



4th Annual Ethnic and Pluralism Studies Graduate Research Conference **Abstracts by day/session**

Thursday January 27th, 8:30-10:00
Session 1 "Employment"

REBECCA NAVA: Recruited to Get Suited: The Contemporary Diversity Recruitment Tactics of the Canadian Military

This study includes an analysis of secondary literature on the issue of diversity in the Canadian Forces, and includes an extensive review of how employment equity regulations have impacted the Canadian military. Interviews were conducted with first generation immigrants who have joined, or are contemplating, joining the Forces, as well as with experts on diversity in the military.

The purpose of the interviews was to glean experiential anecdotes, and professional knowledge about the issue of increasing the representation of visible minorities in the Canadian Forces, and the relative success of that endeavour. The intention of this research is to explore an area of research that is undeveloped outside of military-commissioned inquiry, and to provide recommendations to the government concerning how to improve the public's awareness of the military, how to address misconceptions, and the problems that deter newcomers in Canada from wanting to join.

TINA SRISKANDARAJAH: Does Immigration Erode the Welfare State?

The debate on whether immigration inhibits the welfare state is growing in importance as Canada enters an era of fiscal austerity, an ageing population, and record portions of foreign-born citizens. Immigration in Canada, like in most developed countries, also increases the number of ethnic and cultural minorities. Immigration, and its resulting ethnic diversity, is said to impact the welfare state in either of two disparate ways. In-group theory posits that immigration affects native citizens' desirability for redistribution, which can be particularly potent when ethnic and class lines merge. Low levels of income distribution in the United States have been attributed to the amalgamation of race and class (Alesina and Glaeser 2004: 11). In light of Canada's increasing ethnic diversity – up to 32 per cent of Canada's population is forecasted to be a visible minority by 2031 (Statistics Canada 2010) – this may have significant implications on the viability and structure of Canada's redistribution scheme. Additionally, the high need for income assistance exhibited by immigrants (Borjas 1994, 3) imposes fiscal constraints on the capacity for governments to collect taxes and redistribute income. Conversely, some experts argue that immigration benefits the welfare state, and that the maintenance of Canada's economy requires increased levels immigration to supplement Canada's labour market (Alboim and Maytree 2009:11).

This paper explores the tension between the existence of Canada as a welfare state and Canadian citizens as increasingly foreign-born and ethnically diverse.

ANTHONY ANDALL: The Conditioning Effect of Ethnicity on the Flow of Resources in Ethnic Entrepreneurial Networks: The Case of Caribbean Born Entrepreneurs in the GTA.

This paper will explore the relationship between ethnic composition and the flow of resources in the networks of Caribbean born entrepreneurs in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). The term flow of the resources means who the focal entrepreneur gives resources to, who the focal entrepreneur receives resources from and patterns of resource reciprocity in these networks. From a theoretical view point this paper explores how homophily which is the tendency for people with similar characteristics and backgrounds to group together, conditions the flow of resources in the networks of immigrant entrepreneurs.



Previous research in the field has highlighted the fact that immigrant tend to rely on other co-ethnics for resources when starting and running a business. However this paper aims to delve a bit deeper into this topic by exploring the circumstances under which co-ethnicity conditions these flows. The ultimate aim is to get a clearer picture as to how composition of these networks varies in terms of ethnicity, when these other factors are considered.

The data for this paper comes from a research project currently being undertaken by the author in the GTA, focusing on the networks of Caribbean born entrepreneurs.

The intended contribution of this proposed paper is to determine to what degree ethnicity really matters in terms of network composition of immigrant entrepreneurs, by combining insights from ethnic, economic and network perspectives.

Thursday January 27th, 10:00-11:30
Session 2: “Law, Citizenship and Multiculturalism”

RAWLE AGARD: An Inconvenient Truth: Multiculturalism, Neoliberal Governmentality, and Canada's New Citizenship Guide

Recently, Canada's new Citizenship Guide “Discover Canada” (2009) has garnered a modest amount of press coverage in the corporate media. Arguably more progressive in its account of Canadian history than its predecessor, this paper sets out to critically examine the underlying relations of power coded in the discourses at work in this government document. Does its putative progressiveness signify a turning-point in the perception of tolerance and inclusion in the making of the Canadian subject? Or, are old colonial themes of racialized governance born anew, and masked amidst the advanced liberal rhetoric of a post-racialized, multiculturalism?

Using an anti-racist theoretical framework, this paper sets out to examine the extent to which the discourse of elite, or official, multiculturalism is deployed as a technology of power and a technique of neoliberal governmentality, and whether or not its practices constitute and configure the dominant ways in which the advanced liberal nation-state is imagined, socially and politically as a white-settler society. In other words, I am interested in whether or not the Conservative reworking of a multiculturalist agenda through Discover Canada has become the latest elite, discursive, episode that effectively attempts to obscure the sordid legacy of race as an inconvenient truth integral to the creation and maintenance of the Canadian national imaginary.

