

# CERC Migration

Annual Report  
2025-26

A LASTING  
LEGACY

Toronto  
Metropolitan  
University

Canada Excellence  
Research Chair in  
Migration & Integration



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2025–26 year has been a significant one for us, marking both an ending and a new beginning as we began to transition the seven-year long Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration (CERC Migration) into the Global Migration Institute at Toronto Metropolitan University. This evolution is an important milestone that builds on more than two decades of research, partnerships, and engagement, and sets the direction for the work ahead.

Migration continues to be at the centre of public and political debate, in Canada and globally. Over the past year, we have seen growing polarization and shifting policy priorities, such as the passing of Bill C-12, the Strong Borders Act. These developments only reinforce growing uncertainty amongst migrants and asylum seekers, and underscore how important it is to support careful, evidence-based research and to create space for informed dialogue and policy responses.

This has also been a very active year for our community. We organized a variety of public community events, such as *Tehranto*, where members of the Iranian-Canadian community were invited to share artistic perspectives of their diasporic stories, as well as *A Queer Panel*, an event that engaged a transnational lens to explore the multifaceted legal, material, and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ migrants and asylum seekers across their migration trajectories. On International Women's Day, in collaboration with Newcomer Women's Services Toronto, we hosted a lively panel of powerful and inspiring women to discuss pathways forward for women in leadership.

Our annual conference, which took place from May 13-15, 2025, in partnership with Bridging Divides and the MEMO Project, explored the multiple drivers of migration including the social, political, economic, and environmental factors, as well as their decision-making processes. We also hosted the Metropolis International Summit in October 2025 in partnership with Metropolis International, where representatives from civil

society, government, and academia convened and engaged in rich discussions on solidarity cities, diaspora finance, and the impact of advanced digital technologies on migration research and policy, which highlighted innovative approaches to addressing migration challenges and building inclusive, informed communities.

Supporting students and early-career researchers has remained a priority. Initiatives such as the inaugural Migration Narratives Challenge, Build a Bridge, and our Winter School created opportunities for learning, collaboration, and new ideas to emerge.

As we move forward under the Global Migration Institute, we do so with a strong foundation and a clear sense of purpose. We aim to continue producing relevant, rigorous research, while strengthening our partnerships and engagement in Canada and internationally. This report offers a snapshot of that work.

I would like to thank our colleagues at TMU and our many partners for their continued collaboration and support.

With gratitude,



**Anna Triandafyllidou**

Canada Excellence Research Chair  
in Migration and Integration Program

# A LASTING LEGACY: SEVEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



**163**  
EVENTS HOSTED



**38**  
GRANTS AWARDED




**94**  
VISITING SCHOLARS AND FELLOWS



**10**  
GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

RESEARCH PROJECTS



**65**



**189**  
PEOPLE HIRED

**57** GRADUATE STUDENTS SUPPORTED



# THE NEXT CHAPTER

In September 2025, Toronto Metropolitan University marked an important transition with the soft launch of the Global Migration Institute, a new hub for migration research, policy impact, and community engagement.

Building on more than 25 years of leadership through the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration and other migration initiatives at TMU, the Institute represents both continuity and renewal.

The introduction of the Institute has taken place gradually over the past year, with new initiatives,

partnerships, and activities reflecting its expanded scope and mandate. This approach has allowed the Institute to build on existing strengths while laying the groundwork for future growth and visibility.

As the Global Migration Institute continues to take shape, it will expand its programs and partnerships while remaining grounded in a clear purpose: to advance knowledge and research excellence, inform policy, and contribute to more inclusive and equitable societies.



To learn more about the Global Migration Institute and how to support its work, including opportunities for giving, please visit [torontomu.ca/globalmigrationinstitute](https://torontomu.ca/globalmigrationinstitute)

## Global Migration Institute Leadership Team



**Anna Triandafyllidou**

Scientific Director,  
Global Migration Institute



**Martha Munezhi**

Executive Director,  
Bridging Divides



**Zhixi Zhuang**

Associate Director for Education  
and Capacity Building,  
Global Migration Institute

# BMO NEWCOMER WORKFORCE INTEGRATION LAB

**As Canada grapples with labour shortages and evolving immigration challenges, the BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab is demonstrating how evidence-based research can drive meaningful change for newcomers and communities alike.**

The BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab is a dedicated research lab at CERC Migration addressing the employment challenges faced by newcomers to Canada. The lab was made possible by a generous \$3 million donation from BMO Financial Group to support the Labour Market Migration in the 21st Century research pillar at CERC Migration. By bridging evidence-based academic research with employer practices in the corporate sector, the Lab fosters a unique collaboration that translates rigorous scholarship into practical, real-world solutions for workforce integration.

In 2025–2026, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame’s Urban Poverty and Business Initiatives (UPBI), the BMO Lab launched Enterprise Bridge, an initiative designed to empower immigrant entrepreneurs to build businesses in Toronto. The program supports immigrants with business ideas and early-stage entrepreneurs by providing training, mentorship, counselling, and community connections over a three-year period, helping participants transform their ideas into sustainable enterprises.

The BMO Lab was also privileged to host the public debut of Canada’s official results from the Migration Integration Policy Index (MIPEX), a global benchmarking tool that assesses integration policies in over 50 countries across key domains, including labour market mobility, education, health, political participation, and anti-discrimination. Developed by the Migration Policy Group (MPG), MIPEX provides policymakers, researchers, and civil society organizations with valuable insights into how national policies support—or hinder—the integration of immigrants. At the event, it was announced that Canada maintained its previous global ranking of fourth place. The consensus from the event discussion was that Canada has taken important steps toward migration inclusion, and while this score is strong, it doesn’t fully capture existing gaps. There is still much work to be done.

**Left and right:** Enterprise Bridge entrepreneurs at the introductory workshop.





Further, on International Women's Day 2026, the Lab co-hosted a multi-sectoral event in partnership with Newcomer Women's Services Toronto which brought together immigrant women, policymakers, employers, HR practitioners, and community leaders. The panelists included: Kamilah Reid-Burrell, Director of Inclusion, BMO; Anju Virmani, former Chief Information Officer of Cargojet Inc.; Ayan Aden, Director of Operations and Service Delivery, NEW; Guang Ying Mo, Director of Research, Diversity Institute; and Rania Younes, Director of Strategy and Impact, IEC-BC. Remarks were also provided by: The Honourable Ratna Omidvar C.M., O.Ont; The Honourable Minister Charmaine Williams; Anna Triandafyllidou, Scientific Director,

Global Migration Institute; and Sara Asalya, Executive Director of Newcomer Women's Services Toronto. The discussion focused on how workplaces, policies, and technologies can better support immigrant women's leadership and economic participation, while also highlighting the importance of immigrant women's voices in shaping public policy and driving meaningful social change.

Through research, partnerships, and community-driven initiatives, the BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab continues to advance inclusive approaches to workforce integration and entrepreneurship, helping newcomers build their futures in Canada.



**Top:** Basak Yavçan, Head of Research, Migration Policy Group, shared an overview of the MIPEX framework and Canada's overall 2024 results.  
**Bottom:** *From Inclusion to Influence: Immigrant Women and the Future of Work* brought together multi-sectoral leaders.

# BRIDGING JOURNALISM AND RESEARCH

## Welcoming the Global Migration Institute's First Cohort of Journalism Fellows

In 2025–26, the Institute hosted its first cohort of Journalism Fellows, welcoming Davide Lemmi (Italy), Solafa Magdy (France), Elroi Yee (Malaysia), Valentín Díaz (Colombia), Ruona Meyer (Germany), and Pradipta Mukherjee (India) for a one-month residency at Toronto Metropolitan University. The program brings together experienced journalists with a strong track record in covering immigration, politics, and global affairs, offering dedicated time and space to engage more deeply with migration research.

The Journalism Fellowship is designed to connect media professionals with leading scholars and policy experts, supporting more nuanced, evidence-based reporting on migration and integration. During their residency, fellows participated in research discussions, attended events, and built relationships with faculty and partners across the Institute's network.

For many, the experience provided a rare opportunity to step back from the pace of daily reporting and explore complex migration issues in greater depth. As Pradipta Mukherjee noted, "Being able to incorporate researchers' work into my stories was invaluable. Being on the ground also gave me access to people I normally wouldn't meet, from professionals working nearby the office to Uber drivers. It really helped me understand the realities of employment and lifestyle in Toronto more clearly."

Davide Lemmi similarly reflected on the value of direct engagement with researchers: "The few weeks that I've been here [in Toronto], I had the opportunity to confront a completely different perspective on how to approach a project, and for me that's super valuable. It shaped me both personally and professionally, from a methodology point of view with the way you approach a project. This is something that I learned from all the researchers here."

By fostering collaboration between journalists and researchers, the program contributes to more informed public discourse on migration. It also reflects the Institute's broader commitment to knowledge mobilization, ensuring that research insights reach wider audiences and inform conversations beyond academia.



**Above:** Elroi Yee, Journalism Fellow, sharing ideas on where journalism and research can collaborate. **Below:** Davide Lemmi (L), journalist, and Solafa Magdy, exiled journalist and writer, presented to the CERC Migration researchers at our month Research Dialogue Series.

# CERC MIGRATION WINTER SCHOOL

## Equipping the Next Generation of Migration Researchers

From November 3–7, 2025, the Global Migration Institute hosted the second cohort of its Winter School. Spearheaded by Zhixi Zhuang, Associate Director of Education and Capacity Building and Winter School Chair, the program welcomed 30 early-career researchers from across the globe for an intensive week of learning, collaboration, and hands-on experience in Toronto. Designed to strengthen qualitative research skills in migration studies, the Winter School combines in-depth classroom instruction with immersive community engagement, offering participants a rich blend of theory and practical application.

Throughout the week, participants learned about qualitative research methods under the guidance of leading researchers and industry practitioners. Workshops and discussions focused on ethnography, interviewing, participatory approaches, knowledge mobilization, and ethical considerations in migration research, equipping participants with tools to conduct rigorous research.

“Teaching the Tableau (data visualization software) component of the CERC Migration Winter School was a rewarding experience,” said Stein Monteiro, Winter School Instructor and Lead Research Associate, Immigration, Signal49. “Participants were highly engaged, eager to learn, and brought strong ideas to the session. They quickly connected the visualization techniques to their own research questions and identified concrete ways to advance their projects. Supporting emerging scholars in developing these skills is important, and this cohort showed a readiness to apply them in meaningful ways.”

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of the Winter School experience. Participants visited a local settlement services non-profit organization, The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO), gaining firsthand insights that enhanced their academic understanding and connected research to real-world impact.

“Coming from a quantitative research background, the Winter School was an eye-opening introduction to qualitative methods and their role in understanding migration and integration, shared Devaanshi Khanzode, CERC Migration Researcher and Winter School participant. “I gained hands-on experience with interviewing techniques, data analysis in NVivo (qualitative data analysis software), and visualizing qualitative insights in Tableau which are skills that have made me a more well-rounded researcher. A memorable moment was our visit to The Neighbourhood Organization, where conversations about ethics and community engagement reinforced the importance of collaboration and trust in producing meaningful research.”

We extend our sincere thanks to all participants, speakers, and community partners who made this second Winter School a success. With each session, we continue to strengthen a global network of migration scholars, fostering collaboration, skill-building, and shared learning for years to come.

**Left:** Students and practitioners learned qualitative research methods over the week of workshops and site visits. **Right:** Zhixi Zhuang, Winter School Chair, welcomes participants to Toronto.



# RESEARCH IN FOCUS: ENTERPRISE BRIDGE

## Empowering Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Toronto

In 2025-2026, the Global Migration Institute, in partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Urban Poverty and Business Initiatives (UPBI), launched Enterprise Bridge, an initiative designed to empower immigrant entrepreneurs to build businesses in Toronto. This year, the initiative is generously supported by The Coca-Cola Company in North America, inspired by the FIFA World Cup.

