



UBC Centre for Migration Studies

Summer 2021 Newsletter

[website] WWW.MIGRATION.UBC.CA

The Director's Letter [Antje Ellermann](#)

This past year has been like no other. We all confronted situations that pushed us to our limits in unanticipated ways. Some of us have endured profound losses: the loss of loved ones, the loss of health, the loss of economic security. Some of us have been the target of heightened racism. Many of us have felt isolated, missing community and face-to-face interactions. Whatever work-life balance working parents among us had constructed prior to the pandemic, it fell like a house of cards in the face of school and daycare closures and the demands of home schooling.

As I am writing this, we are once again confronted with the atrocities of colonization as we mourn the 215 children who did not survive the Kamloops Residential School and the 751 unmarked graves found at the site of the former Marieval Indian Residential School. We mourn with their families, communities, and survivors of the horrors of the Indian Residential School system. We recognize our own accountability to the first peoples of this land – the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səɫɪlwəta (Tsleil-Waututh) – on whose traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories we work, live, and play.

Barely three years after the creation of the Migration Research Excellence Cluster, we continue to grow, with an on-campus community of now more than 70 UBC faculty and nearly 60 graduate students. Our partnerships with community partners are stronger than ever. In late 2020, our application to be recognized as a research centre within the Faculty of Arts was approved, and the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) established. This was a dream come true, even if we have not (yet) been able to celebrate together!

Before I share in more detail our plans for the upcoming year and reflect on some of the achievements of the past, I want to express my gratitude to the many people without whom none of this would have been possible. A heartfelt thank you to the 19 members of the CMS [Executive Committee](#) who have so freely given their time, energy, and expertise. Thank you especially to Dan Hiebert (Professor, Geography) for his work as the CMS Policy Liaison, Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology) for his role as Community Liaison, Sandra Schinnerl (Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Studies) and Molly Joeck (Ph.D. student, Allard School of Law) as our graduate student representatives, and Katie Crocker (CEO, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC) and Kathy Sherrell (Associate Director, Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia) as our community representatives. Just three days before we moved into remote work at the beginning of 2020, we were lucky to hire Doug Ober as our Manager of Programs and Initiatives. Without him, little of what we accomplished over the past year would have been possible. Our work has also been supported by the many graduate students who provided essential administrative and research support to CMS. A special shout-out to Emily Amburgey (Ph.D. student, Anthropology) and Atieh Razavi Yekta (Ph.D. student, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) for hosting our Zoom speaker series, to Dustin Gray (Ph.D. student, Geography) for communications support, and to Saguna Shankar (Ph.D. student, Library, Archival and Information Studies) for her community liaison work.

We acknowledge the manifold sources of institutional support that UBC provides us. For continued financial support through the GCRC program we thank the Office of the Vice President, Research and Innovation. We are deeply grateful to the institutional sponsors of the Centre for Migration Studies for their generous support: The Faculty of Arts, the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, and the Peter A. Allard School of Law. For their willingness to believe in us and make the Centre happen, a special thank you goes to Dean Gage Averill and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies Brett Eaton in the Faculty of Arts, and to Richard Price (Professor and Head) in Political Science.

I would now like to take the opportunity to reflect on the year behind us and offer a glimpse of our plans for the coming year.

Research Collaborations

The Centre for Migration Studies is a community of migration and mobility scholars who engage and collaborate across disciplines. Many of our collaborations take place in **organized research groups**. This year, we were delighted to welcome two new groups. The [Research Creation](#) group brings together researchers and artists at UBC and beyond to explore the intersection of the arts and scholarship in the study of migration. The group is coordinated by Erin Goheen Glanville (Sessional Lecturer, Coordinated Arts Program, English Language and Literatures) and Anne Murphy (Associate Professor, History). The [Political Behaviour](#) group, coordinated by Matthew Wright (Associate Professor, Political Science), engages with current research on immigration as it connects to topics in political behaviour and public opinion.

These new groups join longer established groups in the areas of [Borders](#) (Group Coordinator: Ben Goold, Professor, Allard School of Law), [Community-University Partnerships](#) (Group Coordinator: Suzanne Huot, Assistant Professor, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy), [Migration and Indigeneity](#) (Group Coordinator: Rima Wilkes, Professor, Sociology), [Mobilities](#) (Group Coordinator: Gaoheng Zhang, Assistant Professor, French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies), and [Narratives](#) (Group Coordinator: Markus Hallensleben, Associate Professor, Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies).

Each research group pursues its own initiatives and programing. Over the coming year, the groups will meet to discuss work-in-progress and readings (including migration comics!), apply for research grants and co-author work; organize conferences, graduate student roundtables, and webinars; network with scholars across North America, Europe, and Asia, and organize a public arts competition and documentary film screening.

CMS research groups are open to all of our affiliates, including faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and community partners. I encourage you to learn more about the groups on the CMS website. If you'd like to explore ways of becoming involved, simply email the group coordinator.

A CMS research collaboration that began during the pandemic is "Belonging in Unceded Territory," a community-engaged project funded through a **SSHRC Partnership Development grant** and led by Antje Ellermann (Professor, Political Science). The interdisciplinary UBC team includes 8 faculty members and several graduate students, working together with Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC (AMSSA), and Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC). The project seeks to bring settler colonialism into the center of debates on social belonging in Metro Vancouver. We ask: what does it mean for today's settlers – those among us who have lived here for generations, and those who have just arrived – to acknowledge our own position in relation to Indigenous presence in these lands? Over the past year, we have collaborated with Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House to explore these questions through interviews with a wide range of organizational leaders and activists, as well as talking circles with Indigenous activists and community members. In the year ahead, we will work together with our three community partners to expand these circles to a wider range of community groups.

Over the past year, CMS provided matching funds for **4 SSHRC Connection grant-funded workshops**: (1) "When Local Meets Transnational: The Effects of Immigrants Circulating Between Hong Kong and Canada," organized by Miu Chung Yan (Professor, UBC Social Work), Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, UBC Sociology) and Eric Fong (Professor, Sociology, University of Hong Kong); (2) "New Media Aesthetics of Movement: Social Media, Digital Technologies, and Contemporary Migration," organized by Biz Nijdam (Assistant Professor without Review, UBC Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies) and Gaoheng Zhang (Assistant Professor, UBC French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies); (3) "Storytelling as Research: Unsettling the Cultural Politics of Diversity through Filmmaking," organized by Markus Hallensleben (Associate Professor, UBC Central, Eastern, and Northern European Studies) and Erin Goheen Glanville (Sessional Lecturer, UBC Coordinated Arts Program, English Language and Literatures); and (4) "Graphic Narratives of Migration," organized by Antje Ellermann (Professor, UBC Political Science), Mireille Paquet (Associate Professor, Political Science, Concordia University), and Frederik Köhlert (Lecturer, School of Art, Media and American Studies, University of East Anglia), and Sarah Leavitt (Lecturer, UBC Creative Writing). This workshop, which will involve over 30 CMS faculty affiliates and graduate students, is now scheduled to place in the spring of 2022.

In 2021/22, the Centre will once again make available **financial support to new research collaborations** through matching funds for SSHRC Connection grants.

