

Service Provider Perspectives on Enabling Migrant Social Participation: Cultivating Spaces, Occupations and Networks

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**THE UNIVERSITY
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Reflection

- Think of a time when you were trying to participate in a new community (e.g. neighbourhood, workplace, club etc.).
 - What activities did you do in order to participate?
 - Where did you do them?
 - Who did you do them with?

Defining Terms

Migrants

- A person who is outside their country of origin
- Immigrants and refugees

(Canadian Council of Refugees, 2010)

Defining Terms

Occupations

- Groups of activities and tasks of everyday life
- Named, organized, and given meaning by individuals and culture
- Core domain and the therapeutic medium of occupational therapy

(Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists, 2002)

Defining Terms

Social Participation

- Engagement in meaningful occupations (Kielhofner and Forsyth, 1997; Larsson-Lund & Nyman, 2017)
- Enables
 - desired social roles and social identities
 - involvement in formal and informal social settings
- Equitable access supported by policies, laws and social structures (Niemi et al., 2019)

Rationale: Multiculturalism Act

*“Encourage and assist business community, labour organizations, voluntary and other private organizations, as well as public institutions in ensuring
full participation*

in Canadian society, including the

social and economic

aspects, of individuals of all origins and their communities, and in promoting respect and appreciation for the multicultural reality of Canada”

Rationale: Occupational Justice

- Occupational Justice (Hocking, 2017; WFOT, 2006)
 - Migrants face inequitable access to participation (Gupta, 2012; Hocking, 2017; Stadnyk, Townsend & Wilcock, 2010)
 - Advocates for social, political, structural and institutional changes
- Why Service providers
 - Influence at institutional level
 - Advocates
 - Gap in literature

Objectives

1. How do service providers promote migrant social participation through occupational opportunities?
2. What are the perceived benefits and barriers to migrants' engagement in these occupational opportunities?

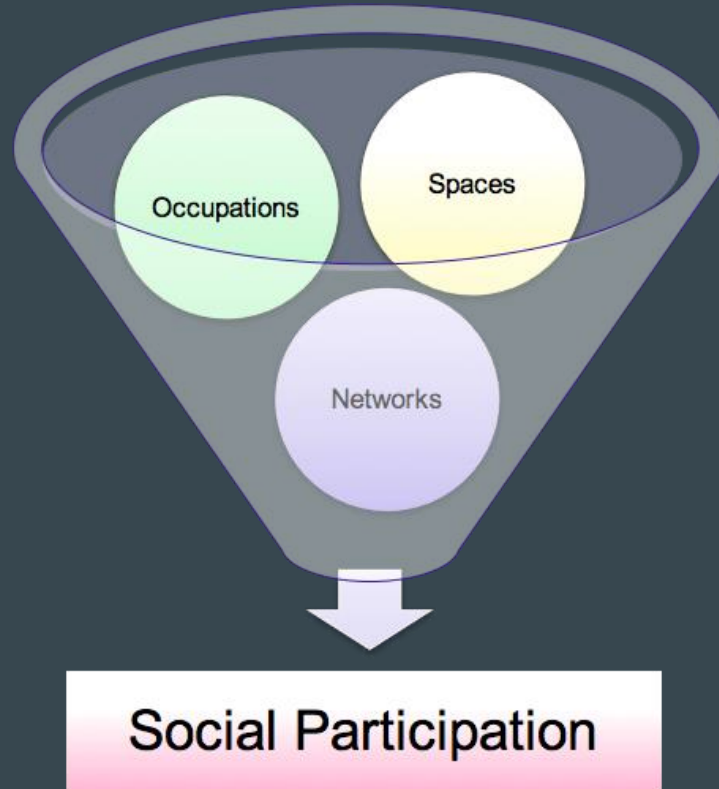
Methodology & Participants

- Qualitative Research
 - Constructivist paradigm; interpretive description
- Stakeholders from 20 service providing agencies/organizations
 - Serve migrants and/or the general population in the Lower Mainland, British Columbia
 - Included settlement specific agencies and those serving migrants along with the broader population

