

Understanding Technological Impacts on Newcomers' Adaptation in Canada

Abstract

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Introduction – Both technology and international migration are growing and our world has become more connected via technology than ever. Newcomers use technology to acquire information in their pre-migration, migration, and post-migration phases. Subsequently, this study argues that understanding newcomers' technology use is central to understanding newcomers' adaptation in a destination country. The findings of this proposed research will help to understand technological impacts (positive & negative) on newcomers' adaptation in Canada.

Research Questions - 1) What do newcomers and service providers identify and describe as positive and negative impacts of technology on newcomers' adaptation in Canada? 2) What factors influence newcomers' decisions regarding whether to adopt technology in their adaptation in Canada? 3) How does technology provide newcomers with a greater understanding of adaptation services and information including Canadian society, its traditions, and socio-political practices? 4) How does technology contribute to newcomers' barriers to adaptation in Canada including reinforcing newcomers' sense of nostalgia to the country of origin?

Methodology - This is an exploratory study designed to understand the positive and challenging impacts of technology on newcomers' adaptation in Canada. This study will use a qualitative research design, specifically a *qualitative phenomenological* study. Epistemologically, this approach is guided by an interpretivist paradigm which claims that understanding the "reality" is only possible through "personal experience" (Creswell, 2013), in this case with newcomers and service providers. This study will involve collecting *original* qualitative data through individual interviews with approximately 20 newcomers to Canada. Additionally, following Smaland and Berg's (2011) guidance, this study will involve approximately 10 interviews with key informants who are Canadian service providers, (e.g., settlement workers, social workers, ESL teachers) regarding their experiences in providing adaptation information and services to newcomers in the current technological era. The data collection is expected to commence on Fall 2020 and completed in February 2021.

Expected Findings and Contributions to Knowledge - The exponential evolution of technology and the ubiquitous usage of technology by newcomers demand this scholarly commitment by migration scholars to contribute to large-scale social impact. The findings of this research are expected to help migration and adaptation scholars to *refine* our understanding of how the concept of newcomers' adaptation in a new society is evolving or reshaping in the *current super-connected world*. Moreover, these expected findings on technology and migration will actively contribute to reframing the current migration debates and will prompt new conversations in the migration field to respond to newcomers' adaptation needs both in 'offline' and 'online' worlds. The findings will be communicated in three papers through publications in academic peer reviewed journals.

Biography – I, Kowa Qiyomiddin, am a Social Work PhD student at the University of Toronto. In addition to my scholarly passion in migration and adaptation, I have clinical work experience in the settlement sector both in and out of Canada, and also personal experiences of migration and adaptation.

Creswell. J. (2013). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches*. California/Thousand Oaks: Sage Publication Inc.

Smaland Goth, U. G., & Berg, J. E. (2011). Migrant participation in Norwegian health care. A qualitative study using key informants. *The European journal of general practice*, 17(1), 28-33.