In order to showcase the migration research happening at UBC, 2021/22 will further see the publication of an Open-Access **CMS Working Paper series**, edited by Antje Ellermann (Professor, Political Science). In the coming weeks, expect to see the call for papers as well as details about a **new CMS grant competition for affiliated faculty** that will offer Graduate Research Assistant support for collaborative work to be published in the series.

Immigration Data Hub

Over the past year, Dan Hiebert (Professor, Geography) and graduate student Sandra Schinnerl (Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Studies) have developed an impressive Data Hub that collates and graphically presents immigration-related statistics collected by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) and Statistics

Canada. The Immigration Data Hub can be accessed through the CMS website and will go live this summer. It will be of interest not only to researchers – faculty, students, and independent researchers – who seek to analyze Canadian immigration data but also to instructors and community organizations looking for data presented in visually appealing dashboard form. The CMS will run training sessions and offer an **annual prize for student papers** utilizing the data. The Immigration Data Hub initiative builds on Dan Hiebert's work as CMS Policy Liaison which, over the past year, has included regular immigration data presentations to B.C. immigrant serving agencies.

Community Engagement

We are thrilled to have received funding for a 2-year **pilot initiative** that will link UBC migration researchers from across faculties with the BC settlement sector. Beginning in September, a new **community-university staff position** will allow us to deepen and broaden relationships and collaborations with community partners focused on research, advocacy, and capacity-building. The position will be housed in the Centre for Migration Studies and will work closely with CMS Community Liaison Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology) and Katie Crocker, CEO of AMSSA).

As we put in place governance structures for the Centre for Migration Studies, Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology), Suzanne Huot (Assistant Professor, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy), and Katie Crocker (CEO, AMSSA) have held focus groups with community representatives to support the establishment of a **Community Advisory Board**. This process will continue over the summer months and we hope that, by the fall, we will have in place an advisory board composed of representatives of immigrant serving agencies and other community sectors.

It's been a busy spring for our CMS Community Liaison! Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology), supported by Saguna Shankar (Ph.D. student, Library, Archival and Information Studies) conducted an **Organizational Survey** to assess the research capacity, activities, and research needs of immigrant serving agencies across B.C. Through a GRA position, CMS further supported the [Storytelling for Change](#) Filmmaking Campaign organized by the [Community-UBC Refugee and Migration Working Group](#). In the coming year, the CMS Community Liaison will support AMSSA in exploring the creation of a province-wide **Research Advisory Council** to guide community-university partnerships.

Global Migration Podcast

One of the most exciting legacies of the pandemic has been our [Global Migration Podcast](#). The brainchild of Doug Ober, our Manager of Programs and Initiatives, the podcast has now seen two seasons. Season 1 *COVID-19 and Beyond* focused on the impact of COVID-19 on migration and integration and featured academics, policy makers, and settlement sector workers. Season 2 *Geographies of the Heart: Life-writing from Newcomers to Canada* was hosted by international speaker and award-winning advocate, [Mohammed Alsaleh](#). This season was born out of a year-long writing project [Stories from Newcomers to Canada](#) with a group of newcomers who have been authoring their own stories of migration on topics such as love, loss, displacement, exile, belonging and disruption. If you haven't yet had the chance to listen in you can continue to do so on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts.



Antje Ellermann

Policy-Engaged Teaching and Graduate Training

Supported by a **Killam Connection Award**, with matching funds from the Centre for Migration Studies and the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, this fall Dan Hiebert (Professor, Geography) will teach a graduate course on *Migration Policy* in collaboration with two Washington D.C. based policy practitioners, Demetri Papademetriou and Margie McHugh. Papademetriou is the founder of [Migration Policy Institute](#) and convenes the [Transatlantic Council on Migration](#), while McHugh is a leader in the field of immigrant education. We remain optimistic that both will be able to cross the border by September and join in person in what will be an exciting array of **policy-related programming and teaching**, ranging from a policy maker conference on “rebooting” migration in post-COVID Canada, Mexico, and the U.S., to a workshop on local immigrant integration.

More broadly, we are also exploring options of establishing a **Certificate in Migration Studies** for UBC graduate students. If you would like to be involved in this initiative, please get in touch with me!

This spring, Sandra Schinnerl (Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Studies), one of our graduate student representatives, created a **Graduate Student Power Hour** where UBC graduate students share their research on migration beyond their home departments and network with faculty and students from across the university and the broader community. In late May, Lisa Brunner (Ph.D. student, Educational Studies) kicked off the series with the topic of “‘Edugration’ as a Wicked Problem,” followed by Anne-Cécile Delaisse (Ph.D. student, Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) and Caitlyn Yates (Ph.D. student, Anthropology) in June. The initiative has been so

popular that it will continue through the summer months with presentations from Maria Cervantes (Ph.D. student, Geography) and Natasha Damiano (Ph.D. student, Rehabilitation Sciences) in July!

As in past years, we will continue to support our graduate student affiliates by offering **migration conference travel stipends**. These travel grants allow graduate students to network and present their research to an *interdisciplinary* audience – a must for any migration scholar!

In September 2021, the CMS will fund a **virtual Migration & Citizenship pre-conference** at the annual meeting of the **American Political Science Association**. Organized by Matthew Wright (Associate Professor, Political Science), the pre-conference will provide graduate students and early career scholars working on migration research with opportunities to network with more established scholars, as well as facilitate discussion on post-COVID immigration politics.

After a year of busy online programming – CMS has hosted more than 40 events since April 2020! – we are excited to return to campus this fall to reconnect in person. We look forward to seeing you at our **Public Speaker Series** and the many events organized by the Centre's research groups. We warmly invite you to join us at our monthly **Community Luncheons** which give faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and community partners the chance to socialize over food and expand and deepen our connections. And of course we cannot wait to celebrate with you at our (belated) Centre Inauguration Party this fall!

I wish everyone a rejuvenating summer, filled with health and everything that brings you joy.

With gratitude,



Antje Ellermann
Professor, Political Science
Director, Centre for Migration Studies

2021-2023 CIFAR AZRIELI GLOBAL SCHOLARS

BOUNDARIES, MEMBERSHIP & BELONGING

Ellora Derenoncourt – University of
California, Berkeley (United States)

Michael Muthukrishna – London
School of Economics and Political
Science (United Kingdom)

Yang-Yang Zhou – University of British
Columbia (Canada)



CIFAR

SUPPORTED BY:



Prof. Yang-Yang Zhou named as a

CIFAR-Azrieli Global Scholar

*** NOTE:** *The following was originally produced and published by the UBC Department of Political Science **

Dr. Yang-Yang Zhou, Assistant Professor of Political Science and Executive Committee Member for the UBC Centre for Migration Studies, has been named a [CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar](#). She is among 19 exceptional early-career scholars from eight countries to be selected for this fellowship for 2021-2023. Scholars are awarded \$100,000 in unrestricted research support, mentorship, a global network, and professional skills development.

“The CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars program is one of the most selective and prestigious early-career opportunities for young researchers anywhere in the world,” said Alan Bernstein, president and CEO of CIFAR. “These young people are selected for their excellence in research as well as their potential to become the leaders of tomorrow. They are mentored by some of the world’s top natural or social scientists and are given the unique opportunity to join a close-knit community of CIFAR fellows, challenging each other with new ideas and addressing some of the most exciting and important questions facing science and humanity.”

