

Mismatched expectations: reflecting on the “otherness” in the sponsors-sponsored refugees’ relationship among Syrian newcomers’ resettlement in Toronto |

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This paper is based on an ongoing Ph.D. research project that addresses the resettlement of Syrian newcomers in São Paulo (Brazil) and Toronto (Canada). I focus this presentation on the field research in Toronto. Drawing on qualitative methods consisting of interviews with Syrian newcomers (n=15), sponsors (n=16) and resettlement professionals (n=7), I present preliminary results concerning the topic of the “otherness” in the sponsors-newcomers’ relationship. More specifically, I address the mismatched expectations they have and how they manage those. The analysis of the data is based on the constructive approach of the Grounded Theory¹. First, participants’ statements are grouped in the following organizing scheme: the conditions that shape (inter)actions, the (inter)actions (how participants react to each other’s expectations), and finally the outcomes of those (inter)actions (which expectations are predominant). Second, I compare different strategies and outcomes. Next, I develop categories and properties. Finally, I present some preliminary results. The first preliminary result is that the earlier sponsors and newcomers communicate, the less they will have mismatched expectations. The second result is that there is a power imbalance between sponsors-sponsored refugees. However, sponsor’s expectations not always prevail over newcomers’. Finally, managing those expectations is one of the biggest challenges faced by both sponsors and newcomers.

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¹ Cf. CHARMAZ, Kathy (2006). *Constructing Grounded Theory: a Practical Guide Through Qualitative Analysis*. London/ Thousand Oaks/ New Delhi: SAGE Publications