

KOREAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA

Perspectives on Migration, Integration,
and the Family

Edited by Samuel Noh, Ann H. Kim, and Marianne S. Noh

Korean Immigrants in Canada

*Perspectives on Migration,
Integration, and the Family*

EDITED BY SAMUEL NOH, ANN H. KIM, AND
MARIANNE S. NOH



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS
Toronto Buffalo London

© University of Toronto Press 2012
Toronto Buffalo London
www.utppublishing.com
Printed in Canada

ISBN 978-1-4426-4218-8 (cloth)

ISBN 978-1-4426-1115-3 (paper)



Printed on acid-free, 100% post-consumer recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

Asian Canadian Studies Series

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Korean immigrants in Canada : perspectives on migration, integration, and the family / edited by Samuel Noh, Ann H. Kim, and Marianne S. Noh.

(Asian Canadian studies)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-4426-4218-8 (bound). ISBN 978-1-4426-1115-3 (pbk.)

1. Koreans – Canada – History. 2. Canada – Emigration and immigration – History. 3. Korean Canadians – Ethnic identity. 4. Korean Canadians – Cultural assimilation. 5. Korean Canadians – Psychology. 6. Korean Canadians – Social conditions. 7. Korean Canadians – Economic conditions. 8. Immigrant families – Canada – Case studies. 9. Immigrants – Family relationships – Canada – Case studies. I. Noh, Samuel, 1946– II. Kim, Ann H., 1972– III. Noh, Marianne S., 1977– IV. Series: Asian Canadian studies

FC106.K6K67 2012

971'.004957

C2012-903469-X



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial assistance to its publishing program of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council.

University of Toronto Press acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for its publishing activities.

KOREAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA

Perspectives on Migration, Integration, and the Family

Edited by Samuel Noh, Ann H. Kim, and Marianne S. Noh

Korean Canadians are one of the fastest-growing visible minority populations in Canada today. However, very few studies of their experiences in Canada or their paths of integration are available. To fill this gap, *Korean Immigrants in Canada* provides the first collection of scholarly essays on Korean immigrants and their offspring.

The contributors explore the historical, psychological, social, and economic dimensions of Korean migration, settlement, and integration across Canada. A wide variety of topics are covered: included are demographic profiles and in-depth examinations of entrepreneurship, mental health and stress, elder care, language maintenance, and the experiences of students and second-generation Korean Canadians. Providing a wealth of quantitative and qualitative research from an interdisciplinary perspective, this collection serves as a springboard for future study on the Korean diaspora in Canada.

(Asian Canadian Studies)

SAMUEL NOH is the David Crombie Professor of Cultural Pluralism and Health in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

ANN H. KIM is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at York University.

MARIANNE S. NOH is a postdoctoral scholar in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing at the University of Western Ontario.

Tables

- 1.1 A Brief Chronology of Selected Events in Canada's Immigration History 6
- 2.1 Citizenship Status of People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population 23
- 2.2 Provincial Distribution of People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population 23
- 2.3 People of Korean Origin in Major Cities 24
- 2.4 Age Distribution of Population of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population 25
- 2.5 Official Language Proficiency among People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population 25
- 2.6 Language Most Often Used by People of Korean Origin 26
- 2.7 Family Status of People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population by Sex 27
- 2.8 Religious Affiliations of People of Korean Origin in Canada, 1981, 1991, 2001 27
- 2.9 Educational Attainment of People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population Aged 25 and Over 29
- 2.10 Employment Characteristics of Workers Aged 25 and Older, People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population 30
- 2.11 Occupations Held by Workers Aged 25 and Older, People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population, 2006 31
- 2.12 Income Statistics for People of Korean Origin and the Total Canadian Population Aged 25 and Over, 2005 33
- 3.1 The Korean Diaspora by Destination 43
- 4.1 The Model with Substitution Performs Much Better 63
- 4.2 Principal Results 64

5.1	Total Population and Korean Population in the Atlantic Provinces and Cities, 2006 Census	76
7.1	Demographic Characteristics of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	119
7.2	Immigration Characteristics of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	122
7.3	Educational Characteristics of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	123
7.4	Language Characteristics of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	125
7.5	Earnings of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	127
7.6	Labour Force Characteristics by Industry of Koreans and the General Population by Employment Status in Canada, 2006	129
8.1	Standardized Regression Coefficients of Socio-economic Background	141
9.1	Language Use at Home and the Correlation between Family Language Use and Korean-Language Proficiency	159
9.2	Language Choice for Literacy Practices and the Correlation between Literacy Practice and Korean-Language Proficiency	161
9.3	Attitudes toward Korean, English, and Bilingualism, and the Correlation between Attitudes and Korean Proficiency	165
10.1	Descriptive Statistics of Study Variables (N=585)	179
10.2	Regression Models of Self-Concepts	182
10.3	Regression Models of Psychological and Physical Self-Concepts for Sub-samples of Koreans, Other Ethnic Minorities, and White Europeans	184
11.1	Respondent Information	197
12.1	Demographic Characteristics, Social Support for Elderly Korean Canadians Study	218
14.1	Profile of the <i>Kirogi</i> Mothers Study Participants	266-7
14.2	Comparisons of Changes in Family Relations across Three Types of Pre-Migration Korean Families	276-7

Figures

- 1.1 Yearly Total Immigrants, Korean Immigrants, and Korean Student Flows (in Thousands) 5
- 1.2 Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Immigrant Class 8
- 1.3 Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Education 8
- 1.4. Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Occupation 9
- 1.5. Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Age Group 9
- 1.6. Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Intended Destination 10
- 1.7. Korean Immigrants Landing in Canada by Intended Metropolitan Area 12
- 2.1. Population of People of Korean Origin in Canada, 1981–2006 20
- 2.2. Period of Immigration: People of Korean Origin in Canada 21
- 2.3. Age of Immigration: People of Korean Origin in Canada, 2006 22
- 4.1. Korean Arrivals in Canada 55
- 4.2. Korean Immigrants to Canada and the United States 56
- 4.3. Theil Index of Wage Inequality 57
- 4.4. Korean Immigrants to Canada: The Exchange Rate Matters 60
- 5.1. Intended Place of Destination of Permanent Migrants from Korea over Time 75
- 8.1. Mean and Standard Deviations of ASI Domains 139

Foreword

PYONG GAP MIN

Research on Korean immigrants in the United States started in the early 1970s, leading to the publication of several books and many journal articles. A comprehensive annotated bibliography prepared by this author in 2010 shows that more than 110 books, 30 of them edited volumes, and nearly five hundred journal articles and book chapters focusing on Korean-American experiences have been published. By contrast, owing to a shorter immigration history, a much smaller population size, and a lack of scholars dedicated to the subject, research on Koreans in Canada started much later, in the early 1990s. There is no social science book focusing on Korean Canadians, and only five or six dozen journal articles have been published up to now.

Despite presence of a small number of Korean scholars studying their own population and a thin social science literature on Koreans in Canada, there is one positive aspect of Korean-Canadian research. It is a collective effort by a small number of Korean scholars in Canada to organize workshops and conferences on research issues, and collaborate on research during recent years. The collaboration of the co-editors of this current volume is one good example of the collegial spirit of this small group of scholars.

This anthology has twelve substantive chapters covering different aspects of Korean-Canadian experiences. Chapter 2 provides a comprehensive demographic profile of Koreans in Canada. The following four chapters in Part I cover the immigration, socio-economic characteristics, and settlement of the Korean diaspora internationally and in Canada. Three chapters in Part II examine the adaptation of Korean immigrants. The additional two chapters cover ethnic identity and

psychological well-being among Korean-Canadian young people. Three chapters in Part III respectively cover Korean elderly people, fathers, and transnational *kirogi* families.

The fourteen chapters of the book as a whole provide a great deal of general information about Korean-Canadian experiences. Considering that neither a single social science monograph nor an edited book focusing on Korean Canadians has been previously published, this anthology is significant. It is likely to be of great use to Korean community leaders, Canadian and Korean governmental policy-makers, and researchers who are interested in the Korean-Canadian population.

Among others, two interesting features of the community that emerge in this volume for me include the extent of self-employment and the large presence of international students and their family members. In fact, Korean foreign students make up the largest international student group in Canada (18 per cent of all international students in Canada in 2006, as shown in chapter 6). International students also compose a greater proportion of Korean residents in Canada than they do in the United States.

Another significant feature of the Korean community, and one that I raise as an important topic for future consideration, is the Korean Protestant church and other religious institutions. In the United States, Korean churches serve multiple sociocultural and economic functions in the community. These include fellowship, retention of Korean cultural traditions, social services for church members, and the provision of social positions for many Korean immigrants who have experienced downward mobility in their social status. Thus, without understanding Korean immigrant churches, including second-generation Korean churches, fully comprehending Korean immigrants' adaptation in Canada is difficult. Although this subject has not been addressed in this book, it is one needing future research. It would be a welcome contribution in a future anthology on Korean Canadians.

