

# Jarislowsky Chair Newsletter

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Edited by: Kerri Neil

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### AS THE STEPHEN JARISLOWSKY CHAIR IN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION, DR. TONY FANG

is dedicated to publishing cutting-edge research on the Canadian and Newfoundland and Labrador economies. Dr. Fang has been especially busy these past few months with projects focused on immigration, an obvious route through which the province can meet, in part, its goal of sustainable population growth.

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## Theme 1

### New Additions to Our Team

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new additions to our team: **Petr Kocourek** and **Troy Osmond**. Both students are pursuing their undergraduate degrees in Economics at Memorial University. Petr's interests focus on labour market problematics and international and political economics, while Troy is interested in labour market economics, behavioral economics, public economics, and welfare economics

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## Theme 2

### Retention and Integration of Refugees in Newfoundland and Labrador

We are pleased to announce that our project, "[Retention and Integration of Refugees in Newfoundland and Labrador](#)," has been approved for funding by the Harris Centre's Applied Research Fund. The proposed study aims to develop a strategy to improve the retention and integration of refugees in Newfoundland and Labrador and address important issues of population growth and labour market shortages in the medium to longer term. The study intends to examine factors influencing refugees' intention to stay in or leave the province; analyze challenges facing provincial stakeholders and address factors that negatively impact refugee retention; review existing successful practices in refugee retention and integration in Canada and internationally that could be implemented in Newfoundland and Labrador; and identify and recommend measures to increase refugee retention rate in the province. Raising the number of refugees accepted on an annual basis and retaining them would help the province achieve its goal of population growth and improve the sustainability and diversity of the province's economy.

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## Theme 3

### Migrants' Intention to Move or Stay in their Initial Destination

Halina Sapeha's recent work, titled "Migrant's Intention to Move or Stay in their Initial Destination" was recently published online in *International Migration*. This article uses Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants in Australia to investigate the factors that affect immigrants' intention to remain in or leave their initial destination. Her findings point to the importance of satisfactory employment on retention and highlight interesting differences between categories of migrants. For the full article, please visit: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/imig.12304/full>.



*Left to Right: Petr Kocourek, Opeyemi Jaunty-Aidamenbor, Troy Osmond, Tony Fang, Kerri Neil, Halina Sapeha, Dawei Jiang, Weimin Dai*

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## Theme 4

### Attraction, Retention, and Integration of Immigrants in Smaller Communities

Pathways to Prosperity, in partnership with the Atlantic Region Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies and the Association for New Canadians, hosted a workshop in St. John's on October 9. The workshop covered a range of issues affecting immigrants and refugees in smaller communities including welcoming communities, economic, social, and political integration, and retention strategies. Our Tony Fang led a discussion on the integration of immigrants in smaller communities that included a lively discussion on strategies and challenges of integrations faced by these smaller areas. Population decline, aging, out-migration, labour and skills shortages are important demographic and economic issues guiding public policy formation in the province.

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## Theme 5

### Student Accomplishments

We would like to congratulate Kerri Neil on being awarded a Dean's List recipient in the last year of her undergraduate degree. The Dean's List is reserved for students who have completed a full course load with a 4.0. We applaud Kerri on her hard work and wish her well as she continues her Masters at Memorial University.

For his outstanding work in economics, Petr Kocourek is this month's 'Student in the Spotlight' in the Economics Department. Hailing from the Czech Republic, Petr has had a busy academic career studying at universities throughout Europe before arriving at Memorial. We welcome him to the department and to our team.

## Theme 6

### Vital Signs Launch

On October 4, we were glad to attend the launch of the 2016 Vital Signs report which includes a variety of measurements that consider the health of our economy and the social well-being of our citizens. Topics on the report range from the thriving artist community in Nunatsiavut to the welcoming of refugees in Corner Brook. We congratulate Halina Sapeha on her hard work compiling the report and encourage our readers to check out the final report at

[http://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/vitalsigns/NLs\\_Vital\\_Signs\\_2016.pdf](http://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/vitalsigns/NLs_Vital_Signs_2016.pdf)



## Theme 7

### Transforming the Mainstream: Immigration in Atlantic Canada, Past, Present and Future

The Atlantic Research Group on Economics of Immigration, Aging and Diversity put together a riveting research symposium at St. Mary's University on Nov. 17th and 18th. The event was filled with presentations by academics (including our Tony Fang), settlement agencies, community groups, and business on the work they are doing to improve the attraction and integration of immigrants in Eastern Canada. This was a really great chance to hear about all the great work being done and inspired us to bring some new ideas and innovations to this province. We encourage you to visit ARGEIAD's website for photos and PowerPoints from the event.

