

Intersectionalities of Immigrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship and Digital Nomads

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Abstract

For decades now there has been criticism of the lack of inclusivity and equitable access to the environmental sustainability sector despite racialized and/or Indigenous communities often being on the frontlines of fighting the climate crisis. Meanwhile, the era of the Anthropocene has led to unprecedented numbers of climate-induced migration and refugees. Canada is a country which heavily relies on immigration to support and sustain economic growth yet, little is known about the inclusion of racialized newcomers into the growing green economy. Further, Canada being one of the largest global emitters of greenhouse gas emissions per capita means that it has an additional responsibility to create policies which are supportive of racialized newcomers who are fleeing environmental hazards and natural disasters which have been induced by climate change. The continued expansion of the environmental sustainability sector and growth of the green economy present an incredible opportunity to provide racialized immigrants with more agency in environmentalism. This can aid to cease Canada's ongoing legacy of environmental racism and societal injustices which are being compounded by climate change. This paper provides an extensive review of grey and scholarly, peer reviewed literature to determine what the current state of barriers and opportunities are for the participation of racialized newcomers in the green economy. It also emphasizes the importance of bridging the gap between environmental justice and immigration and migrant integration efforts.

Biography

Mei-Ling Patterson is a MASc student in the Environmental Applied Science and Management program at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her master's research is focused on the integration of racialized newcomers into Canada's green economy. She graduated from the Environment and Urban Sustainability program at TMU with a minor in French Studies receiving a BA (Honours) with distinction. She's a Research Intern at the Rexdale Community Hub working alongside other community-based researchers to address local food security needs. Outside of her studies, she is the Director of Communications at Shake Up The Establishment and an Educational Workshop Facilitator for The Starfish Canada.