Immigrant-led ventures face greater financial fragility and challenges navigating Canadian business practices, securing financing, and building social capital. Enterprise Bridge is addressing these challenges by recruiting immigrants with business ideas or early-stage entrepreneurs and providing them with training, mentoring, counselling, and community connections. The larger project hosted by the UPBI is under implementation in over 50 cities across the globe.

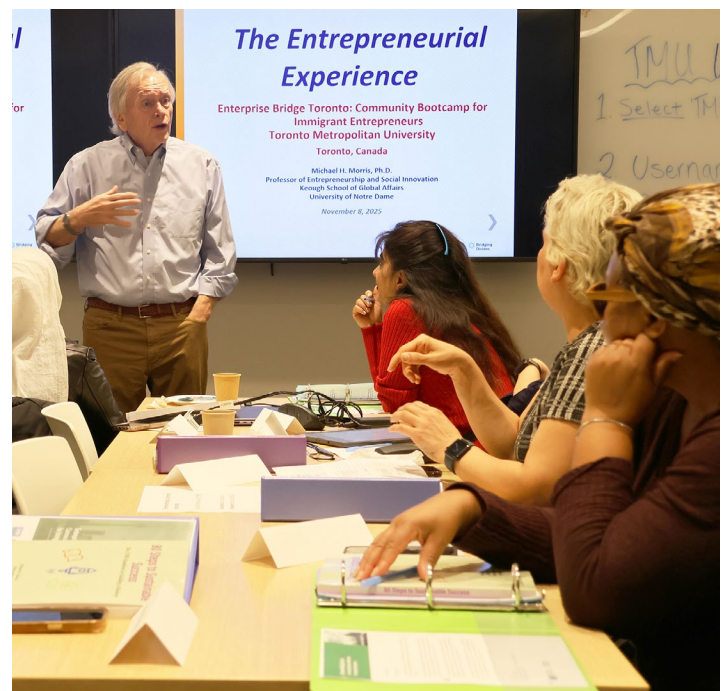
**Using a six-pillar model, the initiative includes a structured 80-step pathway, guiding participants through training and mentoring while addressing social problems like poverty through the process.**

In the Fall of 2025, CERC Migration kicked off this nine-month program beginning with six bootcamp sessions delivered over six weeks, followed by a mentorship phase and a student consultation phase. Each bootcamp session was designed to be immersive, combining a two-hour workshop with sessions featuring both a guest speaker and a guest entrepreneur.

Workshops covered key stages of the entrepreneurial journey, from ideation to execution, financing, securing resources, marketing, and other essential business fundamentals. Participants also heard from guest speakers across sectors such as government, financial institutions, and local businesses, who offered specialized insights. Guest entrepreneurs shared their personal journeys and day-to-day experiences.

"The UPBI provided the rare opportunity to support communities through direct development initiatives, while also continuing to drive meaningful research," says Researcher and Program Lead Anil Dhakal.

CERC Migration is incredibly grateful to benefit from UPBI's support from The Coca-Cola Company in North America. Inspired by the upcoming FIFA World Cup 26™, Coca-Cola is supporting community groups that drive economic growth and inclusion. Coca-Cola in North America aims to create meaningful opportunities for communities by supporting local colleges and universities, supporting them towards equitable access to opportunity and upward mobility. By driving economic growth and inclusion, Coca-Cola is creating a legacy that extends far beyond the tournament.



**Above:** University of Notre Dame professor of entrepreneurship and social innovation Michael Morris presents at an Enterprise Bridge workshop.

# RESEARCH IN FOCUS: MEMO Project

Why do people move? It is one of the most debated questions in migration research, and one of the hardest to answer. Migration is often reduced to a single explanation: jobs, conflict, climate change, family. But for millions of people around the world, the decision to leave home is rarely driven by one factor alone.

The Complex Migration Flows and Multiple Drivers in Comparative Perspective (MEMO) project is challenging these simplified narratives. Supported by a \$2.5 million SSHRC Partnership Grant, the six-year international research initiative brings together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers across three regions - the Americas, West Africa, and South and Southeast Asia - to better understand the interconnected forces that shape migration journeys.

Since its launch in 2022, MEMO researchers have conducted extensive interviews with migrants and key stakeholders across 12 countries, creating one of the most comprehensive comparative studies of migration drivers undertaken to date. As teams move into the data analysis phase, we are understanding that migration is not a single event but an ongoing process shaped by a web of economic, social, political, environmental, and personal factors.

Across all regions, economic insecurity remains a powerful force. Unemployment, rising costs of living, food insecurity, and limited opportunities frequently motivate people to seek better futures elsewhere. Yet economic concerns rarely act alone. Family responsibilities, social networks, diaspora communities, recruitment agents, immigration consultants, and increasingly social media platforms all influence migration decisions, helping migrants access information, finance journeys, choose destinations, and navigate settlement. At the same time, these channels can expose individuals to misinformation, exploitation, and unrealistic expectations.

The research findings to date also reveal important regional differences. In West Africa, migration is closely tied to livelihood pressures, educational aspirations, remittances, and evolving regional mobility patterns. Across South and Southeast Asia, recruitment systems, visa pathways, and the pursuit of long-term stability through employment, education, and permanent residence play a central role. In the Americas, migration is more directly shaped by violence, insecurity, organized crime, political persecution, gender-based violence, and rapidly changing border policies that can leave people stranded, deported, or forced to migrate again.

**Despite these challenges, migrants are exercising their agency. Across all regions, MEMO researchers found individuals actively weighing risks and opportunities, adapting to changing circumstances, and pursuing futures for themselves and their families, even as they face structural constraints.**

Alongside the qualitative research, MEMO is pioneering innovative approaches to migration data visualization. Researchers are developing GIS-based migration maps, interactive dashboards, story maps, and machine-learning models that help reveal how factors such as climate, conflict, and education interact with migration patterns. Initially piloted in Ghana, these tools are now being expanded to Bangladesh, Guatemala, and Nigeria. The team is also creating a web-based platform and experimenting with Toronto Metropolitan University's tangible data interaction technologies, transforming complex datasets into accessible and engaging learning experiences.

As the project continues, its impact is already being felt across academic, policy, and public spheres. To date, MEMO researchers have produced 14 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, an edited volume, 12 reports and policy briefs, and 26 public-facing articles, blogs, and digital communications pieces. The partnership has also convened major international conversations through conferences in Toronto and Mexico focused on understanding migration drivers and rethinking how migration is studied and governed.

By exploring the complexity of the intersecting drivers of migration, MEMO is helping build a more nuanced and evidence-based understanding of migration in an increasingly interconnected world.



**Right:** The MEMO Project research team convened at El Colegio de México for the second annual conference.

# METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

## Global Migration Leaders Convene in Toronto

On October 2–3, 2025, the Global Migration Institute co-hosted the Metropolis International Summit at Toronto Metropolitan University, bringing together more than 200 participants from academia, civil society, and government to Toronto for two days of dialogue, knowledge exchange, and collaboration.

The Institute's role as co-host reflected a new partnership with Metropolis International Migration Network, strengthened by Anna Triandafyllidou's appointment as Chair of the network. Together, this collaboration positioned Toronto Metropolitan University as a hub for advancing global dialogue on migration and integration.

The event program covered some of the most urgent and fast-evolving issues in migration studies today, including the role of solidarity cities, diaspora finance, and the transformative impact of advanced digital technologies on research and policy. Across sessions, participants examined concrete policy challenges and emerging research, with discussions grounded in lived experiences and an examination of what works, and what doesn't.

The Summit featured keynote addresses by Alejandro Portes, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Princeton University, and H.E. Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at the African Union.

**At the Summit, Metropolis International introduced its renewed strategic direction and membership model, designed to deepen global collaboration, strengthen connections across sectors, and foster ongoing engagement among members. Building on three decades of leadership in migration and integration governance, the network continues to evolve as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and partnership.**

By convening this year's Summit, the Global Migration Institute helped shape the conversations driving the future of migration research and policy based on a shared commitment to advancing research and policy impact on migration.



**Above:** Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union, presented a keynote on migration governance.



**Above:** Jean-Christophe Dumont, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development chairs the panel *Mobilising Diaspora Finance*. **Below:** Members of the International Advisory Committee convened in Toronto.

# RESEARCH IN FOCUS: FUTUREMIG

## Imagining the Futures of Human Mobility

We are living through a period when the familiar rhythms of daily life no longer hold. Climate disruptions unsettle entire regions; political shifts ripple unpredictably across borders. Technologies evolve faster than our policies, institutions, and imaginations can keep pace. In this dynamic environment, the forces shaping human mobility are changing in ways that are anything but linear.

In light of these challenges, much of migration research still relies on tools built for a steadier world. These traditional tools assume continuity where there is volatility, stability where there is disruption. They struggle to account for the speed and complexity of the present, let alone the futures that migrants themselves are already navigating.

This disconnect becomes particularly evident in everyday decisions that individuals and communities must make. To address this gap, futures studies offer a pathway to see these complexities more clearly. Futures thinking allows us to explore how different futures might unfold and how today's actions shape tomorrow's possibilities. It invites us to move beyond certainty, question inherited assumptions, and imagine futures that are not only possible but also desirable and just.

This forward-thinking approach is at the heart of FUTUREMIG, the Future of Mobility and Migration Partnership. Bringing together researchers, artists, civil society organizations, and community partners across Berlin, Accra, Singapore, and Toronto, this project explores how futures methodologies can deepen our understanding of mobility in a rapidly changing world. Rather than relying solely on linear projections, FUTUREMIG utilizes futures tools to examine what could happen, what communities hope for, and whose futures are being imagined.

To present these insights and efforts, we are excited to share [futureimaginaries.org](http://futureimaginaries.org), a new public-facing platform that showcases this work. The site brings together research, events, creative outputs, and reflections from across the partnership. It highlights the central role of imagination, agency, and participatory methods in understanding mobility, offering an accessible entry point into the project's themes and activities.

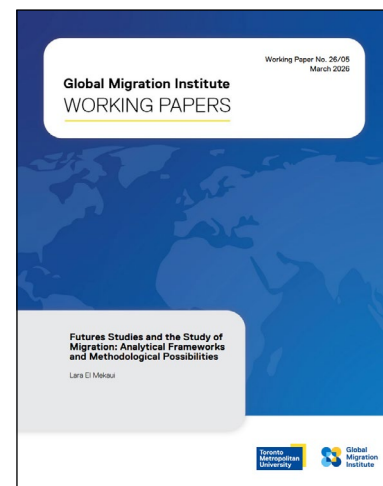
Building upon this foundation, FUTUREMIG's FutureLabs explore major forces shaping mobility, from ageing societies to climate

change, megacities, and placeless work. These labs convene scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and artists to identify emerging trends, challenge dominant narratives, and co-create alternative futures.

Crucially, a key commitment of FUTUREMIG is to utilize open-ended, participatory futures methods. Techniques such as visioning, Causal Layered Analysis, and anticipatory imagination reveal the values, assumptions, and worldviews that influence how people perceive mobility. These approaches are particularly effective in migration research as they highlight the aspirations, agency, and lived experiences that guide decision-making.

As we navigate this landscape, it is clear that uncertainty is becoming a defining feature of global mobility. Futures thinking offers a way to move beyond reactive, crisis-driven responses. It encourages preparedness, creativity, and long-term vision. It helps us ask not only what the future holds, but what kinds of futures we want to build.

In this spirit of collaboration and innovation, we invite you to explore the new website, follow upcoming events, and join us in imagining migration futures that are not only possible but also desirable and just.



**Above:** Lara El Mekoui authored a Working Paper which reviews the use of future studies' methodologies in investigating migration.



