

Immigrant and Refugee Policies, Politics, and Spaces of Integration

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Abstract

Canada, and indeed much of the world, is currently experiencing an unprecedented housing crisis in which housing price growth has far exceeded incomes (Fields and Hodgkinson, 2018). Recently, the Government of Canada released ambitious immigration targets, seeking to bring approximately 500,000 people a year from 2023-2025 (IRCC, 2022). However, many Canadian cities face housing supply shortages and a growing financialization of rental housing, resulting in a chronic lack of affordable housing to accommodate this population growth (UofT School of Cities, 2022). Housing is an essential dimension of immigrant settlement and integration, yet immigrants face several barriers in accessing affordable and adequate housing in both large and mid-sized Canadian cities (Teixeira, 2009). This raises serious questions about future wellbeing and integration of newcomers to Canada, and an urgent need to address the pressing housing challenges facing the country. In the absence of a robust set of literature on the intersections between immigration and housing, especially in a Canadian context, this paper conducts an exploratory scoping review on the intersections of immigration and housing. This research identifies key themes in the literature, including the impacts of housing insecurity on immigrants, the importance of housing in settlement and integration, and various policy responses to address immigrant housing need. I conclude by identifying gaps in the literature and potential directions for future research.

Biography

Sebastien Gibson is originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia. Sebastien's research interests focus on the intersections of housing policy and migration, including the study of migrant housing experiences in urban settings. He has experience working in municipal government.