Immigrant Settlement and Integration

Robert Murdie
York University, Toronto
and
Cities Centre, University of Toronto

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Immigrant Settlement in Canadian CMAs: Major Themes

- **Increased Concentration of Recent Immigrants in Canada’s Major Metropolitan Centres**
  - Especially Toronto, Montréal & Vancouver (70% of 2001-06 Immigrants)

- **Shifts in Immigrant Origins**
  - From Europe to Countries in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa

- **Suburbanization of Recent Immigrants**
  - Ethnic Background and Economic Status of these Newcomers is Extremely Diverse
  - Toronto and Vancouver versus Montréal
Recent Immigrants, Toronto, 1971 and 2006

Recent Immigrant (1965-1971) Percentage of the Population by Census Tracts, Toronto CMA, 1971

Recent Immigrant (2001-2006) Percentage of the Population by Census Tracts, Toronto CMA, 2006

Source: Statistics Canada, Census 2006
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Neighbourhood Change Community University Research Alliance, SSHRC
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Recent Immigrant (1965-1971) as a Percentage of the Population, 1971

Recent Immigrant (2001-2006) as a Percentage of the Population, 2006

Recent Immigrants, Montréal, 1971 and 2006

Recent Immigrant (1965-1971) Percentage of the Population by Census Tracts, Montreal CMA, 1971

Recent Immigrant (2001-2006) Percentage of the Population by Census Tracts, Montreal CMA, 2006

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A Typology of Immigrant Settlement and Integration: Murdie & Skop, 2011

Characteristics of the Individual and the Receiving Society

Initial Resources
Differentiation from the Receiving Society (Education, Job Skills, Financial Resources, Social Networks, Migrant Status)

Individual Traits
Differentiation from the Receiving Society (Skin Colour, Phenotype, Language, Accent, Gender, Family Type, Culture, Religion)

Context of Reception
Level of Prejudice and Discrimination in the Receiving Society, Degree of Solidarity and Community in the Receiving Society

Spatial Outcomes

No Spatial Concentration (Invisiburb)

Spatial Concentration for a Limited Time (Melting Pot/Spatial Assimilation)

Long-Term or Permanent Spatial Concentration (Ghetto, Enclave, Ethnoburb)

Incorporation/integration Outcomes

Racialization Outcomes
a) Absorption
b) Stigmatization

Socio-economic Incorporation
a) Traditional Incorporation (Upward Economic Mobility)
b) Enclave Economy (Upward or Downward Economic Mobility Using Co-Ethnic Networks)
c) Marginalization (Static or Downward Economic Mobility)

Political Incorporation
a) Vote by Conscience
b) Ethnic Voting Bloc
c) Disenfranchised
As A Result . . . .

- Process of Immigrant Settlement and Integration can Take Different Forms. The ‘One Pattern Fits All’ model (e.g. Spatial Assimilation) no Longer Resonates with the Experiences of Contemporary Immigrants in Specific Cities

- Toronto vs. Montréal (Germain, 2011)
  - Toronto: Many Large Ethnic Groups Living in Relatively Homogeneous Neighbourhoods/Pros and Cons?
  - Montréal: Numerically Smaller Ethnic Groups Living in Multiethnic Neighbourhoods/Pros and Cons?
Towards a Research Agenda (1)

- **Systemic/Quantitative Perspectives**
  - Statistical Analyses Based on Census Tract Data
    - Segregation and Spatial Concentration of Immigrant Groups in Major Canadian Cities
    - Extent of Ethno-cultural Homogeneity/Heterogeneity within Neighbourhoods
    - Change over Time (If the city becomes more polarized will neighbourhoods become more homogeneous ethnically?)

- **Conceptual Perspectives/Explanations**
  - Voluntary (Enabling) vs. Involuntary (Constrained Choice) Perspectives. Most Immigrant Neighbourhoods Best Expressed as a Combination of the Two Perspectives. Need for Theory and Empirical Evidence. New Forms (e.g. Ethnoburb)
Towards a Research Agenda (2)

- **Typology of Immigrant Neighbourhoods**
  - Based on a Statistical (Cluster) Analysis of Census Tract Data of Immigrant Neighbourhoods Pooled for all Major Canadian CMAs (Immigrants >??%)
    - Differences Between and Within CMAs
    - The Basis for Neighbourhood Case Studies
  - Case Studies of Individual Neighbourhoods Selected from the Typology (e.g., Uniethnic, Multiethnic, Recent Immigrants, More Established Immigrants, Ethnic Origin)
  - Bridge to Life Chances/Lived Experience/Qualitative Perspectives
Towards a Research Agenda (3)

- Life Chances/Lived Experience/Qualitative Perspectives
  - Integration/Incorporation Outcomes of Immigrant Groups in Each Neighbourhood
    - Housing, Employment, Language, Community Engagement
    - Emphasis on a Longitudinal Perspective (e.g., “Housing Career”)
  - How Attained?
    - Assistance from Social Networks, NGOs, Municipalities
    - Reception by Existing Population
  - Subjective Evaluation
    - Neighbourhood Identity. Neighbourhood as “Community”

- Final Question
  - The Fragmented or Cosmopolitan Metropolis?
References

