Social–Behavioral and Emotional Trajectories: Comparison between Racialized and Non–Racialized Canadian Youth

Drs. Dora Tam and Siu Ming Kwok
School of Social Work, King’s University College
Western University

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Focus

- Youth, who aged between 10–17 at the time of data collection;
- Racialized youth refers to those whose PMK (Person Most Knowledgeable of the youth) have identified themselves as non-white;
**Background**

- Based on 2006 Census, approximate 1 in 5 persons were foreign born (Statistics Canada, 2010)
- By 2031, it is projected to be increased to 25 to 28% or 1 in 4 persons
- Moreover, the projections also show the rapid increase of the children of immigrants, or called the second generation
- Such projected changes in the future Canadian demographics suggest the need for examining policy and program development
Theoretical Framework

- Youth aged between 10–17 is at a critical period of time in the formation of healthy identity and development.
- From the Ecological Systems Theory (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), the development of young adulthood occurs through the interactive relationship between youth and multiple systems.
- These include individual, familial, and environmental systems and immigrant status.
Healthy development refers to strong sense of self-esteem, good school performance, and pro-social behaviors;

- How do these protective and risk factors characterize in the successful integration among racialized youth in Canada?
- How does the intersection of these individual, familial, and environment factors with social-behavioral and emotional indicators play out for racialized youth in Canada?
Research Design

- This secondary data analysis design analyzed data from the fourth cycle of the Canadian National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth (NLSCY) to examine the protective and risk factors of youth between 10 and 17 years of age in Cycle 4, as a function of individual, familial, and environmental factors.

- Correlations, independent t–tests, and multiple regression methods were used.

- To minimize Type I error Alpha was set at .01 unless specified
NLSCY is a longitudinal study conducted in partnership by HRDC and Statistics Canada. The primary objective of the NLSCY is to monitor the development and well-being of Canada’s children from infancy to adulthood. Follows a representative panel sample of Canadian children from birth to 11 years of age into adulthood, with data collection occurs every two–year. The first data collection took place in 1994/95. There were 30,307 cases aged between 0 and 17 on C4. Data collected from PMK, Child/Youth, & School
Random and non–random missing data in longitudinal data is a major issue
  ◦ Multiple Data Imputation was used to address missing data (Newsom, Jones, & Hofer, 2012)
  ◦ Only pooled results are reported

Sample size in each tabulation (cell) > 15
  ◦ This presentation will only present results that meet this requirement
262 cases met the selection criteria

Majority of PMKs were female (90.3%)

These PMKs received less years of education ($M=12.5; SD=2.16$) than their spouses/partners ($M=13.1; SD=2.32$)

Greater proportion of these PMKs (80.1%) had been a landed immigrant versus less among the spouses/partners (59.9%)

Slightly above 70% of these families were intact family

More PMKs (86.6%) had religious practice than their spouses/partners (60.1%)

Among the youth 54.4% were males and 45.6% were female

Mean age of these youth was 13.5 years old ($SD=2.23$)
Highlight from Correlations (all $p \leq .00$)

Minimal criteria for small effect size ($n > 41; r > .30; p < .01$) (Cohen, 1988)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predictors</th>
<th>Positive $r$</th>
<th>Negative $r$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parental Nurturance</td>
<td>Self-Esteem (.45)</td>
<td>Indirect Aggression (-.35)*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Emotional Disorder (-.38)*</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hyperactivity/Inattentive (-.39)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parental Rejection</td>
<td>Emotional Disorder (.38)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parental Monitoring</td>
<td>Pro-Social (.49)</td>
<td>Conduct Disorder (-.68)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Property Offence (-.68)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years of Immigration (PMK/Spouse)</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Cohesion (.41/.47)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Years of Immigration (Spouse)</td>
<td>Conflict Resolution (.34)</td>
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</tbody>
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* Consistent with the literature
Selected Results: $t$-tests (pooled results only) ($d=.50$, $\alpha=.05$, power=.80) (Cohen, 1988)

- Spouses/partners who had been a landed immigrant was a significant factor indicating higher level of depression scores among PMKs than those spouses/partners who were not ($t=2.73$ (42); $p=.00$)
Youth who had parents expected higher on their school work were those families reported lower neighbourhood cohesive scores than those youth whose parents expected less ($p=.02$).
1. Families with higher household income were those experienced stronger social support and neighbourhood cohesive

2. The level of depression of PMKs were lower among those spouses/partners who were not a landed immigrant

3. Youth came from families with higher level of education of the spouses/partners were those with higher pro-social scores and lower property offence scores
4. Families who expected more on the youth at school were those experienced less neighbours cohesiveness

5. Youth came from families, where PMKs were atheist, were having more positive relationship with friends
1. Years of education of PMK (β = .49) and years of immigration of PMK (β = .51) contribute significantly to youth’s math performance. However, years of education of the spouse/partner (β = -.43) and years of immigration of spouse/partner (β = -.32) contribute negatively to the youth’s math performance even though at a lower weight (β). On this model: r = .49; r² = .24
Results: Multiple Regression (2) (Pooled results)

2. Parental monitoring ($\beta = .48$), which accounts for 23% of the change on pro-social behavior ($r=.48; r^2 = .23$)

3. Parental monitoring ($\beta = -.75$) and years of immigration of the spouse/partner ($\beta = -.63$) contribute negatively to the presence of behaviors associated with property offences; however, years of immigration of PMK ($\beta = .31$) attributes to the increase of presence of property offences. On this model: $r=.92; r^2 = .84$
Highlight from Multiple Regression

- Parental health status and youth’s math scores are significant predictors of youth’s positive relationship with friends.
- Years of education and Years of immigration of PMK contribute positively to youth’s math performance, but these two predictors among spouses/partners (mostly were males) contribute negatively.
- Years of immigration of PMK attributes to the presence of property offence.
- Parental monitoring is a significant predictor on pro-social behaviour and is a protective factor from property offence. However, years of immigration of PMK and spouse/partner play opposite role on school performance.
Implications to Social Work (1)

- No difference between immigrant and local born status
- Rather interplay of familial, environmental, and acculturation factors on the development of racialized youth
- *Familial factor:* Findings of this study corroborate with current literature that family is an important factor for healthy development of youth. Intervention should be focused on strengthening parental nurturance and parental monitoring, and decreasing parental rejection
Implications to Social Work (2)

- Environmental & acculturation factors: The income, educational level, and years of immigration of parents should be taken in consideration, especially from a community building approach, to build a more cohesive community and lessen family dysfunctions in resulting with youth’s positive social relationship.
  - Neighborhood cohesiveness has an impact on parental expectations on youth.
  - Higher level of depression among PMKs, whose spouse/partners were landed immigrants.
Implications to Social Work (3)

- *Nuanced approach to familial factors*: The impact of mother and father on the youth’s development is not on the same footing. Some interventions should be tailored more for the mothers (e.g. support services for PMKs whose spouse/partners are immigrants) and some should be on fathers (e.g. enhance level of nurturance) in order to develop a more positive family functioning and youth development.
Future Research: More research should investigate factors underlying the different impacts between the father and mother on school performance (especially on math) and property crime involvement of youth. Even more puzzling is that years of immigration of PMK accounted for the increase in youth’s property offences, but not for the years of immigration of spouse/partner.


Selected References (cont’d)


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Thank you!

For those who are interested to know the latest development on this study, you contact Dora Tam at dmytam@uwo.ca