Zhou is joining the “[Boundaries, Membership, and Belonging](#)” program led by Professors Irene Bloemraad (UC Berkeley) and Will Kymlicka (Queen’s University). This group of sociologists, psychologists, economists, and political scientists explore intergroup dynamics in a globalizing world, how people cooperate and search for belonging but also put up exclusionary boundaries through ethnicity, religion, class, and notably for Zhou, immigration status.

“The motivation for practically all of my research starts with what many have called the current ‘global migration crisis,” Zhou says. “For me, I think the crisis really lies in how politically contentious migration has become, and the growing public resistance against it. So my goal is to empirically test what is ‘conventional wisdom’ around migration and provide evidence to refute misperceptions, particularly in understudied Global South regions.”

Zhou has a forthcoming article in the *American Political Science Review* coauthored with Andrew Shaver (UC Merced) to challenge the perception that hosting refugees can lead to conflict and insecurity. Zhou and Shaver use global subnational data of refugee locations spanning the past 30 years to show that hosting refugees does not increase the risk of conflict and violence. In fact, under certain circumstances, hosting refugees decreases violence and improves local development, such as more health clinics and schools. This research was featured in [Foreign Affairs](#).

“But just because being neighbors with refugees and asylum-seekers can actually lead to better development outcomes for locals, doesn’t mean there isn’t still prejudice and discrimination,” Zhou cautions, “Unlike in the Global North where there are often racial and ethnic differences between migrants and native citizens, in the contexts where I study — migrants and host citizens often share ethnic and cultural ties. Because of these ties, we might think that host citizens feel more solidarity and inclusivity toward their co-ethnic migrants. Not necessarily. For my book project, I’m studying how when migrants are stigmatized by elites — by politicians and the media — citizens who share ethnic and cultural ties will seek to distance themselves, often by increasing their national identification. In doing so, they are reifying national boundaries and borders. CIFAR’s generous research award will help me complete this project and give me opportunities to start new interdisciplinary collaborations.”

She received her Ph.D. in Politics in 2019 from Princeton University. From 2021-2023, Zhou is based at Harvard University as an [Academy Scholar](#).

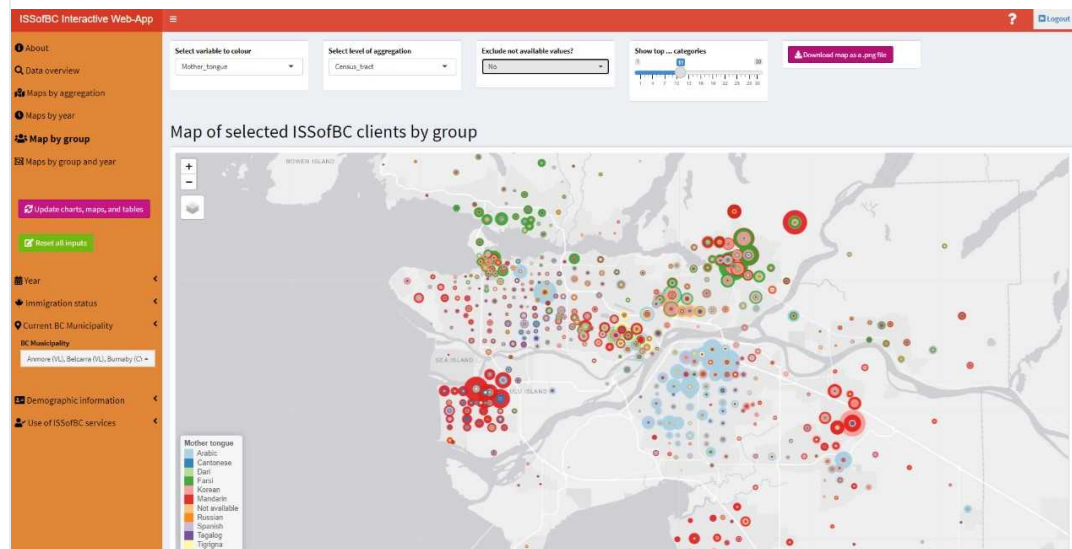
Based in Canada, CIFAR was created to bring together leading researchers from around the world to address important questions. The global scholars program is funded by the Azrieli Foundation and the Love Family Leadership Development Funds, and by other individuals, corporations, and foundations.

Building Community-University Partnerships: Grad Student Support Awards

This past January, the Centre for Migration Studies announced it would provide funding for two graduate students to be placed in agencies working in the immigrant and refugee settlement sector. The placements were aimed at supporting small projects that build community-university partnerships and fill a current research need at the local agency. In addition, the positions were meant to provide an immersive experience for the graduate student: one that provides insights into the work of an agency working in the immigrant and refugee settlement sector, and to also enhance their own professional development and graduate training.

We received many more proposals from partners than we could possibly accommodate and in the end, awards were given to three students total to work for up to 12 hours weekly between February 1 and May 31. Splitting one award, Ph.D. students Albina Gibadullina (Geography) and Corrine Armistead (Geography) supported the Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) with a GIS mapping project while Ph.D. student Atieh Razavi Yekta (Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) helped implement a storytelling project for Options Community Services.

Earlier this month, we spoke with Albina and Corrine to learn more about their work with ISSofBC. A report on Atieh's and CMS' partnership with Options Community Services is provided afterwards.



Immigration Services Society of British Columbia Partnership Q&A on Interactive Web Mapping Project

Can you tell us a bit about ISSofBC and describe the work you did?

Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC) is one of the largest immigrant-serving agencies in Canada with a national and international reputation in the field of migrant issues and services for immigrants and refugees. Over the last few months, we developed an interactive web-app (in R) that can be used to examine demographic composition of selected ISSofBC clients and their geographical locations, as well as to analyse how various demographic and geographical patterns shift over time. The web-app examines the data of over 54,000 unique clients who used ISSofBC services between 2016 and 2020. The app has an internal version that will be used by ISSofBC employees in planning the organization's services and an external, public-facing version that will be shared with the relevant community partners.

How did this work support your own professional development and graduate training?

It has been fantastic to learn about migration processes in a local BC context and reflect on how the geographies of migration are affected by factors such as one's immigration status and country of origin. It also has been great to dive deeper into open-source alternatives for data analysis and figure out how to use them to develop a web-app with many different types of visualizations (including maps) from scratch.

What sort of lessons did you take away from the project?

