

An Analysis of First-Generation Born Canadians to First-Generation Immigrated Families: Literature Review

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Research Question

How do the lives of a first generation Canadian-born child differ from the lives of a first-generation immigrant of Canada?

How did my parents preserve their tradition and culture through my brother and I in a completely new country at the time?

From the social, cultural, and economical differences, this theme will explore the generational differences between my life as a first-generation child, alongside my brother's, to my parents who immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong. This research will include looking at the timeline of their immigration, the goals of their immigration, and if these are common themes amongst other Hong Kong to Canada immigrants.

Keywords:

Family, Tradition, Culture, Social, Economical, Political, Intergenerational

Source 1

Tensions linger for Hong Kong immigrants 2 decades after mass immigration Social Sharing

Chau, Elaine. "Analysis | 2 Decades after a Mass Immigration from Hong Kong, Has Vancouver Figured out How to Be Truly Welcoming? | CBC News." *CBCnews*, CBC/Radio Canada, 20 June 2016, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/hong-kong-immigration-1.3386573>.

Discipline

Story analysis

Methodology

This source uses a form of primary research where the author is writing about her first-hand experience as an immigrant to Canada from Hong Kong, alongside a mixed-medium of online-research.

Findings

This source discusses the immigration experience from Hong Kong to Canada through a personal storytelling perspective. This source aims to bring to light the political tensions that existed during the time the author's family had immigrated. The author discussed the understanding she developed for her family, as well as other immigrating families at the time, of the reasoning they had for choosing to leave the country, due to their country's political handover at the time.

Interpretation

This source is important to include as it helps to develop a deeper understanding of the political and racial tensions between the housing in not only Hong Kong, but the immigrated destination (in this case, Vancouver). The discussion of the industrial development of the area in Vancouver is also important to keep in mind as it includes the graphical representation that existed in terms of the public signs and the languages they were in. With complaints about public signs being "too chinese" and not enough english, this takes a brief look into the design elements at the time post-immigration period.

Conclusion

This source takes the journey into a point of view that I believe can help me make connections between my own family's experiences, after hearing about theirs. Although the person from this source moved to Vancouver rather than Toronto/Markham, like my parents, I believe that it can help me learn about the general process of immigrating, and the emotions that go through the immigrant's mind. With the inclusion of the visual signs that the article mentions, it allows me to make connections from the design field/perspective, to the political/racial tensions that existed in these immigrated/developed areas.

Source 2

The Rise and Fall of Chinese Immigration to Canada: Newcomers from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and Mainland China, 1980–2000

Li, P.S. (2005), The Rise and Fall of Chinese Immigration to Canada: Newcomers from Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China¹ and Mainland China, 1980–2000. *International Migration*, 43: 9-34.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2005.00324.x>
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1468-2435.2005.00324.x>

Discipline

Political and Geographical

Methodology

This paper is written by researcher Peter, Li., with a background in Sociology, from the Department of Sociology at The University of Saskatchewan uses online data collection

Findings

This paper explores and looks at the patterns between Hong Kong, Canada, as well as China from the 1980s and 1990s while taking into account the political and economical influences that existed at the time. The uncertainty of the handover from Hong Kong and China became a main reason for the mitigation of immigrants to Canada. With the changes to Canada's immigration policies at the time, and the allowance of having Chinese students studying in Canada to immigrate in 1989, these factors also impacted not only the immigration rate, but also the additional pros and cons to immigrating to Canada.

Interpretations

The deeper look into the economical environment that China, Hong Kong, and Canada were simultaneously changing, relates to my topic in a way that can help me understand the timeline of what years to research.

Conclusion

This source is a very informative way to help guide not only my online-collected data, but also to help from my specific research questions for my primary research stage. By taking a look at the uncertainty that residents felt during the time where immigrating was a popular option, it can help better guide my understanding of my parent's decisions as well as I conduct my primary research into my topic of my family specifically.

