



Resident integration adds to the social and economic wellbeing of migrants

What is this research about?

Globalization has brought about increased immigration today, making large cities home to many different ethnic groups. With this increase, how do ethnic groups integrate into society? What influences how they integrate? Ethnic group members' opportunities for interaction are affected by where they live. There are also other factors that influence groups and their motivations and abilities to integrate in particular kinds of ways. This research highlights the degree of residential integration and how it is impacted by other factors such as panethnicity, income and employment. These factors influence interaction between ethnic groups, and improve different aspects of their quality of life, such as social mobility.

What did the researchers do?

Dr. Ann Kim studied census data from the United States and Canada to see if there were observable patterns with the settlement of specific ethnic groups. She used the U.S. Census 2000 and Canada's 2001 Census, focusing on social and economic data from metropolitan areas. She analyzed these data, looking at

What you need to know:

Residential integration can be important for general social integration and for economic wellbeing. Residential patterns are shaped by ethnic history, race and national policies and practices.

patterns of ethnic and panethnic residential segregation. She also observed the importance of ethnic resources and their availability during integration, comparing the similarities and differences between countries. The researcher sought to learn if processes of integration were distinct to each ethnic group. Thus, she also looked at four groups in closer detail: the Chinese, Jamaicans, Iranians and Vietnamese.

What did the researchers find?

The researcher found that integration was embedded within the larger institutional context and ideology of both states. Within each country, different levels of integration existed between ethnic groups. Within each group, integration levels also varied by country. The results of this research confirmed that there was no universal 'pathway' of integration. Instead, each



ethnic group's level of integration depended on whether past immigrants migrated for humanitarian or economic reasons and to which broader panethnic or racial group they belonged (white, black, or Asian).

How can you use this research?

This research may help policymakers dealing with immigration, integration, and settlement programs. It sheds insight on some of the ways that increased immigration has impacted societies. By addressing how residential integration is ethnically and racially structured, policymakers may devise and incorporate strategies for a successful and amicable integration of ethnic groups. Implementing measures for the ease of integration and the removal of barriers for all groups is an important goal for states.

About the researcher

Ann H. Kim is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at York University and Associate of the York Centre for Asian Research (YCAR). This Research Snapshot is based on her book *The Social Context of Residential Integration: Ethnic Groups in the United States and Canada*.
annkim@yorku.ca

Citation

Kim, A.H. (2009). *The Social Context of Residential Integration: Ethnic Groups in the United States and Canada*. Available online at books.google.ca/books?isbn=1593323476

Keywords

Immigration, integration, pathways, residential patterns, social and economic wellbeing.

Knowledge Mobilization at York

York's Knowledge Mobilization Unit provides services and funding for faculty, graduate students, and community organizations seeking to maximize the impact of academic research and expertise on public policy, social programming, and professional practice. It is supported by SSHRC and CIHR grants, and by the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation.

kmbunit@yorku.ca
www.researchimpact.ca

