



REPORT OF MBC ACTIVITIES: 2010- 2011

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REPORT ON METROPOLIS BRITISH COLUMBIA ACTIVITIES

April 2010 - March 2011

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THE FOURTH YEAR OF PHASE III OF METROPOLIS BRITISH COLUMBIA

Metropolis British Columbia (MBC) is a policy research centre with goals in both research and the communication of knowledge. We are a key focal point for academics and community members to get together to exchange ideas, strengthen research and communicate research findings. Our stakeholders include familiar actors like policy-makers in federal, provincial, regional and municipal governments, and also people working on immigration- and diversity-related social processes in the non-governmental organisation sector. We measure ourselves by how well we produce research, and how well we communicate it. The purpose of this document is to give a sense of both our research output and the scope of our communication activities over the fourth year of Phase III of the Metropolis Project.

We have had serious and sustained commitment on the part of our stakeholders in both provincial and federal governments, and more recently, from our partners in the NGO world. We have maintained our relationships with our major funders: core funding is provided by a coalition of federal partners through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada and amounts to \$300,000 per year. In January 2010, SSHRC conducted a midterm review of MBC (and the other four Canadian Metropolis Centers), and decided to renew our funding for a fourth and fifth year. Additional core funding is provided by the BC government through what was then the Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development (now the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation) in the amount of \$100,000 annually. This latter commitment was renewed in April 2011 to cover the fifth year of the project as well. Finally, our university partners of Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia (Vancouver and Okanagan) and the University of Victoria contribute approximately \$200,000 annually in cash, space and staff.

Our large base of core funding greatly enhances our capacity to produce and disseminate knowledge relative to other similar research centers. We have also negotiated five funded graduate student research internships (annually) with MITACS/Accelerate BC. These have also expanded our research capacity, adding \$75,000 to our research budget this year and, perhaps more importantly, deepening our relationships with partner organizations.

RESEARCH OUTPUT

The major research outlet for MBC is its working paper series. Typically, MBC publishes 12-18 working papers per year in its series, and the past year has been on the mark with 15 working papers published between April 2010 and March 2011. These

working papers include research in all of our research domains, and as with all working papers in Phase III, each working paper comes with an associated *Policy Briefing Note* which presents its main findings in a one page nontechnical format.

Our new working papers covered a gamut of topics within our mandate of research on immigration and ethnic diversity. A working paper by Perrin (10-05) found many similarities among the countries involved in human trafficking and suggested legislative means to combat trafficking based on these. Pottie-Sherman (11-01) considers the broad theoretical question of how diversity connects with markets, and a complementary paper by Chen and Jacks (10-09) finds that immigrants influence trade patterns, and foster both the breadth and depth of Canadian international trade.

Pendakur and Pendakur (11-05) present evidence that inter-ethnic inequality in Canada has not diminished over the past 20 years, even as Canadian society has become radically more ethnically diverse. However, Cuff et al (10-14) find theoretical reasons to suspect that the inequality between formal and informal workers' compensation may be much less than suspected. So, perhaps things are better than they seem.

COMMUNICATION

MBC held 11 events this year, including the national Metropolis Conference, our annual retreat, and several workshops, master classes, and symposia for graduate students. These events were designed to connect scholars, policy-makers and front-line workers with each other to better understand, better use and better create our research. We began the (fiscal) year with an interdisciplinary conference in Vancouver in June 2010 on the Asian Migration, attended by about 40 academic researchers. In July, September and October of 2010, we held smaller workshops, with attendance ranging from 14-50, on various specific topics including: Aceh Migrants; Markets and Diversity; and Homelessness. E-symposia were held in April and September 2010, and in February 2011 a Policy Research Symposium was held on Immigration, Multiculturalism and Social Change in Canada.

Our flagship event, of course, was the National Metropolis Conference held in Vancouver from 23-26 March 2011. Over 1100 people from all walks of life registered. The conference included six plenary panels with distinguished speakers and over one hundred workshop and roundtable sessions on a wide variety of topics related to immigration and cultural diversity. The conference discussed the scale and nature of Canada's immigration system and the policies and practices that have emerged to foster the socio-economic inclusion of new Canadians. Speakers from elsewhere in the world also participated, helping to explain the migration and integration dynamics of their regions and thereby allowing us to understand better the effects of these trends on Canada. The event was a great success, and a feather in the cap for MBC.

MBC's support of dissemination events has increased greatly over the first four years of Phase III, and we anticipate further strength in this area in our final year.

