

Outline of National Project

The Value of Immigrants to Canada:
A National Immigration Research
Agenda

Posing the General Questions

- (1) What is the net benefit of immigration to the receiving country?
- (2) Does increased immigration result in enriching the resident population?
- (3) Do immigrants compete with the resident population for jobs?
- (4) Is the resident population better or worse off financially with more immigrants joining the labour force?
- (5) Are immigrants contributing more to the receiving country than what they take out?

Posing Research Question I

- Do immigrants complement or substitute resident workers in Canada?
- What methods have been used to study this questions, and what is the evidence available?
- Challenges: Models of complementary and substitution only apply to nation-state because of internal mobility problem

Posing Research Question II

- What is the effect of increased immigration on the fiscal system, the welfare system and other key service systems of Canada?
- What methods and evidence are available to study the costs and benefits of increased immigration?
- Challenges: Estimates have be based on life-course analysis, but most data are cross-sectional

Posing Research Question III

- What is the effect of increased immigration on consumption of goods and services?
- What are the methods and evidence available?
- Challenges: This involves studying the change in demand as a result of immigration, and estimating the multiplying effects of consumer demands over a period of time.

Posing Research Question IV

- What is the long-term effect of levels of immigration on the future population and labour force of Canada?
- How can the long-term value of immigration be assessed methodologically and empirically?
- Challenges: Past population models only consider the effect of immigration on population size and optimal productivity. Needs to include estimates of future human capital and demographical profile.

Posing Research Question V

- What is the value of diversity due to increased immigration to Canada?
- What methods and evidence are available to study the value of diversity?
- Challenges: Diversity has been studied as a cultural issue, but seldom an economic topic. The study involves developing conceptual and empirical methods of estimating economic value of diversity