Source 3

Hong Kong's Freedoms: What China Promised and How it's Cracking Down

Maizland, Lindsay. "Hong Kong's Freedoms: What China Promised and How It's Cracking Down." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, 19 May 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/background/hong-kong-freedoms-democracy-protests-china-crackdown>.

Discipline

Foreign Political Affairs

Methodology

This article is written by Lindsay Maizland through external sources that exist on online collected data. This article is on the Council on Foreign Relations website, where the site discusses foreign affairs along with different regions of topics.

Findings

This article is interesting as it chooses to focus more on the political decisions each country has made in respect to the Hong Kong-China tensions. From the differences in the multiplicity of political parties, the article does a great job explaining the democratic, political, and social changes that not only Hong Kong had gone through, but also Beijing in relation to the topic. As the article discusses the history of Hong Kong since the treaty, it goes into specific details in the timeline up until modern day. Examples include the handover of Hong Kong and its social/economic standing, the security laws that were implemented, and, but not limited to, international responses to the recent movements such as the Umbrella movement in the occurrence of the 2020 protests.

Interpretations

With such a history, there are inevitably many different perspectives and interpretations that Hong Kong citizens, as well as China citizens may feel. The tension that exists from historical times, that still are prevalent to this day, is interesting to look at as it can be a topic of discussion with 'why people may feel a certain way to the other country's people?'

Conclusion

This source discusses in a recent light of the Hong Kong and China crisis, in relevance to the treaty back then. Although the main point of the article is the battle of Hong Kong residences in recent years, it also discusses the background and historical aspect of what

the underlying issue was back in the 80's and 90's. Learning about the history aspect of Hong Kong can provide more insight on how I can approach my topic through a historical lense, and making connections to why people chose to emigrate from Hong Kong, furthering the exploration into why Canada specifically.

Source 4

Hong Kong is about to see a Tiananmen-era wave of migration

Ho, Karen. "Hong Kong Is about to See a Tiananmen-Era Wave of Migration." *Quartz*, Quartz, 16 Aug. 2020, <https://qz.com/1890178/why-hong-kongers-are-moving-to-canada-in-droves/>

Discipline

Economy and Geographical Globalization

Methodology

This article is written by global finance and economics reporter, Karen Ho, for the website, Quartz. She writes in a storytelling perspective of another person, Mimi Lee, to which the website conducted primary research on.

Findings

What is interesting in this article, is the discussion they include of the term "Hong Kong's Astronauts", which no other article/source I looked at previously has mentioned. This astronaut approach is a very interesting point of view for this research as it describes a common model where immigrating families work separately located in Canada, and Hong Kong.

Interpretations

With the primary data collected from research with Mimi Lee, combined with the secondary researched political and historical factors of Hong Kong, the topic of immigration can be looked at through many lenses. This can raise discussions of what were common themes and goals amongst immigrants from Hong Kong at the time that were a result of the political uncertainty.

Conclusion

I looked into this source as it also includes a perspective from a personal storytelling side, where this person actually moved to Canada twice. The first time being forced with her family from Hong Kong, and the second time with her own family years later after moving back to Hong Kong. I think that by reading into this experience, it can provide me a clearer path on where to put my focus on, and the time period I should look into. I can also explore the trends that existed in the time area many were moving to Canada, and vice versa (from Canada to Hong Kong), like the author. With the new information I have gained through popular working models at the time, I believe it can help steer my project and research into a direction where I can learn more than just about my personal family history.

Source 5

Profiles Hong Kong: Hong Kong immigrants in Canada - No 2

Canada, Citizenship and Immigration Canada. *Profiles Hong Kong: Hong Kong Immigrants in Canada - No 2*. Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 1996.

https://books-scholarsportal-info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/uri/ebooks/ebooks6/statcanada6/2020-11-25/1/91F0057MPB_NO2_1010286019

Discipline

Citizenship and Immigration, Canada- STATCANADA

Methodology

This report describes the immigrating families and the statistical profiles of the families that were immigrating around the 1990s-2000s. This report includes very numerical and statistical data regarding general specifics, such as age, family census per household, canadian citizenships, etc.