# BUILD A BRIDGE

## Students present AI-driven solutions for migrant integration

In 2025-2026, CERC Migration, in partnership with Bridging Divides, hosted its second cohort of Build a Bridge, a six-month long initiative designed to inspire and empower students to identify challenges in migrant integration and develop innovative AI solutions to these pressing problems. More than 50 students took part in the program, with just over 20 reaching the final showcase on March 31, 2026. Their fully developed solutions spanned three key areas: mental health and wellbeing; employment and lifelong learning; and place, infrastructure, citizenship, and participation. This year, there were three winning teams of up to four members, with each team respectively winning \$4,000 for their achievements in creating effective AI solutions.

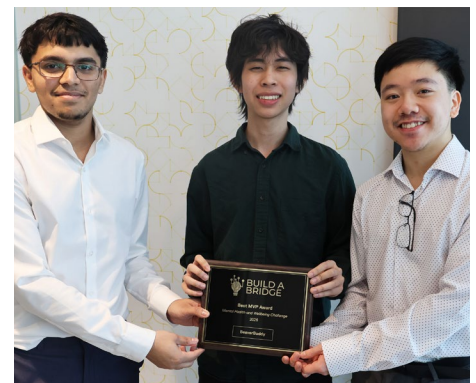
The winning project in the Mental Health and Wellbeing category, BeaverBuddy, was developed by Aryan Desai, Gaston Chung, and Matthew Phang, all undergraduate Computer Science students from TMU. Their project responds to a widely documented challenge among newcomers: isolation and emotional stress. BeaverBuddy is an AI-powered companion that combines daily emotional check-ins with personalized “quests” designed to support both mental health and cultural integration. Users are guided through small, actionable steps, from coping strategies to activities that introduce them to Canadian life.

The winning idea in the Employment and Lifelong Learning category, NextOwner, was developed by Bitia Deravian, Hojat Asgariandehkordi, and Melika Seyedi, PhD students from Concordia University. Their project tackles a challenge that is far from unique to business owners across the country. More than one million business owners face closure not because they are failing, but because there is no clear path for succession. Small and medium-sized enterprises, including farms, are vital to Canada's local economies, yet many face critical challenges

during ownership transition. A large share of owners plan to exit within the next decade, but suitable successors are hard to find, leaving businesses on the market for extended periods or closing altogether. At the same time, many newcomers arrive ready to invest and take on these opportunities, but lack the networks, information, and mentorship needed to access them. NextOwner responds to that gap by connecting retiring business owners with these capable newcomers for succession.

The winning team in the Place, Infrastructure, Citizenship, and Participation category, BridgeQuest, brought together Sean Nguyen and Shreya Dasoju from TMU and Augustine Farinola from the University of Alberta, and stood out for its creative approach to navigating early settlement. The platform simulates the first 30 days of arriving in Canada through an interactive, scenario-based game. Users take on a persona and make decisions that affect outcomes such as finances, energy, and access to services. The team focused on embedding ethical considerations into the system, including transparency, fairness, and accountability. The result is a tool that not only guides users through practical challenges but also reflects on how those tools are designed in the first place.

Through creativity, applied learning, collaboration, and a shared commitment to social impact, Build a Bridge continues to empower students to transform their ideas into practical solutions that support newcomers across Canada.



**Left:** Place, Infrastructure, Citizenship, and Participation category winners Sean Nguyen, Shreya Dasoju, and Augustine Farinola of BridgeQuest.  
**Middle:** Employment and Lifelong Learning category winners Bitia Deravian and Hojat Asgariandehkordi of NextOwner.  
**Right:** Mental Health and Wellbeing category winners Aryan Desai, Gaston Chung, and Matthew Phang of BeaverBuddy.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Fostering Integration Through the Arts

In 2025–26, the Global Migration Institute advanced two complementary research initiatives exploring how arts-based programs can support immigrant integration, social inclusion, and belonging. Through partnerships with community arts organizations, researchers examined the role of creative expression in helping newcomers build connections, develop skills, and participate more fully in their communities.

In April 2025, the Institute, in partnership with Toronto Arts Council and Mabelle Arts, hosted a public event to launch the final report for the *Fostering Integration through the Arts (FIT-ART)* project. Bringing together more than 60 participants from the arts, settlement, research, and policy sectors, the event featured a panel discussion on the experiences of newcomer artists, the public release of the report, and the premiere of two short documentary films highlighting the journeys of newcomer artists in Canada.

Building on this work, the Institute also completed *Leveraging Community Arts for Immigrant Integration*, a SSHRC-funded research project with Mabelle Arts, led by Senior Research Fellow Alka Kumar. Focusing on Mabelle Arts' Welcome to the Neighbourhood program, the project explored how community-based arts initiatives foster self-expression, social connection, and a sense of belonging among immigrants, refugees, and newcomers in the Greater Toronto Area. The project concluded with a community gathering in January 2026, where participants, partners, and researchers came together to reflect on the findings and celebrate the role of the arts in building more inclusive communities.



**Left:** The *Leveraging Community Arts for Immigrant Integration* writers, researchers, and creators: (L-r) Karian Chen, Luísa Pereira Seabra da Cruz, Alka Kumar, Project Lead, Daniela Galaviz, Dorian Davidson, and Asra Khan. **Top:** Jérémie Molho (R) with Tomée Tzatzanis and Kadija de Paula present *Lessons from the Toronto Arts Council's Program for Newcomers and Refugees*. **Bottom:** Filmmaker Ogo Eze (R) shares the film portraits of newcomer artists Aitak Sorahitalab (L) and Tarek Ghiri.

## Rethinking healthcare through Global Skills Partnerships

As health systems around the world grapple with critical workforce shortages, a pressing question remains: how can countries recruit the workers they need without depriving other states of essential talent? In October 2025, the Global Migration Institute, in partnership with Bridging Divides, convened leading policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and international stakeholders to explore a promising answer: Global Skills Partnerships (GSPs). Held over two days, the workshop examined how GSPs could help address healthcare worker shortages in Canada while strengthening health systems abroad.

Global Skills Partnerships represent a new model for ethical labour migration and international development. Built on collaboration between countries of origin and destination, GSPs are designed to expand training opportunities rather than simply redistribute existing talent. Under the model, destination countries contribute funding, curriculum development, certification standards, and technical expertise, while partner countries provide educational infrastructure and local training capacity. Through a distinctive "dual-track" approach, some graduates remain in their home country to strengthen local health systems, while others migrate to fill labour shortages abroad. The result is a framework that aims to benefit both countries, helping to address workforce gaps while mitigating the risk of brain drain.

For Canada, GSPs offer a unique opportunity to align immigration, labour market, and international development objectives. By co-investing in workforce training abroad, Canada can help strengthen healthcare systems in partner countries while creating sustainable pathways for health professionals trained to Canadian standards. The model also has the potential to improve foreign credential recognition, deepen international partnerships, support economic development, and enhance public confidence in immigration by directly connecting migration pathways to critical workforce needs.

The workshop brought together Canadian and international experts, government representatives, foundations, and sectoral stakeholders to reflect on lessons learned from pilot programs and existing initiatives around the world. Discussions focused particularly on health-sector collaboration between Canada, Ghana, and the Philippines, and explored how future partnerships can be designed to be more equitable, balanced, and responsive to the needs of both sending and receiving countries.

Speakers included:

**Najim Azahaf**, Senior Project Manager, Bertelsmann Foundation  
**Marla Asis**, Director, Scalabrini Migration Centre, Manila  
**Dawuda Ibrahim Braimah**, Chief Labour Officer, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, Ghana  
**Jim Campbell**, Director, Health Workforce, World Health Organization  
**Leigh Chapman**, Chief Nursing Officer, Health Canada  
**Michael Clemens**, Professor, George Mason University  
**Mary Coyle**, Senator, Senate of Canada  
**Gatien de Broucker**, Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University  
**Helen Dempster**, Deputy Director, Centre for Global Development  
**Jean Christophe Dumont**, Head of International Migration Division, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development



**Above:** Mary Coyle, Senator, Senate of Canada, and Anna Triandafyllidou welcome guests.

**Annette Elliott Rose**, Nova Scotia Health Chief Nurse Executive & Vice President, Clinical Performance & Professional Practice, Nova Scotia Health

**Tim Evans**, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, Concordia University

**Stephen Gelb**, Fellow, Heilbroner Centre for Capitalism Studies, New School for Social Research, NYC

**Valerie Grdisa**, CEO, Canadian Nurses Association

**Bjoern Gruber**, Head of Labour Migration and Skills Partnerships, GIZ

**Trina Haque**, Regional Director for Human Development in the Western and Central Africa Region, World Bank

**Farah Huq**, Director General and Chief International Talent Officer, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

**Serena Hoy**, Special Envoy for Regular Pathways, IOM

**Caitlin Katsiaticas**, Policy Analyst, ICMPD, Vienna

**Gracia Liu Farrer**, Professor, Waseda University, Japan

**Manjula Luthria**, Senior Economist, World Bank

**Ratna Omidvar**, Former Senator, and Distinguished Public Policy Fellow, TMU

**Kelly Oluoch**, CEO, Kenya Medical Training College

**Mireille Paquet**, Concordia Research Chair, Concordia University

**Mary Setrana**, Director, Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana

**Richa Shivakoti**, Research Lead, CERC migration, TMU

**Jason Theede**, Senior Regional Specialist, IOM

**Anna Triandafyllidou**, Canada Excellence Research Chair, TMU

**Philomina Adjoa Nyarkoa Woolley**, CEO, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Ghana

By fostering cooperation rather than competition for talent, Global Skills Partnerships offer a compelling vision for the future of migration and healthcare systems.



## A Queer Panel

On April 16, 2024, CERC Migration hosted A Queer Panel, a two-part event examining the complex legal, material, and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ migrants across their journeys. The day opened with academic presentations that explored migration through queer and trans lenses, and concluded with a documentary screening and conversation with drag artists. Together, these sessions highlighted both the systemic challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ migrants and the resilience fostered through community and creative expression.

**Top, left:** (L-R) Elif Sari, drag artists Mahriel, Jaja, and Kimora Amour, filmmaker Melika Shafahi, Sara Hormozinejad, and Amin Moghadam at *A Queer Panel* documentary film-screening and conversation event. **Top, right:** The morning panel explored the multifaceted legal, material, and lived experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ migrants and asylum seekers across their migration trajectories. **Right:** Ali Bhagat, Simon Fraser University.



## Séminaire immigration et vitalité des communautés francophones

Le 5 mars 2026, le séminaire OIFC–Global Migration Institute, organisé à l’Université de l’Ontario Français, a réuni chercheurs, acteurs communautaires et représentants institutionnels autour des liens entre immigration et vitalité des communautés francophones et acadiennes en situation minoritaire. Les échanges ont permis de réfléchir aux conditions de l’épanouissement des nouveaux arrivants francophones, et de mettre en lumière les défis liés au logement, à la reconnaissance des compétences et aux inégalités régionales. L’événement a aussi souligné l’importance de penser la francophonie comme un espace de rencontre et de solidarité, où les pratiques culturelles et communautaires jouent un rôle central dans le sentiment d’appartenance.

Jérémie Molho spoke at *Séminaire immigration et vitalité des communautés francophones*.

## Tehranto: Stories of Home and Belonging

In 2025, we hosted Tehranto: Stories of Home and Belonging from Toronto's Iranian Diaspora, a community-engagement project that invites Iranian Canadians across generations to reflect on their experiences of migration, memory, and identity. The project creates space for first-generation, second-generation, and 1.5-generation individuals to share personal essays exploring their connections to Toronto, Tehran, and other places they call home.

Throughout a series of community engagement events, research participants were encouraged to draw on lived experience, whether through memories of arrival, everyday moments in the city, or the people, places, and cultural touchstones that shape their sense of belonging. Submissions were accepted in both English and Farsi, with a particular emphasis on amplifying emerging and first-time writers.