CARLY AUSTIN: Jus Domicile: A Pathway to Citizenship for Temporary Foreign Workers?

The Canadian temporary foreign worker program (TFWP) has grown exponentially in recent years and Canada now accepts more temporary residents than permanent residents on a yearly basis. Along with issues of federal downloading to provinces and employers to determine immigrant selection, employers are also increasingly becoming reliant on foreign labour to maintain their competitive advantage in a global market while failing to address exploitation issues. This study will examine modern notions of citizenship based on the principle of jus domicile, applying it to the TFWP in Canada. I argue that jus domicile can be used as a legal basis for long term policies toward pathways to optional permanency and for claims to rights and entitlements for TFWs. Not only can jus domicile eliminate the need for TFWs to work illegally in Canada, it would also allow TFWs to excel in the labour market gaining experience and skills, which would ultimately assist toward their permanent integration in Canada.

Using contemporary notions of citizenship, this study will present a forward looking approach to the TFWP by providing short, medium and long-term policy recommendations. This study also takes into consideration



current policies at the federal and provincial levels such as the Provincial Nominee Programs and the Canadian Experience Class, both of which already offer pathways to permanency for TFWs. This study examines ways in which the Canadian labour market can permanently incorporate TFWs and can be useful in examining the long-term implications of current trends within the TFWP, and more generally the current labour migration trends in Canada.

VANESS ROSA: Multiculturalism, Diversity and the New Urban Imaginary

At present, two of Toronto's most infamous housing projects, Lawrence Heights and Regent Park, are in various stages of revitalization. While the revitalization of Lawrence Heights received approval in June 2010, Regent Park is in phase two of a six phase plan. The buildings are being torn down and replaced with mixed-use, mixed-income buildings. Revitalization is promised to bring life back to the communities through a holistic approach to planning that focuses not just on the physical structures, but also on the social well-being of residents. Revitalization is proposed as the only way to integrate the communities into Toronto's broader social fabric. A preliminary look at the plans reveals that one of the main principles is to "build on cultural diversity" within Regent Park and Lawrence Heights; in many ways, culture and diversity act as organizing principles for revitalization. Both plans focus on the diversity of the neighbourhoods to attract investment. Further, the cultural diversity of the residents is described as in need of preservation because of the many changes the revitalization will bring. Diversity is explicitly described in the plans in terms of three interrelated planning prerogatives: diversity of uses, diversity of incomes, and diversity of cultures.

My investigation traces the discourses of diversity that run throughout the many planning documents. This paper will examine how these multiple uses of diversity operate in the planning documents. I argue that the three types of diversity described in the plans create a mirage about what diversity "means." This mirage complicates the implementation of diversity as a planning strategy and deflects concerns about social inclusion and equity in urban space.

STEPHEN FIELDING: Why do Special Relationships form between certain Ethnic Groups? The Case of Italian and Portuguese Migrants in Postwar Toronto

Most scholars continue to study ethnic categories in isolation, which creates a false, or at least, misleading, binary between a particular group and the "dominant" society. This paper explores two ethnic groups Italians and Portuguese in the city of Toronto to demonstrate how placing ethnic histories into conversation sheds light on the complex nature of urban ethnic history. This investigation probes historiographical accounts of Italian and Portuguese pre-migration cultures and postwar census and segregation/exposure data for the city of Toronto to show how two groups with little to no previous contact with one another forged a remarkable social and spatial relationship. The same sources are also used to identify those areas namely, time of arrival and degree of socio-economic mobility in which their experiences diverged. This multi-ethnic approach illuminates the variably similar and disproportionate ways that social, political and economic patterns affect migrant settlement and the strategies employed by ethnic groups as they interacted with other ethnics and established themselves in the postwar North American city.

Thursday January 27th, 12:15-1:45
Session 3: "Education"

RALUCA BEJAN: Policy without practice: Barriers to Enrollment for Non-status Immigrant Students in Toronto's Catholic Schools

"*Policy without Practice*" research project is a follow up to Social Planning Toronto's 2008 report entitled "*Right to Learn: Access to public Education for Non-Status Immigrants*". The "*Right to Learn*" report provided



a brief image of experiences and barriers that several non-status families faced when wanted to enroll their children in the Toronto public school system.

“Policy without Practice” extends Social Planning Toronto’s 2008 work and is an audit of all 201 elementary and secondary schools within the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the admissions policies of Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) schools, as it specifically relates to residents who lack immigration status. Posing as an extended family member for a non-status child in Canada, researchers phoned each TCDSB school to determine the number of schools that would register the child and how many would deny admission. This report documents the result of the audit and provides recommendations on how TCDSB can work to eliminate enrollment barriers for non-status students and ensure every child’s right to education.

