



Citizenship and Employment Precarity (CEP): The Compounding Challenges of Precarious Work and Legal Status

Study Objectives

To gain empirical and conceptual insight into the ways citizenship and legal status trajectories impact employment possibilities and job quality over time. We will conduct a **survey of newcomers (n=1200) who entered Canada without permanent residence (PR) to analyze the relationship between changes in migratory legal status, job precarity and overall health and well-being.**

Rationale

Changes in immigration policy have doubled the number of temporary workers entering Canada in the last 10 years and tripled the number of these workers still present in Canada over the same period. Adding figures for the other temporary entrance sub-categories (international students, refugee claimants and “other”) drives up the number of people with forms of precarious legal status (PLS) who enter, work, and perhaps remain in Canada. Pathways to citizenship are limited, mainly to those in “highly-skilled” temporary categories. Consequently, an unknown but growing and potentially significant number of people are spending time in temporary situations, and perhaps in periods without status, before becoming permanent residents. What impact will this have on their settlement, long term job prospects and health outcomes? What impacts will this have on Canadian society?

Study Participants

Persons who arrived in Canada with precarious legal status (not as PR), are employed and have lived here at least 3 years. These include:

- Temporary foreign workers
- International students
- Refugees and refugee claimants
- Denied refugee claimants
- Visa over-stayers
- Permanent residents and Canadian Citizens who arrived in Canada with precarious legal status (PLS)

Outcomes

- The collection of empirical evidence on the intersections of precarious legal status and precarious work
- Increased knowledge of the legal status trajectories of PLS migrants and the impact of different sets of trajectories on long-term employment outcomes
- Increased knowledge on the impact of PLS on financial debt, food security, family separation, health and well-being
- Increased knowledge of the role of settlement, employment and social service agencies in helping precarious legal status migrants gain secure status and decent work
- Enhanced resources (such as clear language materials and advocacy tools) for advocacy groups, service providers and policy makers

Update

The CEP survey working group, comprised of researchers, advocates and policy makers have completed a draft of the online survey. It has been tested by a small sample and will be ready to launch in the fall of 2017.

Project Leads

Luin Goldring is a Professor of Sociology at York University. Her research analyses immigration status as a fault line of social inequality. A recent publication includes *Producing and Negotiating Non-Citizenship: Precarious Legal Status in Canada* (co-edited with P. Landolt).

Patricia Landolt is Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She has fifteen years of experience conducting research on global migration and its impacts on Canadian society.

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