



#### ***Consensual and marital relationships of immigrant youth in Australia and Canada***

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Australia and Canada are both unusually open to immigration. In 2001, 23% and 18% of their respective populations were born abroad, and these percentages have been increasing over time due to continuing high levels of immigration in recent years. Thus the futures of these countries will be greatly affected by how these immigrants adapt to life in the host societies. First and second generation youth are especially important, as they are transitional generations situated between the cultures of their parents' and their new home countries during their key formative years. This study will examine co-residential consensual and marital relationships among first and second generation immigrant youth (aged 15-29) using census data from 2001 (Australia and Canada) and 1996 (Australia only). The questions we seek to answer include: To what degree do important immigrant ethnic groups marry within their own group or with similar ethnic groups, compared to those with native-born parents? High levels of exogamous relationships are likely to imply a faster pace of integration or even assimilation into host societies. How are their relationship behaviours influenced by religion or being a member of a visible minority? To what degree do early couple relations among immigrant groups differ from those prevailing in the two countries, in terms of type of union (consensual versus marital), age at marriage, spousal age differences and early childbearing? How does the Australian experience differ from that of Canada, distinguishing Quebec from the other provinces? Data from the World Values surveys will be used in interpreting our findings.