NAOMI LIGHTMAN: Continuing Links? An exploration of the impact of transnationalism on the educational outcomes and experiences of the new second generation in Canada

This essay explores the potential impact of transnationalism on the educational experiences and outcomes for the new second generation in Canada: it examines current literature in the social science and education fields, analyses theories of inter-generational mobility and second generational difference, and proposes a new Transnational Retention Theory.

Increasingly, successful integration of groups of non-European origins in Canada focuses on the outcomes and experiences of the children of immigrants. Transnationalism is of escalating consequence for this population, as globalization has accelerated the frequency, intensity and speed of international communications and connections. However, a dearth of information exists on the transnational ties of the second generation in Canada. There is no consensus on whether transnationalism represents a temporary phenomenon of the first migrant generation or if it is maintained through different generations. As well, the literature is divided on whether such ties hinder social integration or, instead, speed up integration due to the reduced social and emotional costs of migration.

Education, in particular, is often considered the primary means of social integration for the children of immigrants. However, it is unclear if, or how, transnational connections impact (in a positive or negative manner) the new second generation’s perceptions of and outcomes within the education system. For second generation Canadians who do maintain transnational connections (or for those whose parents do), it is possible that these may have a positive impact on educational outcomes and experiences, perhaps due to broadened social networks, a heightened sense of self, and/or greater pressure to excel in school. However, these ties may equally work in the opposite direction, emphasizing norms that devalue educational attainment or presenting barriers to being a “normal” student.

GUNJAN SONDHI: Indian International Students in Canada: beyond the labour migrant discourse

This paper aims to explore the motivations and the factors that shape the motivations of Indian students studying abroad. In doing so, I hope to expand beyond the labour migration discourse within which these students are often embedded. International students within the Canadian immigration policy are categorized as part of Highly skilled migrants; these individuals are seen as a means to filling the Canadian skilled labour market gap. The predominance of portrayal of these individuals as potential permanent labour migrants into Canada ignores the structural, social and cultural complexities, across various geographical scales in both the country of origin and destination which shape the individuals decision -- first to move abroad for higher



education and then to stay or leave after the completion of their education. The paper uses data collected through 15 in depth interviews with current students in Toronto, Canada, and 100 completed responses to an online questionnaire open to past and present Indian students who have studied outside of India. This paper is a work in progress; it is a preliminary analysis of the data collected thus far as part of the author's ongoing fieldwork in Toronto.

AMAR BHATIA: Depictions of Indigenous nations and individuals in secondary school law textbooks approved for use in Ontario

This paper addresses the subject of citizenship education and law through analysis of Ontario secondary school legal textbooks and their depictions of Indigenous peoples. The paper provides a brief review of history textbook analysis generally and then compares depictions of Indigenous peoples in both early and current Ontario curricula and law textbooks.

Friday, January 28th, 8:30-10:00
Session 4: "Gender"

HANNAH STATE: A Home Away From 'Home': Aboriginal Women's Perspectives on City Living

Planning for Aboriginal populations has largely focused on reserve boundaries at the federal level with less attention to planning at the provincial and municipal levels, despite increased migration to the cities in recent decades. This qualitative study recounts the housing and social service experiences from nine Aboriginal women who have lived on a reserve in the past and who later migrated to the City of Kingston. It consists of a literature review, observational research at the Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre (KNFC) and key informant interviews with Aboriginal women. In particular, this study is intended to address the following research question:

What are the push and pull factors that result in the migration of Aboriginal women to the City of Kingston, and what can planners and policy-makers do to reduce inequalities in access to services and eliminate discrimination that they may face within the city?

Findings suggest that the prevalence of racism and discrimination continues to create barriers for urban Aboriginal women. It was found that during their transition, many women utilized the shelter system and relied on the informal support of family and friends. In addition, a community Aboriginal leadership program that originated in a non-Aboriginal shelter with funding from Heritage Canada has helped empower Aboriginal women to have more control over their lives. Despite positive outcomes, more effective collaboration between the Aboriginal community and local government is warranted in order to create trust and to effect positive changes for Aboriginal women and their families in the future.

CRISTINA GUERRERO: More than Just Voice and Agency: A Theoretical Look at Participatory Action Research in the Re/Construction of Latina Student Identity in Toronto High Schools

"Everyone else thinks that we are not intelligent. That we only dance, right? In my opinion, they have a very, very bad stereotype of Latina/os. They think that we only dance salsa ... that we don't study."

12th grader Wendy, Toronto

The above commentary, made during an interview I conducted as a Graduate Student Researcher for ongoing Toronto study "Proyecto Latino", highlights how perceptions of young Latina/os as students are impacted by negative ethnic and racial stereotypes. In fact, an analysis of "Proyecto Latino's" interview and focus group data



reveals that negative racial and ethnic stereotypes play a key role in the social and academic challenges that Latina/o youths encounter at school (Gaztambide-Fernández & Guerrero, 2009). Yet further questions remain, such as how gender interacts with race and ethnicity in the schooling context, particularly for Latinas in major urban centres. How can young Latinas empower themselves and initiate action against the negative stereotypes attributed to their gender, race, and ethnicity? How can this activism re/create, promote, and sustain more positive perceptions of Latinas as students?

