

**Organizer:** Karen MacKinnon  
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Title of workshop: Immigrant Integration Challenges and Racial Disparities in Canada

Format: Présentation suivie de discussion / Workshop  
 Theme:

**Presenter 1:** Karen MacKinnon  
 E-mail: Karen.mackinnon@cic.gc.ca  
 Organization: CIC  
**Title:** TBD

**Presenter 2:** Federico Cartin-Arteaga  
 E-mail: Federico.cartin-arteaga@peelregion.ca  
 Organization: Region of Peel  
**Title:** "Poverty and the Colour of Immigration in Peel, the GTA and Canada"

**Presenter 3:** John Shields  
 E-mail: jshields@ryerson.ca  
 Organization: Ryerson University  
**Title:** Immigrant Economic Integration, including consideration of race and gender issues

**Presenter 4:** Fo Niemi  
 E-mail:  
 Organization: Centre for Research-Action on Race Relations – Montreal  
**Title:** Economic disparities and race relations

**Presenter 5:** Krishna Pendakur (TBC)  
 E-mail: pendakur@sfu.ca  
 Organization: Simon Fraser University  
**Title:** Well-being, poverty, discrimination and economic inequality

**Abstract:**

This workshop will examine debates regarding the connection between declining economic outcomes for new immigrants to Canada and apparent increasing racial disparities. Presentations will explore the role of various causal factors (e.g., discrimination, 'human capital', intersectionality), and consider potential longer-term implications for Canadian society.

**Summary:**

Canada has a strong record on immigrant integration and multiculturalism compared to other countries, but over the past 25 years Canada has seen a decline in economic outcomes for entering immigrants and an increase in their risk of poverty (low income). Difficult economic times are likely to exacerbate these trends. Recent immigrants are among those hardest hit in the recent recession, and we know from past recessions that immigrants are likely to be the last to be re-hired and may experience long-lasting negative effects.

A related concern is a trend toward increasing racial disparities. In recent decades, immigrants have increasingly come from non-European source countries, and these groups are facing particular integration challenges, such as lack of foreign credential recognition and language barriers. The extent to which racial discrimination plays a role is debated. Although second generation Canadians (children of immigrants) on average are doing very well in terms of education and labour market outcomes, this is not the case for some visible minority groups. In addition, racial gaps in perception of discrimination among immigrants appear to increase with experience in Canada, and are even greater among children of immigrants.

This workshop will explore these issues and consider potential longer-term implications of increasing racial divides in Canadian society.