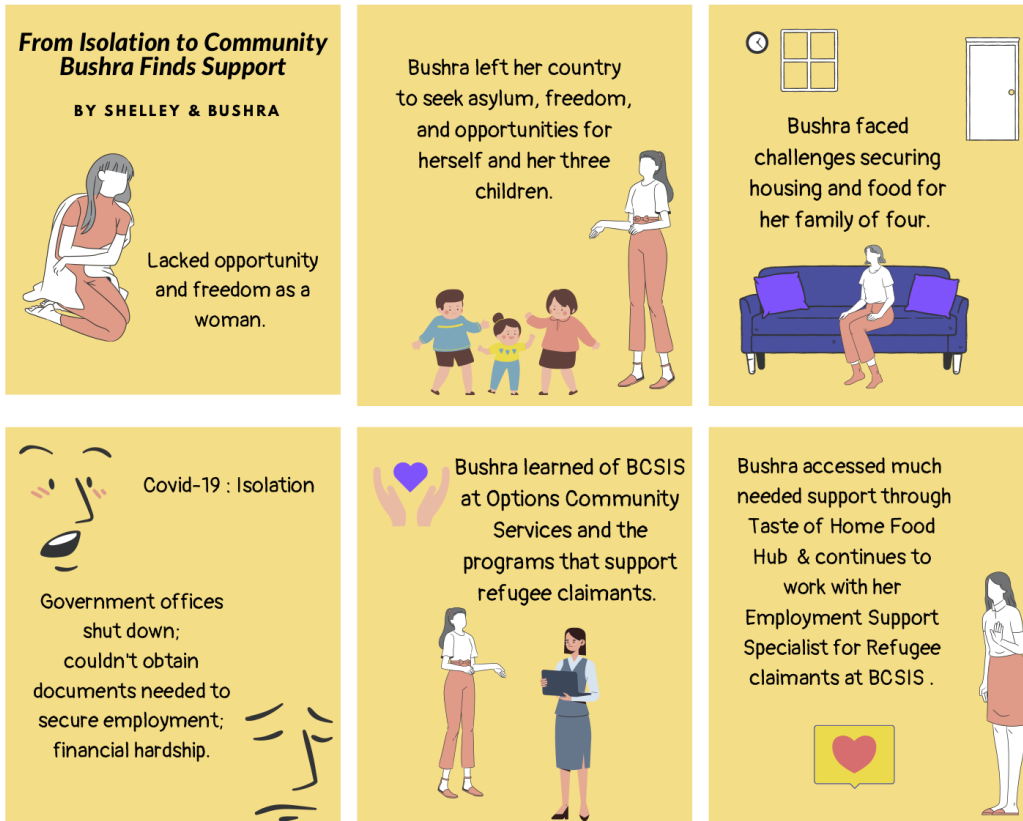
This was an all-around very positive experience! It was very rewarding to help a community organization that assists many vulnerable newcomers in BC to better understand how they could better service their clients. It was also very fun to trouble-shoot problems and resolve them on our own. The programming, cartography, and data visualization skills we developed through this research partnership could also be easily carried over to many new research projects in the future.

Did you experience any challenges? If so, what sort of strategies did you adopt to overcome those challenges?

Given that many of the people who use ISSofBC services come from very vulnerable backgrounds, we had many conversations about how to best protect their privacy by anonymizing the data and aggregating the data with too few observations. We also stumbled into some technical difficulties that we were able to resolve with the assistance of Dr. Luke Bergmann (Associate Professor, Geography), whom we thank for all his support in this project. Having many conversations with Dr. Kathy Sherrell (Associate Director of Settlement at ISSofBC) has been very illuminating in understanding how best to develop this web-app and its various functionale.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We would like to thank Dr. Sherrell, ISSofBC and the UBC Center for Migration Studies for inviting us to work on this very exciting data analysis and visualization project!



The Co-Created Story Project

Foundation of an ongoing collaboration between Options Community Services & CMS

The Project

The UBC Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) and Options Community Services (OCS) recently partnered on a unique participatory initiative called *The Co-Created Story Project*. The project's goal was to create an opportunity for OCS frontline Immigrant Services (IS) staff to collaborate with newcomer clients in a safe space where clients could tell their stories about their migration journey or their newcomer experience in Canada. Whether it was the experience of migrating from a refugee camp and finding a home in Surrey, or navigating community services through the pandemic, clients and OCS IS staff together documented stories about being a newcomer. The project team included OCS Digital Coordinator Lucas Ho, OCS Practicum Student Rodrigo Morales, UBC PhD student Atieh Razavi Yekta, and 2 resource developers hired by OCS, Diana Jeffries and Andrea Solnes. The team guided OCS IS staff through 3 virtual workshops to introduce the co-created story process and principles, including ethical guidelines, trauma-informed practices, interview techniques and possible story formats. They then worked closely

with 8 staff through coaching sessions and mini-workshops to guide them in working with their clients to co-create stories in various formats, including written articles, podcasts, digital storyboards, art projects and videos.

Importance of the Partnership

The collaboration between OCS and CMS strengthened the project as the synergy and resources combined to create richer and more far-reaching outcomes. As noted by OCS Deputy Executive Director Khim Tan, “OCS IS and CMS embraced the mutual objective of timely responses to funding opportunities to create collaborative initiatives aimed at increasing the capacity and knowledge base of OCS IS staff to better serve immigrant and refugee clients. Our Co-created Story Project afforded OCS IS staff to deepen existing relationships as they engage with newcomer clients to co-create unique stories of resilience via the use of different mediums.” As current director of the Community-University Partnerships research group of the CMS, Suzanne Huot shares Tan’s excitement about the partnership, stating “CMS provides training opportunities for graduate students and the potential to generate knowledge that will immediately benefit the community by being grounded in data collection with frontline workers and being mobilized directly back to the partners.” Huot saw Atieh’s skillset as being particularly well-suited to the Co-Created Story project. With a background in designing interactive technology and a human-centered research experience, Atieh brought so much to the team while also gaining the opportunity to collaborate on a community-based project within the settlement sector.

The Experience, Lessons Learned & Outcomes

Eight frontline staff working with a diverse range of newcomer clients including seniors, youth, refugee claimants, and skilled workers were engaged in a 2-month participatory process. Starting with the importance and opportunities of building on existing trusting relationships with their clients, staff received coaching and guidelines on ethical research practices, writing skills, podcast development and storyboarding. In addition to producing 10 authentic and compelling stories that shine a light on both the challenges and the resilience of newcomers, participating staff also learned practical skills for storytelling to support their own professional development in being able to contribute to funding proposals, more authentic report writing, and participating in qualitative research. The unexpected outcome of the project was in the process of communicating with their clients in a deeper way, and thus gaining a better understanding of their experiences. One staff participant reported: “Before I was more afraid of assuming things. Talking to my client about how he was supported in other institutions gave me insight into how I can also be a better support.” Project leads Diana Jeffries and Andrea Solnes noted that staff were not only excited about the opportunity to dig more deeply into the stories of their clients, but stronger relationships were formed, and staff were perhaps able to connect with the passion and purpose that brought them to this work in the first place. Tan notes, “It has been most affirming for staff to regain validation and purpose for their work and service to our newcomer clients through their engagement and co-creating endeavour.”

In engaging in an uncertain and exploratory process, project leads also acknowledged the challenges of the Co-Created Story, especially given the time constraints of the project and given the already over-loaded work schedules of OCS IS staff. While 2 months was adequate time to create the stories, participants noted the importance of having time to breathe with the story, time to reflect, and time to learn techniques, before starting the story-creating process. While UBC PhD student Atieh’s role was also an emergent one, she stated: “Working with the Co-Created Story team at OCS provided me with strong knowledge about how immigrant services and programs work and how service providers support and engage with their clients, especially during the pandemic. Through this experience, I developed strong skills in coaching service providers on how to use new tools and software to design creative digital products. Through one-on-one coaching sessions with OCS staff, I learned about their lived experiences working in the settlement sector and established a network with them that I hope to maintain and strengthen for future continued engagement.”