Finally, a comparison between Korean-American and Korean-Canadian experiences with regard to several areas would produce meaningful findings. Such a comparison would be ideal, for example, on the topic of entrepreneurship. Korean-owned businesses in the United States are heavily dependent on Latino employees. Is similar reliance on a particular group of workers true for Korean-owned businesses in Canada? Korean immigrants running stores in racially

black neighbourhoods in the United States experienced a great deal of conflict with black customers in the 1980s and early '90s. Did Korean business owners in Canada serve many minority customers in the 1990s and have conflicts with them? I hope to learn the answers to these and other questions in future work.

Contents

List of Tables vii

List of Figures ix

Foreword by Pyong Gap Min xi

1 Introduction: Historical Context and Contemporary Research 3

ANN H. KIM, MARIANNE S. NOH, AND SAMUEL NOH

2 A Demographic Profile of Koreans in Canada 19

JUNGWEE PARK

Part I: Understanding Korean Migration

3 The Korean Diaspora from Global Perspectives 37

IN-JIN YOON

4 Is There Evidence of Price Substitution in Migration? The Case of Korean Immigration to North America in the 1990s 53

J.D. HAN AND PETER IBBOTT

5 Emerging Gateways in the Atlantic: The Institutional and Family Context of Korean Migration to New Brunswick 72

ANN H. KIM AND CHEDLY BELKHODJA

6 International Student Experiences of Migration and Consuming Canadian Education 88

MIN-JUNG KWAK

Part II: Immigrant Socio-economic and Social-Psychological Integration

- 7 Social, Economic, and Demographic Characteristics of Korean Self-Employment in Canada 115
ELIC CHAN AND ERIC FONG
- 8 Acculturative Stress among Korean Immigrants 133
SAMUEL NOH AND MIEA MOON
- 9 Korean-Language Maintenance in Canada 149
MIHYON JEON
- 10 Ethnic Identity and Self-Concept among Korean-Canadian Youth 171
SAMUEL NOH, AYA KIMURA-IDA, NANCY B. MILLER, R. FRANK FALK,
AND MIEA MOON
- 11 Gendered Experiences of Ethnic Identity among Second-Generation Korean Immigrants in Canada and the United States 191
MARIANNE S. NOH

Part III: Social Roles and Relationships in Korean Families

- 12 Social Support and Elderly Korean Canadians: A Case Study in Calgary 213
GUILSUNG KWAK AND DANIEL LAI
- 13 Korean Fathers on Canadian Shores 234
YOUNG IN KWON AND SUSAN S. CHUANG
- 14 *Kirogi* Families as Virtual "Families": Perspectives and Experiences of *Kirogi* Mothers 259
JUNMIN JEONG AND DANIELE BÉLANGER

Contributors 285

Index 293

KOREAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA

Perspectives on Migration, Integration, and the Family

1 Introduction: Historical Context and Contemporary Research

ANN H. KIM, MARIANNE S. NOH, AND SAMUEL NOH

Judging by our conversations with people from all walks of life across the country, from Moncton to Victoria, the Korean population seems to be a bit of a mystery. Korean communities have been generating greater interest among scholars, policymakers, and local residents, likely because of their increased presence and visibility in Canadian cities. The 2006 census and immigration statistics showed a rapidly growing community, particularly in selected metropolitan areas including Toronto and Vancouver (J. Park, chapter 2, this volume) and increasingly in smaller cities and towns. Statistics Canada also projects Koreans to be one of the fastest growing visible minority groups to 2031 (Statistics Canada, 2010).

The chapters of this volume were collected to showcase a body of systematic social-science research that offers insight into the growth and development of the Korean population and some of the challenges facing Korean immigrants. Ours is an inclusive approach, as we consider immigrants to be those who have arrived in Canada for the purposes of education (for themselves or their children), employment, and/or settlement. As a whole, this collection of papers examines contemporary issues in Korean immigration and proposes some directions to advance research and scholarship in the areas of migration, integration, and the family. Much of the large body of research on immigration more generally fits into these areas, and we add to this body of knowledge the Canadian case of Korean migration and settlement for comparative purposes. Moreover, these are the areas that offer a solid foundation for understanding additional migration-related issues for Korean and other immigrants in Canada as well as for Korean diasporic populations and future generations. Readers will notice that the common thread among all the papers is the approach to bring to light the

shared experiences, perceptions, attitudes, and behaviours of Korean immigrants. At the same time, there is recognition of the diverse ways in which their place in Canadian society is negotiated and manifested. To set the context for the chapters in this volume, we start with a historical overview.

