

Settler Colonialism, Race and Migrations

Layal Ajaj, Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract

This scoping literature review aims to examine the contentious relationship between the Canadian state on one side, and immigrants and Indigenous peoples on the other, with a focus on the concepts of state, national migration, and structures of government. Drawing upon theories of post-colonialism and settler colonialism, this study seeks to identify the historical and contemporary treatment of these groups by the Canadian state, with particular attention to themes of economic exploitation, displacement, racial discrimination, and cultural erasure. This study aims at providing insight into the ways in which the Canadian government has historically and presently treated Immigrants and Indigenous peoples. The study highlights the importance of recognizing and acknowledging the impact of settler colonialism on Indigenous peoples and the ongoing struggles of Immigrants in Canada. It contributes to a deeper understanding of the systemic discrimination and oppression that Immigrants and Indigenous peoples have faced and continue to face in Canada. The study provides a critical analysis of the power dynamics between the Canadian state, and marginalized groups. It highlights the need for decolonization and a reimagining of the relationship between the state and Indigenous peoples. This research also emphasizes the importance of recognizing and addressing the impact of colonialism on the experiences of immigrants in Canada. By drawing on postcolonial and settler colonial theory, this study provides a theoretical framework for understanding the relationship between Immigrants and Indigenous peoples and the Canadian state.

Biography

Layal Ajaj is a student pursuing her master's degree in Immigration and Settlement Studies. She is also a researcher who is actively involved in projects focused on precarious migrants, refugees, Indigenous people, and other marginalized communities. Having come to Canada as a refugee, Layal is an advocate who continuously works on projects that improve the resettlement and immigration process for migrants and refugees. Her current involvement with WUSC, the Soli*City project, Arab Families research, and Inclusive Communities for Older Immigrants project testifies to her involvement with these issues.