

Citizenship & Employment Precarity

A research project on precarious work and immigration status in the GTA

Citizenship and Employment Precarity: The Compounding Challenges of Precarious Work and Precarious Legal Status

Project Summary

Research Project

The Citizenship and Employment Precarity (CEP) research project will study how citizenship and legal status trajectories shape newcomer employment and wellbeing over time. The project will conduct a web survey of persons who live in the GTA and entered Canada without permanent residence. The survey examines changes in immigration status and citizenship, employment precarity, and overall health.

Why study precarious legal status and work?

It is important to understand the impact of immigrant entrance status on long-term job prospects and other quality of life measures. An increasing number of temporary foreign workers, international students, refugee claimants and others who come to work, study and perhaps stay in Canada. There is limited data and understanding about pathways and obstacles to permanent residence and citizenship, the costs and time it takes to achieve secure legal status and the impacts of precarious legal status on work options and treatment at work. This project addresses an important gap in data and research.

Study Participants

Persons who **arrived in Canada with precarious legal status (PLS)**, who have been employed at least 6 of the previous 9 months, have lived in Canada for at least 3 years and currently reside in the GTA. Study participants include:

- Temporary foreign workers
- International students
- Refugees and refugee claimants
- Persons who arrived as visitors
- Denied refugee claimants
- Visa over-stayers
- Canadian citizens or permanent residents who arrived with PLS

CITIZENSHIP PRECARIETY

Refers to insecurities of state-generated forms of immigration status. Recent trends include:

- Pathways to permanent residence and formal citizenship have become narrower, lengthier, more expensive and likely to include extended probationary periods
- Citizenship status is increasingly insecure
- Social citizenship and protections are being eroded

Outcomes

- The collection of empirical evidence on the intersections of precarious legal status and precarious work, over time
- Increased knowledge of the immigration status trajectories of PLS migrants and the impact of different sets of trajectories on long-term employment outcomes
- Increased knowledge of the impact of precarious legal status on financial debt, health and well-being
- Increased knowledge of the role of settlement, employment and social service agencies in helping precarious legal status migrants gain secure status and decent work
- User-friendly resources (such as clear language materials and advocacy tools) for workers, advocacy groups, service providers and policy makers

Get involved – Take the survey

The CEP web survey launched in spring 2018. We would like to connect with managers and front-line staff at settlement, employment, community agencies and academic institutions across the GTA to promote the significance of this research project and recruit qualified participants. Each persons who qualifies and completes the online survey will receive a \$10 Tim Hortons gift card.

To get involved, please contact:

Kamla Ross, Project Coordinator

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To take the CEP survey, go to: <http://cep.info.yorku.ca/>

The CEP project is led by [Prof. Luin Goldring](#) at York University and [Prof. Patricia Landolt](#) at the University of Toronto in collaboration with community groups across the GTA. This project is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.



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