My presentation will draw upon transnational feminist and Latina critical race theories and argue that participatory action research (PAR) is a viable and effective means of contesting the negative stereotypes encountered by Latinas at school. In setting a research agenda that positions the “researched” as a collective of researchers actively engaged in a democratic process of dialogue and action, Latina youths can produce meaningful work that enacts personal and socio-curricular change (Cammarota & Romero, 2010). I will also argue that as a critical problem-solving and action-oriented process that strives for social justice, PAR will provide Latina youths with the tools to legitimize and enact their knowledge as a diverse and dynamic group whose work can result in alliances with teachers, community members, and even policy-makers

SOMA CHATTERJEE: On Being Outside In Canada: settlement sector and the management of racialized immigrant women

I am interested in how racialized immigrant women in Canada are constructed as particular social subjects, i.e., dependent and non-contributing. While the built-in race and gender hierarchies of the immigration policy has been widely discussed in Canadian research, there has been a dearth of critical, analytical work on the settlement sector which reproduces and strengthens the gendered racism of the federal immigration policy through discourses of immigrant women's skill deficit. I trace the discourse of deficit in project proposals for immigrant women's settlement to support my argument that the ideological national boundaries constructed under the influence of liberal modernity continue to shape the Canadian nation state in a neo-liberal climate through discourses befitting a neo-liberal agenda. Thus, I locate the immigrant settlement sector as a major discursive site in the making and management of the racialized female immigrant subject.

ALEX ROWLSON: Thinly Veiled Prejudice: World-Travelling, the French Headscarf Affair, and the Failure of Liberalism

In 2004 the French government banned conspicuous signs of religious affiliation from public schools. While discrete symbols such as a small cross, star of David, or hand of Fatima were still allowed, more overt articles of clothing like the kippah, turban, and headscarf were strictly prohibited. Although the law applied to all religions, it was clearly targeted towards young Muslim women. The headscarf was positioned as both a symbol of the oppression and subordination of women inherent in Islam and a sign of resistance to integration into French society. Its appearance in schools was viewed as an affront to core values of the liberal republic, such as gender equality and the separation of church and state. However, banning the headscarf is a clear violation of the right to religious expression, another basic principle of liberal democracies. Further, the negative view of the headscarf as represented in French legislation is based on a biased, Western perception of Islamic customs and is influenced by the colonial legacies of racism and cultural superiority.

My paper will examine the development of the headscarf debate in France, following the increasing legislation against the headscarf starting in 1989, continuing to 2004, and culminating in 2010 with a ban on burqas and niqabs in public spaces. In order to present a richer and more culturally sensitive interpretation of the headscarf and by association Muslim women, the methodology of world-travelling, as outlined by feminist human-rights lawyer Isabelle Gunning, will be used to analyze both Muslim and non-Muslim responses to and interpretations of the headscarf and veil. In the process, it will be shown that French legislation against the headscarf is an



example of the failure of liberalism and is yet another expression of the imperialist drive to mask racist policies in the terminology of saving women.

Friday, January 28th, 10:00-11:30
Session 5: “Religion”

HOWARD KISLOWICZ: Freedom of Religion and Canada’s Commitments to Multiculturalism

In this essay, the I explore the Canadian law of religious freedom in light of Canada’s legislated commitments to recognizing minority cultural communities and fostering inter-cultural dialogue. He posits that there are at least three recurring themes in the Canadian judicial approach to freedom of religion: individualism, the prevention of coercion, and the use of the discourse of tolerance.

Using each of these themes as a springboard for critical analysis, the author argues that the legal doctrine of religious freedom is inconsistent with Canada’s multicultural ideas in several ways that are usually unexplored. The individualism of the case law fails to take into account the collective dimensions and public of religious experience; the compulsion to speak in the language of rights may coerce litigants to adopt arguments that are inconsistent with their religious views; and the language of tolerance may subtly reinforce social hierarchies and impede cross-cultural dialogue. The author concludes that these “side-effects” of well-intentioned judicial doctrines are worth taking seriously in order for Canada to make good on its multicultural promises.

MATT LYE: Blending Two Worlds: Sikh Faith and Political Engagement in Canada

In this paper I argue that, against proponents of the secularization thesis, religion can be a potentially positive force for social cohesion. Specifically, I argue that members of minority faith groups mobilize their faith to critically engage with the Canadian political system on two fronts. First, they can interpret their faith’s tenets as promoting both spiritual and worldly involvement – in other words, faith through acts. Second, they can utilize pre-existing social networks within their faith community to collectively engage to lobby for their rights and interests.

My paper will be based around a theoretical analysis of the Sikh community in Canada, with an emphasis on Sikhs as both a religious and ethnic identity. As a community, Sikhs have a reportedly high level of political engagement within both the Canadian federal party system, and independently as a “special interests” group which seeks to advance its own agenda.