Possibilities Moving Forward

The successful collaboration between CMS and OCS on this storytelling project reflects the importance of ongoing engagement between community partners and academic institutions in seeking further meaningful qualitative data to generate new insights and opportunities for newcomer community engagement in Canadian society. As Professor Huot shares, “The timelines for funding opportunities are often quite tight, which can make it challenging to find the right fit at the right time. This speaks to the importance of engaging in ongoing dialogue between partners that can proactively seek out opportunities, rather than responding to punctual funding calls. The CMS supports this by hosting community luncheons and is currently developing a Community Advisory Board so that partnerships are always intricately woven into our work.”

Specifically about this project, Huot adds, “The process developed through this project for co-creating stories will be shared at an upcoming publicly available free workshop to be held virtually in the fall.” Tan is equally committed to the ongoing opportunities the partnership holds: “We are excited that The Co-Created Story Toolkit plus insights and learnings from processes that led to both project outcomes and outputs will be made public and accessible to service providers, researchers and funders. We hope to demonstrate our Co-Created Story Project as a great example of a Community-University Research Partnership from which project feedback and evaluation is used for additional funding opportunities to further service/program development.” Both Tan and Huot are excited to seek out additional funding to extend the partnership and generate new opportunities for further knowledge generation.

#বাঁচারলড়াই
#BacharLorai



sewing empowered futures

mobilizes a community-based approach for grassroots interventions that support marginalized, low-income women in Rajakhali, a rural, climate-vulnerable region in southern Bangladesh.



STUDENT FEATURE

Q&A with UBC Climate Hub's Climate Justice Research Collaborative Directed Studies Students:
Rwittika Banerjee, Holly Benna & Sagorika Haque

*In January this year, Rwittika Banerjee, Holly Benna, and Sagorika Haque – three UBC undergraduate students - approached Professors Amanda Cheong (Sociology) and Antje Ellermann (Political Science) to co-supervise a directed studies project for the UBC Climate Hub's Climate Justice Research Collaborative. Their project **Climate (In)justice and the Other: Dissecting the Politics of the Representation of Climate Displaced People in the Bay of Bengal** examines the politics of narrative and storytelling as reflected in the representation of climate displaced people across the Bay of Bengal.*

We talked to Rwittika, Holly, and Sagorika about their experiences of completing this project during a pandemic.

Tell us a bit about yourself and what motivated this project.

We are three undergraduate students, majoring in Sociology (Holly), Political Science (Rwittika) and Gender, Race and Social Justice (Sagorika). In December 2020, the three of us joined a Zoom call, not knowing much about one another, and feeling a bit unsure about what the Climate Justice Research Collaborative was really about. Since then, we've become so much more than just project partners. We've shared immense learning and growth, and found so much hope even as we have engaged with the devastating realities of the climate crisis.

At the root of our mutual passion is a shared sense of grief and anger. We are working within the contexts of painful, violent and continually dispossessing colonial legacies, each of which have shaped our respective engagements with these fields of interest in different and similar ways. Climate change is not just a distant theory for us, it is a literal existential threat to our homelands, our heritages, our identities, and our futures, as two members of our team are from the geographical areas that are the focus of our research (Rwittika and Sagorika).

Even just in the past year, the worrisome escalation of global natural disasters exacerbated by climate change - such as the devastation of Cyclone Amphan across the Bay of Bengal as well as the West Coast wildfire season of 2020 stand testament to the impending mass displacement of millions of people over the next few years, the vast majority being from marginalized and racialized populations. Tangible loss and feelings of powerlessness in the face of cataclysm drove us in our attempt to comprehensively engage with the personal and systemic tragedies embedded within the unjust realities of climate change, through a lens of climate justice.

What can you tell us about the representation of climate displaced communities in the documentaries you analyzed for this project?

Bangladesh, the eighth most populous country in the world, will lose over 17% of its land mass in the next 30 years - meanwhile 'climate refugee' doesn't even have a comprehensive and agreed upon definition. Our research explores how it's not just policy that dehumanizes, but storytelling as well. The only way we can create a livable future and a new way of navigating the world is by dismantling the stories that colonialism and racial capitalism impose, and choosing to bravely tell new stories.

The stories that we tell about the world shape our reality, and this is true of the stories that filmmakers of relative privilege tell of climate displaced people. In various implicit and explicit ways, the documentaries that we engaged with uphold the status quo of the portrayal of marginalized peoples in the Global South as the Other. Across the films we analyzed, the 'developed' world both erases itself from being a cause or solution to this crisis, instead placing itself as the only legitimate storyteller, geographically and psychologically distancing itself by controlling the narratives told about institutional dynamics and the bodies at the frontlines of the changing climate. By telling stories of hierarchy, making marginalized folks invisible, sacrificial, glorified for their resilience, or paradoxically requiring a saviour, global hierarchies are maintained, and blame is continuously shifted away from the true cause of the climate crisis - the assumption of exponential growth dependent on exploitation that is inherent in global racial capitalism and colonialism.

What were the biggest challenges you faced in conducting this research?

The biggest challenge we faced was navigating the emotionality of these painful topics. The grief we carried as we engaged with this research, and continue to carry as we navigate how these topics impact lived realities, truly took a toll on all of us. We had to continuously be taking steps back to reflect on our work, to ensure that we were telling the story that we wanted to tell with our research, and to protect our own wellbeing. Care and attention were critically important to pay attention to as we pieced together our research project, but more importantly as we approached our teammates with humility and vulnerability, recognizing where our capacities were limited and where we needed to depend on one another. Being part of this research team completely eroded the sense of alienation that is the norm in online school, and has created a capacity within all of us to show up as ourselves and be vulnerable, even in academic spaces.

How have your positionalities shaped this work?

Being a team composed of those who identify as women, the majority being women of colour, we recognize our historical disadvantages within academic spaces and how it is additionally complicated by our respective positionalities, given factors such as race and class.

Two-thirds of our team (Rwittika and Sagorika) are from West Bengal and Bangladesh respectively, and share similar spatial proximities to the political geographies we are exploring in the Bay of Bengal. This situates us within inextricably intimate and pained relationships to the displaced populations we are highlighting. This is not just an ideological debate reserved for intellectualized hypotheticals-- the impacts of climate change are tied to our present realities and futures of our homelands and communities.

For me (Rwittika), I felt an extreme sense of guilt being safe in Canada while Cyclone Amphan wrecked my home city, Kolkata. In spite of the immense ecological and human devastation, the Cyclone was not covered by international media outlets, much to my frustration. This event prompted my research into climate justice, and this project felt like a way of connecting to home from thousands of miles away.

For me (Holly) there is a degree of distance that whiteness provides from this crisis, with the privilege to choose to view it as a theoretical and academic exercise rather than embrace the fullness of its lived realities. This research has been an opportunity to reckon with this privilege of never having faced the fear of displacement. A privilege of distance has provided insulation from realities of tragedy, but through the course of our research my sense of urgency has been deeply affected, and this facade of distance has been replaced with a dedication to humility and to the centering of story and lived experience.

