

Migration and the Future of Work



Does Canada's express entry system rise to the challenges of the future labour market?

Rupa Banerjee | Ryerson University

For many decades, Canada's points-based immigration system has focused on admitting highly educated, skilled immigrants. Although the education level of immigrants has been steadily increasing, labour market integration has remained a constant challenge. Studies over the past two decades have found strong empirical evidence that more recent cohorts of immigrants face increasing difficulty integrating into the Canadian labour market even after many years in the country. In an effort to improve the declining economic position of immigrants, the Canadian government instituted a number of changes in recent years, culminating with the official launch of 'Express Entry' in January 2015. This presentation will examine whether Canada's system for selecting skilled immigrants, managed under Express Entry, is appropriate for its current and future labour market needs. The results and analysis of a study investigating the impact of various features of Express Entry on integration outcomes will be shared, along with recommendations on how the current system could be improved to leverage the talents and competencies of all newcomers.