The initiative culminated in a public reading event in Fall 2025, where selected stories were shared with a wider audience, fostering dialogue and community connection. By centring personal narratives, Tehranto highlighted the diversity of the Iranian Canadian experience and offered a nuanced perspective on diaspora, identity, and belonging in the Greater Toronto Area.



**Above:** Members of TMU and Toronto's Iranian community came together to share readings in English and Farsi about memories of early immigrant days.

## The Global Teach-In/Teach-Out - Migration as a Social Good: We Stand with Migrants

On November 11, 2025, the Global Migration Institute hosted a Global Teach-In/Out on migrant rights. At a time when the rights and dignity of migrants are increasingly under threat, gatherings like this are more important than ever. Led by Scholar of Excellence Nina Glick Schiller and held at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, the event brought together students, workers, immigrants, and community members for an evening of dialogue, reflection, and collective learning.

The program featured a screening of *Gently to Nagasaki*, a film by Research Fellow Cyrus Sundar Singh, followed by small-group discussions on fairness, belonging, human rights, and the ways migration narratives are shaped and politicized. Through conversation and community engagement, participants challenged dominant assumptions about migration, reflected on the realities of settler colonialism and Indigenous sovereignty, and explored how the erosion of migrants' rights can have broader implications for democratic rights and social justice for all.



**Middle:** Students, faculty, and community members gathered for The Global Teach In/Teach Out event. **Bottom:** Nina Glick Schiller opened the programming with a reflection on the state of affairs.

# MIGRATION NARRATIVES CHALLENGE

## Transforming Research Through Storytelling

During the Fall 2025 term, the Global Migration Institute launched the Migration Narratives Challenge, an innovative knowledge mobilization initiative that brought together migration researchers and emerging digital storytellers from across Canada. Designed to bridge the gap between academic research and public understanding, the challenge invited students to collaborate with researchers to transform complex migration research projects into engaging, accessible, and audience-focused digital content.

Through a competitive selection process, participants were paired with 13 Institute researchers working on a diverse range of migration issues, including immigrant integration, international students, social media and public discourse, migrant labour, and community arts. Together, they developed creative knowledge mobilization products—including short videos, infographics, social media campaigns, scrollytelling projects, and other digital media—that translated research findings into compelling narratives for broader public audiences.

The challenge highlighted the power of storytelling as a tool for research communication, enabling scholars to extend the reach of their work beyond academic circles and engage communities, policymakers, practitioners, and the general public in meaningful conversations about migration. By combining rigorous research with creative digital media, the initiative helped make complex information more accessible, relatable, and impactful.

"Participating in the Migration Narrative Challenge for the Link4Skills project was a rewarding experience. Working alongside Researcher Emma Bouillard, we combined her expertise on the topic with my storytelling skills. Together, we produced videos that added a human face to the issues explored in the study," said digital storyteller and 1st place winner Vanessa Teran. "As an artist-researcher and newcomer to Canada, it was an exciting opportunity to apply my creative practice to migration studies and contribute to a conversation that feels especially important in today's political climate."

Each participant received a \$1,000 stipend in recognition of their contributions, while additional prizes were awarded to the top three projects. The winning teams were celebrated during the Institute's annual conference in April 2026, where their work showcased new approaches to translating migration research into stories that inform, educate, and mobilize.

### Winners

**1st Place:** Vanessa Teran and Researcher Emma Bouillard

**2nd Place:** Fyruz Abuoun and Researcher Monica Gagnon

**3rd Place:** John Lui and Researcher Asma Atique

**Left-right:** Project stills from Migration Narrative Challenge videos.





**Top left:** Researcher Monica Gagnon and Fyruz Abuoun.  
**Top right:** Researcher Asma Atique and John Lui.  
**Bottom:** Researcher Emma Bouillard and Vanessa Teran.

# MAY 2025 CONFERENCE

## International Migration: From Roots Causes to Drivers

In May 2025, CERC Migration hosted the sixth annual conference, exploring the theme *International Migration: From Roots Causes to Drivers*. Organized in partnership with Bridging Divides and the MEMO Partnership Grant, the event took place in Toronto and convened leading scholars, policymakers, and advocates from across Canada and around the world for three days of dialogue on the evolving dynamics of global migration.

The conference opened with a timely panel discussion on the state of migration in Canada, which explored the growing politicization and the evolving landscape of Canadian immigration policy, along with its impact on society, economy, and politics.

Despite growing public resistance to immigration, the panelists struck a hopeful tone. “Even in the face of souring opinions, Canada still formally embraces ideas of immigration and diversity. This remains an enduring and positive feature, especially relative to many other countries,” offered Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Citizenship and Human Rights, University of Alberta. “Support for multiculturalism also remains quite high. I think these are elements that make Canada an attractive place for people to immigrate.”

Building on this conversation, the discussion also explored the possibilities for what the future of Canada would look like with and without immigration, and stressed the importance of immigration policy in shaping it. According to Daniel Hiebert, Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of British Columbia, “no other policy is more important to Canada’s future.”

“If we stopped immigration completely tomorrow and fast forward 75 years, maintaining a reduced rate of fertility in Canada, the population will fall from 41 or 42 million to 12 million,” said Hiebert. “On the other hand, if we extended the extraordinary rate of population growth from 2022 to 2024 to the next 75 years, our population would reach 450 million. Immigration policy will determine whether Canada has a population of 12 million or 450 million people 75 years from now.”

This opening dialogue set the tone for the rest of the conference, which featured a rich program of sessions addressing the complex and intersecting forces shaping human mobility today. Scholars from the MEMO Partnership Grant also had the opportunity to present emerging research on migration drivers and governance contributing to important cross-sectoral exchanges.

The agenda featured sessions on migration flows in Asia, Africa, and the Americas; the role of digital technologies in shaping migrants’ decision-making; and the future of migration to and from Canada. Highlights included panels on climate displacement, migration data visualizations, and collaborative roundtables that invited participants to reflect on strategies for more inclusive migration policy.

Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with digital tools like Daniel Hiebert’s Superdiversity mapping platform and an interactive data installation table by Synaesthetic Media Lab (SynLab) at TMU, led by Ali Mazalek, Canada Research Chair in Digital Media and Innovation. These technologies offered new ways to visualize and understand migration trends on different scales, and sparked fresh ideas for collaboration.

This conference was CERC Migration’s first-ever truly multilingual event, featuring panels in Spanish and French, with translation services provided. Additionally, the printed program was provided in both English and French.

The 2025 International Migration Conference was an energizing event filled with opportunities for thoughtful questions, networking, and great discussions throughout. We are grateful to all who contributed to its success.





**Opposite:** Oreva Olakpe, Toronto Metropolitan University, shares insights on the *Migration Drivers in West Africa* discussion. **Top:** The Kick Off Roundtable: *The State of Migration in Canada* grounded the conference with an overview of the shifts in domestic policy and global migration trends. **Bottom:** Usha George, Toronto Metropolitan University, chairs the panel on *Migrating in South and Southeast Asia*.

# ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

## Stipend Students

CERC Migration supports full-time Master's and PhD students at Toronto Metropolitan University studying migration and integration. In 2025–2026, seven stipends were awarded across five programs. Stipend students become a part of the CERC Migration team, access mentorship, workshops, and research training, and are paired with senior researchers to guide their development. The year concludes with the Graduate Edition Migration Working Group, where students present their work and receive feedback from senior researchers, Steering Committee members, and the Chair.

### 2025-2026 Stipend Students

#### Master's

Praise Kalu, MA in Early Childhood Education  
Jihae Yoon, MA in Media Production  
Yui Matsushita, MA in Immigration and Settlement Studies

#### PhD

Jane Amachree, PhD in Policy Studies  
Sharon Broughton, PhD in Policy Studies  
Georgiana Mathurin, PhD in Policy Studies  
Yu Wei Ye, PhD in Management

## Visiting Scholars

CERC Migration strengthens its international engagement by hosting visiting researchers from global institutions through independently funded internships and scholarship programs. During their time with CERC Migration, visiting scholars engage in collaborative research, participate in workshops, and contribute their expertise to ongoing CERC Migration initiatives.

### 2025-2026 Visiting Scholars

Carla Angulo-Pasel, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  
Maristella Cacciapaglia, University of Milan  
Carlo Handy Charles, Assistant Professor, University of Windsor  
Stamatia Devetzi, Professor of Social Law, Fulda University of Applied Sciences  
Astrid Espegren, PhD Fellow, Norwegian University of Science and Technology  
Stella Wolter, PhD candidate, University of Vienna

## Global Exchange Fellowship

The Global Exchange Fellowship builds a network of academic institutions to support research collaboration and international exchanges for emerging and mid-career scholars. The program allows PhD students and early-career researchers to spend a month abroad at a partner institution, offering opportunities to conduct fieldwork, access archives, engage with other scholars, present research, and expand professional networks. Fellows may either travel to partner institutions or be hosted at Toronto Metropolitan University, fostering two-way knowledge exchange and global collaboration.

### 2025-2026 Fellows

Sylvia Ang, Monash University in Australia  
Exequiel (Ex) Camarig Cabanda, National University of Singapore  
Jorge Forero, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO-Ecuador)  
Travis Van Isacker, University of Bristol  
Dostin Lakika, University of Witwatersrand  
Bittiandra Chand Somaiah, National University of Singapore  
Bastien Charaudeau Santomauro, Science Po

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## Civil Society & Public Administration Fellows

CERC Migration's Civil Society & Public Administration Fellowship invites experienced practitioners from civil society organizations and government bodies to participate in one-month residencies at Toronto Metropolitan University. Fellows connect with researchers, share expertise, engage with local stakeholders, and strengthen the link between practice and scholarship in migration and immigrant integration.

### 2025-2026 Fellows

Iker Jonathan-Ichaver, Co-Founder, Sesor Empowerment Foundation  
Tobias Stapf, Senior Researcher on Migration and Digitalisation, Minor – Projektkontor für Bildung und Forschung  
Cristina Montefusco, Senior Expert – Migration, Integration and Anti-Discrimination

## Journalism Fellows

CERC Migration's Journalism Fellowship invites experienced journalists to apply for a prestigious one-month residency at Toronto Metropolitan University, a unique opportunity to engage with cutting-edge research on migration and integration and build relationships with leading scholars and policy thinkers in Canada and beyond.

### 2025-2026 Fellows

Davide Lemmi, Journalist  
Solafa Magdy, Exiled journalist and writer  
Clavel Rangel Jiménez, Independent journalist  
Elroi Yee, Multimedia journalist and producer

## Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellows

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship is an international postdoctoral fellowship opportunity with the goal to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility.

### 2025-2026 Fellow

Roberto Cortinovis, European University Institute (EUI)

## Scholars of Excellence

The CERC Scholars of Excellence program hosts internationally renowned scholars for academic residencies of one to three months, bringing expertise and global perspectives to CERC Migration. The program fosters high-profile collaborations, expands our national and international network, and provides a vibrant environment for knowledge exchange. Scholars engage in workshops, collaborative research, and innovative projects that challenge conventional thinking and enrich our understanding of migration and integration.