From this understanding of Sikhism in Canada, I seek to answer two research questions. First, which elements of the Sikh faith could be interpreted by adherents as promoting civic engagement in Canadian society? Second, if Sikhs engage in higher levels of political involvement than other minoritized religious groups, what does this imply about Canadian multiculturalism’s ability to allow minority groups real power within our society?

JORDAN PALMER: An Affront to Human Dignity: An Examination of the Treatment of Polygamy in Modern, Multicultural Canada

Multiculturalism in Canada is a thorny issue. Nothing illustrates the battle between legal rigidity and equitable principles of fairness better than the law’s response to “Islamic” family practices, especially polygamy. Reform of Canadian law to accommodate Islamic family law principles is needed. This is seen in an analysis of the law’s approach to existing polygamous marriage (where Canadian citizens are in a polygamous marriage), laws forbidding solemnisation of an Islamic polygamous marriage, the Private International law issues created by foreign polygamous marriages, and through the Immigration rules respecting polygamous individuals. As Justice La Forest wrote in *Morguard Investments Ltd. v. de Savoye* [1990] 3 S.C.R. 1077 “we correctly speak of a world community even in the face of decentralized political and legal power. Accommodating the flow of



wealth, skills and people across state lines has now become imperative” (at para. 34). Canada must adapt to changing cultural and religious demographics by acknowledging change, not ignoring it.

KELSEY NORMAN: Islam Policy & the Canadian State: Examining the Socioeconomic Wellbeing of Canada’s Muslim Population

This paper addresses several ethical questions facing Canada: the debate over reasonable accommodation, the place of religion in the public sphere and the role of policy in delineating the ability for the Muslim minority population to participate fully and freely in Canadian civic life. The first section of the paper employs a review of academic and popular literature, the second section conducts an analysis of Statistic Canada’s Ethnic Diversity Survey data and the third section summarizes the responses of interviews with individuals representing Canadian Muslim organizations. Ultimately, this study confirms that Muslim Canadians face unique challenges. The data analysis also indicates that being Muslim is a salient predictor of the likelihood of experiencing discrimination on the basis of religion. It is evident that a large number of Muslims in Toronto and other parts of Canada feel that they are discriminated against or viewed in a negative light by the rest of the population. The ramifications of this marginalization play out in the workplace, in schools, in the legal system and in the community generally.

The paper discusses several promising initiatives that are underway which intend to address the discrimination felt by Canadian Muslims. The paper also examines some of the structures and institutions that contribute to marginalization and discrimination and emphasizes the capacity for change that lies with policy-makers and those able to influence the policy process.

Friday January 28th, 12:15-1:45
Session 6: “Media”

Jennifer Le Clair: ‘As above, so below’: The role of elite-level linguistic politics in post-communist Slovakia

This paper will discuss the Slovak State Language laws and their exclusivist framework through analysis of four constituent legal texts; namely, the *Act No. 428/1990 on the Official Language of the Slovak Republic*, which was rescinded by the *Act No.270/1995 on the State Language Law of the Slovak Republic*. The latter, amended by the *Act No. 184/1999 Coll. On the Usage of National Minority Languages* was subsequently amended by the most recent, *Act No. 318/2009 Coll. on the State Language of the Slovak Republic*, illustrating the continuous process of (nation) state-building via explicit specifications of the position and usage of Slovak. Corpus planning, or conscious development, of language as a method of consolidation of power by the political elites is manifested in the hierarchisation and regulation of linguistic usage and the concomitant nationalist-populist rhetoric extant in Slovak parliamentary debates and electoral campaigning.

Increasing nationalist-populism, most glaringly expressed in the aforementioned legislative documents, harkens to the early years of post-communist transition, wherein Prime Minister Vladimír Mečiar’s numerous actions aimed at the ethnicization of politics effectively restricted minority group rights. His presence alongside Ján Slotka and his right-wing Slovak National Party (*Slovenská národná strana, SNS*) in the 2006-2010 coalition government headed by Premier Robert Fico’s *SMER-SD (Smer-Sociálna demokracia)* is therefore representative of the continuation of ethno-linguistic tensions. A top-down situation, Hungarian and Slovak leaders have, therefore, created the parameters of inter-ethnic divisions via language politics as a tool of political manipulation. Not intended to lend itself to sweeping generalizations, the present work instead highlights the critical mobilizing role of elite-based centrifugal tendencies in the Republic of Slovakia.

NAFISA TANJEEM: Slumdog Millionaire: A Transnational Imperial Project

How can the making of a movie turn into the process of making a colonial map? I address this query by exploring the case of “Slumdog Millionaire” – the widely applauded Oscar winning movie in 2008. This movie is about a Mumbai teen who grew up in slums and became a contestant on the Indian version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire”. He was arrested under suspicion of cheating, and while being interrogated, events from his life history are shown which explain why he knows the answers.