Findings

When looking at the data presented in this report, it is more statistical and numerical than the other sources reviewed, however, the information still covers many areas of topic in the specific time period of the immigrants in Canada.

Interpretations

Looking at statistical general census data about the immigrants in Canada from Hong Kong, the time period of the 1990s to 2000s, this report is a great resource to look for any patterns of living conditions, or patterns in family matters, etc., that existed within these immigrants.

Conclusion

With the census information from the time period of 1990s to 2001, this general collected family information can help guide my primary research questions to find out where my family may and/or may not fit into these numbers. An interesting point made in the report is the income differences between Hong Kong immigrants in Canada, and how they are typically higher than those born in Canada. This point alone can be a good starting point of where to guide my research.

Source 6

Explaining socio-economic well-being of immigrants and returned migrants: an econometric analysis of the Hong Kong and Canadian 2001 censuses

Tian, Fangmeng, and Zhongdong Ma. *Explaining Socio-Economic Well-Being of Immigrants and Returned Migrants: An Econometric Analysis of the Hong Kong and Canadian 2001 Censuses*. Vancouver Centre of Excellence, 2006.

https://books-scholarsportal-info.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/uri/ebooks/ebooks0/gibson_cppc/2009-12-01/8/250102

Discipline

Division of Social Science Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Methodology

This paper uses two data sources of the data in the Hong Kong 2001 Population Census, as well as the Canada 2001 Population Census to compare the citizens and population.

Findings

With the categorization of Hong Kong immigrants as well as Canadian, the report concludes statistical numbers of incomes, resident statuses, as well as educational status, while combining all these factors into their own subcategories.

Interpretations

The census data in this report include a more detailed look into certain categories of immigrants/citizens, such as dividing the population into labour force, as well as education, which are then divided into groups of resident status, birthplaces, etc.

Conclusion

With the findings of this report, the writers were able to research the policy implications that the hosting countries (Hong Kong and Canada) have in place. With the discussion of social mobility, the report also mentions the intent to invest in the country to attract immigrants and to attract more talent in. However, the writers also suggest the implication that the socio-economic wellbeing of the Chinese immigrants were ultimately inferior to Canadian natives/locals at the time.

Source 7

The Lived Experiences of Canadian-Born and Foreign-Born Chinese Canadian Post-Secondary Students in Northern Ontario

Wang, Fei. "The Lived Experiences of Canadian-Born and Foreign-Born Chinese Canadian Post-Secondary Students in Northern Ontario", *Journal of International Students*, University of British Columbia, Vol. 6, Issue 2, (2016)
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1094888.pdf>

Discipline

Cultural Integration and Sociology

Methodology

This study uses primary research through structured interviews were they developed four themes of research.

Findings

With the interviews, the writers discovered four themes to research, those themes being; "perceptions of ethnic identity; cultural integration; perceptions of academic performance and the effect of Canadian education on career options". With their study, they found that Canadian-born Chinese students often stemmed away from their cultural identity more so than those not born in Canada. The study also mentions the adaptation to the environment that the parents, and the children experience, including the view that the children will often adapt at a faster rate than the parents.

Interpretations

With the discussion of adaptation and adjusting to the environment, the study links this to the intergenerational differences as the children may adapt to newer mental models and viewpoints more rapidly than their parents, who may still have integrated, older, traditional and cultural viewpoints.

Conclusion

With this study, it is interesting to look at how the speed at which individuals in immigrated families adjust to the environment, can be linked to intergenerational differences. With cultural and social differences being a key point of research in my topic, it can help direct my research into the factors and impacts that influence these differences as the family continues to grow.

Citations

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