

Who are Canada's Temporary Migrants?

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The historical Canadian emphasis on welcoming immigrants as permanent residents who will contribute to nation-building has recently shifted to include growing numbers of temporary residents. Unlike permanent residents, temporary residents in Canada are subjected to restricted work authorizations, and social citizenship rights. In addition, federal and provincial policies distinguish different groups of temporary residents based on their skill type and work permit which determine their eligibility for labour mobility, permanent residency and settlement services. This presentation demonstrates how temporariness has been institutionalized in Canada over time through a wide range of policies and labour market practices producing a hierarchy of categories of migrants ranging from the temporarily temporary to the permanently temporary and temporarily permanent.