I argue that “Slumdog Millionaire” is a powerful continuation of a colonial understanding of India. In McClintock’s term, it can be interpreted as “a technology of possession, promising that those with the capacity to make such perfect representations must also have the right of territorial control” (1994, p. 28). It is a “First World” response to the “Third World” which authorizes validity of imperial actors over determining truths about the “Third World”. I extend the framework of “imperial social formation”, which is pioneered by Sinha (2006), with a view to excavating role of imperial philosophies in shaping racialized and gendered dynamics of “Slumdog Millionaire”. I examine how transnational actors, who are involved in the process of politicization of this movie, are constituted by a “globally articulated imperialist system” (Sinha, 2006, p. 17). I also analyze how a creative art piece can interpret culture, politics or economics of a particular society and while doing so, how it mediates and articulates meanings about social realities.

SHAMEEZ RABDI: The Influence of Ethnic Media on Immigrant Labour Market Integration and Political Participation

This paper employs an exploratory approach in examining the influence of ethnic media on immigrant labour market integration and political participation. The primary research question posed by this study is: Does the ethnic media promote political participation among its (immigrant) readership and does it, if at all, educate readers about the different means of attaining labour market integration? According to 2001 figures (the number could be higher now), 157 ethnic publications operate within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Employing a case study approach, four ethnic publications belonging to the Filipino and South Asian communities (two each) based in the GTA were selected for analysis. The first six months of 2010 served as the time frame for analysis. The choice of labour market integration and political participation reflect the fundamental correlation between these two factors in shaping overall immigrant experience in host societies.

Altogether, 412 article samples were included in the analysis. The study’s findings revealed a blend of ‘particular’ and ‘common’ traits. Particular traits which appeared distinct to a publication/community allowed for unique analysis of priorities and issues facing (relatively-speaking) immigrant communities. An example of a ‘particular’ trait observed in this study would be the attention devoted in Filipino publications to the Live-In Caregiver program in Canada. Common traits, on the other hand, were identifiable across publications/communities and allowed for more conclusive observations on the (potential) impact of ethnic media. An example of a ‘common’ trait was the commentary on immigrant labour market experiences, which could be found in each of the four publications. Overall, this paper contends that ethnic media can exert a considerable degree of influence on immigrant political participation and can be a useful resource for immigrants seeking information on labour market integration.

PAUL de SILVA: A Case study of an application to the CRTC for Canada One TV, a Cultural Diversity focused digital Television channel

Canada One TV, an application for a new digital television service, was conceived to fill an important programming gap in the present broadcasting system – a gap caused by the lack of innovative and entertaining dramatic content that inclusively reflects the rich cultural heritage of Canada.



Research has indicated a need for stories that come from the *authentic voices* of 2nd and 3rd generation diverse Canadians, from immigrant communities and from First Nations peoples – all voices that have and will continue to shape the cultural tapestry that defines Canada as a Nation. Regrettably they remain, for the most part, greatly under represented on Canadian television. As well, the voices of people with disabilities continue to be muted. The broadcasting system simply does not reflect the needs, nuances and interests of these growing communities. In part, this lack has been fostered by systemic barriers and a conspicuous absence of measurable government incentives and regulations which impact on issues concerning individual and national identity formation and inclusion and equity.

This paper and the Case Study examines the various aspects of an application for a new digital platform television channel focusing on cultural diversity and original Canadian Drama, designed to address inequities in the television broadcasting system . The application was filed under the CRTC Digital Migration framework, category 9(1) (h), mandatory carriage provisions, in 2006. The paper explores the conceptual and theoretical framework for the inclusion and representation of cultural and visible minorities in particular ,in front of and behind the camera, the legislative framework pertaining to this arena , the research and development phase of the concept, the process of acquiring partners, the application process, the response by members of the visible minority communities and other stakeholders to the application, the decision by the CRTC, the appeal to the Federal Cabinet on the ruling, and the relationships created between entrepreneurs and the Regulatory system in order to license new services reflecting cultural diversity in the television system in Canada.

Friday January 28th, 2:00-3:30
Session 7: “Identity”

JOSHUA HAROLD: Camping for Continuity: Ethnic Boundaries and Cultural Reproduction in the North American Jewish Community

Concerns over the survival of a distinctly Jewish peoplehood have become a central feature in religious and ethno-cultural discourses throughout the Jewish Diaspora, especially in North America. In response to these concerns, Jewish organizations have developed programs to reproduce ideologies and cultural themes which shape understandings of “authenticity” in Jewish identity. This paper examines one boundary mechanism that is important in the case of Canadian and American Jews; that is, how Jewish summer camps guide understandings of Jewish life and influence strategies of action. This sociological look involves an examination of literature and data on Jewish social patterns by focusing on how boundaries are constructed, and the outcomes of the summer camp experience on Jewish identification and in-group social contact. The author argues that in order to augment consensus building over social boundaries, Jewish summer camps reproduce hegemonic formulations of normative attitudes and behaviours grounded in a survivalist discourse. Of particular interest is the interaction between institutional structure, boundary negotiation among actors, and displays of group distinctiveness. The author concludes by suggesting that despite culture building efforts at camp, status distinctions and inequality are significant elements in the formation of an “authentic” Jewish person, practice, and ideological position. In this light, the construction of Jewish identity at camp may reinforce class divisions, thereby complicating or subverting culture building efforts in the larger Jewish community.

