CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN: TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

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TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- MOTIVATION FOR RESEARCH
  - THEORETICAL
  - MEASUREMENT

- RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- DATA & METHODS

- RESULTS

- DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION
THEORETICAL MOTIVATION: WHY STUDY RACE & ETHNICITY?

- POWER OF RACE & ETHNICITY IN SOCIAL LIFE
- SOCIOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF ETHNICITY
- ETHNICALLY DIVERSE CANADA
- EMERGENCE OF A NATIONAL ETHNIC IDENTITY AS “CANADIAN”
CONCEPTUAL & THEORETICAL CHALLENGES IN STUDYING ETHNICITY

- MEANING OF ETHNICITY
- THE TRADITION OF MAX WEBER
SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST PERSPECTIVE

- MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES
- HIGHLY FLUID, SITUATIONAL
- SUBJECTIVE
- HERBERT GANS AND SYMBOLIC ETHNICITY
MEASUREMENT MOTIVATION: “RACE” & “ETHNIC” DATA

- “RACE” & “ETHNICITY” AS OBJECTS OF SOCIAL ANALYSIS
- THE ROLE OF THE CENSUS
MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES IN STUDYING ETHNICITY

- THE CENSUS
- POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF ETHNICITY
- ARTIFACTUAL EFFECTS
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- WHAT ARE THE TRENDS IN CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN FROM 1991 TO 2001?

- WHAT FACTORS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN?

- WHAT ARE SOME IMPLICATIONS?
DATA


- RESPONSES TO ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION

- CHANGES IN FORMAT AND WORDING OF ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION
| 15 To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong? |
| Mark or specify as many as applicable. |

**Note:**
While most people of Canada view themselves as Canadian, information about their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to reflect the changing composition of the Canadian population and is needed to ensure that everyone, regardless of his/her ethnic or cultural background, has equal opportunity to share fully in the economic, social cultural and political life of Canada. Therefore, this question refers to the origins of this person's ancestors.

See Guide

*Example of other ethnic or cultural groups are:*  
Portuguese, Greek, Indian from India, Pakistani, Filipino, Vietnamese, Japanese, Lebanese, Haitian, etc.
Chart 2. Ethnic Origin Question in English, 1996 Canadian Census

17 To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person’s ancestors belong?

For example French, English, German, Scottish, Canadian, Italian, Irish, Chinese, Cree, Micmac, Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), Ukrainian, Dutch, East Indian, Polish, Portuguese, Jewish, Haitian, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc.
While most people in Canada view themselves as Canadians, information on their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to capture the changing composition of Canada’s diverse population. Therefore, this question refers to the origins of the person’s ancestors.

17. To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person’s ancestors belong?

For example, Canadian, French, English, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, Irish, Cree, Micmac, Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), East Indian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Filipino, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc.

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<tr>
<th>Specify as many groups as applicable</th>
<th>Specify as many groups as applicable</th>
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<tr>
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<td>22</td>
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METHODS

- LIMIT ANALYSIS TO PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER
- DESCRIPTIVE AND MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES
MORE ARE CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN ONLY OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ORIGINS

- 1991: 3.8% (Canadian) Only, 2.7% (Canadian) + Other Origin(s)
- 1996: 11.3% (Canadian) Only, 17.6% (Canadian) + Other Origin(s)
- 2001: 14.9% (Canadian) Only, 22.1% (Canadian) + Other Origin(s)

The graph illustrates the increasing percentage of people choosing “Canadian” ethnic origin only or in combination with other origins from 1991 to 2001.
OVERALL TREND OF INCREASE WITH LARGE DIFFERENCES ACROSS PROVINCES

Percent

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50

NF PEI NS NB PQ ON MB SK AB BC Y/NT/N


NON-METRO RESIDENTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
NON-METRO/METRO DIFFERENCE IS OBSERVED IN ALL PROVINCES: EXAMPLE FROM 2001
FEW IMMIGRANTS CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Canada-Born</th>
<th>Foreign-Born</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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FEW VISIBLE MINORITIES CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

