

Social and Cultural Domain Report for

Annual Planning Meeting – 2005

I. Recent Research Funded by the PCERII

2003/2004

Peter Grant (University of Saskatchewan) – *The Devaluation of Immigrants Foreign Credentials: The Psychological Impact of This Barrier to Integration into Canadian Society*

2004/2005

Shibao Guo (University of Alberta) – *Exploring the Educational Role of Immigrant Serving Organizations*

Sourayan Mookerjea (University of Alberta) – *Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism as Popular Culture: What Social Memory at Pier 21 Can Tell Us*

Wilfreda Thurston (University of Calgary) – *Immigrant Women, Family Violence and Pathways Out of Homelessness.*

II. Externally Funded Research and Non-Funded Research of Research Affiliates

Karl Froschauer (SFU) and Lloyd Wong (University of Calgary) - *Immigrant Entrepreneurs' & Skilled Workers' Initiative in Vancouver and Calgary's New Economy* – Funded by SSHRC.

Shibao Guo (University of Alberta) with Dr. Katy Campbell (University of Alberta), Dr. Tara Fenwick (University of Alberta,) and Dr. Yan Guo (University of Calgary) - *Effectiveness of Formal and Informal Processes of Learning Essential Skills: A Study of Immigrant Service Organizations.* Funded by SSHRC.

Jean LaFontant (Université du Québec à Montréal) A study (contractual) about the Neighbourhood, Saint-Michel, one of the most multi-ethnic in Montreal. The research question: to what degree do the immigrants (namely the recently arrived and ,especially, the visible minorities), do participate in the Municipal (and Provincial-Municipal) network of services, instead of some of their own groups ? To what level are the ethnic organizations consulted, represented at the local Table de concertation for the implementation of public / para-public funded civic projects ?

Jean LaFontant (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Thibault Martin (Université du Québec en Outaouais), a study (yet to be finalized) to evaluate the professional integration of recent Visible Minorities French-speaking international Immigrants (mostly from the African Continent) into the Manitoban job market. Do these immigrants seek first a job in the French network? What are their perceptions about their relative chances to that effect? What do they think they'll do on the long run?

Daniel Lai - Experience of Visible Minority Social Work Professionals. Funded by SSHRC.

Daniel Lai (University of Calgary) - *Problem Gambling in the Asian-Canadian Community in Calgary*. Funded by the Alberta Gaming Research Institute

T. Robertson and P. Grant (University of Saskatchewan). *A formative evaluation of a second language acquisition program for immigrant children*. Unfunded research.

III. Two Unique Projects in Domain

a) Daniel Lai's PCERII funded research in 2002-2003 on *Experience of Racial Minorities in Rural Communities and Small Towns*.

This research project is on racism and ethnic discrimination in three small communities of varying size and distance from the major cities. I recently spoke to Dr. Lai about this research project and he has just finished the data analysis. The results will be written up over the next few months.

b) Wilfreda Thurston's PCERII funded research last year on *Immigrant Women, Family Violence and Pathways out of Homelessness*.

This research project objective is to investigate the relationship between domestic violence, migration and homelessness of immigrant women. The research questions are: 1) What are the key structural/systemic and individual causes of persistent and repetitive homelessness of immigrant women experiencing family violence? 2) What are the pathways into and out of homelessness? What are the specific conjunctures where critical interventions are most effective? 3) What existing services are most effective in assisting people to exit homelessness, and how can homeless people or those at risk of homelessness access them?

IV. Publications and Communication Activities Resulting From PCERII Research

Publications

Bramadat, Paul (in press). *Toward a New Politics of Authenticity: Ethno-Cultural Representation in Theory and Practice*. Canadian Ethnic Studies. 35 pp.

Bramadat, Paul (2004). *Mirror and Mortar: Ethno-Cultural Festivals and Urban Life in Canada*. Our Diverse Cities. Number 1: Spring: 87-92.

Brownridge, D. A., & Halli, S. S. (2003). *Double Advantage?: Violence Against Canadian Migrant Women from "Developed" Nations*. International Migration, 41(1), 29-46.

