

Role of Public Administration in Canadian Immigration Policies

Abstract

My dissertation explores changes in the Family Reunification Scheme in Canada. In 2012, the percentage of the Economic class intakes surpassed, for the first time, the Family one. Family class decreased from 39.7% in 1992 to 25.2%, while the economic class increased from 37.6% to 62.3% during the same period (Siemiatycki, 2015). In particular, parents and grandparents' acceptance within the family reunification class dropped from 8.8% to 5.4% (OCASI, 2011). This paper reflects on the relevance and utility of discursive institutionalism to explain changes to the Parents and Grandparents' Sponsorship program between 2008 and 2021. I aim to emphasize the role of public administration and bureaucracy in the Canadian Immigration system (IRCC). I use critical political economy to highlight the neoliberal influence on the IRCC as an institution, the bureaucracy, the entrepreneurs and Bureaucrats. I engage with the literature that can help answer the following questions: 1) How the policy came to be (policy formulation and goals and the role of Bureaucracy/bureaucrats in this). 2) How IRCC has implemented it since it was put in place.

Biography of Author

Souhail Boutmira is a first year PhD student in the Policy Studies program at Ryerson University. He is also a proud recipient of the prestigious Canada Excellence Research Chair Doctoral Fellowship. Souhail is in the Immigration, Settlement and Diaspora Policies stream. His research interests focus on migrants' wellbeing and policies. In particular, Souhail analyzes the politics behind welfare states' responses to recent migration flows to address social justice issues emerging out of globalization processes. The purpose of Souhail's dissertation is to reimagine the concept of family reunification in Canada to reinclude parents and grandparents.