

Name of Organizer: Pauline Gardiner Barber
 E-Mail:
 Organization: Dalhousie University, Atlantic Metropolis Centre

Title of Workshop: Choices, Calculations and Commitments: Balancing Economic and Social Priorities, and for Whom?

Format: Workshop

Theme: Citizenship and social, cultural, linguistic and civic integration

Name of co-organizer & Session
 Chair: Alexandra Dobrowsky
 e-mail address:
 Organization: Saint Mary's University, Atlantic Metropolis Centre

Name of first presenter: Pauline Gardiner Barber
 e-mail address:
 Organization: Dalhousie University, Atlantic Metropolis Centre
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Class calculations and flexible citizenship; necessity, choice, commitment?

Name of second presenter: Belinda Leach
 e-mail address:
 Organization: University of Guelph
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Caribbean Immigrants' Strategic Choices

Name of third presenter: Sarah Zell
 e-mail address:
 Organization: University of British Columbia
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Assessing the Choices and Commitments of Immigrants and Employers

Name of fourth presenter: Silvia D'Addario
 e-mail address:
 Organization: York University
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Service Provision for Filipina Immigrants in Toronto's Suburbs

Name of sixth presenter: Natasha Hanson
 e-mail address:
 Organization: Dalhousie University
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Why Immigrants Stay or Leave Maritime Communities: Research from Miramichi, New Brunswick

Name of fifth presenter: Robert Vineberg
 e-mail address:
 Organization: Canada West Foundation
 Title/Theme of Presentation: Discussant

Abstract

This workshop explores local, national, and transnational experiences of diverse immigrants. Multi-faceted choices, calculations, and commitments by immigrants and employers are considered in the light of immigration pathways and policies that are at the same time expanding (in terms of new programmes) and yet narrowing (with respect to economic rationales).

Summary

Intensified competition for highly skilled and economically productive immigrants is prioritized in immigration policies at the federal and provincial levels. Yet new research, for example, with employers, provincial nominees and temporary foreign workers, confirms immigrant decisions about staying, leaving, and living transnational lives, are not strictly based on economic calculations. This is significant for understanding not only social and civic integration successes and failures but also meaningful citizenship practices.

Participants in this workshop are familiar with the local, national, and transnational experiences of immigrants from various parts of the world. Their presentations will thus reflect a diverse and complex series of choices, calculations, and commitments to be considered in the light of immigration pathways that are at the same time diversifying (in terms of new programme's and policies) and yet narrowing (with respect to economic rationales).

More specifically, this workshop explores dynamics surrounding immigrant 'choices, calculations and commitments' relative to considerations of family, gender, culture, and broader social and economic issues. These issues will be compared and contrasted with employers' needs and with policy 'choices' and political 'commitments'. Ultimately, the workshop addresses the need to balance economic, political, and social factors in new immigration strategies.