



# UBC Migration

## March 2020 Newsletter

[ website ]

WWW.MIGRATION.UBC.CA

### Message from the Co-Leads || Antje Ellermann & Suzanne Huot

These past few weeks have brought a cascade of stories, reports and advisories that have been as unsettling as they have been extraordinary. During troubling times like these, we understand and respect the critical need to turn our priorities to the health and well-being of family, friends, communities and loved ones.

We are inspired by the effort, commitment and creativity of our members. While our office remains closed, we continue to work remotely to build connections and move our collaborations forward. We welcome any feedback--your ideas, your questions, your concerns--and are proud to be part of such a fantastic community.

Take care of yourselves, and those around you.  
Antje & Suzanne



### Community-UBC Refugee & Migration Working Group:

A multi-agency partnership informing knowledge, practice, and research

The *Community-UBC Refugee & Migration Working Group* connects members from across sectors and agencies who work collectively to inform public knowledge, practice, and research. The Working Group was first formed in 2015, when members organized a series of talks and an open house at a local settlement agency with a focus on refugee resettlement pathways. In 2016, the group coordinated a symposium alongside a University of British Columbia (UBC) opera on the refugee experience. Since 2017 the group has hosted a public symposium focusing on the leadership and rights of refugees who identify as LGBTQI+, in addition to facilitating an exchange that brought young people from refugee backgrounds to campus. This year, the Working Group is coordinating a storytelling project using filmmaking to advance anti-oppression work led by youth from newcomer and non-newcomer backgrounds. Sparking dialogue through panels, music, film, and media making, the Working Group continues to generate opportunities to better understand the insights and contributions of newcomers to their local communities. Outcomes of the group's collective efforts are evident in the reach of its initiatives, which have involved over 1,500 event attendees since 2015.

Working Group members enjoy the dynamics of their collaboration, appreciating the strategic benefits of working across traditional boundaries that can separate settlement agencies and academic units. Community partners of the group have included representatives from MOSAIC, Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST), AMSSA, Options Community Services Society, ISSoFBC, and the Vancouver Immigration Partnership with the City of Vancouver. University partners have included staff, faculty, and student representatives of the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, International Student Development, WUSC Scholars, UBC Migration, and Community Engagement at UBC. The unique partnership model of the Working Group is effective in bridging across the interests of community leaders, service providers, academics, and members of the public.

Working Group members envision how sharing stories can amplify the voices of individuals and communities. The Working Group's current project invites newcomer and non-newcomer youth to create short films on what belonging, diversity, and journeys of starting over mean to them. Engaging with stories can be a powerful way for people to connect with one another, deepen their knowledge, and reflect on their values. It is hoped that supporting storytelling can build solidarity across youth peoples' experiences of transitions. To help these stories travel well, the Working Group is aiming for short films that youth create to become resources that can enable learning within and beyond community and classroom contexts.

The Working Group is a collaborative venture amongst representatives from multiple community organizations and academic units who work in partnership. Each partner shares resources, space, ideas, and networks to pursue the goals of the group. Given these strengths, the Working Group is well positioned to meet emerging needs about what has been missing in narratives and research on migration, and how to address myths and misinformation about immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and undocumented peoples. The group's approach to partnership leverages its collective strengths and values. Partners circulate and lend support for one another's unique initiatives, while cooperating on joint projects, showing how multi-agency community-university partnerships can thrive.

### Community-UBC Refugee & Migration Working Group Membership

**University Members:** Saguna Shankar, Suzanne Huot & Sean Lauer (UBC Migration); Lindsay Marsh (Public Policy and Global Affairs); Kat Cureton & Zsuzsi Fodor (Community Engagement); Sarah Cameron (International Student Development); Rama Hamid (UBC WUSC)

**Community Members:** Saleem Spindari, Darae Lee & Alexandra Dawley (MOSAIC); Mariana Martinez Vieyra (VAST); Khim Tan, Jenny Lam & Alysha Baratta (Options Community Services); Katie Rosenberger (AMSSA); Kathy Sherrell (ISSoFBC)