### 2025-2026 Scholars

Mercedes Isabel Botto, Professor, National University of Buenos Aires; FLACSO, Argentina  
Ayşe Çağlar, Professor, University of Vienna  
B. Nadya Jaworsky, Professor, Masaryk University  
Gracia Liu-Farrer, Professor, Waseda University  
Linda Adhiambo Oucho, Executive Director of the African Migration and Development Policy Centre (AMADPOC)  
Andreas Pott, Professor, Osnabrück University  
Stephen Reyna, Research Partner, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology  
Nina Glick Schiller, Emeritus Professor, University of Manchester, UK and University of New Hampshire, USA

# BORDERS & BELONGING PODCAST

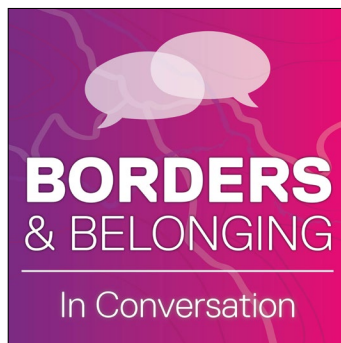
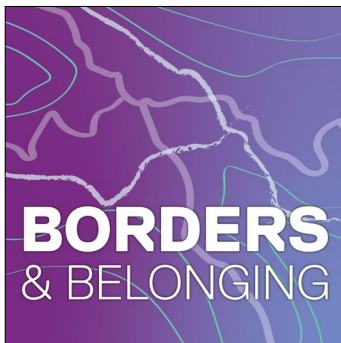


## Season 4 brought influential voices in migration studies together with emerging scholars

In Season 4 of the award-winning migration podcast, *Borders & Belonging*, audiences heard from some of the most influential voices in migration studies, in conversation with the emerging scholars whose work is shaping where the field goes next. This season showcased the real life stories of prominent migration scholars and the people redefining how we think about migration today.

*In Conversation*, a newly launched series of bonus episodes that focus exclusively on timely and urgent migration issues shaping Canada and the world today, also debuted.

With the help of leading academics and professionals working with migrants on the ground, *Borders & Belonging* shares stories from around the world connecting the dots between academic inquiry and real-world impact.



**Irene Bloemraad on citizenship as claims mak**  
Borders & Belonging

17:18 | 42:18

15 30 1x More Info Share

Gracia Liu-Farrer on the social construction of skill, feat. Helena Hof	35:47
John Berry on acculturation theory, feat. Saba Safdar	40:15
Adrian Favell on Eurostars and Eurocities, feat. Sarah Kunz	32:38
Irene Bloemraad on citizenship as claims making, feat. Amanda Cheong	42:18

# STAY CONNECTED

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## Subscribe to the New Global Migration Institute Newsletter *Global Migration Insights*



# APPENDICES

## ANNEX I: People

Over the course of the program, CERC Migration employed over 180 full-time and part-time research and operation staff. Thank you to all the individuals below who contributed to the success of CERC Migration.

### Chair

Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration

### Management and Operations Team

#### Current

Claire Ellis, Operations Manager

Grace Esford, Digital Media Specialist

Marissa Hawrylez, Research Support Assistant

Shailee Koranne, Metropolis International Communications & Events Specialist

Xia (Lisa) Li, Research Account Support Officer

Zoya Islam, Marketing and Communications Manager

Matthew Moore, Finance Assistant

Evelyn Siu, Partnership Engagement Manager

#### Former

Rajeshwar Acharya, Research Support Assistant

Sayid Bangi, Research Support Assistant

Luisa Della Pietra, Social Media Coordinator

Anne Huang, Research Account Coordinator

Jessica Jung, Administrative Coordinator

Cassandra MacPherson, Administrative Assistant

Laura Matthews, Marketing and Communications Manager

Maansi Mendiratta, Events and Operations Administrator

Maggie Perzyna, Operations Manager

Sinthu Vimaladasan, Events and Operations Administrator

### Senior Policy Fellows

Naomi Albiom, Senior Policy Fellow

Ratna Omidvar, Senior Policy Fellow

### Research (Full-time)

#### Current

Yousef Aleghfeli, Research Fellow

Marshia Akbar, Director, BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab

Asma Atique, Research Fellow

Anil Dhakal, Research Fellow

Lara El Mekai, Research Fellow

Sarah Hoyos-Hoyos, Research Fellow

Devaanshi Khanzode, Research Fellow

Masoud Kianpour, Senior Research Fellow

Alka Kumar, Senior Research Fellow and Project Coordinator

Maryam Lashkari, Research Fellow

Silindile Mlilo, Research Fellow

Ashika Niraula, Senior Research Associate

Richa Shivakoti, Research Area Lead, Migration Governance

Cyrus Sundar Singh, Research Fellow

#### Former

Younes Ahouga, Senior Research Fellow

Seyda Aytac, Research Fellow

John Carlaw, Senior Research Associate

Mohammad Ferdosi, Research Fellow

Nicholas A. R. Fraser, Senior Research Associate

Monica Gagnon, Research Fellow  
 Daniela Ghio, Senior Research Associate  
 Kiana Jenabidehkordi, Senior Research Associate  
 Melissa Kelly, Senior Research Associate  
 Hari KC, Research Fellow  
 Amin Moghadam, Research Lead, Cities and Migration;  
 Responsable du développement du réseau francophone de la  
 recherche  
 Stein Monteiro, Senior Research Associate  
 Shiva S. Mohan, Research Fellow  
 Michelle Nguyen, Research Technician  
 Oreva Olakpe, Senior Research Associate  
 Berti Olinto, Research Technician  
 Maggie Perzyna, Research Technician  
 Mohammad Azizur Rahman, Research Fellow  
 Homayoun Shirazi, Senior Research Associate  
 Craig Damian Smith, Senior Research Associate

## Research (Part-time)

### Current

Vaidehi Atodaria, Researcher  
 Kushan Azadah, Researcher  
 Erika Borrelli, Researcher  
 Emma Bouillard, Researcher  
 Sara Hormozinejad, Researcher  
 Shiva Mazrouei-Seidani, Researcher  
 Georgiana Mathurin, Researcher  
 Deepa Nagari, Researcher  
 Victoria Ogle, Researcher

### Former

Kathya Aathavan, Researcher  
 Nicole Agyenim-Boateng, Researcher  
 Rifa Ali, Researcher  
 Osman Mohamed Ali, Researcher  
 Souhail Al-Alaoui, Researcher  
 Nour Al Nasser, Researcher  
 Emile Baril, Researcher

Bradley Bernard, Researcher  
 Hiral Bhavsar, Researcher  
 Camilla Balbis, Researcher  
 Jenna Blower, Researcher  
 Erika Borrelli, Researcher  
 Peter Calow, Researcher  
 Rica Castaneda, Researcher  
 Guntas Chawla, Researcher  
 Karian Chen, Researcher  
 Natasha Chhabra, Researcher  
 Kelly Crawford, Researcher  
 Kristian Cuaresma, Researcher  
 Dorian Davidson, Researcher  
 Sophia de Guzman, Researcher  
 Nick Dreher, Researcher  
 Paola Gabriele, Researcher  
 Shreyashi Ganguly, Researcher  
 Angela Glover, Researcher  
 Andrew Greaves, Researcher  
 Neela Hassan, Researcher  
 Wei Jia (Daniel) Huang, Researcher  
 Sjarif Jonathan Ismail, Researcher  
 Naghmeh Javid, Researcher  
 Jessica Jung, Researcher  
 Rohina Kabir, Researcher  
 Asra Khan, Researcher  
 Fatima Khemilat, Researcher  
 Julia (Ha Young) Kim, Researcher  
 Priya Kumar, Researcher  
 Irmak Kurtulmus, Researcher  
 Laura Lam, Researcher  
 Saskia Laufer, Researcher  
 Nicole Lee, Researcher  
 Danielle Liao, Researcher  
 Katherine Luo Liu, Researcher  
 Ryan Lok, Researcher  
 Ellie MacLennan, Researcher

Carly McFall, Researcher  
Zeynep Sahin Mencutek, Researcher  
Anastasiia Mykolenko, Researcher  
Amasia Nalbandian, Researcher  
Lucia Nalbandian, Researcher  
Naheed Nero, Researcher  
Jilefack Amin Ngami, Researcher  
Noor Ul-Ain, Researcher  
Zia Ojah-Maharaj, Researcher  
Federico Palacios, Researcher  
Toral Pandya, Researcher  
Lindsay Parsons, Researcher  
Manish Patel, Researcher  
Nevyn Pillai, Researcher  
Monisha Poojary, Researcher  
Saumya Rai, Researcher  
Hiba Rasheed, Researcher  
Tahmid Rouf, Researcher  
Morteza Shams, Researcher  
Reeham Siddique, Researcher  
Misrak Tekle Yacob, Researcher  
Harjas Toor, Researcher  
Tomee Tzatzanis, Researcher  
Emily Wildman, Researcher  
Yu Wei (Linda) Ye, Researcher  
Sara Younes, Researcher  
Monica Zhang, Researcher

## Undergraduate Interns

### Current

Quentin Faivre, MEMO Project Administrative Assistant  
Elijah Major, MEMO Project Geographic Information Systems Assistant  
Levi Schaffer-Hooper, Administrative Assistant

### Former

Kazi Alam, Policy Data Assistant  
Dilery Arik, Finance Assistant

Aia Bakir, Migration Project Assistant  
Jacquie Cook-Martin, SKIM Project Assistant  
Hailey Davidson, Project Assistant  
Roanna de Guzman, Build a Bridge Assistant  
Qurrath Farheen, Communications Assistant  
Neomi Gabriel, Administrative Assistant  
Gaaya Srimarthandan, Project Assistant  
Madison Kelly, Communications Assistant  
Tashdeed Khan, MEMO Project Administrative Assistant  
Anu Kumar, Project Assistant  
Lauren Shiga, Project Assistant  
Angus Li, Build a Bridge Assistant  
Kellyann McNeil, Finance Assistant  
Husnain Mirza, MEMO Project Administrative Assistant  
Negin Mohammadi, Finance Assistant  
Kevin Nguyen, Finance Assistant  
Rachelle Rodin, Project Assistant  
Mithushan Sathiyathan, Project Assistant  
Nicholas Velez, MEMO Project Assistant  
Ally Yacapin, Communications Assistant  
Jackie Zhang, Project Assistant  
Chris Udoeyop, Communications Assistant

## Governance

We thank the following advisory boards for their valuable contributions to the work of CERC Migration:

### Internal Steering Committee

Mehrunnisa Ahmad Ali, Professor of Early Childhood Studies, Faculty of Community Services  
Rupa Banerjee, Canada Research Chair in Economic Inclusion, Employment and Entrepreneurship of Canada's Immigrants and Associate Professor of Human Resource Management and Organizational Behaviour  
Harald Bauder, Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Arts  
Usha George, Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Community Services  
Henry Parada, Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Community Services and Graduate Program Director, Immigration and Settlement Studies

John Shields, Professor of Politics and Public Administration, Faculty of Arts

Zhixi C. Zhuang, Associate Professor, School of Urban and Regional Planning, Academic Director of the Toronto Metropolitan Centre for Immigration and Settlement and Founder and Director of DiverCityLab

#### Institutional Advisory Board

Toni De Mello, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion

Kiaras Gharabaghi, Dean, Faculty of Community Services (Designate: Jennifer Martin, Associate Professor and Dean, Graduate Studies and Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity, Faculty of Community Services)

Cynthia Holmes, Dean, Ted Rogers School of Management

Carl Kumaradas, Vice-Provost and Dean, Yeates School of Graduate Studies

Steven N. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation (Designate: Naomi Adelson, Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation)

Krishan Mehta, Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations

Cory Searcy, Assistant Vice-President, International

Amy Peng, Interim Dean of Arts (Designate: Mélanie Knight, Interim Associate Dean of Arts, Research & Graduate Studies / Advisor to the Dean, Blackness and Black Diasporic Education)

#### International Advisory Board

Yasmeen Abu-Laban, Professor of Political Science and Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Citizenship and Human Rights, University of Alberta

Daniel Hiebert, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia

Marina Manke, Chief, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, International Organization for Migration

Mireille Paquet, Associate Professor, Research Chair on the Politics of Immigration, Concordia University and Scientific Director of the Équipe de recherche sur l'immigration au Québec et ailleurs