Guo, Shibao (forthcoming). *Immigration and Adult Education*. In L. M. English (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adult Education*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Guo, Shibao (2004). Citizenship, Immigration and Adult Education: The Role of Immigrant Service Organization in Building a Learning Community for Adult Immigrants. Proceedings of the Joint International Conference of the 45th Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) and the 23rd Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education (CASAE) Conference. Victoria: University of Victoria, May 27-30, 2004, pp.184-189.

Henry, Frances (2005). A summary of PCERII funded research project entitled "Representation of Immigrants/People of Colour in National and Local Television News Coverage" to be published in next edition of The Colour of Democracy: Racism in Canadian Society. Thomson Nelson, Feb. 2005

Mookerjea, Sourayan (in press). Cultural Studies with Multitudes: Immanence and the Multicultural Commons" in Canadian Spaces, Cultural Spaces: Cultural Studies in Canada and Beyond. Eds. Richard Cavell and Imre Szeman. University of Toronto Press.

Ng, Cheuk F., Northcott, H., & Abu-Laban, S. M. (2004). The experiences of South Asian immigrant seniors living in Edmonton, Alberta: Report to the community. (A full report and an abbreviated report)

Thurston, W.E. & Vissandjée, B. (in press) An ecological model for understanding culture as a determinant of women's health. Critical Public Health.

Thurston, W.E. (with Vissandjée, B., Kamrun, N.) (in press). The integration of gender, ethnicity and migration in health policy discourse and actions. In: Morrow, M., Hankivsky, O. & Varcoe, C. (Eds.), Women's Health in Canada: Critical Theory, Policy and Practice. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

Waugh, Earle & Wannas, Jenny (2003) "The Rise of a Womanist Movement among Muslim Immigrant Women in Alberta, Canada." In Studies in Contemporary Islam, vol.5 (2003) 1-28.

Communication Activities

Gibson, Nancy & Fletcher, Fay (2004). Interview with CBC on the Success Stories of Immigrant Women, February 1st, 2004.

Gibson, Nancy & Fletcher, Fay (December 2003) Media Launch of DVD "Coming To Canada: Success Stories of Immigrant Women". Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Gibson, Nancy & Fletcher, Fay (March 2003). Coming to Canada: Success Stories of Immigrant Women. Presented at A Journey from Displacement to Settlement, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Grant, P. R. & Millard, J. (June 2004). The Stereotyping of Black and White Models in Magazine Fashion Spreads and Advertisements and the Influence of the Model's Immigration Status on these Stereotypes. A paper presented at the POPular Culture Conference organized by the Women's Studies Research Unit, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Grant, P. R. (October, 2004). Cultural Identity and Dealing with Discrimination: Challenges and Problems Faced by Immigrants from Asia and Africa. A paper presented at the Saskatchewan Node Workshop of the Prairie Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Integration, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon.

Grant, P. R. (September, 2004). How immigrants sustain a strong cultural identity in the face of cultural incompatibilities: The relationship between ingroup bias and strength of identification under threat. A paper presented at the annual meeting of the Social Psychology division of the British Psychological Society, Liverpool, England.

Guo, Shibao (2004). The Promotion of Minority Group Rights as the Protection of Individual Rights and Freedom for Immigrants. Shared Dialogue and Learning: Educating for Human Rights and Global Citizenship Conference, November 11-13, 2004, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Guo, Shibao (2004). The Politics of Difference: Non/Recognition of Foreign Credentials and Prior Work Experience of Immigrant Professionals in Canada. The Work and Learning Network, University of Alberta, October 5, 2004, Edmonton.

Martin, Thibault (2004). Accidents de parcours ou dérives conflictuelles prévisibles ? Intégration professionnelles des immigrants dans la communauté franco-manitobaine. Paper presented at the XVIIth Congress of the AISLF (International Association of the French Speaking Sociologists) (Tours 5-9 juillet 2004)

Martin, Thibault (200). French speaking immigrants in the Franco-Manitoban community: open and hidden conflicts. Paper presented at the PCERII's workshop, Winnipeg, November 1st).

Martin, Thibault (2003). Social classes and immigrations in the Winnipeg French's community. Paper presented at the Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba, November 8th).