It is also important to acknowledge that the University of British Columbia is situated on the unceded, stolen, ancestral, and traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm people and, as we are not Indigenous to Turtle Island, our studies at UBC are made possible by the realities of forced displacement. This violent colonial legacy informs our work in deeply entangled ways.

How has the multidisciplinary of your team shaped the project?

All three of us have different backgrounds and are majoring in different fields. We were able to acknowledge such an intricate issue while incorporating Political Science, Sociology and Social Justice thus providing a more robust interpretation with a holistic and multidisciplinary approach. Each of us brought different strengths and knowledge bases to the nuances and intersections of our research, which forced us to be aware of our assumptions of what qualifies as jargon, and what is taken for granted. Our multidisciplinary allowed us to find common ground in our passion and shared life experience, rather than in a shared disciplinary framework. It emboldened us to think expansively about what research and knowledge making could mean, beyond what one academic framework might say.

What is the most important learning that you've taken away from this project?

Participating in the Climate Justice Research collaborative has been, in all honesty, the most simultaneously enriching and challenging aspects of our time at UBC. The real value of this work however, was not our analysis of documentary films or our engagement with relevant literature, or in learning how to use NVivo to conduct qualitative textual analysis. It was not even collaborating with community partners: #BacharLorai and BEACON Bangladesh to create [a fundraiser to support women in Rajakhali in gaining economic agency](#). It was being part of a team that took care of each other as we engaged with the overwhelming grief that comes with reckoning with the reality that is climate change, and its disproportionate impacts that we saw unfolding in real time as we conducted our research. That is where we found hope - even as we immersed ourselves in these painful realities, we found connection and care and being part of tangible climate justice action, together.

Another world is possible. There is still time, there are still people who believe in a better, more equitable world, and just as there are people who have fought tirelessly for human rights throughout history, that passion and love for the world survives today in our work. This is one of the greatest lessons we are taking away from this project. When we honor them through learning, unlearning, sharing, giving, and creating in our own ways, we affirm to both our futures and our present that the apocalypse is negotiable, and we can locate hope and energy to create new worlds not in solely institutions but in ourselves, in individuals and collectives.

What was it like for you to undertake this project during a global pandemic?

It was incredibly challenging to be contending with the scale of this project, particularly given how the three of us were initially scattered across three different countries (and time zones) for a considerable amount of time, as well as the various personal developments we had to manage throughout the term including but not limited to isolation, mental health emergencies, COVID-19 exposures, moving halfway across the world, passport issues, lockdowns, electricity outages, family emergencies, and even a mild earthquake and a broken laptop in the final week of exams. We were continually facing setbacks and complications. Through all of this, the emotional and experiential knowledge that we gained this year and through these challenges is worth more than any factual information we learned about the politics of representation or the crisis of climate induced displacement in Bangladesh. This project has taught us that the real value of education is in the connections that we share and the embodied experience of being part of a learning community that is simultaneously accountable and compassionate.

How does your study contribute to our understanding of climate migration?

In our research, we have pathologized and dissected the dynamics of racial capitalism through a review of pertinent literature and the analysis of three documentary films depicting the plight of climate displaced people in Bangladesh and surrounding regions in the Bay of Bengal. In the geological epoch of the Anthropocene, humanity is faced with a fatal increase in global temperatures, causing devastating natural disasters and sea level rise that threatens the survival of small island and low-lying nations. Bangladesh is one such place that is exceptionally vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing only 0.3% to global emissions. Drawing on literature within critical border studies and climate justice frameworks, we analyzed three documentaries produced by countries defined by the UN as "major developed economies." We manually coded these films using NVivo according to patterns of colonial dynamics, Othering, and the treatment of agency in the representation of climate displaced people in this region. Storytelling and representation have significant political implications, and these documentaries operate as a microcosm of broader global power dynamics, perpetuating narratives of climate displaced people as 'Other.'

We hope we have demonstrated that these normative stories that continue to be reproduced are dehumanizing, harmful, and perpetuate violence. But another story is possible because story and narrative construct the world we live within -- therefore, when we create new stories, we create new worlds. As Indian author, environmentalist, and human rights activist, Arundhati Roy beautifully imparts, "Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

Fundraiser Information:

In tandem with our research project, we are facilitating a fundraising project alongside two community partner organizations: #BacharLorai and BEACON. This campaign, entitled 'Sewing Empowered Futures' is about mobilizing a community-based approach for grassroots interventions that support marginalized, lower-income women in this rural, climate-vulnerable region in southern Bangladesh through resources and training that will support them in gaining economic independence. Funds raised will support training programs in sewing, human rights, and entrepreneurship.

There is already a group of enthusiastic and enterprising women who are actively interested in participating, and local stakeholders are committed to a long-term partnership, which is really important to us, because we really want to resist narratives of saviourism and instead commit to long term relationships and support grassroots initiatives. The women in Rajakhali have already been engaging with training programs and want to grow their skills in entrepreneurship further - they know that having their own sewing machines will make this possible. So far, 16 women have been part of a program developed by BEACON, and have been able to break intergenerational social barriers to become economic agents for the first time. Our goal for this fundraiser is \$4000, as we are aiming to support 30 women in the Rajakhali. In case anyone would like to read more about this grassroots project, or contribute to the fundraiser, here is the [link to our GoFundMe page](#).

About our fundraising partners:

#BacharLorai is a transnational organization whose name translates to 'fight for survival' in Bengali. Engaging with expatriates, diaspora, and local partners invested in creating a more equitable Bangladesh, this social movement has been inspiring many efforts like ours. They work with connecting and catalyzing initiatives with community-based organizations in Bangladesh to help synergize efforts with their expertise in community-based work towards a common goal.

Bangladesh Emergency Action Against COVID-19 (BEACON) is an initiative formed in response to the current Covid-19 pandemic in Bangladesh. They work directly with communities.



FACULTY FEATURE

Book Q&A with Antje Ellermann

Centre for Migration Studies Director

Political Science Department Professor

The Comparative Politics of Immigration: Policy Choices in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States

Cambridge University Press (2021)

*** NOTE:** *The following was originally produced and published by the UBC Department of Political Science **

Many governments face similar pressures surrounding the hotly debated topic of immigration. Yet, the disparate ways in which policy makers respond is striking. *The Comparative Politics of Immigration* explains why democratic governments adopt the immigration policies they do. Through an in-depth study of immigration politics in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States, UBC Political Science Professor Antje Ellermann examines the development of immigration policy from the postwar era to the present.

The book presents a new theory of immigration policymaking grounded in the political insulation of policy makers. Three types of insulation shape the translation of immigration preference into policy: popular insulation from demands of the unorganized public, interest group insulation from the claims of organized lobbies, and diplomatic insulation from the lobbying of immigrant-sending states. Addressing the nuances in immigration reforms, Ellermann analyzes both institutional factors and policy actors' strategic decisions to account for cross-national and temporal variation.

We talked to Professor Antje Ellermann about the findings of her new book.

Your new book conducts an in-depth study of the immigration policies in Germany, Canada, Switzerland, and the United States. Why did you choose these countries specifically?

