The Acculturation of Forced Immigrant Youth through Community Sport

Thierry R. F. Middleton[1], Dr. Robert J. Schinke[1], Dr. Diana A. Coholic[2], Cole Giffin[1], Bahaa Habra[4], & Deborah Lefebvre[4]

[1] Human Studies Program, Laurentian University [2] School of Human Kinetics, Laurentian University [3] School of Social Work, Laurentian University [4] YMCA of Northeastern Ontario, Sudbury, Ontario

Forced Immigrant Youth	Refugees	An individual who has been granted protected person status in the country in which they sough refuge.
	Re-settled Refugees	An individual who has been re-settled in a third country after having received protected person status in the country they initially sought refuge in.
	Asylum-Seekers	An individual who is in the process of applying for protected person status in the country in which they have sought refuge.

To receive protected person status (i.e., be recognized as a refugee) an individual must have a "well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his *(her)* nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself *(herself)* of the protection of that country" – UN 1951 Convention Relation to the Status of Refugees

Research Aims

1. What new understandings of the acculturation process can we gain from the stories of forced immigrant youth community sport participants, as well as their family members, peer athletes, and the program staff they interact with?
2. What are the opportunities offered by, and challenges encountered in, community youth sport by forced immigrant youth?
3. How can we develop a community of practice between forced immigrant youth, their families, coaches, and sport organizations?

Synthesis of Previous Qualitative Findings

Barrier	Reported by
Weather	Devlin et al., 2012; Mohamed et al., 2014; Pizzolati & Sterchele, 2016; Stack & Iwasaki, 2009; Wieland et al., 2015
Financial Cost	Block & Gibbs, 2015; Devlin et al., 2012; Guerin et al., 2003; Hartley et al., 2017; Jeanes et al., 2015; Maxwell et al., 2014; Mohamed et al., 2014; Rich et al., 2015; Spaaij, 2012b; Wieland et al., 2015
Transportation	Block & Gibbs, 2015; Guerin et al., 2003; Hartley et al., 2017; Maxwell et al., 2014; Wieland et al., 2015
Language	Guerin et al., 2003; Hartley et al., 2017; Maxwell et al., 2014; Spaaij, 2012b; Stack & Iwasaki, 2009
Lack of Childcare	Devlin et al., 2012; Guerin et al., 2003
Organizational Structure	Jeanes et al., 2015; Rich et al., 2015; Stack & Iwasaki, 2009
Cultural gender norms	Devlin et al., 2012; Guerin et al., 2003; Moore et al., 2010; Palmer, 2009; Rosso & McGrath, 2016; Spaaij, 2012a; Spaaij, 2012b; Wieland et al., 2015
Religious Beliefs	Guerin et al., 2003; Wieland et al., 2015
Mental health	Hartley et al., 2017; Ley et al., 2017; Ley et al., 2018; Michelini, 2018

- How does the unique acculturation process of forced immigrants impact integration through sport?
- How are these barriers socially constructed?
- How can sport overcome these barriers to be an integrative context?
- What role does power play in determining the process of integration?
- There is a need for greater reflexivity on the part of researchers and practitioners.

Progress to Date

Reflexivity Training

Developing Trust with Co-Interviewer

Still to Come

- Guided Journeys with 10-12 Forced Migrant Youth
  - Conversational interview while moving with the youth through their community
  - 2-3 hours long
  - To and from a sport/physical activity of their choice
- Collaborative thematic analysis with youth and their families
  - Youth and their families lead the process of identifying and interpreting the important themes that emanate from their stories
- Development of contextualized moving stories
  - Possible other youth-led storytelling formats
- Development of training modules for community sport staff

@activitypageforforcedimmigrantyouth

@luymcacommunityproject

YMCA of Northeastern Ontario

Laurentian University Université Laurentienne

SIRC

SSHRC CRSH Canada