Another aspect of MBC's communication footprint is its support of dissemination projects. Over 2008 and 2009, we held our first and second Calls for Proposals for dissemination projects. Three projects were supported in the 2008-2009 grant cycles (four of these have provided outputs, linked on our website), and six projects were supported in 09/10.

13th NATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE

“BRINGING THE WORLD TO CANADA”

March 23-26, 2011

The Metropolis National Conference “Bringing the World to Canada” took place from March 23-26, 2011 at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver and brought together nearly 1100 delegates, mostly from Canada, but also from abroad.

The first day consisted of five full day pre-conference events with well over 300 participants. These sessions addressed Francophone Immigration, Foreign Credential Recognition, Community Resilience, and Immigration Levels and Labour Supply Forecasting, along with one dedicated solely to Graduate Student Development. Two full-day study tours visiting relevant agencies were also conducted that day, garnering excellent feedback from participants. A Welcome Reception was hosted for delegates with brief comments by the organizing committee and the Mayor of Vancouver. During the three days that followed, the audience heard six plenary sessions with high profile speakers from all sectors, along with several policy addresses. The delegates also participated in the almost 100 workshop and roundtable sessions that covered the six Metropolis priority areas. Another highlight was the Networking Dinner, which incorporated cuisine from various cultures, as well as a Bhangra dance performance that captivated the audience.

In total, The Metropolis BC centre was able to support 32 graduate students and, thanks in part to a contribution from the BC government, 27 immigrant-serving agencies. The number of actual attendees from NGOs is higher, due to the introduction of the ‘Association Pass’ which allows multiple people to use the same pass to attend different parts of the conference. Evaluations that were received confirmed the success of the conference with the vast majority of respondents answering ‘Excellent’ or ‘Good’ to all questions. Every attempt was made to attract media, and while the initiative was successful (see http://mbc.metropolis.net/media_National_Conf_2011.html for articles), a federal election was called during the conference which shifted the focus of many media. Presentations and videos from the conference, as well as the program, can be found at http://canada.metropolis.net/events/13th_nat_vancouver11/presentations/plenary_videos.html

RESEARCH AND DISSEMINATION PROJECTS

MBC held calls for proposals (CFPs) for research and dissemination projects, which were announced in October 2010 and closed in January 2011. These were quite successful calls for proposals: the research CFP attracted 20 applications, almost a record high for MBC. In our February 2011 adjudication (and including subsequent revised applications), we awarded 12 research grants. These grants totaled a commitment of approximately \$330,000, and we are very hopeful that their output will be at least as good as the last round.

Our CFP for dissemination projects was a bit disappointing. We received two applications for funding, and funded a single dissemination project. Unlike the 2009 CFP for dissemination proposals, we did not hire a third-party communications consultant to "spread the word" and beat the bushes for dissemination projects. Thus, we conclude that such activity may be essential for future dissemination CFPs.

MBC allocated nearly \$340,000 to research and dissemination projects in the February 2011 adjudications. This funding envelope is more than double the size of any other Metropolis center in Canada. As a result, MBC has a strong research presence both in Canada and internationally.

FOR THE FUTURE

The SSHRC program that funded MBC (and the other four regional Metropolis Centres) runs out in March 2012. All five Centres will end their formal operations at that time if new funding is not secured. MBC is working on two avenues for funding renewal.

First, MBC is currently in negotiation with the Province of British Columbia to secure funding to continue MBC's activities in communication and research. This negotiation is based in large measure on the goodwill generated over the past four years of solid cooperation and coordination between MBC and our provincial partners. We have every hope that it will succeed.

Second, Krishna Pendakur is leading an initiative to create a Canadian Metropolis Centre (CMC). The final proposal, to be submitted to SSHRC in Fall 2011, will request approximately \$5 million to create a research centre located at Simon Fraser University for the period 2012-2019. This national research centre will have a mandate for research and communication in the areas of immigration and ethnic diversity, and it will in some sense 'replace' the five regional Metropolis Centres. Like MBC, it will have annual CFPs, but these will be open to researchers from across Canada, and will be open to research topics that are geographically dispersed across the country.

Our hope is that both these avenues can be fruitful and coordinated. One possibility is that MBC continues with provincial funding and CMC begins with federal (SSHRC) funding, and they act as separate but coordinated research agencies. Another possibility is that MBC is fully integrated into the management structure of CMC. Time will tell what roads we are able to follow.

