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Project Description:

How Refugees Become One of “US”: Private Refugee Sponsorship and Inclusion in Canada

During the recent years Canada has shown international leadership in welcoming refugees and the Canadian government and many Canadian citizens and residents have pursued a more humanitarian approach to refugee protection through the Private Sponsorship of Refugee programs. In this study, I focus on private refugee sponsors’ initiatives of including newcomers into local communities. I will explore the effectiveness of the Private Sponsorship of Refugee programs.

I will interview Canadian private sponsors of refugees to explore how Canadian private-sponsors perceive and interact with refugee groups. My aim is to understand the dynamics of including newcomers and the process of refugee integration in Canada from the sponsors’ point of view. What are the motivations, attitudes and values that sponsors have had when they started and whether and how these have changed through participation and interaction with refugees.

The findings of this study will provide policymakers and academics with the much needed insights and experiences of the private sponsors with the current sponsorship program. I will use the findings of the interviews to write academic papers and a policy report that I will share community stakeholders and the members of the Immigration Refugee Citizenship Canada. To facilitate sponsors’ future participation in the sponsorship programs, I will use my study findings to work with community members and policymakers to improve the current sponsorship bureaucracies and regulations.

Study format:

As a research participant you will participate in an approximately one-hour interview. The interview is based on questions that examine topics such as why you decided to sponsor refugees to come to Canada, what were the networking and planning stages that you went through in order to participate in the sponsorship program, and how you manage your interactions with you sponsored refugee before and after their arrival in Canada.

Please contact Dr. Karimi to express your interest to participate in the study and to schedule a time for a meeting and an interview at your convenience.

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