National immigration 'models,' social welfare regimes, and Muslims' economic incorporation in France and Canada | Jeffrey G. Reitz

This paper explores contrasting national contexts in France and Canada for the economic incorporation of Muslim and other minorities, considering social welfare regimes – corporatist-statist in France and liberal in Canada – and immigrant incorporation 'models' – republican secularism in France, multiculturalism in Canada (within Canada Québec represents a hybrid case). We assess both individual earnings and household incomes in large-scale surveys data (Trajectoires et Origines in France 2008-09, the Canadian National Household Survey 2011), taking account of differences in Muslims' origins, time-of-arrival/generation, and human capital. Main results point to labour market institutions and away from immigrant incorporation model as significant. Striking cross-national differences in minorities' cross-generational economic trajectories – flat in France, upward in Canada – characterize all groups, including Muslims, other racial minorities, and those of European origin alike. Muslims' net disadvantage is also similar across settings. Exceptionally, however, the English-Canadian Muslim second generation enjoys relatively higher net household incomes. The explanation lies not in earnings patterns (which are similar) but rather household characteristics. Muslim women's labour force participation is lower in France; assistance from more affluent Muslim parents is greater in Canada. Explanations reference both cultural context and immigrant selectivity.