

Public support for humanitarian migration in Canada: Results from a survey experiment to correct misperceptions

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Abstract

In a world afflicted by violent conflict, and economic and environmental disasters, supporting the settlement and integration of refugees and asylum seekers remains a top international priority. This research aims to understand how Canadians perceive newcomers arriving to Canada for humanitarian reasons, to estimate Canadians' misperceptions of the number of newcomers arriving as refugees or asylum seekers, and test whether correcting misperceptions shifts attitudes toward refugees and asylum seekers and influences public support for immigration more generally. To begin answering these questions, this study draws on data from a unique survey experiment with a national sample of Canadians fielded in June, 2023.

Biography

Colin Scott is an applied researcher working on issues relating to the psychology and politics of diversity and inclusion. His research examines intergroup relations, migrant integration and adaptation, as well as how governments can communicate more effectively with newcomers and citizens about migration. Colin received his PhD in political science from McGill University and holds a master's in applied social psychology from the University of Guelph. He is an Affiliate Assistant Professor at Concordia University's department of Political Science and a Behavioural Science Fellow with the Government of Canada's Impact and Innovation Unit.