Data Collection & Analysis

- Key informant interviews, semi-structured, 45-60 minutes
- Thematic Data Analysis
 - Familiarization, generating codes and constructing themes

Findings: Conceptual Model



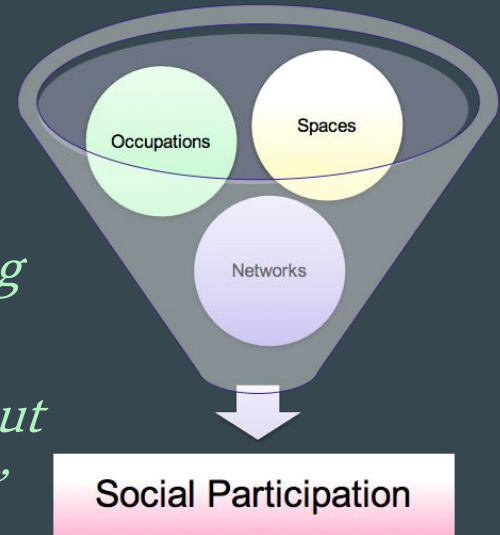
Cultivating Social Occupations

Preparatory occupational opportunities

“Conversation circles are a great way, because you bring people together [...] on an informal basis to be able to practice language. And it's using settlement concepts, but it's a lot about just connecting, about talking to others.”

Social engagement occupational opportunities

“People love food and all of the cultures that we work with, that's how they bond, you know? And so we, we do a lot of like group community kitchens.”



Cultivating Social Spaces

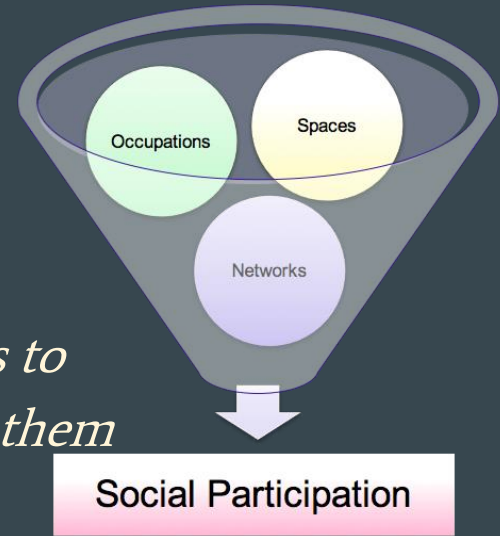
Physical spaces

Access to social hubs

“We do field trips [...] from museums to cultural events to movies in the park. Anything that gets people out, gets them connecting.”

Provision of space for autonomous organizing

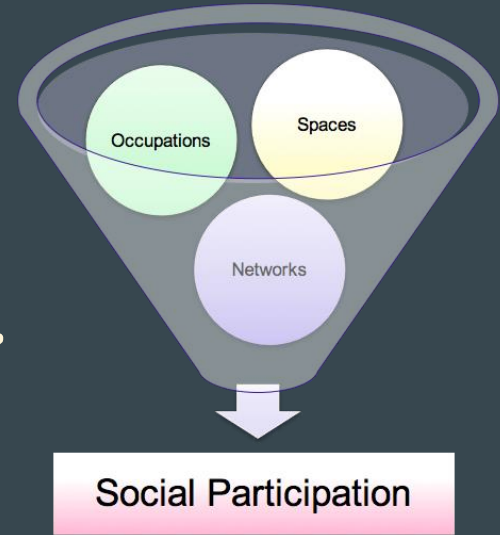
“we do offer a community room, here. Free of charge. ... and, you'd be amazed to see people organize language classes there, to teach their own languages to their community members.”



