</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC B</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC C</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOC D</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among university-educated immigrants, 43% of females and 35% of males worked in occupations requiring a high school education or less. In comparison, only 15% of university-educated Canadian-born worked in occupations requiring high school education or less.

Statistics Canada ALF 2014; WCSS 2013; Uppall and Larochelle-Côte 2014
Change in post-arrival skill level by province

- MB: Up 23%, Same 27%, Down 51%
- SK: Up 20%, Same 28%, Down 52%
- AB: Up 23%, Same 27%, Down 51%
- BC: Up 23%, Same 25%, Down 53%
% job status decline by area of birth

North America | C/S America | Europe | Asia | Africa

Source: WCSS, 2013

$\chi^2=87.387$, df = 15, P≤0.00; Gamma= -.180 , P≤ .00
Occupational “mobility” by province & class

Refugees

- BC: 67% decline, 21% same, 9% increase
- AB: 53% decline, 28% same, 9% increase
- SK: 75% decline, 28% same, 9% increase
- MB: 66% decline, 31% same

Skilled Worker & Professional

- BC: 46% decline, 31% same
- AB: 55% decline, 31% same
- SK: 53% decline, 33% same
- MB: 66% decline

Provincial Nominees

- BC: 49% decline, 22% same
- AB: 47% decline, 25% same
- SK: 45% decline, 27% same
- MB: 55% decline

Family class: no statistically significant differences.
Job status generally increases with time
Why don’t labour market outcomes rebound?

- There is “less than perfect” international transferability of skills and work experience
  - Those with higher skills experience the largest declines
- Some immigrant characteristics put them at risk of low returns
  - Low or no language skills, “lower” quality education, lack of good job networks
  - Some evidence of labour market discrimination
- There tends to be an assumption that migration is a rational decision based solely on labour market return
  - Fails to take into account the non-economic reasons for migration
  - Assumes that immigrants have full knowledge of the labour markets in which they are entering
A Second Look at Lower Quality Education

• If there is a labour market penalty for being educated outside of Canada, then we might hypothesize the following:
  • That those with some Canadian education would have better labour market outcomes than those without any ‘Canadian attained’ education
  • Quantity matters: the more exposure to Canadian education, the greater the economic returns

• Researchers have revealed that holding immigration characteristics constant (e.g., language, type of education, sex, minority status etc). There remains a labour market penalty for being educated outside of Canada, BUT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE RACIALIZED MINORITIES.
  • 2nd generation still pay a labour market penalty, sometimes as high as 17% for not being white.

Portez & Fernandes, 2008; Wilkinson forthcoming; Buzdugan and Halli 2009
Selected Data Sources


• Statistics Canada *National Household Survey*, Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2014
Additional Findings, Reports and Information

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