**Continuing Members:** Nadia Carvalho (City of Vancouver) and Ismael Traoré (Centre for Community Engaged Learning)

**Due to concerns over COVID-19, all upcoming events have been canceled.**

Look for future announcements via our mailing list or event webpage once scheduling resumes.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**RSVP online:**  
[migration.ubc.ca/events](https://migration.ubc.ca/events)

### UBC Migration Welcomes Douglas Ober as Research Coordinator

I am thrilled to be joining the Migration Cluster as a Research Coordinator. I first came to Vancouver in 2011 for doctoral studies in UBC's Department of Asian Studies (PhD, 2017) and since that time, I've worked on a variety of projects and initiatives, from the perspective of a graduate student, faculty member and administrator. Most of my academic training is in South Asian languages and the history of South Asia, and I've conducted long-term field and archival research across the region. The foundation for much of this work was laid during earlier years I spent managing study abroad programs in the Indian Himalayas and a community-driven partnership I co-directed with Tibetan villagers in western China. Beyond the work I'll be doing for the cluster, I'm also writing a book on the history of Buddhist revival in colonial India (currently under review with the University of Chicago Press) and am co-editing two Special Issues on the "Politics of Citizenship and Belonging" and "Memory and History."

I look forward to meeting all of you--virtually for the time being, but hopefully in person soon.



### Call for Research Assistant || Dr. Amanda Cheong (UBC Sociology)

Dr. Cheong is looking to hire one or more graduate students to support her SSHRC Explore Grant-funded research project investigating "birth tourism" in Canada. The project is being carried out in collaboration with a political scientist and two legal scholars at Carleton University and the University of Ottawa.

This part-time position, paid at an hourly rate of \$33.10, will involve conducting qualitative interviews with non-Canadians who give birth in Canada. Dr. Cheong is seeking graduate students who have experience or interest in conducting qualitative research as well fluency in a non-English language.

Those interested in joining the project should get in touch with Dr. Cheong at [amanda.cheong@ubc.ca](mailto:amanda.cheong@ubc.ca). Please include a CV and writing sample (optional) in your application, as well as a brief description of your research methods background and language competencies.

### Call for Research Assistant || Dr. Aryan Karimi (UBC Sociology)

Dr. Karimi is looking to hire a graduate student to support the research project with recruiting participants and conducting semi-structured interviews. The PI has already contacted refugee sponsorship organizations and has secured interviews with over a dozen private sponsors.

The student is expected to follow and "shadow" the PI during the early days of their involvement in the project. The student is then expected to independently reach out to target organizations to recruit participants and conduct interviews following the interview guide. Participant recruitment may require email contacts, phone calls, and visits to target organizations.

The position, budgeted for around 150 hours, is scheduled to start in late April or early May. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Karimi at [aryan.karimi@ubc.ca](mailto:aryan.karimi@ubc.ca).

### Faculty Feature Book Q&A with Matthew Wright

#### Immigration and the American Ethos

Cambridge University Press

Morris Levy & Matthew Wright

#### What are the major themes and takeaways in *Immigration and the American Ethos*?

What is it that Americans want from their immigration policy, and why? A widespread consensus has them primarily driven by tribalistic notions of "us" and "them." We challenge this view, arguing that, for the most part, it is Americans' commitments to "creedal" values that guides their opinions in this domain. The values we identify -- individualism, egalitarianism, humanitarianism, and support for the rule of law -- are central to Americans' beliefs about what the political community owes to its aspiring members and what they owe in return. These perceptions of "civic fairness" are the dominant guideposts by which most Americans navigate immigration controversies most of the time.

Throughout the book, we make three major claims about civic fairness values: 1) they help us explain nuance in Americans' immigration policy attitudes that prevailing group-centrist attitudes cannot; 2) many empirical patterns used to support group-centrist theories are better-explained by civic fairness values, and; 3) when civic fairness values and group loyalties come into conflict, the former exerts a stronger pull for most Americans, most of the time.

#### Where would you situate *Immigration and the American Ethos* in the larger field of Migration Studies? How do you see it contributing to contemporary debates?