Cultivating Social Spaces

Ideological spaces

“Human beings with each other, trying [...] to decrease as much as possible this power imbalance of we are the ones who are helping you, you are the ones who are receiving help.”



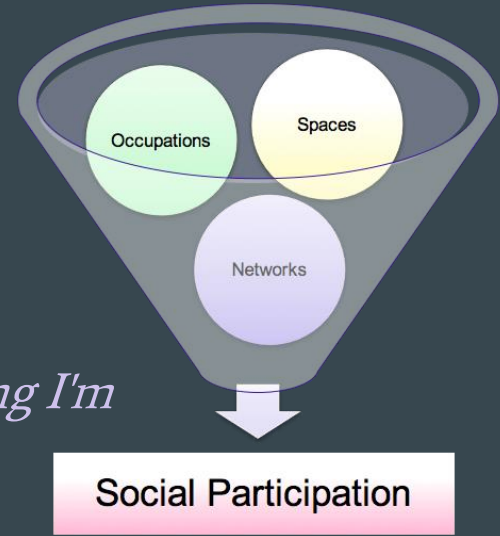
Cultivating Social Networks

Other newcomer migrants

“So the idea is they can come, they're learning something. There's a facilitator who's teaching them how to knit. But again, they're talking. And in talking, they're sat recognizing I'm not alone”

Neighbours

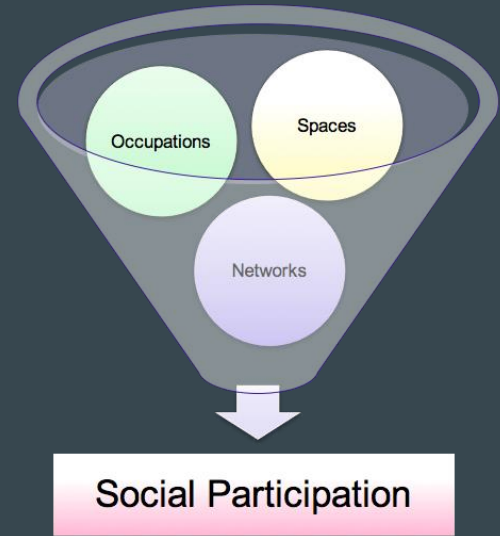
“we partner with all sorts of other organizations including [settlement agencies]. It's like, neighborhood houses, sometimes community centers, sometimes also school boards, and that's where we [...] have our classes”



Cultivating Social Networks

Gatekeepers

“A person living in Canada for a long time helps some new person with everything. With the English language, instruction, [...]. Or taking them to the places where they have never been. ‘Okay, here's health care. There is a hospital. Here is a medical center. This is where you can go for a walk in clinic.’ To take them there or even to inform them that these are the places where you can take advantage of those services or go for your needs, can play a huge part”



Discussion

- Dynamic Interplay
 - Cultivating social occupations, spaces and networks interact
 - Change one to influence rest
 - Promote desired social roles, identities and engagement in a variety of settings
 - SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

Implications

- Advocacy
 - Service Providers
 - Privy to systemic barriers (e.g. funding)
 - Institutional role enabling migrant social participation
 - Occupational Therapists and Scientists
 - Collaborate with service providers to fulfill
 - Canada's Multiculturalism Act
 - Occupational Justice

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Discussion Questions

- What did you learn from the presentation?
 - Did anything differ from your expectations?
 - Did anything resonate with you?
- What would you want to add to our understanding of your role in supporting migrants' social participation?
- From your perspective, what, if anything, is still missing from the findings?

Discussion Questions

- Given that most migrants are admitted to Canada under the economic category, and that most government funding supports economic enhancement
 - What do you think is needed for your organization to fulfill the Canada's Multiculturalism act and enable full ECONOMIC and SOCIAL participation in society?
- After participating in this think tank:
 - What would you like to tell policy makers?
 - What would you like to tell the general public?

Takeaway

- Write down one question you would like to take back to your organization to keep this conversation going