ACTIVITIES ACROSS OUR RESEARCH DOMAINS

(contributed by the relevant Domain Leaders)

HOUSING & NEIGHBOURHOODS: *Carlos Teixeira, UBC-Okanagan*

In recent years, there has been increasing attention paid to the relationship between access to affordable housing and the residential concentrations of newcomers and minorities on the one hand, and successful integration and inclusion on the other. For these individuals and families, not only the type of housing but also the neighbourhood in which it is found, impacts upon and helps to many aspects of social life. These include social networks, access to employment opportunities, participation in and access to public social spaces, the nature and availability of social services, and general sense of security. In this policy priority, we seek to better understand the relationship between housing, neighbourhoods and integration into Canadian society.

Overview/Summary of Activities: 2010 - 2011

Researchers affiliated with the Metropolis MBC have published important work during 2010-2011 dealing with a range of issues related to *housing and neighbourhoods*. Looking at the 2010-2011 published literature in this domain, the following research themes/areas of research were identified: a) Housing Careers/Barriers (Experiences, Situation and Needs); b) Housing and Homelessness; c) Neighbourhoods, Settlement and Housing Services (Institutions, Settlement services, etc.); d) Social Geography of Immigrants/Minorities and Ethnic Neighbourhoods; e) New Immigrants and Second-Tier-Cities; and f) Changing Residential Neighbourhoods.

Important MBC working papers in this domain were those by Priya Kissoon, “(Dis)Advantages of Illegality: Exploring Uprootedness and Homelessness Among Non-Status Migrants in Vancouver and Toronto” (WP 10-11); and Carlos Teixeira, “Housing Immigrants and Newcomers in Central Okanagan, BC” (WP 10-03). In addition, Carlos Teixeira (Guest Editor) published a special issue on “Newcomer’s Experiences of Housing and Homelessness in Canada” in Canadian Issues (Association of Canadian Studies).

With regard to *knowledge transfer* our research affiliates did a great job by sharing their research with the local/national media (regional, provincial and national newspapers, radio stations and TV) as well as building strong relationships with the local community, different levels of government, with numerous non-government partners in B.C. and with other Canadian and international academics. The recent National

Metropolis Conference which took place in Vancouver (March 2011) shows how our researchers interacted with the media by sharing with them not only the main results of their research but also the main goals of Metropolis.

Two important events were the *B.C. Housing Conference* which took place at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan (February 2011) and the National Metropolis Conference in Vancouver (March 2011) where a significant number of our research affiliates were involved in organizing different roundtables and/or workshops.

CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL, CULTURAL & CIVIC INTEGRATION: *Paul Bramadat, University of Victoria (acting domain leader)*

Within this domain one finds scholars and policy makers from a wide range of academic and practitioner perspectives. As such, while issues related to citizenship, belonging, inclusion, discrimination, multiculturalism, and religious diversity are common themes, the research and networking that occur within this domain reflect the intellectual heterogeneity of its members.

At present, there are four MBC funded research projects underway within this domain. These include David Ley's "Highway to Heaven: New suburban religious landscapes and immigrant integration," Geraldine Pratt's "Education and labour market outcomes for Filipino youth in Vancouver," Miu Chung Yan's "Out-migrating or returning migrant: A study of young Chinese-Canadians in Hong Kong," and Nancy Johnston's "Investigating barriers to PSE academic success for new immigrant and international students at SFU." These projects demonstrate both academic rigour as well as a commitment to policy relevance and will be completed between March 31, 2011 and September 31, 2011.

As usual, Metropolis BC working papers have proven to be an excellent means of disseminating the innovative research conducted on the array of issues associated with this domain. MBC research contributions to debates on citizenship and integration included: Jenny Francis's "Missing Links: Youth programs, social services, and African youth in Metro Vancouver" (WP 10-07); Zheng Wu, Christoph M. Schimmele, and Feng Hou's "Social integration of immigrants and their children in Canada's urban neighborhoods" (WP 10-10); Oliver Schmidtke and Steffen Neumann's "Engaging the migrant community outside of Canada's main metropolitan centres. Community engagement—the Welcoming Community initiative and the case of Greater Victoria" (WP 10-13); Ashley Bradimore and Harald Bauder's "Mystery ships and risky boat people: Tamil refugee migration in the newsprint media (WP 11-02); Yolande Pottie-Sherman's "Markets and diversity: An overview" (WP 11-01) and Priya Kissoon's "(Dis)Advantages of illegality: Exploring uprootedness and homelessness amongst non-status migrants in Vancouver and Toronto" (10-11).

