

## RESEARCH QUESTION

Do immigrant families face challenges due to acculturation in new communities?

# Transitions, perspectives & Cultural Identities

## Looking at immigration within a Canadian Framework

## METHODS

Two semi structured interviews were conducted for this research each within different settings. Participants consisted off

- 🇪🇨 55-year old female (South American background)  
Immigrated to Canada in 1994
- 🇯🇲 17-year old male (Caribbean background)  
Immigrated to Canada in 2014

## ABSTRACT

When a person is an immigrant or seen an outsider, they may feel required to negotiate their own identity in public to better reflect their own self-interpretation. People who leave their homeland may have strong bonds with their national culture and may feel required to have a hybridity of two cultures in order to represent both national cultures in their own identity. This may take the form of adapting to some of the dominant cultural norms and integrating it into the host culture norms allowing for a third space to emerge. In this research I explore the transition and adjustment of immigrant families into new communities by analyzing the experiences and obstacles immigrant families face due to acculturation.

Key terms that will guide this research are as follow

- Cultural Third Space
- Code Switching or Translanguaging
- Cultural Hybridity
- Recognition



“My parents were never for the *Canadian way*”

**Challenges both participants faced**  
Language barriers  
Cultural differences  
Pressure to blend in with Canadian culture  
Stereotypes

## FINDINGS

### Male Participant

- Cultural adaptation was easier for him than his parents
- Certain settings caused more pressure to “blend in with Canadian culture” (school, community events)
- Discriminated against because of foreign accent
- Felt a widening gap between him and his parents

### Female Participant

- Felt pressure for her family to partake in “Canadian activities”
- Encouraged her kids maintain both culture i.e. use of Spanish language within the house
- Faced discrimination because language barriers
- English classes became a coping mechanism
- Social interaction was difficult ie. Forming friendships



## GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How would you describe your experience when you immigrated to Canada?
- Are there any unique challenges you faced & how did this affect your family?
- Were there coping mechanisms you used to adjust to a new country?
- How would you compare Canadian culture to your own culture?



## IMPROVEMENTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Larger sample size
- Recruit participants from various backgrounds e.g. different religions
- Use other qualitative methods along with interviews e.g. focus groups