

Kaida, Lisa and Monica Boyd “Canadian Trends in the Occupational Segregation of Immigrants” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Canadian Sociological Association, online, May 16-20, 2022.

Over the past 25 years, researchers have provided cumulating evidence of labour market disadvantages faced by immigrants despite the rising level of education among newcomers. One notable finding is the (e.g. management, professions) and concentration of immigrants in low skill, low-paid occupations (e.g. food processing). However, research on occupational segregation by immigrant status is lacking; we simply do not know the extent to which immigrants’ overall occupational distribution differs from that of the Canadian born. