

QICSS International Conference 2018 Abstract Submission

Title: Migration Policy, Source Country Factors, and the Gender Composition of Economic Migrants to Canada.

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Abstract:

This paper uses data from Statistics Canada's Permanent Resident Landing File (PRLF) accessed through the Québec Interuniversity Center for Social Statistics to assess how changes in migration policy and source country factors affect the proportion of women who qualify as economic migrants to Canada from 2003-2013. Important factors that affect the likelihood that women will qualify as economic migrants include educational and employment opportunities available in their home country, legal autonomy in their home country, and the migration policy of the receiving country. This project uses hierarchical-level modelling to examine how individual-level and country-level characteristics affect the proportion of women who qualify as primary economic migrants to Canada. Over the eleven-year timespan of the data, we observe variation in the gender composition of different migration cohorts as Canadian migration policy shifted from a human capital models towards a focus on selecting employable-on-arrival migrants. While an increasing proportion of female migrants is observed for migrants from most regions of the world, the percentage of female migrants from other regions remains constant or, in a few cases, declines. We also observe that increased equality for education and economic opportunity for women in the country of origin increases the likelihood that a higher proportion of women will emigrate, while an increased human development index score decreases the proportion of women who leave a country.