Recent academic books on immigration in the U.S. fall into three broad categories. The first, which has strong footholds in both sociology and political science, traces back at least to Milton Gordon's seminal *Assimilation in American Life* (1964) and seeks to understand patterns of socio-political integration among immigrant populations. Some work, such as Alba & Nee's *Immigrant America* (2006) and Vigdor's *From Immigrants to Americans* (2011) tackle more immediate factors related to immigrants' social and economic background. Finally, some of this work -- for example Bloemraad's *Becoming a Citizen* (2006), Ramakrishnan's *Democracy in Immigrant America* (2005), and Wong's *Democracy's Promise* (2006) -- tackles immigrant incorporation from the standpoint of political institutions.

A second strand of literature could be classified as "political development" or "policy history", and seeks to explain the historic evolution of immigration policy in the U.S. Examples include (but are not limited to) Fuchs' *The American Kaleidoscope* (1990), Gimpel and Edwards' *The Congressional Politics of Immigration Reform* (1999), Martin's *A Nation of Immigrants* (2011), Pickus' *True Faith and Allegiance* (2005), Smith's *Civic Ideals* (1997), Tichenor's *Dividing Lines* (2002), and Zolberg's *A Nation by Design* (2006). While emphasis varies, most of these works explain policy developments through some combination of political institutions and actors, playing against the backdrop of American "political culture".

A third, which arguably traces back to John Higham's *Strangers in the Land* (1955; 2008), includes books on "nativism" and ethnocentrism in public opinion. Some books in this area, for example Schrag's *Not Fit For Our Society* (2010) or Chavez' *The Latino Threat* (2008), make their arguments drawing from politics and society in a holistic way. More relevant to our purposes, however, is the large body of work that analyzes public opinion using modern statistical techniques, with some key examples being Citrin and Sears' *American Identity and the Politics of Multiculturalism* (2014), Kinder and Kam's *Us Against Them* (2009), Masuoka and Junn's *The Politics of Belonging* (2013), Sniderman et. al's *The Outsider* (2000), Sniderman and Hagendoorn's *When Ways of Life Collide* (2007), Schildraut's *Press One For English* (2005) and *Americanism in the Twenty-First Century* (2011), Theiss-Morse's *Who Counts as an American?* (2009), and Wong's *Boundaries of Obligation in American Politics* (2010).

Our book says relatively little about immigrant incorporation, but addresses the latter two streams much more directly. As noted above, the "political development" literature pays virtually no attention to public opinion as a driving factor. On the other hand, work on anti-immigrant sentiment in public opinion downplays the multifaceted nature of immigration policy attitudes themselves, explanatory factors outside of "social identities" broadly construed, and barely touches the question of how public opinion translates to public policy. We intend to address the gaps in both of these literatures, and serve as a much-needed (and heretofore absent) bridge between them.

#### What was the research process like for *Immigration and the American Ethos*?

We have been working on this book since roughly 2012. Over that time, we've slowly accumulated three different kinds of evidence: 1) a comprehensive collection of U.S. public opinion surveys conducted on immigration-related topics since 1965; 2) Almost two decades' worth (2000-2016) of news articles from major newspapers on immigrants and immigrations; 3) a series of bespoke surveys containing experiments designed to test theoretical ideas about motivation.

By 2016 or so, this evidence had been marshalled into various papers, chapters, and, ultimately, a working manuscript. At this point, we solicited feedback from experts around the world. Absorbing and incorporating this feedback into extensive re-framing and re-writing occupied the time remaining until publication

#### Do you have any future plans to continue this research project?

We have in mind two major projects that follow logically from this one. One is a broadly comparative analysis of what citizens in immigrant-receiving democracies expect in terms of immigrants' integration and why. This project would isolate a particular set of values distinct from what we looked at in the book; in the main, it would ask what (and how) people think about questions of cultural rights. In terms of evidence, we would apply many of the same techniques used in our book, but scaled up over many countries in order to catch cross-country variation in macro-politics.

Another is a U.S.-based project on framing and persuasion. There, we would pick up on the possibilities outlined in the book and ask whether or not immigration attitudes are vulnerable to information and, if so, what *kinds* of information and with how long-lasting an effect?

