



Family name, Given name

Good Gingrich, Luann

Summary of Proposed Research

The summary of your research proposal should indicate clearly the problem or issue to be addressed, the potential contribution of the research both in terms of the advancement of knowledge and of the wider social benefit, etc.

There is widespread recognition of deepening economic, social, and even subjective divides in Canadian society. Moreover, research shows that the multidimensional realities of poverty are increasingly socially and spatially concentrated among immigrant and visible minority groups. The proportion of non-white Canadians is predicted to reach one-third in the next 20 years (Caron Malenfant et al., 2010). These coinciding trends threaten to undo the commonsense notion of visible "minority", and call into question Canada's proud commitment to multiculturalism that is "fundamental to our belief that all citizens are equal" (CIC, 2010). The ethno-racial organization of Canada's regions and communities is commonly attributed to personal attributes and assets of newcomers. The observed "declining economic outcomes for newcomers" (CIC, 2010, p. 15) in the past 15 years have led to policies and programs targeted toward improvement in immigrant incomes relative to the Canadian average through strategies such as language acquisition programs. But research does not consistently support what we think we know: Canadian-born do not always out-perform all immigrants; white Canadians do not always come out on top, and not all people of colour are stuck at the bottom; and even men do not always have an easier time than women. Furthermore, it seems apparent that being an immigrant in Canada makes a difference in material terms, but it is not clear how immigrant status (i.e. country of birth, education) plays a role. The proposed research seeks to add depth and precision to our understanding of poverty and socioeconomic disparities in Canada toward informed and effective targeting of resources for Canada's newcomers and vulnerable groups. This study attempts to trace with some specificity the decisive properties of diverging socioeconomic trajectories and resulting divides, and to detect mitigating factors and strategies. The PI's conceptual model of social exclusion provides the framework and analytical tools that are adequately dynamic, relational, practical, and material for such an inquiry. Her overall program of research over the past decade has focused on social ex/inclusion, and the intersecting forces of gender, migration, religion, and ethno-racial identity. Together, the PI and co-investigator have extensive policy research experience (qualitative and quantitative) focused on labour market, social welfare, and poverty issues with a wide range of populations: ethno-religious (im)migrant groups of Mennonites from Latin America, female migrant farm labourers, single mothers, and women and First Nations people in the North.

The project proposed herein takes this theoretical and empirical investigation forward with a grounded, quantitative, secondary data analysis of the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID). Building on past work with the SLID, we will conduct a series of longitudinal, comparative investigations between social groups, across time, and across geographic regions. Statistical analyses, informed by previous empirical and theoretical work as well as a focused and critical assessment of relevant literatures, will investigate the following questions: Who is made socially excluded in Canada, and what attributes direct group-making? What are the consequences of persistent economic exclusion, and how do outcomes differ for various social groups? How have trajectories of economic exclusion changed over time? What assets and strategies protect against trajectories of social exclusion for immigrants and racialized groups in Canada?

This research will offer strategies for service providers, administrators, and policy makers to facilitate the economic, social, civic, and cultural inclusion of newcomers and other marginalized groups.