<http://www.smu.ca/centres-and-institutes/atlantic-research-group.html>

## Theme 8

### Migration With(out) Boundaries Conference

Kerri Neil was pleased to present the teams' work on Syrian refugee retention at the 5th Annual Migration With(Out) Boundaries Conference hosted in Lansing, MI. This interdisciplinary conference covered a range of issues affecting migration with a special panel on the Syrian refugee crisis that included speakers from such far-reaching countries as Turkey and Norway.

## Theme 9

### Peering Out the Black Box of Government Policy Work: The challenge of governance and policy capacity

Halina Sapeha, along with her co-authors Adam Welstead (Michigan Technological University) and Bryan Evans (Ryerson University) recently submitted a paper for publication on policy capacity.

There has been a call for shift towards more diffused policy advisory systems where a plurality of actors, particularly non-state actors, engage with government in deliberating policy interventions to address collective problems. Previous research has found that government-based policy workers tend to have low levels of interaction with outside actors. From an online survey of Canadian provincial government policy workers, the authors develop six hypotheses that focus on the drivers of policy capacity and their degree of interaction with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

## Theme 10

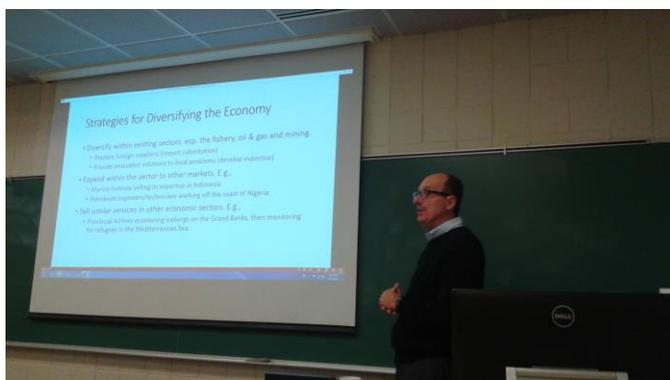
### Events in the City

#### Provincial immigration growth strategy

Our team was pleased to attend the roundtable consultations for the Provincial Immigration Growth Strategy. This was a great opportunity to directly engage with the provincial government on ways to attract and retain more migrants to this province. We sincerely look forward to hearing the results of the consultation and formulation of the province's new strategy.

### Guest Lectures

Over the Fall semester, Tony has been fortunate to be able to bring in guest lecturers for his labour market class. This year he was honoured to have Associate Director of Public Policy at the Harris Centre, Mike Claire and Executive Director of the Harris Centre and Director of Public Engagement, Rob Greenwood presented their knowledge of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador's labour market and the roles of government and community organizations to his economics students.



### Lunch'n'Learn with the Board of Trade

We were pleased to attend the Lunch'n'Learn on Nov. 16 featuring Memorial's President Gary Kachanoski. This was a great opportunity to learn about the innovative work happening at the university and to connect with local business leaders about the work our team is doing on immigration.

### Tony Fang Guest Lectures at SMU

Tony was honoured to be invited as a guest lecture for a labour market economics graduate course at St. Mary's University where he presented his work on "The Use and Impact of Job Search Procedures by Migrant Workers in China." This project considers the use and impact of job search procedures used by migrant workers by taking advantage of a rich data set on migrant workers that has information on their job search procedure as well as a wide array of other personal and human capital characteristics. This paper was published by the *China Economic Review* and can be read at <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1043951X15001273>

### International Metropolis Conference



Tony Fang organized a panel discussion at the 2016 International Metropolis Conference, "Creating Trust through Wisdom on Migration and Integration," in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The panel, "Migration, Trade and Diasporas: Engines for Economic Development and Integration" featured seven academics and practitioners who presented their work on the impacts of immigration on national economies, international trade and economic development

## Contact us

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