Visible Minorities
Non-Visible Minorities

Percent


0.2 2.9 1.3 20 25.1

Visible Minorities Non-Visible Minorities
FEW ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Aboriginal</th>
<th>Non-Aboriginal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
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SINCE 1996, FRANCOPHONES ARE MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
SINCE 1991, CATHOLICS ARE MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN.
SMALL BIRTH COHORT DIFFERENCES IN CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
PERCENT CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN DECLINES WITH INCREASED EDUCATION
LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODEL

- **DEPENDENT VARIABLE:**
  "CANADIAN" AS ONLY RESPONSE TO ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION

- **INDEPENDENT VARIABLES:**
  SEX, BIRTH COHORT, MARITAL STATUS, RELIGION (1991 & 2001), PROVINCE, METRO/NON-METRO RESIDENCE, EDUCATION, HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- **ESTIMATE MODEL SEPARATELY FOR ANGLOPHONES, FRANCOPHONES, AND BILINGUALS, FOR EACH CENSUS YEAR**
LOGISTIC REGRESSION RESULTS

- USED COEFFICIENTS FROM LOGISTIC REGRESSION (LOGITS) TO PRODUCE PREDICTED PROBABILITIES

- MULTIPLIED PROBABILITIES BY 100 TO PRODUCE PERCENTS IN REPORTING RESULTS

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<tr>
<td>Anglophone</td>
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<td>14.1</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilingual</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>30.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francophone</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>56.8</td>
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</table>

Anglophone

Francophone

Metro Non-Metro Metro Non-Metro

Percent


0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70


Anglophone

Francophone

Percent

1996 2001

1996 2001

Anglophone

Francophone

Percent

Catholic Protestant Other None

Catholic Protestant Other None

1991 2001

1991 2001

Anglophone

Francophone

Percent


SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF MAIN FINDINGS

- INCREASED TREND OF REPORTING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN BUT IS NOT ACROSS-THE-BOARD

- PRIMARILY MOVEMENT OUT OF “BRITISH” AND “FRENCH” ETHNIC ORIGINS TO “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
ANGLOPHONES: 1960s BIRTH COHORT

Change in Numbers During Period

-500,000 -400,000 -300,000 -200,000 -100,000 0 100,000 200,000 300,000 400,000

Canadian Origin
Multiple
Other Single
Other European
French
British

1996 to 2001
1991 to 1996
FRANCOPHONES: 1960s BIRTH COHORT

Change in Numbers During Period

-800,000 -600,000 -400,000 -200,000 0 200,000 400,000 600,000

British
French
Other European
Other Single
Multiple
Canadian Origin

1996 to 2001
1991 to 1996
MORE MAIN FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- MOSTLY CONFINED TO PERSONS BORN IN CANADA

- DIFFERENCES BY EDUCATION, BIRTH COHORT, RELIGION, PROVINCE

- FRANCOPHONE BACKGROUND IS KEY FACTOR
DISCUSSION: COMMON FACTORS

- ARTIFACTUAL EFFECT
- LONG HISTORY
- REACTION TO INCREASED IMMIGRATION
- DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF MARGINALIZATION
- LACK OF KNOWLEDGE
DISCUSSION: DIFFERENT FACTORS

- FRANCOPHONES:
  - "CANADIEN" AS PRE-EXISTING IDENTITY
  - MAJORITY GROUP OR GROUP SIZE EFFECT
CONCLUSION: LIMITATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

- STUDY LIMITATIONS
- WHAT DOES “CANADIAN” OR “CANADIEN” MEAN?
- CHALLENGES FOR USERS OF DATA
- EXTEND ANALYSIS WITH 2006 CENSUS DATA
- COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL ETHNIC ORIGIN AND IDENTITY
CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN: TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

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