Nicola Piper, Professor of International Migration and British Academy Global Professor Fellow, Queen Mary University of London

S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair, International Institute of Migration and Development

Joseph Teye, Associate Professor and Director of Research, University of Ghana

Raúl Delgado Wise, Professor and Director of Development Studies, Autonomous University of Zacatecas

Brenda Yeoh, Raffles Professor and Director, Humanities and Social Science Research Office of Deputy President (Research & Technology), National University of Singapore

#### Stakeholder Advisory Board

Henry Akanko, Director, Hire Immigrants Ottawa

Debbie Douglas, Executive Director, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Shamira Madhany, Managing Director Canada and Deputy Executive Director, World Education Services

Gordana Radan, Chief Executive Officer, Calgary Catholic Immigration Society

Ruth Mojeed Ramirez, Chief Equity Officer, The Inclusion Project

Stephen Reichhold, Directeur Général, Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes

## ANNEX II: Research publications

The CERC Migration publications produced during the reporting period are organized according to the four thematic areas of our research portfolio:

1. The Governance of Migration in a Globalizing World
2. Managing Labour Migration in the 21st Century
3. Migration and the City
4. Narratives and Politics on Migration and Integration

### 1. The Governance of Migration in a Globalizing World

#### **Edited Book**

Triandafyllidou, A. (Ed.). (2025). *Temporary migration: Category of analysis or category of practice?* Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003535881>

#### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Ahouga, Y. (2025). From supporting states to steering their actions: The UN network on migration and the Global Compact for Migration's implementation. *Geopolitics*, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2025.2510316>

Ghio, D., Hoyos-Hoyos, S., Liu, G., et al. (2026). Modeling the spatial interplay between migration and environmental conditions. *Environmetrics*, 37(1), e70070. <https://doi.org/10.1002/env.70070>

K.C, H., & Triandafyllidou, A. (2025). Digital nomadism and the emergence of digital nomad visas: What policy objectives do states aim to achieve? *International Migration Review*, Ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183241306367>

Massari, A., & Triandafyllidou, A. (2025). Visual governance in migration. *Ethnicities*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14687968251364353>

Mohan, S. S., & Triandafyllidou, A. (2025). Complex precarity: Towards a reconceptualisation of irregular migration as a reality and a policy category. *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies*, 8(3/4), 202–217. <https://doi.org/10.1504/IJMBS.2024.145468>

Molho, J. (2026). Governing creative mobility through artist residencies: The case of Doha. *Geoforum*, 169, Article 104501. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2025.104501>

Nikula, P., Yang, Y., & Castaneda, R. A. (2026). Students as informants: Methodological considerations in education agent research. *Critical Internationalization Studies Review*, 5(1), Article 5. <https://doi.org/10.70531/2832-3211.1054>

Triandafyllidou, A. (2025). Migration governance in a globalising and digitalising world. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 13, Article 40. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-025-00460-0>

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## ANNEX III: CERC Migration podcast: *Borders & Belonging*

The fourth season of the Borders and Belonging Podcast featured some of the most influential voices in migration studies, in conversation with the emerging scholars whose work is shaping where the field goes next. The podcast also produced a new series, In Conversation, where leading voices dive into urgent migration issues shaping Canada and the world.

### ***In Conversation Series***

Is Trump's anti-DEI rhetoric an opportunity for Canada?

Wendy Cukier, Founder, Diversity Institute, TMU; Daniel Bernhard, CEO, Institute for Canadian Citizenship; and Naheed Nenshi, Leader, Alberta New Democratic Party, former Mayor of Calgary.

Unpacking Canada's Strong Borders Act: What Bill C-2 Means for Refugees in Canada

Sharry Aiken, Professor, Faculty of Law, Queen's University and former President of the Canadian Council for Refugees; Claire Ellis, PhD candidate, Toronto Metropolitan University; and Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, Toronto Metropolitan University.

### What Trump's Foreign Aid Cuts Mean for Development and Migration

Linda Oucho (Executive Director, African Migration and Development Policy Center), Andre Renzaho (Professor of Humanitarian and Development Studies, Western Sydney University), Sagar R. Sharma (Professor of Development Economics, Kathmandu University).

### **Episodes from Season Four:**

#### Episode 1: Janine Dahinden on demigrantization, feat. Maissam Nimer

Janine Dahinden, Professor of Transnational Studies, University of Neuchâtel; and Maissam Nimer, Associate Professor of Sociology, Akdeniz University.

#### Episode 2: Steven Vertovec and superdiversity, feat. Maria Schiller

Steven Vertovec, Founding Director, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity; and Maria Schiller, Professor of Public Governance, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

#### Episode 3: Jørgen Carling on Aspiration, feat. Kerilyn Schewel

Jørgen Carling, Professor in Migration and Transnationalism studies, Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PRIO); Kerilyn Schewel, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina.

#### Episode 4: Ayşe Çağlar on migration, displacement, and urban transformation, feat. Ana Ćuković

Ayşe Çağlar, Professor of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Vienna; Ana Ćuković, Philanthropy Fellow, Council of Michigan Foundations and Hudson-Webber Foundation.

#### Episode 5: Nicholas De Genova on the production of illegality and the revolving doors of asylum, feat. Soledad Álvarez Velasco

Nicholas De Genova, Professor, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, University of Houston; Soledad Álvarez Velasco, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Illinois Chicago.

#### Episode 6: Irene Bloemraad on citizenship as claims making, feat. Amanda Cheong

Irene Bloemraad, Professor of Political Studies and Co-Director of the Centre for Migration Studies, University of British Columbia; Amanda Cheong, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of British Columbia.

#### Episode 7: Adrian Favell on Eurostars and Eurocities, feat. Sarah Kunz

Adrian Favell, Professor of Social and Political Theory and Founding Director of the Radical Humanities Laboratory, University College Cork; Sarah Kunz, Lecturer in Migration Studies, University of Essex.

#### Episode 8: John Berry on acculturation theory, feat. Saba Safdar

John Berry, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, Queen's University; Saba Safdar, Professor of Psychology and Director, Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, University of Guelph.

#### Episode 9: Gracia Liu-Farrer on the social construction of skill, feat. Helena Hof

Gracia Liu-Farrer, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Institute of Asian Migration, Waseda University; Helena Hof, Senior Research Fellow, University of Zurich.

#### Episode 10: Andreas Pott on spatial reflexivity, feat. Christine Lang

Andreas Pott, Professor of Geography and Deputy Director, Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies, University of Osnabrück; Christine Lang, Researcher in Migration and Urban Studies, Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies, University of Osnabrück.

#### Episode 11: Nina Glick Schiller on transnationalism, feat. Karina Quintanilha

Nina Glick Schiller, Professor Emeritus, University of Manchester and University of New Hampshire; Karina Quintanilha, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of São Paulo.

#### Episode 12: Anna Triandafyllidou on migration governance, feat. Letizia Palumbo

Anna Triandafyllidou, Scientific Director, Global Migration Institute, Toronto Metropolitan University; Letizia Palumbo, Researcher, Ca' Foscari University of Venice.

## ANNEX IV: Webinars, hybrid workshops, exhibitions and premieres

### CONFERENCES

**International Migration: From Root Causes to Drivers** May 14-15, 2025

**Kick Off Roundtable: The State of Migration in Canada** May 13, 2025

Chair: Naomi Alboim, Senior Policy Fellow, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, Toronto Metropolitan University

- Yasmeen Abu Laban, Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Politics of Citizenship and Human Rights, University of Alberta
- Hayat Looye, Senior Director of Strategic and Digital Policy, Immigration, Refugees, Citizenship Canada
- Antje Ellermann, Professor of Political Science and Founding Director of the Centre for Migration Studies, University of British Columbia
- Daniel Hiebert, Emeritus Professor of Geography, University of British Columbia
- Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 1: Roundtable: From root causes to drivers? What have we learnt?*

- Linda Oucho, AMADPOC, Nairobi
- Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore
- Marina Manke, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre, IOM
- Marta Bivand Erdal, PRIO, Oslo

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University and Amin Moghadam, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 2: Roundtable: Data Visualisation*

- Ali Mazalek, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Gabby Resch, Ontario Tech University; Daniela Ghio, University of Catania

Chairs: Mary Boatemaa Setrana, University of Ghana and Yousef Aleghfeli, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 3: Migrating in South and Southeast Asia*

- Sagar Sharma, University of Kathmandu
- Tasneem Siddiqui, University of Dhaka
- Sin Yee Koh, Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- Richa Shivakoti, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Usha George, Toronto Metropolitan University and Jérémie Molho, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 4: Roundtable: Drivers of migration to and from Canada*

- Mireille Paquet, Concordia University
- Yasmeen Abu-Laban, University of Alberta
- Henry Akanko, Hire Immigrants Ottawa
- Marshia Akbar, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Josephine Pui-Hing Wong, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Ashika Niraula, Toronto Metropolitan University and Melissa Kelly, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 5: Discussion Tables – Inclusive and rights-based migration governance amid geopolitical uncertainty*

*Session 6: Migration Drivers in Central and North America (Spanish translation)*

- Claudia Masferrer, El Colegio de Mexico
- Marcel Arevalo, FLACSO, Guatemala
- Patricia Martin, Université de Montréal

Chairs: Tanya Basok, University of Windsor and Sarah Hoyos-Hoyos, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 7: Roundtable: How do Advanced Digital Technologies shape the information seeking process during migration?*

- Munmun De Choudhury, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Ana Beduschi, University of Exeter
- Parvati Raghuram, Open University, Milton Keynes
- Jean-Christophe Dumont, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Chairs: Masoud Kianpour, Toronto Metropolitan University and Kiana Jenabidehkordi, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 8: Migration Drivers in West Africa (French translation)*

- Doudou Gueye, Universite Assane Seck de Zinguichor, Casamance
- Olayinka Akanle, University of Ibadan
- Leyla Sall, University of Moncton
- Oreva Olakpe, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Thomas Yeboah, University of Ghana

Chairs: Luisa Veronis, University of Ottawa and Younes Ahouga, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Session 9: Fireside Chat: Climate and Development-induced Displacement*

- Aniseh Bro, Appalachian State University
- Etienne Piguet, Université de Neuchatel
- Mary Boatemaa Setrana, University of Ghana

Chairs: Sandeep Agrawal, University of Alberta and Monica Gagnon, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Metropolis International 2025 Summit** October 2, 2025

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University and Violet Roumeliotis, Settlement Services International, Australia

*Panel 1: Solidarity Cities – Policy Frameworks, Coalitions and Challenges in the Americas*

- Mayors and migration issues in large U.S. cities by Els de Graauw, City University of New York
- The key role of cities for protecting migrants and promoting integration in challenging times by Pablo Ceriani, United Nations Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families
- Selected initiatives of European cities to support migrants and refugees by Anne Güller-Frey, Tür an Tür e.V.
- Solidarity cities: Evidence from soli\*city by Harald Bauder, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Gioconda Herrera, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Ecuador and Bridget Collrin, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Panel 2: Mobilising Diaspora Finance*

- Re-thinking diaspora financial engagement with origin countries by Stephen Gelb, Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies, New School for Social Research
- Mobilizing remittances for development policy options for countries of origin by Dane Rowlands, Carleton University
- Diaspora engagement and productive uses of diaspora remittances by Mary Setrana, University of Ghana, Accra

Chairs: Jean-Christophe Dumont, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and Yu Wei Ye, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Keynote: Autarchy and immigration: The new American model of development and its consequences*

- Alejandro Portes, Princeton University

*Panel 3: Roundtable on Migration Governance in Challenging Times*

- Eva Millona, Immigration Initiative at Harvard University
- Silvia Nunez, Center for Research in North America, UNAM, Mexico
- Brenda Yeoh, National University of Singapore
- Naika Foroutan, German Center for Integration and Migration Research