MINHA REOKENALLY HA: Adulthood and citizenship for 1.5 generation Korean immigrant youth

For 1.5 generation emerging adults and their first generation immigrant parents of ethnic Korean decent, the youth's integration into society and establishment of life as adults is the families' primary concern. In their accounts of adaptation experience and understanding of adulthood are revealed the values and beliefs as to who counts as the legitimate member of society and further as valued citizens. While emphasizing

interconnectedness and interdependence in conceptualizing maturity, discussion on different outcomes of integration (i.e. separation, assimilation, integration, marginalization) and social markers of adulthood reveal conflicting values and discourses that pose challenges to the connectedness, sense of belonging and inclusion of immigrant young adults. Preliminary analysis on the moral dimensions of adulthood, especially on the Asian notions of maturity and respect, critiques the current neoliberal notions of adulthood and highlights potentialities to inclusive, fair, and sound multiculturalism in the discussion of Canadian citizenship.

MARTHA FANJOY: There's no place like home(s): Return migration among Sudanese Refugees living in Calgary, Alberta

The UNHCR identifies three durable solutions for refugees - repatriation, local integration into the country of first asylum, and for a minority of refugees, third country resettlement. These solutions are often seen as distinct from one another, or as “stages in the refugee cycle” (Van Hear 2006: 10). The growing literature on transnationalism, however, has led to increasing criticism of this approach, arguing that it ignores the transnational nature of many refugee households (Al-Sharmani 2007, Sherell and Hyndman 2006, Um 2006, Van Hear 2006).

Based on fieldwork conducted in Calgary, Alberta and Juba, southern Sudan, with southern Sudanese refugees returning to Sudan since the end of the civil war in 2005, this paper challenges the notion of distinct, or final durable solutions and a linear model of refugee integration. It explores how transnational connections between Canada and Sudan often blur the lines between categories of “*resettlement and repatriation*,” “*country of origin and host country*”, and “*Sudanese and Canadian*”. Rather than presuming a directional finality to their movements, the experiences of Sudanese refugees as they move between Canada and Sudan highlights the “circularity of movement and the multidimensionality of connections” (Um 2006) present in their lives as they continue to negotiate various ways of being and belonging within an ever shifting transnational space.

KAI OLSON: Scandinavian Panethnicity Among North American Immigrants: A Theoretical Contradiction?

In recent decades, the concept of panethnicity has garnered interest as an essential process of ethnic change and particularism. These studies have concentrated their efforts on understanding how recent immigrant groups, most of whom being racialized minorities with a history of colonial oppression, created ethnic coalitions as a mechanism to combat discrimination from members and institutions of a host society, foster mutual economic and political interests, and realign ethnic boundaries to better serve individual and group needs. Thus, the course of certain panethnic groups, primarily Asians, Hispanics, South-Asians, and American Indians, has emerged as the general narrative of “panethnicity,” where the impetus to unite was principally driven by exogenous inequalities encountered upon arrival in North America.

In light of contemporary research, however, the experiences of Scandinavians in North America offer a particularly compelling opportunity to re-examine what it means to be panethnic. Despite their easy assimilation into mainstream society, Scandinavians were often considered by outsiders as a contiguous ethnic group that displayed similar characteristics in language, politics, geographical concentration, and phenotypical characteristics. The degree to which Scandinavians themselves, however, identified as “Scandinavian” remains an understudied topic in North American immigration history. This exploratory essay seeks to sketch the parameters of Scandinavian panethnicity by examining the experiences of nineteenth and early twentieth century Scandinavian immigrants in relation to existing panethnic literature produced within the social sciences.



Friday January 28th, 3:45-5:15
Session 8: "Migration and Refugees"

STEPHANIE SILVERMAN: How Long Is Too Long? An Examination of the Practice of Long-term Immigration Detention in Canada

This paper will examine the debate in Canada relating to the federal government's practice of long-term immigration detention. Studies indicate that a lack of time limits exacerbates the trauma of experiencing immigration detention (see, for example, de Zayas, 2005; American Civil Liberties Union, 2009; Mukhopadhyay, 2009; and Royal College of General Practitioners, 2009). According to its obligations to uphold the basic rights of refugees and immigrants, the Canadian government should refrain from inflicting this sort of trauma. However, the Canadian government is also beholden to its citizenry to enforce immigration law, and this mandate includes detaining people whose immigration statuses are contested. In the case of stateless persons, ex-offenders, or people who cannot afford bail, periods of immigration detention can draw out over many weeks or months, thereby further traumatizing already vulnerable people. The fact that the government has dual, but contradictory, obligations relating to long-term immigration detention points to the complexity of the issue.

