

What About Gender? Migrant Women, Portals and Paid Work in Canada

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Immigrant Women's integration =large topic

Want to look at one small area of integration, notably economic (paid work) integration for migrant women in Canada

How do portals of entry and mechanisms of exclusion sort the entry of migrant women to Canada and influence the paid work that they do

Conditions of Entry:

- a) Early research OECD 1986; UN 1991 noted gender strat in who entered how**
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- 1. women were dependents, or “sponsored” (family class)**
 - 2. less likely to be in economic classes and admitted as refugees**

Seen as a form of systemic discrimination (when gender neutral laws in fact have gender consequences) and basis for Gender Based Analysis (now GBA+)

- b) Today scope needs to be broadened**

Need to look at Entry Categories

They represent pathways into a country – but they also influence subsequent pathways, creating variations in contingent vs full integration

Temporary status/ irregular migration

Precarious entry - precarious work

**International students- transition
(Can exp)**

Questions for this talk:

How is entry status gendered

How do immigration categories for permanent residence sort and shape the experiences of women and men in Canada's labour market?

My recent research analyses 2016 data where IRCC admission classes are attached to census records.

I select permanent residents who arrived age 20+, living in cities of 100,000+ (CMAs) and are age 25-64 at the time of the census.

My analysis shows:

- 1. Differences in class of entry – women most likely to enter in the family class (explain why)**
- 2. Differences between men, women and LGBT couples in percentages who are principal applicants and who are “dependents” (these are IRCC administrative terms)**
- 3. In any class of entry, except the Foreign Domestic Worker program or the Live in Care Program, women have the highest percentages entering as dependents.**

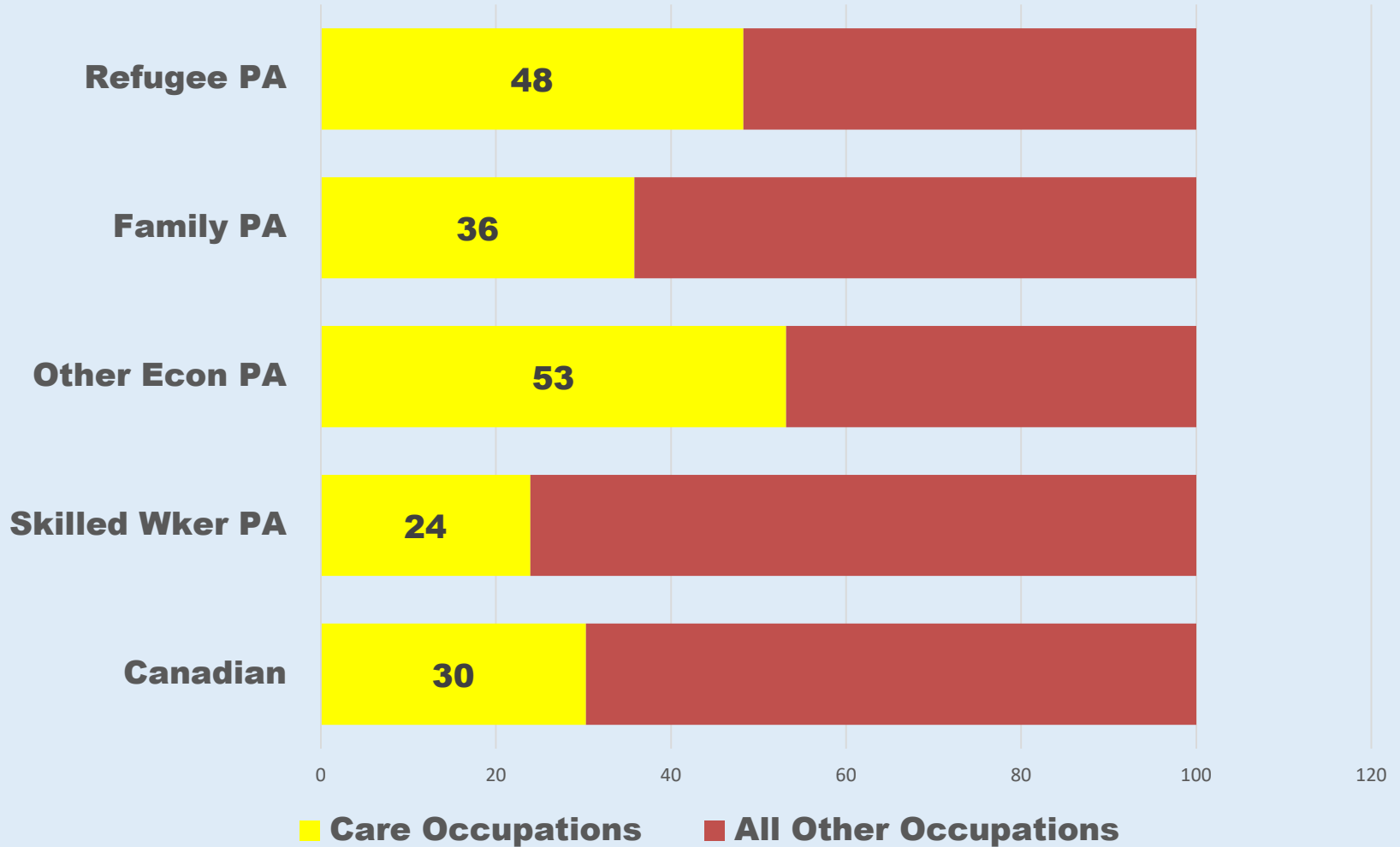
Supporting Charts presented (removed here for verification)

One inescapable fact: a major sector of employment for women (and not men or LGBT couples) is care work (nurturant care and reproductive care)

typology based on work by Duffy, England et al and others

Drivers- demand for child care in the home and in day cares; medical personnel (nurses, nurses aides, technicians, personal support workers...)

**Percent of Canadian Born and Permanent Resident Women in
Care and Non-Care Occupations, Age 25-64, Living in CMAs,
Canada**



Past trends suggest demand for care workers is likely to increase)

Nurturant and Reproductive Care Workers – 30 year trend

1991-2016

Total Growth

62%

Canadian born

45%

Immigrants (arrived age 0-19)

102%

Immigrants (arrived age 20+)

138%

Temporary migrants

705

What will change by 2030 in the configuration of care work and who is employed where?

What is needed

Serious GBA +

On-going studies of the sites of female employment, both in general and for immigrant women

Thank you!

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