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University and Sharon Broughton, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Keynote: Migration Governance: Perspectives from the Continent*

- Ambassador Amma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, African Union

*Panel 4: Migration Data in the Era of Advanced Digital Technologies*

- Digital transformation of migration information systems: Boon or a curse? by Jean-Christophe Dumont, Organization for Economic Co-operation, and Development
- Techno-optimism vs. reality: Big data collection for European migration governance by Maegan Hendow, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Vienna
- Migration management in the age of algorithms: The good, the bad, and the morally fuzzy by Meghan Benton, Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC
- Digital recruitment practices in Germany: What we know by Felicitas Hillmann, Technical University Berlin

Chairs: Jon Simmons, UK Home Office and Jane Amachree, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Panel 5: Leveraging Advanced Digital Technologies for Supporting Migrants*

- Nothing for us, without us: The necessity of migrant leadership and co-design for any success in digital technology usage by Elana Wong, Civil Action Committee
- Bridging the digital divide: SSI's role in empowering migrants through ethical and inclusive technology by Violet Roumeliotis, Settlement Services International
- Building the future of migration services: IRCC's digital transformation journey by Chantal Goyette, Immigration Refugees Citizenship Canada, Ottawa
- Are we there yet? Advanced digital technologies, support, and protection of Filipino migrants by Marla Asis, Scalabrini Migration Center

Chairs: Mireille Paquet, Concordia University and Georgiana Mathurin, Toronto Metropolitan University

## **SYMPOSIUMS AND FORUMS**

**Migration Foresight: Lessons from researching emerging migration trends** May 26, 2025

Chairs: Zhixi C. Zhuang, Academic Director, Toronto Metropolitan Centre for Immigration and Settlement, Toronto Metropolitan University and Yousef Khalifa Aleghfeli, Research Fellow – Data Science, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Climate Science and Mobility: How should we better understand climate-induced displacement?*

- Climate Coloniality, Border Securitization, and Climate Justice: A Critique of Canada's Approach to Climate Mobility by Rahul Balasundaram, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Canadian Council of Refugees
- Challenging Dichotomies in Climate Migration: The Case of Rural Migrants in Ghana by Jemima Nomunume Baada, Assistant Professor, Geography, University of British Columbia
- Climate Commons' Impact on Women's Migration in Southwestern Coastal Bangladesh: A Gendered Perspective by Md Ashrafuzzaman, Associate Professor, Anthropology, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh
- Sustainable Development for Migrant Justice? A Case Study on Masdar City, United Arab Emirates by Asma Atique, Research Fellow, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Establishing a Typology of Climate Mobilities and Future Research Directions by Amrita Hari, Associate Professor, Feminist Institute of Social Transformation, Carleton University

Chairs: Sarah Hoyos-Hoyos, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University and Yousef Khalifa Aleghfeli, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Data Science and Migration: How can we effectively communicate migration data knowledge?*

- Jason Goetz, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University
- Stein Monteiro, Lead Research Associate, Immigration, Conference Board of Canada
- Gabby Resch, Assistant Professor, Information Visualization, Ontario Tech University

Chairs: Yousef Khalifa Aleghfeli and Sarah Hoyos-Hoyos

**Canada's Integration Journey: MIPEX 2024 Results and Policy Pathways Forward** September 18, 2025

Chair: Anna Triandafyllidou, CERC Migration Chair, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Presentations*

- Overview of the MIPEX framework and Canada's overall 2024 results by Basak Yavçan, Head of Research, Migration Policy Group, Brussels
- Analysis of Canada's performance across key policy strands by Marshia Akbar, Research Lead, Labour Migration and Director, BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Government reflections on Canada's MIPEX scores and policy implications by Hassène Bahri, Assistant Director, Strategic Policy and International Engagement, Settlement Policy, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

*Roundtable Discussion*

- Rupa Banerjee, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Economic Inclusion, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Mireille Paquet, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Concordia University
- Basak Yavçan, Head of Research, Migration Policy Group, Brussels

Chair: Anna Triandafyllidou

Moderator: Marshia Akbar

**Séminaire immigration et vitalité des communautés francophones** March 05, 2026*Roundtable 1: Repenser la vitalité francophone : au-delà des chiffres*

- Nadine Bernier, Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
- Bertrand Ouellet-Léveillé, Statistique Canada
- Aissatou Sonko, Fédération des communautés francophones et acadienne
- Faiçal Zellama, Université Saint-Boniface

Chair: Jérémie Molho, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Roundtable 2: Attentes identitaires et trajectoires d'intégration : quels équilibres ?*

- Mélinda Chartrand, Assemblée de la Francophonie de l'Ontario
- Lamine Kamano, Université de Moncton
- Bintou Sacko, Accueil francophone du Manitoba
- Luisa Veronis, Université d'Ottawa

Chair: Abdoul Malik Ahmad, Observatoire en immigration francophone au Canada

*Roundtable 3: Vers une nouvelle équation géolinguistique*

- Sarah Boily, Patrimoine Canada
- Guillermo Candiz, Université de l'Ontario français
- Alain Dobi, Réseau de soutien à l'immigration francophone
- Yollande Dweme, Université de l'Ontario français

Chair: Alice Fomen, Université de l'Ontario français

**From Inclusion to Influence: Immigrant Women and the Future of Work** March 06, 2026

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Scientific Director, Global Migration Institute and Sara Asalya, Executive Director of Newcomer Women's Services Toronto

*Special Address: The Honourable Ratna Omidvar C.M., O.Ont.*

*Keynote Address: The Honourable Minister Charmaine Williams*

*Panel: AI, Power, and the Future of Work: Immigrant Women at the Centre*

- Kamilah Reid-Burrell, Director of Inclusion, BMO

- Anju Virmani, former Chief Information Officer of Cargojet Inc.
- Ayan Aden, Director of Operations and Service Delivery, NEW
- Guang Ying Mo, Director of Research, Diversity Institute
- Rania Younes, Director of Strategy and Impact, IEC-BC

Chair: Marshia Akbar, Director, BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab

## **WORKSHOPS, WORKING GROUPS, AND PREMIERES**

### **A Queer Panel—Part I: Exploring Transnational 2SLGBTQ+ Migration Journeys** April 16, 2025

Chairs: Amin Moghadam and Shiva S. Mohan

*Panel: A Queer Panel—Exploring Transnational 2SLGBTQ+ Migration Journeys*

- Queer asylum in illiberal times by David A.B. Murray, York University
- Queer global displacement: Organized state abandonment and refugee survival in the global North and South by Ali Bhagat, Simon Fraser University
- Carceral asylum: LGBTQ+ refugees, waiting, and stuckness by Elif Sari, University of British Columbia
- Favoriser le bien-être et l'intégration sociale de la communauté racisée LGBTQA+ de Toronto et Ottawa by Carlo Charles and Arnaud Baudry, University of Windsor and FrancoQueer Toronto

Chair: Craig Jennex, Toronto Metropolitan University

### **A Queer Panel—Part 2: Documentary Film Screening and Conversation with Filmmaker and Drag Artists** April 16, 2025

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, CERC Migration Chair and Amin Moghadam, Research Lead, Cities and Migration

*Documentary Film Screening & Conversation with Filmmaker and Drag Artists*

- Drag artists Jaja, Mahriel and Kimora Amour
- Melika Shafahi, Filmmaker

Chairs: Amin Moghadam and Elif Sari, University of British Columbia

### **Understanding the Impact of the Arts on Immigrant Integration** April 23, 2025

Chair: Annie Katsura Rollins, Mabelle Arts

*Panel discussion: Understanding the Impact of the Arts on Immigrant Integration*

- Lessons from the Welcome to the Neighbourhood Program by Annie Katsura Rollins (Mabelle Arts) & Alka Kumar (CERC Migration, TMU)
- Lessons from the Toronto Arts Council's Program for Newcomers and Refugees by Jérémie Molho, (CERC Migration, TMU), Shawn Newman, (Skills for Change), Tomée Tzatzanis, (CERC Migration, TMU)
- Reflections on the Impact of 'experiential' learning by Karian Chen, Asra Khan, and Dorian Davidson, Research Assistants, (CERC Migration, TMU)

Discussant: Zhixi Zhuang, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU)

Chair: Kadija de Paula, Toronto Arts Council (TAC)

*FIT-ART Film Screening (portraits of newcomer artists in Toronto)*

Discussants: Ogo Eze, Filmmaker and featured Newcomer Artists Aitak Sorahitalab and Tarek Ghiri

Chair: Kelly Langgard

### **Migration Working Group: Diaspora studies and transnationalism** April 29, 2025

Chairs: Rica Castenada, Researcher, and Oreva Olapke, Research Fellow.

- In search of Filipino Canada: Nation/al/ism, citizen/ship/s, and the transnational family by Nadjie Danielle Magsumbol, York University

- Between shores: Exploring Tuvaluan migrants' dynamic place attachment and sense of belonging between the homeland and host-land by Amina Ghezal, University of Exeter
- Queer processes of Hong Kong as a global formation: A comparative ethnographic study of post-2019 LGBTIQ+ Hongkonger immigrants in Canada and Taiwan by Ting-Fai Yu, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China
- Unpacking integration through emotions, social mobility and gender among skilled immigrants in Toronto by Negar Valizadeh, University of Ottawa

### **First Night in Tehranto: A Bilingual Evening** May 09, 2025

First Night in Tehranto: Memories and Reflections of Toronto's Iranian Immigrants

An evening of selected readings in English and Farsi on memories of early immigrant days from members of Toronto's Iranian community.

### **Migration Working Group: Year-end Symposium** May 22, 2025

Co-convened by Melissa Kelly, CERC Migration Senior Research Associate, Mentorship Program Lead, and Bridging Divides affiliated researcher, and Anna Triandafyllidou, CERC Migration Chair and Scientific Director of Bridging Divides.

#### *Day 1*

#### *Panel 1: Lived Experiences of Immigrant Communities*

- "Beyond documentation and marginalization: A study of irregular Filipino migration and integration in Ontario after unparalleled times of Covid-19" by Leny Rose Simbre
- "Sacred shores, sovereign lands: Sikh and Indigenous solidarity through land and water" by Rajdeep Cheema
- "Securitized borders: The criminalization of migration in North American national security narratives" by Justin Andrada

Discussant: Usha George, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Lina Waqfi and Rabbab Akhtar

#### *Panel 2: Migration and the City*

- "Systemic employment discrimination against racialized immigrants in Canada" by Azardokht Bigdeli
- "Exploring experiences of foodscapes among immigrants and participatory placemaking for inclusive food security: A case study of Toronto's inner suburbs Scarborough" by Venus Cheung
- "Bridging the gap: Addressing the last mile mobility problem for immigrant populations in transit planning and urban governance" by Rabbab Akhtar

Discussant: Allison Petrozziello, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Jamil Arbas and Kristina Tsvygun

#### *Panel 3: Immigrants' Access to Health Care*

- "Navigating perinatal care: Barriers and supports for Latina immigrants in Toronto" by Vida Carranza Capote
- "Access without fear: Examining health care barriers for non-status migrants in Canadian Cities" by Mishika Khurana
- "Between trauma and treatment: Access to mental health services among displaced Ukrainians in Canada" by Kristina Tsvygun

Discussant: Kateryna Metersky, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Justin Andrada and Rajdeep Cheema

#### *Panel 4: Devising Solutions to the Challenges Facing Immigrants*

- "Understanding labour market dynamics in the context of immigration" by Lina Waqfi
- "Migrant neighbourhood preferences survey development using immersive virtual reality" by Thomas Zhao
- "PrivAI: Empowering immigrants through privacy preserving AI" by Jamil Arbas

Discussant: Ali Miri, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Mishika Khurana and Leny Rose Simbre