**CALL for NEWS**

We invite all members of UBC Migration to send in news items for inclusion in our next newsletter. We look forward to receiving news about new publications, professional appointments, or other honors, conferences / workshops organized, and major grants received.

Please include "member news" in the subject line of your email. We look forward to hearing from you!

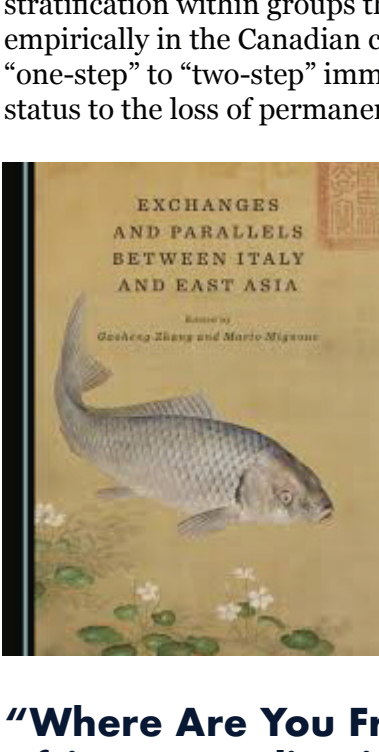
email to: [admin.migration@ubc.ca](mailto:admin.migration@ubc.ca)

### Recent Publications from Cluster Members

#### Journal Articles

**Ellermann, A. & Gorokhovskaia, Y. (2020).** "The impermanence of permanence: The rise of probationary immigration in Canada." *International Migration*.

This article engages with arguments that contemporary immigration politics is defined by a "loss of settlement" by examining recent developments in Canadian immigration and refugee policy that have made permanent residence less permanent. We suggest that the rise of probationary immigration has been facilitated by horizontal status stratification within groups that were historically marked by relative status equality. In order to examine this claim empirically in the Canadian context, we analyze the rise of temporary foreign worker recruitment, the move from "one-step" to "two-step" immigration, and changes to refugee policy that, for the first time, linked loss of refugee status to the loss of permanent resident status.



**Books**  
**Exchanges and Parallels Between Italy and East Asia**  
**Cambridge Scholars Publishing**  
**Gaoheng Zhang & Mario Mignone (Editors)**

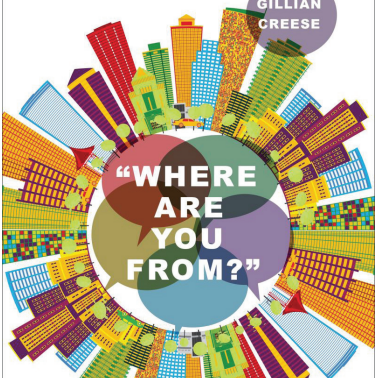
This collection of essays is the first English-language study to present the latest research on Italy's cultural relationships with China and Japan across the centuries. It explores topics ranging from travel writing to creative arts, from translation to religious accommodation, and from Cold War politics to Chinese American cuisine. The volume draws on the expertise of an interdisciplinary group of scholars trained and working in Europe, East Asia, and North America who re-assess research foci and frames, showcase transcultural and theoretically-informed research, and help to strengthen this field of study.

#### "Where Are You From?": Growing Up African-Canadian in Vancouver

University of Toronto Press

Gillian Creese

Metro Vancouver is a diverse city where half the residents identify as people of colour, but only one percent of the population is racialized as Black. In this context, African-Canadians are both hyper-visible as Black, and invisible as distinct communities. Informed by feminist and critical race theories, and based on interviews with women and men who grew up in Vancouver, "Where Are You From?" recounts the unique experience of growing up in a place where the second generation seldom sees other people who look like them, and yet are inundated with popular representations of Blackness from the United States. This study explores how the second generation in Vancouver redefine their African identities to distinguish themselves from African-Americans, while continuing to experience considerable everyday racism that challenges belonging as Canadians. As a result, some members of the second generation reject, and others strongly assert, a Canadian identity.



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