The paper will begin by outlining both the Canadian government's justifications for long-term immigration detention and the arguments of local and international activists that condemn it. The paper will further complicate the discussion by exploring theoretical and practical ramifications of campaigning solely against long-term immigration detention, among which the risk of inadvertently normalizing shorter periods of detention as appropriate responses to immigration influxes arguably ranks highest. This paper contributes to a growing body of literature questioning the propriety of practicing immigration detention in liberal states.

JESSICA KING: Social cohesion, language policy, and the immigrant language learner: Examining the connection between policy and learner narrative

As a marked shift in Canadian multiculturalism policy emphasizing strengthened networks of cooperation within communities and wider society, the discourse of social cohesion influences understandings of the role of newcomers in a socially cohesive society. This paper explores the impact of the discourse of social cohesion on a language learner through language policy in Canada. The analysis will show the ways in which the policy discourse of social cohesion influences the selection of ESP (English for Specific Purposes) language programs available to newcomers.

Drawing on the language learning narrative of an internationally trained professor and immigrant woman, the analysis will also focus on how the subject is positioned within a federally funded language training program for internationally trained college teachers and, consequently, within the discourse of social cohesion. Here the impact of language policy on the subject is considered in terms of language policy, "the deliberate state or institutionally sponsored efforts to influence the behaviour of others with respect to the acquisition, structure, of functional allocation of language (King & DeFina, 2010, p. 652), and language politics, "the political, social, and cultural consequences of such efforts." In this way, the subject's relationship to language policy and to the wider policy discourse of social cohesion manifests itself within the narrative through experience of language programs such as Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC), college English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses, and ESP courses, and through internalization of societal attitudes toward immigrant language learners in Canada. This is a preliminary study informing a future dissertation proposal which investigates the narratives of 'successfully integrated' professional immigrant women.

OMAR FARUQUE: Contested Citizenship and Divided Homeland: The Biharis in Bangladesh

After the break-up of Pakistan in 1971, the Biharis lost their citizenship in the new state, Bangladesh. Bengali nationalism, which Bangladesh adopted as one of the four pillars of national identity, excluded the Biharis from the broader political community. Drawing on the sociological literature of citizenship and belonging, I examine the contested citizenship of the Biharis in Bangladesh. In sociological literature, citizenship is conceived of as a social process which requires a set of practices to develop individual consciousness, strong sense of belonging, political agency, and representation. I apply these criteria to examine the citizenship issue of the Biharis.

I argue that the citizenship of the Biharis can be best understood through the lens of sociological literature which explains that in addition to legal aspects of citizenship, a set of social processes is required to push the agenda of citizenship of the Biharis in the public sphere. Such a political strategy will help erase enemy identity and ensure effective citizenship. Considering the long-standing hatred, discrimination and enemy identity of the Biharis, any quick-fix policy recommendation based on the notion of 'human rights' or legal solution cannot accomplish the dreams of the young generation Biharis who are mobilizing the community to acquire Bangladeshi citizenship. I also argue that a careful articulation of political identity is required, which goes beyond the domain of policy analysis and involves individual consciousness, mobilization, and community activities.

ALISHA TICKU: Growing Pains: (Un)mapping Geographies of Citizenship, Labour and Migration in Dubai

This paper explores the effects of contemporary neoliberal globalization on transnational migration, national citizenship regimes and ethnic relations. While on the one hand, neoliberal economic globalization has placed emphasis on 'opening up' borders for the 'free' flow of trade, on the other hand, migration and labour have become increasingly important sites for regulating citizenship-based entitlements and shaping notions of national belonging. Set against these tendencies, this paper asks how the proliferation of temporary and visa-based work permit programs impacts the stratification of workers, based on national origin? I develop an original analysis focusing on the Gulf Region, which includes the six oil rich countries comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

In specific, I explore the construction of Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) as a modern, cosmopolitan city premised on rapid industrial capitalist development under the networks and logics of globalization. This case study explores how geographies of migration are linked to genealogies of colonialism in relation to both nation-state formation and modern subjectivities. The methodology of (un) mapping exposes the logics of nation building, seen through the stratified subject positions of (Emirati) nationals, ex-pat professionals and labour migrants. I trace how these identities are linked to the exploitation of racialized, gendered labour and the supremacy of global capitalist values, which work together to produce a hierarchical ordering of subjects. In addition, I ask how various categories of subjects understand and know themselves through the organization of space, as well as their encounters with different subjects. Through an intradisciplinary approach, I ask the relevance of this case study and develop new theoretical tools in understanding national subject formation as well as shifts in migration, labour and citizenship policy transnationally.