I chose my cases based on two sets of considerations. First, I wanted to select paired countries that represent distinct immigration regimes: Canada and the United States as settler-colonial regimes, and Switzerland and Germany as guestworker regimes. Regime typologies have long emphasized that a country's first experience with immigration creates ideational and political legacies for future immigration politics. Selecting two sets of paired cases allowed me to compare apples with apples, so to speak: I was able to compare policy making in contexts that share similar orientations toward immigration and, thus, similar policy challenges.

A second criterion for case selection focused on institutional variation. In order to test my theory of political insulation, I needed to compare countries that varied along with a number of institutional dimensions. The four countries in my study represent the full range of institutional variation observable in advanced democracies: the Canadian Westminster parliamentary system, the German coalition-government parliamentary system, the U.S. presidential system, and the Swiss semi-presidential system of direct democracy.

You present a new theory of immigration policymaking based on the political insulation of policymakers – what does political insulation mean and could you break down the three types of political insulation you identified?

The book presents a new theory of immigration policymaking that is grounded in the political insulation of policy makers. What distinguishes immigration policy from many other policy fields is the cross-cutting nature of the pressures that bear on policymaking. Policy makers regularly find themselves between a rock and a hard place as the demands of the organized and unorganized publics push in opposing directions. The unorganized public – public opinion – typically favours a restrictive stance on questions of admission and stay. This means that policy makers who pursue proposals that seek to liberalize immigration policy will most likely succeed under conditions of popular insulation – political insulation from popular pressure.

A second way in which societal influence bears on policy makers is through the lobbying efforts of organized interests, most importantly business. In contrast to public opinion, organized interests typically demand liberalization of immigration policy. Policy choices that emerge from contexts of low-interest group insulation, therefore, will point in the direction of policy liberalization.

Lastly, because immigration policy sits at the intersection of domestic politics and international relations, policy makers will often find themselves confronted with the demands of immigrant-sending states that have a stake in the immigration policies enacted by receiving states. For countries that struggle with economic stagnation and slack labour markets, emigration serves as a vital safety valve to relieve employment pressures at home and to provide foreign currency through remittances. We can therefore assume that sending states will strongly favour policies that facilitate the emigration of their nationals. As a result, policy makers in receiving states who seek to restrict immigration will be most likely to succeed under conditions of diplomatic insulation.

How does political insulation look different in the countries you examined?

Swiss institutions stand out by the lack of insulation they offer to policy makers, whereas the opposite is the case for Canada, where policy makers operate in an institutional environment conducive to both popular and interest group insulation. Germany and the United States are both in-between cases.

I will provide a bit more detail on Canada and Switzerland as the more extreme cases. To a much greater degree than elsewhere, in Canada immigration policy making is dominated by the executive, and often takes the form of regulations and other types of executive Orders-in-Council. Now, policy making in the executive arena in general – not just in Canada – is marked by high popular and high-interest group insulation. In Canada, however, the executive's popular insulation is particularly strong because the country's immigration politics lacks the partisan polarization that characterizes immigration politics in the other country cases.

In stark contrast to Canada, Switzerland stands out by policy makers' lack of insulation. Whereas the country's small size and geopolitical positioning as bordered by the European Union weakens the government's diplomatic insulation, the "double loyalties" of parliamentarians who oftentimes hold prominent positions within interest associations prevent any meaningful interest group insulation. Even more importantly, both executive and legislative policy makers enjoy spectacularly weak popular insulation, given the ever-present referendum threat arising from Swiss direct democracy. Being simultaneously exposed to powerful diplomatic, popular, and interest group pressures, the making of Swiss immigration policy resembles a tightrope walk of accommodating contradictory pressures.

Did anything change for you while researching immigration policy? Was there anything you learned that you weren't expecting to discover?

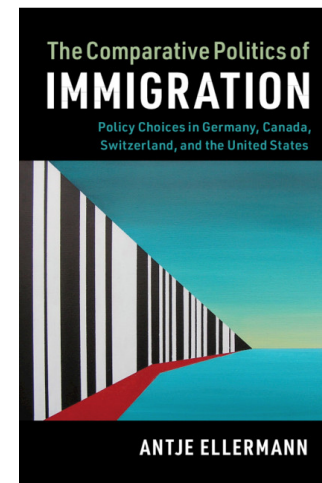
As someone working in the field of comparative politics and comparative public policy, I started out this project with a big blind spot: I conceived of immigration policy as an area of domestic policy making. It was only when I presented my work to wider audiences that I came to realize that the making of immigration policy is also shaped by international relations, in particular by diplomatic pressure from immigrant-sending states.

What do you think will be the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on immigration policy?

COVID-19 has ushered in an era of unprecedented travel restrictions and mandatory medical testing that has disrupted virtually all cross-border mobility. And while these measures are designed as temporary, there is a risk that some restrictions will not be rolled back once the pandemic is contained. Given the rise of anti-immigrant populism in Europe in particular, it's not difficult to imagine that some governments will keep in place some border restrictions in order to cater to anti-immigrant public opinion. This risk is particularly acute in relation to humanitarian migrants, who have already borne the brunt of anti-immigrant restrictionism prior to the pandemic. Even here in Canada, our land border has remained closed to asylum seekers at the same time as we continue to facilitate the entry of essential foreign workers.

Second, I would expect there to be an extended period of reduced economic recruitment in many Global North countries. The pandemic's economic disruptions and its negative impact on the labour market are likely to be with us for the foreseeable future. Until labour markets have recovered, we are likely to see lower levels of economic immigration, at least for workers who are not designed as "essential." In fact, it's important to point out that, in many countries, the entry of "essential" temporary foreign workers has continued to be exempt from border restrictions as governments have come to recognize their countries' structural dependence on these workers. Even with high domestic unemployment, we will continue to see labour shortages in the low-wage sector in agriculture, food processing, and care.

Finally, it's important to point out that Canadian policy makers have chosen a path that differs from that pursued by many other governments. Canada has affirmed its commitment to maintaining high, even increased, levels of immigration. And because border restrictions have made recruitment from overseas more difficult, Canada is currently focused on opening up immigration pathways to immigrants who are already in Canada on temporary visas. It will be interesting to see if this shift from overseas to inland recruitment is going to remain in place well after current border restrictions have been lifted.



[More Info](#)

✕ CONGRATULATIONS!



THE CENTRE FOR MIGRATION STUDIES
WISHES A WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO
OPTIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR A
REMARKABLE 50 YEARS OF SERVICE,
SUPPORT, ADVOCACY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY
TO COMMUNITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.



WE VALUE YOUR PARTNERSHIP, AND
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YEARS OF WORKING TOGETHER!

Community-University Liaison Initiative

We are excited to announce that we have received funding for a 2-year pilot staff position of Engagement Strategist that will link UBC migration researchers from across faculties with practitioners and organizations in the BC settlement sector. Starting in September, this new role will allow us to both expand and enhance relationships and collaborations with community partners focused on research, advocacy, and capacity-building. The Engagement Strategist will be housed in the Centre for Migration Studies and will work closely with CMS Community Liaison Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology) and Katie Crocker, CEO of AMSSA. They will be someone with sector knowledge and existing relationships who is tasked with bridging the gaps between UBC and the wider community in areas of research coordination, sector research capacity building, student learning, and policy advocacy.

