

## **[Beyond Documentation and Marginalization: A Study of Irregular Filipino Migration and Integration in Ontario After Unparalleled Times of COVID-19]**

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### **Abstract**

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed and exacerbated systemic inequities, particularly affecting racialized immigrant communities in Canada. Among these groups, irregular Filipino migrants in Ontario faced unique challenges related to precarious legal status, restricted access to healthcare, employment instability, and social exclusion. This study investigates the post-pandemic integration experiences of irregular Filipino migrants, examining the structural barriers they encounter and proposing pathways to enhance their rights and well-being. The research addresses the question: "How can the post-pandemic integration challenges faced by irregular Filipino migrants in Ontario be comprehensively addressed while preserving their fundamental rights and dignity as immigrants during crises?"

Grounded in the Human Rights framework and Intersectionality theory, this study explores the interplay between immigration status, socio-economic conditions, healthcare access, and support networks in shaping migrants' lived experiences. A qualitative approach is employed, using semi-structured interviews with irregular Filipino migrants and community leaders. Thematic analysis of qualitative data will uncover the nuanced realities of migration. Additionally, participatory workshops and focus groups will engage migrant organizations in co-developing policy recommendations.

This research aims to contribute to the discourse on migrant inclusion by highlighting systemic barriers and advocating for policy reforms that enhance immigrant protections. The findings will inform government policies, community interventions, and advocacy efforts that promote equitable and dignified integration for irregular migrants in Ontario. Ultimately, this study underscores the need for inclusive, rights-based frameworks that prioritize the well-being of vulnerable migrant populations in Canada's post-pandemic recovery.

### **Biography**

Leny Simbre is a researcher and advocate specializing in migrant justice, community engagement, and social movements. Her work examines migrant care work, international students, temporary labor migration, and participatory research. She holds a BA Honours in Human Rights and Equity Studies from York University and previously worked as a Research Project Coordinator at the York University Centre for Asian Research. Currently pursuing a Master's in Immigration and Settlement Studies at TMU, she is a research

assistant for the Soli\*City project, which explores urban policies for migrant and refugee inclusion. She also contributes to The Philippine Reporter, covering migrant community issues.