At the MBC annual research retreat on October 14, 2010, roughly 45 participants engaged in a full day of discussions related to the future of the Metropolis Project as well as research themes closely related to the citizenship domain. For example, Paul Bramadat gave a presentation on a research project entitled "Religion, Radicalization and Securitization," Scott Graham (of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC)

discussed the positive relationship between MBC-funded research and the priorities of settlement agencies, and Kenny Zhang (Asia Pacific Foundation) addressed the cultural and political implications of sizable number of Canadians living abroad.

On February 2nd, the domain hosted an all-day policy research symposium entitled “Religion and Society: A Policy-Research Symposium on Immigration, Multiculturalism, and Social Change in Canada.” The event was held at the Wosk Centre in Vancouver, and attracted roughly 90 participants from the government, non-governmental organizations, and academy. One session, “Space, Place and the Sacred” featured three presentations related to the ways religious diversity is expressed within three urban Canadian contexts; another session featured government and community stakeholder accounts of projects and policies related to the management or response to religious diversity; the final session of the day examined the future expressions of religious diversity within a possibly “post-secular” Canada. The day was a tremendous success in terms of its attendance, organization and execution, the quality of the research featured, and the kinds of relationships that were fostered between participants during the coffee breaks and lunch.

ECONOMICS AND LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION: *David Jacks, Simon Fraser University*

The past year has been another fruitful one for the Economics and Labour Market Integration domain. The domain’s work on documenting and explaining some of the most vital issues facing both BC and Canada with respect to immigration and diversity has continued apace and offers great prospects for the future.

A number of projects funded under earlier calls for research have yielded papers for inclusion in the Metropolis Working Paper series. First, Kalaw (SFU) and Gross (SFU) analyze reported violations of employment standards under the auspices of the Live-in Caregiver Program using a survey of live-in caregivers in Vancouver; they find that, in most instances, the differences in caregivers’ personal characteristics drive little of the variation in the data and conclude that the problem of violations almost certainly stems from the adverse incentives presented to employers in the program’s current format. Chen (Shanghai University of Finance and Economics) and Jacks (SFU) address the issue of the gains from international trade and how immigrants influence this process particularly in the context of the explosion of import variety over the past 20 years; they find fairly large effects for the years from 1988 to 2007: import varieties grew by 76%, this growth is associated with a welfare gain to Canadian consumers as large as 28%, and that enhanced immigration flows in this period may be responsible for 25% of this variety growth and its attendant welfare gains for native-born Canadians. Thus, the paper informs the immigration debate in Canada along previously unconsidered dimensions and shows that they matter. Finally, Cuff (McMaster), Marceau (UQAM), Mongrain (SFU), and Roberts (Calgary) contribute to the theoretical literature related to the optimal policies of government when firms are able to evade taxes and workers are able to evade border enforcement; in this context, they find that wages are always equalized between domestic

and undocumented workers, even if they do not work in the same sectors of the economy, a results driven by the interaction of firm level decisions with optimal government policy. At the same time, former working papers in the series have subsequently been published in the past year in outlets such as *American Economic Journal: Public Policy*, *Canadian Public Policy*, and *the Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

As to future research output, in the past funding cycle, Metropolis BC sponsored four projects (three of which are led by new researchers), ensuring a healthy pipeline of future working papers and publications addressing some of the most pressing issues in the area of economic and labour market integration.

SETTLEMENT, INTEGRATION & WELCOMING COMMUNITIES: *Julie Drolet, Thompson Rivers University*

The domain brings together researchers, practitioners and policy makers from a variety of academic disciplines and perspectives. This year, there were five MBC funded research projects underway within this domain. These included:

- Jennifer Hyndman’s “Operation Swaagatam: Pre-post refugee arrival and research development”;
- Robert Sweet’s “Ethno-linguistic differences in post-high school pathways”;
- Sean Lauer’s “Acculturation stress and health: The mediating effect of social capital”;
- Daniel Hiebert’s “Superdiversity and ethno-cultural integration in metropolitan Vancouver”; and
- Brian O’Neill’s “Settlement experiences of lesbian, gay, and bisexual newcomers in BC”.

These projects will be completed between March 31, 2011 and March 31, 2012.

The Metropolis BC working papers submitted and reviewed in this domain include:

- Jenny Francis’s “Missing Links: Youth Programs, Social Services, and African Youth in Metro Vancouver”;
- Lisa Brunner, Jennifer Hyndman, Chris Friesen’s “Aceh-Malaysia-Vancouver: Settlement Among Acehnese Refugees Five Years On”;
- Raj Khadka, Miu Chung Yan, Trilby McGaw, and Lucas Aube’s “Towards a New Model of Working with Older Immigrant Youth: Lessons Learned from a Demonstration Project”;
- Kathy Sherrell, Chris Friesen, Jennifer Hyndman, and Subrath Shrestha’s “From ‘One Nation, One People’ to ‘Operation Swaagatem’: Bhutanese Refugees in Coquitlam, BC”

The domain leader participated in the MBC annual research retreat on October 14, 2010, in discussions related to the future of the Metropolis Project as well as research themes closely related to the settlement, integration and welcoming communities domain.

