Articulation and disarticulation between the admission of refugee categories in Canada and their labour market integration

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Adèle Garnier
Postdoctoral fellow
CRIMT/Faculté de Droit
Université de Montréal
Outline

• Employment: Refugee integration’s great challenge
• Determinants of labour market integration: lit review
• Canadian refugee categories’ socioeconomic profiles in 2000s
• Very first impressions from fieldwork
Labour market participation of immigrant categories, 2000-2004. Source: LSIC,

Source: IMDB, 2008 and CRA, 2008, Table 11 in the appendix

Why the decline/plateauing over time for PSRs and RLCs?

Average earnings are significantly lower than the average in Québec.

NOTE: Graph is misleading for GARS (see Hyndman 2011)

Why is there an increase of use of employment insurance after several years for GARs and PSRs?
Determinants of labour market integration: lit review

• Many studies pre-IRPA:

- Federal: Using Longitudinal Survey of Immigrant to Canada (LSIC, 2000-2004) (studies by Shields et al., Li)

- Using Établissement des Nouveaux Immigrant in Québec (ENI, studies by Renaud, Piché and Godin )

Determinants of labour market integration: lit review

- Post-IRPA: Hiebert (e.g. 2009) on integration of immigrants and refugees in BC

- Chicha (2009) of integration of skilled immigrant and refugee women in Québec

- Goldring and Landolt (2011) on trajectory of ‘precarious status’ immigrants in Toronto

>>> intersectionality between immigrant status, gender, ethnicity, human capital, social capital

>> no qualitative study on heterogeneity among refugee categories post-IRPA
## Canadian refugee categories’ socioeconomic profiles in 2000s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources: various CIC documents, esp IMDB 2008 profiles</th>
<th>Government-Assisted Refugees (GARs)</th>
<th>Privately Sponsored Refugees (PSRs)</th>
<th>Refugees Landed in Canada (RLCs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yearly proportion of perm. Immig. intake</td>
<td>3-4% of total landings</td>
<td>1-2% of total landings</td>
<td>More variable, 9% of total landings in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal framework under IRPA</td>
<td>Resettled, granted permanent residence</td>
<td>Resettled, granted permanent residence</td>
<td>Granted refugee status after refugee claim in Canada, have to apply for PR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main countries of origin</td>
<td>Africa (Somalia, Sudan, Congo), Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan)</td>
<td>Sri Lanka, Columbia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family/gender structure</td>
<td>About equal male/female ratio for principal applicants, often arrive with families</td>
<td>65% of principal applicants are males, less families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>74% below 12 years of educ</td>
<td>73% below 12 years of educ</td>
<td>49% below 12 years of educ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement assistance</td>
<td>RAP and access to PR services</td>
<td>Sponsorship undertaking and access to PR services</td>
<td>Minimal before being granted status and while waiting for PR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: IRPA, CIC documents
Very first impressions from fieldwork

• Objective: investigating sources of similarities of differences between refugee categories in Montreal and region

• Exploratory study, planned interviews with PSRs, GARs and RLCs arrived/granted status between 2002 and 2008 (longitudinal perspective) with labour market experience, and with long-time staff of employability service providers

• Focus on employment sequences, factors of access to employment and quality of employment

• Fieldwork phase started 3 weeks ago – no interviews yet but contacts established

• From service providers documentation: refugee employability chronically under-financed and fragmented, GARs particularly vulnerable