*Day 2*

*Panel 1: Migration Policies and Narratives*

- "How do migrant entrepreneurs respond within an entrepreneurial ecosystem? The case of Canada's Startup Visa" by Bradley Bernard
- "Canada first: The state as an actor in the international student space" by Rica Agnes Castaneda
- "Constructing citizens: A critical examination of knowledge-based testing in naturalization procedures" by Luísa Cruz
- "No. 14 Village: Re-centring the margins of migration through participatory media" by Dorothy Wang

Discussant: John Carlaw, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Georgiana Mathurin and Riley Locke

*Panel 2: Migration and the City*

- "Transit investment, displacement, and land value capture in Toronto: Exploring equitable urban development" by Riley Locke
- "The role of community land trust in protecting immigrant business from gentrification: Case studies of Toronto" by Nicole Gordon
- "Urban migration governance in Johannesburg: Preliminary findings" by Nick Dreher

Discussant: Zhixi Zhuang, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Yu Wei Ye and Bradley Bernard

*Panel 3: Intersectional Perspectives*

- "Acts of citizenship of black women with precarious immigration status" by Georgiana Mathurin
- "Survival and growth: Immigrant women-owned SMEs in export market" by Yu Wei Ye
- "Family history and its impacts: Exploring the narratives of third generation Holocaust descendants in Toronto" by Noah Draper
- "Bridging the hidden gap: Immigrant children's food security environments and access challenges in the summer months" by Negin Salehi

Discussant: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chairs: Rica Agnes Castaneda and Luísa Cruz

**One Land, Two Hearts: WhereWeStand Toronto Showcase** June 08, 2025

Showcase of the WhereWeStand Project at the imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival at TIFF Lightbox

**Global Skills Partnerships: Designing an equitable co-benefit perspective for countries of origin and destination** September 30, 2025

An invited workshop that brought together international experts, state actors, foundations and sectoral stakeholders to discuss a new path towards fair and equitable global skills partnerships for Canada, with a particular focus on the health sector and collaboration between Canada, Ghana, and the Philippines in the sector.

**Scholars of Excellence Workshop: Financialization, Extractivism, and the Governance of Migration** October 28, 2025

Co-convened by **Ayse Caglar**, Professor, University of Vienna and CERC Migration Scholar of Excellence, and **Anna Triandafyllidou**, Chair, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University.

*Financialization, Extractivism and the Governance of Migration in Europe and North America*

- The making of migrants' wageless life: Governing by debasing and value extraction beyond profit-making by Martina Tazzioli, University of Bologna
- Cash assistance, value and the humanitarian marketplace by Lauren Martin, University of Durham
- Race, extraction, and asylum frontiers by Julia Morris, University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Financing border infrastructures: The case of fortress Europe by Ali Bhagat, Simon Fraser University
- Encashing dignity: Programmatic individualism and the financialization of international aid by Malay Firoz, Arizona State

University

Chairs: Ayse Caglar, University of Vienna and Michelle Andrina, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Migration and Extractivism in the Americas*

- Gendered economies of extractivism at the southern Mexico border by Linn Biörklund, University of Barcelona
- Social reproduction in "trapped" lives by Letizia Palumbo, University of Venice
- Between externalization of control and laissez - passer: The politics of profit in America's migration governance by Luciana Gandini, UNAM, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas
- Waitingscapes of the Global South: Autonomy, Control, and Infrastructure Transformations in Latin America Migration Corridors by Bruno Miranda, UNAM, Instituto de Investigaciones Sociales and Soledad Álvarez Velasco, University of Illinois Chicago

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University and Yu Wei Ye, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Concluding Remarks: Where do we go from here?*

- Nina Glick-Schiller, The New School, USA

**Scholars of Excellence Workshop: Becoming A Migration Researcher** November 13, 2025

Co-convened by **Andreas Pott**, University of Osnabruck and CERC Scholar of Excellence, and **Anna Triandafyllidou**, Chair, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University.

*Panel 1: Producing Knowledge on Migration and Becoming a Migration Researcher*

- Migration research for progressive social change? Reflecting on scholar-activism, power-mapping and community-led research and advocacy by Ethel Tungohan, York University, Toronto
- Not a migration researcher but a migrant newcomer by Masoud Kianpour, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Navigating borders: Lived experience, intersectionality, and the making of a migration researcher by Carlo Charles, University of Windsor
- Researching Asian Migration as a Calling by Gracia Liu-Farrer, Waseda University

Chairs: Andreas Pott, University of Osnabruck and CERC Scholar of Excellence and Sharon Broughton, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Panel 2: Migration and Becoming a Migration Researcher*

- Migrant twice over: Negotiating multiple sites of 'othering' by Jemima Baada, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- "We will tell you the truth. After all, you are one of us": (Un)Bordering co-ethnic research encounters with migrant men through memories by Reena Kukreja, Queen's University, Kingston
- Migration scholarship, political narratives narratives—Personal and hegemonic, and struggles for humanity by Nina Glick Schiller, The New School For Social Research, USA
- Becoming a migration researcher by detours by Amin Moghadam, Toronto Metropolitan University
- To anchor or to move: Reflexivity on embeddedness in migration scholarship by Omolola Olarinde, Elizade University, Nigeria

Chairs: Anna Triandafyllidou, Toronto Metropolitan University and Irmak Kurtulmus, Toronto Metropolitan University

**Global Migration Institute Research Dialogue Series** November 19, 2025

Chair: Zhixi Zhuang

- A New Wave of Anti-Racism in Europe? Racialized Minorities at the Centre by Ilke Adam, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
- Immigration levels planning in Canada: Balancing complex demographic trade-offs by Daniel Hiebert, University of British Columbia
- Helping Forcibly Displaced Persons in Nigeria Rebuild Their Lives: Lessons from Toronto by Ier Jonathan-Ichaver, Sesor Empowerment Foundation

**Global Migration Institute Research Dialogue Series** January 21, 2026

Chair: Zhixi Zhuang, Toronto Metropolitan University

- Decolonizing, decentering, and deracializing the cultural sociology of migration by B. Nadya Jaworsky, Masaryk University

*Research Roundtable*

- Alka Kumar, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Elroi Yee, Multimedia journalist and producer

**Project Report Launch: Leveraging Community Arts for Immigrant Integration** January 29, 2026

Chair: Daniela Galaviz, Mabelle Arts

*Project Overview*

- Zhixi Zhuang, Toronto Metropolitan University

*About the Project: Sharing our Learnings*

- Alka Kumar, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Karian Chen, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Luisa Cruz, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Behind the Scenes: Our Reflections*

- Karian Chen, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Asra Khan, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Dorian Davidson, Toronto Metropolitan University

**WhereWeStand: Multimedia Learning Resource Launch and Workshop** February 13, 2026

Co-convened by **Heather George**, Woodland Cultural Centre, **Cyrus Sundar Singh**, and **Anna Triandafyllidou**, CERC Migration, Toronto Metropolitan University

- Multimedia learning resource project introduction and showcasing by Cyrus Sundar Singh, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Next steps by Heather George and Cyrus Sundar Singh

**Global Migration Institute Research Dialogue Series** March 18, 2026

Chair: Zhixi C. Zhuang, Toronto Metropolitan University

- Snakes and Ladders – How migrant workers navigate Poland's platform economy by Klaudia Khan, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Is there a Race to the Bottom? Evidence of Quantity-Quality trade-offs in Canada's Provincial Nominee Program by Chika Agbo, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Remote Conflict Stress: How ongoing violence in origin countries affects diaspora wellbeing by Emily Le Roux-Rutledge, University of the West of England
- AI-Driven Textual Analysis to Decode Canadian Immigration Social Media Discourse by Augustine Farinola, University of Alberta

**WEBINARS**

**South Asian Diversity and Employment Experiences in Canada** January 16, 2026

- Marshia Akbar, Director, BMO Newcomer Workforce Integration Lab, CERC Migration
- Rupa Banerjee, Canada Research Chair, Professor, Ted Rogers School of Management, Toronto Metropolitan University
- Harleen Arora, Co-Founder and Managing Director, South Asian Women's Collective
- Seema Taneja, Research Advisor, South Asian Women's Collective & Consultant at Taneja Consulting Inc

**Protecting the Right to Safety: Responding to Bill C-12** February 25, 2026

Chair: Anna Triandafyllidou, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration, Toronto Metropolitan University

*Panel Session*

- Sharry Aiken, Professor, Faculty of Law, Queen's University
- Audrey Macklin, Professor, Jackman Law, University of Toronto
- The Honourable Senator Paula Simons, Senator from Alberta
- Sara Younes, Lincoln Alexander School of Law, Toronto Metropolitan University

Chair: The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, CM, OOnt, retired Senator, Public Policy Fellow, Toronto Metropolitan University

## ANNEX VII: Media Coverage 2025-26

Date	Title	Media outlet	CERC Migration spokesperson
Apr. 3, 2025	Canada's labour market is failing racialized immigrant women, requiring an urgent policy response	<i>Marshia Akbar</i>	The Conversation
Apr. 4, 2025	The Last Show with David Cooper: A Champion Excels, Season 3, Ep. 80	<i>Masoud Kianpour</i>	The Last Show with David Cooper Podcast
Apr. 8, 2025	Grits lead in polls for new Canadians' support, but Tories can still gain traction as loyalties remain up for grabs, say researchers	<i>John Carlaw</i>	The Hill Times
Apr. 15, 2025	Canada's refugee policy could gain renewed attention amid U.S. deportations	<i>Nicholas A.R. Fraser</i>	CTV News
Apr. 22, 2025	Canada's new immigration policy favours construction workers but leaves the rest behind	<i>Shiva S. Mohan</i>	The Conversation
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June 20, 2025	Canada tightens border policy as deportation protests spread in US	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	China Daily
June 20, 2025	Research highlights social media's influence on migration and refugee narratives	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou, Stein Monteiro</i>	TMU - Faculty of Arts
June 24, 2025	Canada's Long-Standing Openness to Immigration Comes Under Pressure	<i>Rupa Banerjee, Naomi Alboim, Anna Triandafyllidou, and Georgiana Mathurin</i>	Migration Policy Institute
June 26, 2025	Advocacy groups warn federal bill could give law enforcement sweeping powers to access information	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	CTV News
July 18, 2025	Canada's proposed Strong Borders Act further threatens the legal rights of migrants	<i>Shiva S. Mohan</i>	The Conversation
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Sept. 9 2025	Hanomansing Tonight	<i>Hari KC</i>	Hanomansing Tonight
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Sept. 19 2025	Opinion   The youth of this country burned down their parliament. This is why it's a warning to democracies everywhere	<i>Hari KC</i>	Toronto Star
Sept. 22, 2025	Canada's immigration cuts risk stalling economic growth, experts warn	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	ricochet
Sept. 29, 2025	As US raises H-1B visa fee Canada faces test in talent race	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	China Daily
Oct. 2, 2025	Sommet 2025 du Réseau international sur l'immigration Metropolis à Toronto	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	Daily Mail
Oct. 2, 2025	Report: Number of US citizens who fled to Canada under Trump	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	Daily Mail

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Oct. 25, 2025	Radio interview: Half of Canadians think there is too much immigration	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	CHQR-AM
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Jan. 21, 2026	"OMNI News segments on international housing	<i>Zhixi Zhuang</i>	OMNI News
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Feb. 19, 2026	Alberta government accused of 'weaponizing immigration' to win votes	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	Global News
Feb. 19, 2026	CHQR-AM - Thu, 19 Feb 2026 17:00:00 -0500 (about weaponizing immigration to win votes)	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	CHQR-AM
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Mar. 3, 2026	ANALYSIS: "Boutique" immigration points system may be short-sighted, experts say	<i>Anna Triandafyllidou</i>	New Canadian Media
Mar. 10, 2026	Canada-India reset 'not about restoring student numbers'	<i>Marshia Akbar</i>	Times Higher Education
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