This year the domain leader presented in the workshop "Comparative Perspectives on Settlement and Integration: The European Union and Canada" (Session WS-28) at the 15th International Metropolis Conference in The Hague, Netherlands (October 2010). She also participated in the Priority Planning Meeting in Ottawa and adjudication of abstracts for the National Metropolis 2011 Conference (on November 24-25, 2010).

On February 2nd, the domain co-hosted an all-day policy research symposium entitled "Religion and Society: A Policy-Research Symposium on Immigration, Multiculturalism, and Social Change in Canada." The event was held at the Wosk Centre in Vancouver, and attracted about 90 participants from the government, non-governmental organizations, and universities. The domain actively participated in the planning of this event, and co-chaired an open discussion on post-secularism (with Paul Bramadat) and chaired a panel session "Policy to Project – "On the Ground" Case Studies". The policy research symposium organized by Metropolis BC and the Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development was a very successful event.

The domain leader participated as a member of the 2011 Research Grant Adjudication Committee, on February 10, 2011, which resulted in several new research grant awards in the settlement, integration and welcoming communities domain.

Many members of the domain participated in the 2011 National Metropolis Conference in Vancouver. The domain leader presented three research papers at the National conference.

In 2010, Julie Drolet (Co-Investigator), with PI Agnes Meinhard (and other researchers) were awarded \$125,000 for a national study on "Immigrant Integration and Inclusion: Investigating the Canadian Partnership Model from a Complex-System Perspective" funded by SSHRC-Metropolis. The study will be completed in December 2011.

Several publication of interest in the domain included:
Drolet, J. & Robertson, J. (Spring, 2011). In the Smaller City a Settlement Worker Wears Many Hats: Understanding Settlement Experiences in Kamloops, British Columbia. *Our Diverse Cities*. 8, 139-144.

Drolet, J., Robertson, J. and Robinson, W. (Fall, 2010). Settlement experiences in a small city: Voices of family class immigrants and settlement workers. *Canadian Social Work Journal, Special Issue on the Settlement and Integration of Newcomers to Canada*, 12(1), 218-223.

Drolet, J. (2010). Refugees, social justice, and reflexive practices: A critical account of social services in African refugee camps, from my journal. *Reflections, Narratives of Professional Helping. Special Issues: Social Justice*. 16(3), 71-91.

Ali, Y. and Drolet, J. (December 2010). Welcoming and Inclusive Communities and Workplaces Initiatives (WICWP) Final Report. Community Futures and Kamloops Immigrant Services: Kamloops, BC.

JUSTICE, POLICING AND SECURITY: *Krishna Pendakur, SFU (for Ben Perrin, UBC)*

MBC has put substantial effort into increasing the research capacity of the Justice and Policing domain. This has had some measure of success. In terms of communication activities, the National Conference provided an excellent venue to get policymakers and researchers together, and several workshops at the conference supported this type of interaction. A full day pre-conference session on Community Resilience was hosted in partnership with Public Safety Canada, and one plenary session, entitled 'Diaspora Politics and Imported Conflicts' addressed this issue from a number of different angles. Our hope is that, as in the past, these types of interactions will support future research and the growth of knowledge in this important area.

The most obvious payoff to our investment in the Justice and Policing domain has been in the new working papers that MBC published in its working paper series over 2010/11. Ben Perrin's (10-06) paper focuses on identifying similarities in trafficking countries that may be used in legal frameworks to combat human trafficking. Priya Kissoon (10-11) draws attention to how illegal migrants in Vancouver and Toronto face subtle disadvantages in their housing and refugee claimant paths. Cuff et al (10-14) offer theoretical work to show that, when policy responds optimally to the presence of an illegal sector in the labour market, disparity in compensation between legals and illegals disappears. Finally, Bradimore and Bauder (11-02) show that media responses to illegal migrations, specifically the Tamil refugee boats in 2009, may exacerbate hostile feelings towards the immigrants in general.

Another interesting development in this domain was the launch of Ben Perrin's Invisible Chains, a popular-press book on Canada's underworld of human trafficking. This important work brings his career of research contributions directly into the public eye, at a time when federal policymakers are seriously considering legislation to combat trafficking.