Thurston, W.E. (2004). Preventing Domestic Violence: A Canadian Research Program. Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence Services, Joining the Dots...Making the connections: Australia and Canada, August 19, Perth. (Invited Address)

Waugh, Earle (2004). Paper at Geneva Metropolis on ramifications of Shari'a courts in Ontario.

Waugh, Earle (2004). Papers at Winnipeg and Victoria Conferences on Muslim Women and Rise of Islamic Womanist Movement.

Wilkinson, Lori (July 2004). Integration and First Work: A Comparison of the Job Experiences of Immigrant-, Refugee-, and Canadian-born Youth. Paper presented at the Inter-Cultural Research Network Congress, Florence, Italy.

Wilkinson, Lori (March 2004). The Labour Market Entry of Immigrant, Refugee and Native-born Youth in Canada. British Sociology Association Annual Meeting, York, UK.

Wilkinson, Lori (2004). An Examination of the Initial Labour Market Transitions of Refugee Youth in Canada. Invited lecture presented at The Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford, Oxford UK, January 20, 2004.

V. Policy Implications

There are many policy implications of the projects funded in the Social and Cultural Domain and researchers are asked to discuss these in their reports. For example:

Peter Grant's research on the psychological impact of the devaluation of immigrants' foreign credentials has policy implications on mental health policy as does Wilfreda Thurston's research on immigrant women, family violence and homelessness. Thurston's research also has policy implications for social services and programs.

Shibao Guo's work on the educational role of immigrant serving organizations has policy implications for the funding of settlement services and ethno-specific organizations.

VI. Identified Areas for Future Research

Research affiliates in the Social and Cultural Domain have recently identified the following as desirable areas for future research:

- 1) Comparative research and analysis of the civic participation and social capital of the following groups: a) visible minority immigrants; b) non-visible minority immigrants; and c) visible minority non-immigrants.
- 2) Research regarding how adult immigrants learn the paths that citizenship requires in Canada. Many existing studies focus on children, which is important. However, we cannot afford ignoring adult immigrants who make up a big proportion of the total number of immigrants to Canada.
- 3) Research on the voting practices among immigrants. How long does it take different groups to become involved in the political system?
- 4) Research on the regional disparity of immigrant destination and the rise of antagonism to immigrants. Included in this is research on the rural vs urban competition for immigrants.
- 5) Research on Immigrant attitudes toward some recent religious issues in the news such as same-sex marriage, plural marriage, the addition of religion to the problematic of entering the country since 9/11, profiling, etc. How have these issues had impact on immigration applications?
- 6) Research that has a direct focus, such as on racism, or family and youth, or multiculturalism, or even religion, would be potentially contributive. Two or three of these foci, combined and coherently integrated, can define an interesting direction for the domain.

- 7) Research about aspects of integration/discrimination in Public and Para-Public Civil Service hiring practices, mainly at the Provincial and Municipal levels. Are the groups from Non-British and Non-French origin adequately represented?

VII. Vision for Domain

The vision I have for the domain is only at the formative stages right now given the few months I have been on the job.

A short term goal, and not so much a vision, is to see if there is a common position amongst some of our researchers and local NGOs on the topics identified by the Standing Committee on Citizenship & Immigration for their public hearings in March and April. These topics are the New Citizenship Act, Recognition of International Experience and Credentials of Immigrants, and Family Reunification Issues. If there is a common position then I would like to try to forge a common presentation for the hearings. In Calgary, for example, a local NGO, the Ethno-Cultural Council of Calgary is developing a presentation for the hearings and would like researchers from the University of Calgary to be involved.

A longer term plan is to identify thematic areas of interest amongst research affiliates in the Domain and to promote more collaborative work amongst them within the domain as well as linking them with those who share similar interests in other domains. For example, the thematic area of citizenship, as it relates to civic participation and active citizenship, is one that bridges some researchers' interests in the Social and Cultural Domain, Education Domain, and the Citizenship and Political Domain.

Further to this, the next step would be to investigate the possibilities of linkages and collaborative research with researchers in the other Metropolis Centers who have the same thematic interests.

Respectfully submitted by

Lloyd L. Wong, Social And Cultural Domain Leader,

February 7th, 2005.