



Western Centre for Research on Migration & Ethnic Relations



Dr. Feng Hou
Statistics Canada

Feng Hou is a senior researcher with the Social Analysis Division at Statistics Canada, and an adjunct professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria. He holds a PhD in social demography from the University of Western Ontario. Before joining Statistics Canada in 2000, he was a researcher with the Center for Addiction and Mental Health and assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. His main research interests include socioeconomic integration of immigrants and the second generation, dynamics of social diversity, neighbourhood and community contextual effects, and applied statistical techniques. He is the author/co-author of over 60 journal articles and book chapters.

The Demographic Context of Social Diversity and the Integration of Canada's New Second Generation

It has become well-known that Canada's new second generation – the children of immigrants who came to Canada from non-traditional source regions since the 1960s – has superior educational and labour market outcomes, not only relative to the children of Canadian-born parents, but also in comparison with their counterparts in the U.S. and many European countries. What has contributed to Canada's success? While Canada stands out in its contemporary social and policy environment and the education system, it also benefits considerably from its demographic dynamics which is the direct result of immigration selection policies implemented since the late 1960s. Two demographic factors are particularly salient. One is the group composition of the minority population. The other is the small population size of most minority groups. While the first factor affects the overall outcomes for the second generation as a whole, the second influences the inter-group interaction of a particular second generation group.

Feng Hou will present results from various empirical studies to demonstrate the important roles played by these two factors in accounting for changes over arriving cohorts, variations among minority groups, and differences across host countries in the socioeconomic outcomes of the second generation. He argues that these demographics are set in motion to have a profound impact on the integration of Canada's new second generation for decades to come.

Thursday, November 24, 2011
4:00pm – SSC 5220
Refreshments 3:30pm – SSC 5230