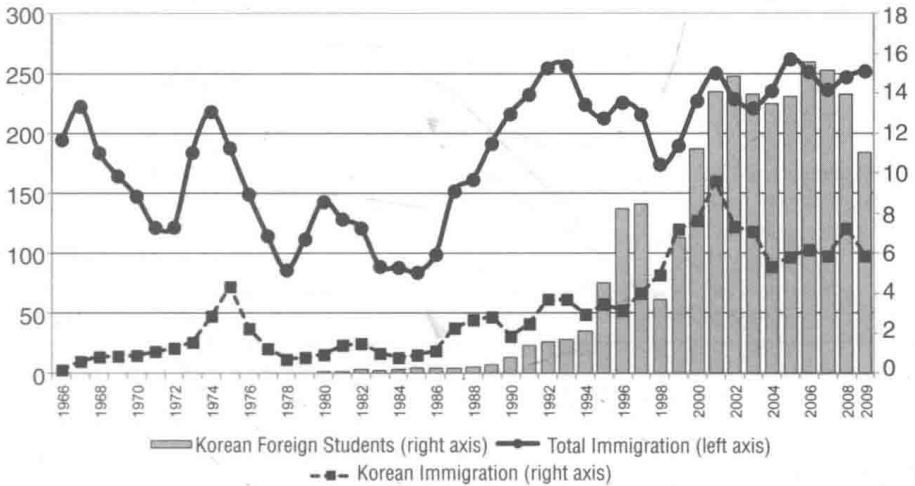
A Historical Overview

Immigration is a complex process that is determined by the social, economic, and political forces of both receiving and sending nations, as well as by personal motivations and opportunities. The history of Korean emigration, including immigration to Canada, shows a dynamic shift in the nature and volume of migration over time (I.-J. Yoon, chapter 3, this volume). Korean migration to Canada may be best illustrated by outlining four time periods that can be characterized according to the social-class origins of immigrants and to contemporary immigration policies of the two countries, South Korea and Canada. To be sure, flows from one phase to the next cannot be demarcated precisely, nor is it possible to pinpoint the exact timing of shifts due to regional variations in flow patterns across Canada. Thus, arguably, there are multiple ways of defining the history of Korean immigration (see Kwak, 2004, and I.-J. Yoon, chapter 3, this volume). Yet, in our view, the following four periods represent the changing patterns of Korean immigration to Canada more generally: the period prior to 1963; 1963 to 1985; 1986 to 2003; and 2004 to the present. Although we show that these periods reveal substantial changes in immigration patterns, we do not use this breakdown as rigid and definitive. Rather, it serves the heuristic purpose of organizing the data on the history of Korean immigration and enhancing our understanding of Korean communities.

The Pre-Migration Period (Prior to 1963)

It has generally been acknowledged that the genesis of Korean immigration to Canada lies with the initiation of diplomatic relations between the two governments in 1963 (Yoo, 2002). However, contact between the people of Canada and Korea began much earlier, at the end of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century – close to the end of the Chosôn (or Yi Dynasty) period, when missionary workers from Canada entered the Korean peninsula (Yoo, 2002). It was around this time that Korea began to allow American and Canadian missionaries into the country. It was also the context within which the first known

Figure 1.1. Yearly Total Immigrants, Korean Immigrants, and Korean Student Flows (in Thousands)



Source: Immigration Statistics Reports yearly 1966 through 1996, Facts and Figures 2005, 2008, and customs tabulations. The Korean migrants include both North and South Koreans by last place of residence.

Koreans came to Canada. Since it was too costly to continue to send Canadian missionaries back and forth from Canada to Korea, Canadian missionaries decided that they would educate and train Korean missionary helpers by sending them to study abroad in Canada. Thus, Korean migration to Canada was, in fact, initiated by education migrants who visited Canada on a temporary basis.

During this pre-migration period, contact between Korea and Canada was not limited to the religious sphere but was also characterized by political involvement. Specifically, the Canadian military participated in the Korean War, and prior to that it assisted the United Nations in supervising free elections at the end of Japanese colonial rule in 1947 (Price, 2004; Yoo, 2002). While Canada had a presence in Korea over this period, Korea's presence in Canada was mostly limited to missionary students who were generally not permitted to stay on a permanent basis. Many of them moved back to Korea or on to the United States.

It is interesting that those Korean migrants who first entered Canada were on temporary visa permits, particularly since migration for educational purposes has also been a strong motivation for contemporary Korean emigration. Figure 1.1 illustrates that the yearly flow of foreign students from South Korea, from 1996 onward, was, for the most part,