

Decolonizing Methodologies: The Intersections and Role of Indigenous Peoples within the Non-Profit Settlement Process

Abstract

The proposed paper seeks to understand the conditions under which Indigenous peoples' participation in the newcomer settlement process can aid Canada's path towards reconciliation. It will ask if Indigenous participation in immigration policy can bolster newcomer settlement sector's capacity to support reconciliation by furthering an ethic of consent. A complex contemporary settler-colonial relationship contextually underscores the context of Indigenous-newcomer relations within the multicultural policy paradigm. The realities of displacement and colonization are viscerally felt among both Indigenous and newcomer communities. Current initiatives to decolonize settlement focus heavily on using education as a tool for a shared understanding and uses the settlement sectors as the core service providers because of their capacity to build healthy communities through social and political reform. The settlement sector is a pertinent sphere of analysis in the context of newcomer and Indigenous relations due to its proximity to the government as its core funding body and the increasing requirement of the non-profit organization to meet governmental mandate requirements to access sustainable funding. A literature review will contextualize the Canadian multicultural landscape within theories of critical multiculturalism and settler colonialism. It will then situate the settlement sector and Indigenous peoples within the current policy landscape. A decolonizing methodology offered by Eve Tuck and Andrew Yang's seminal work 'Decolonization is Not a Metaphor' will be the foundation for readdressing the current reconciliatory work that the settlement sectors undergoes. The methodology will also offer a path forward—structurally and symbolically inclusive of Indigenous peoples in the settlement process.

Biography of Author

Ashley Vols is a Master's student in the Public Policy and Administration program at Ryerson University. She is a queer Metis student from Treaty Six territory in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Ashley has a background in international politics, Indigenous politics, and social justice, which informs her research interests on the relationships between Indigenous peoples and newcomers within the context of Canada's multicultural policy. She hopes to contribute an Indigenous perspective to work towards inclusion in immigration policies to bolster the settlement sector's reconciliatory work. Ashley currently works as a research assistant at the Yellowhead Institute with Damien Lee looking at Section 10 of the Indian Act and its effect on band membership.