Emmanuel Kyeremeh

Dr. Emmanuel Kyeremeh is an Assistant Professor at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly Ryerson University). Prior to joining TMU, Dr. Emmanuel Kyeremeh obtained his PhD from the Department of Geography and Environment at Western University with a specialization in Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER). Dr. Kyeremeh is a trained social geographer and identifies as a mixed method theoretically informed social scientist. His areas of research interests include immigrant integration, social networks, transnationalism, return migration, immigrant health, gender and migration, among others. His primary research focuses on the role of personal networks in the integration process of immigrants, specifically African immigrants in Canada. Dr. Kyeremeh has numerous regional, national, and international academic conference presentations and has published peer-reviewed journal articles in several top journals on migration and health issues. The current focus of his work is on obtaining pre- and post-migration network measures to understand changes in networks over time and derive social mechanisms of change.

"Immigrants' Network in Canada: The Case of Ghanaian Immigrants' Personal Network in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area"

An individual's network consists of individuals (i.e., family, neighbours, colleagues, coworkers, acquaintances) that they are connected to. The basis for such relations may be tied to similarities such as belonging to the same nationality, social relations such as being friends, mental relations in the form of liking someone, interactions in the form of social exchange, and flows. Members of one's network have been found to provide different types of social support and assistance over the course of the relationship. Among immigrants, networks have been identified as providing information and financial support pre migration. In the destination countries, evidence suggests that immigrants rely on social networks for varied forms of support, including housing, economic and psychological support during the integration process. Despite the utility of these networks, studies on immigrants' network construction have been few and limited. In this presentation, I interrogate the construction, composition, and rationale behind the personal networks of recent immigrants to Canada. Drawing on egocentric-network analysis and interviews with 172 Ghanaian immigrants in Toronto, I reveal their networking strategies during their integration. First, I identify social locations that help create ties with different groups: workplaces and schools offer access to ties with non-immigrants and other immigrants alike, while religious and ethnic organizations facilitate ties to co-nationals (i.e., Ghanaians). Second, most individuals within immigrants' networks are co-nationals whose relationships began in Canada, followed by sustained transnational ties in the origin and diaspora and a few ties with non-immigrants. The nature of this network is explained by examining the migration project of immigrants together with the context of reception in Canada, which suggests a desire by immigrants to stay in Canada and make Canada their second home. These findings have implications for their successful integration in Canada.

Thursday, October 27, 2022
4:00 pm, Social Science Centre, Room 5220
All Welcome!
https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/97703717142