This initiative was born out of the discussions had at the *UBC President's Roundtable on Our Role in Migration & Integration* in 2019. At that time, community partners and leaders expressed the need for education, training, and capacity building for immigrant and refugee serving organizations and pushed for UBC to take a more multi-dimensional and multilevel engagement with community partners. Since that time, multiple stakeholders both within and beyond UBC, including Gage Averill (Dean, Faculty of Arts), Katie Crocker (CEO, AMSSA), Kat Cureton (Advisor, Community Engagement), Antje Ellermann (Professor, Political Science), Blye Frank (Dean, Faculty of Education), and Sean Lauer (Associate Professor, Sociology), have continued to meet to discuss the ways this relationship would benefit one another and identify tangible steps on how to best seek and grow new relationships. CMS is thrilled to be supporting this innovative pilot project and play a key role in advancing collaborations between UBC and the community. In the coming months, we'll begin advertising the position. Questions about the initiative can be addressed to Sean Lauer at sean.lauer@ubc.ca.

✕ CONGRATULATIONS!



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SSHRC Grant awarded to investigate impact of anti-immigration populism on immigration bureaucracies

CMS Director Antje Ellermann and Mireille Paquet, Associate Professor of Political Science at Concordia University, received a five-year, \$284,864 SSHRC Insight Grant for their research on *Immigration Bureaucracies in an Era of Anti-Immigration Populism*.

The project explores the impact of anti-immigration populism on immigration bureaucracies. Anti-immigration populism challenges the legitimacy of these bureaucracies: it disturbs traditional immigration policymaking, the agreed upon goals of national immigration programs, and official state discourse on immigration. Yet, while much has been written on the impact of populism on parties and elected officials, its impact on bureaucratic organizations, and immigration bureaucracies more specifically, remains poorly understood. This project documents and compares how immigration bureaucracies in Canada, Australia, and the UK define and respond to the legitimacy challenges stemming from anti-immigration populism.



Upcoming (Online) Events at the UBC Centre for Migration Studies

Thursday, July 8, 2021

Grad Student Power Hour with Maria Cervantes

"Digital transnationalism: Strategies against vulnerability in the immigration journey"

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Grad Student Power Hour with Natasha Damiano

"Creating possibilities for music and belonging: A narrative and arts-based approach to immigrant children and youth's group singing"

Publications from Centre Affiliates

Print

Bloch, A. (2021). "Postsocialist migration and intimacy." In *The Routledge International Handbook on Gender in Central-Eastern Europe and Eurasia*, edited by K. Fabian, J.E. Johnson, and M. Lazda. New York: Routledge.

[More Info](#)

Bouchard, M-E. (2021). "Navigating conflicting identities: Identification processes among minority youths in Portugal." *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

This qualitative study investigates the discursive construction of Santomean identity grounded in the migratory experience of youths who moved to Portugal to pursue their studies. It is based on semistructured interviews with young Santomeans living in Central Portugal. Santomeans typically identify as both native speakers of Portuguese and Black Africans, but once in Portugal, this identity is challenged by Portuguese who may perceive them as linguistically deficient. This article focuses on the ways young Santomeans position themselves and others, and the identity choices they make in doing so. Findings suggest that the distance between Black and white youths is reinforced by the teachers' and students' practices in class. These young Santomeans navigate raciolinguistic ideologies, engage in processes of identification, and draw on linguistic, social, and racial categories to redefine their identities. Although the process of identity formation is multi-layered, the data indicate that the most fundamental category remains race.

[Read Online](#)

Bouchard, M-E. (2020). "Redefining Forro as a marker of identity: Language contact as a driving force for language maintenance among Santomeans in Portugal." *Multilingua: Journal of Cross-Cultural and Interlanguage Communication*.

In São Tomé and Príncipe, the language shift toward Portuguese is resulting in the endangerment of the native creoles of the island. These languages have been considered of low value in Santomean society since the mid-twentieth century. But when Santomeans are members of a diaspora, their perceptions of these languages, especially Forro, change in terms of value and identity-marking. It is possible to observe such changes among the Santomeans who learn Forro when they are abroad, who use it as an in-group code, and start to value it more. In this article, I address the role of language contact in the maintenance and expansion of Forro. I investigate the mechanisms of language maintenance by focusing on the shifts in community members' attitudes and beliefs regarding their languages, as a result of contact. The changing attitudes and beliefs have led to a redefinition of the role of Forro in the speech community. This qualitative study is based on semistructured interviews conducted on São Tomé Island and in Portugal. Findings suggest that the change in value attributed to Forro by Santomeans as a result of contact contribute to the valorization of the language.

[Read Online](#)

Hallensleben, M. (2021). "Portraying the refugee as a transitional figure of plurality: The performance of gender and ethnicity in the post-migrant narratives of Abbas Khider's *Der falsche Inder [Village Indian]* and *Ohrfeige [Slap in the Face]*." In *Contemporary German Writers and Filmmakers, Vol. 5. Abbas Khider*, edited by D. Coury and K. Machtans. Oxford: Peter Lang.

[More Info](#)

Hallensleben, M. (2021). "Towards an aesthetics of post-migrant narratives: Moving beyond the politics of territorial belonging in Ilija Trojanow's *Nach der Flucht [After the Flight]* (2017)." In *Postmigration Studies, Vol. 1. Postmigration: Art, Culture, and Politics in Contemporary Europe*, edited by A.M Gaonker, A.S.O. Hansen, H.C. Post, and M. Schramm. Bielefeld: transcript.

[More Info](#)

Nijdam, E. (2021). "Tying up loose ends: The fabric of panel borders in Kate Evans' 'Threads.'" *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, 5 (1): pp. 79 - 99.

In her graphic novel *Threads: From the Refugee Crisis* (2017), Kate Evans uses the symbolism and leitmotif of threads to recount her experience volunteering in the Calais Jungle, Europe's largest refugee encampment, which operated from January 2015 to October 2016. However, with the incorporation of lace imagery into the front matter and formal characteristics of the comics form, the threads of *Threads* are more than simply an analogy for the intertwining factors and complex relationships that emerged in Calais. With every panel border constructed by a lace frame, lacework is also a fundamental structuring principle in Evans' text that engages with the region's history of lacemaking and refugee experience simultaneously. This essay unravels some of the many threads of *Threads* to understand Evans' mobilization of Calais' most essential industry, evaluating the role of lace in *Threads*' overarching representation of the refugee experience and a larger critique of the global refugee experience.

[Read Online](#)

Nijdam, E. (2021). "Comics and graphic novels are examining refugee border-crossing experiences." *The Conversation*.

[Read Online](#)

Interviews

Ellermann, A. (2021, April 7). "Changes to Canada's Express Entry system." *Fairchild TV News*.

Ellermann, A. (2021, April 29). "What drives a country's openness to immigration." *Merian West*.

Ellermann, A. (2021, May 5). "Canada's new immigration plan." *Il Corriere del Ticino*.

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NEWS

We invite all members of the Centre for Migration Studies 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

The UBC Centre for Migration Studies is generously supported by Excellence Funds from the Office of the Vice-President of Research and Innovation, the Faculty of Arts, the Departments of Political Science, Sociology, Geography, Anthropology, and the Peter A. Allard School of Law.

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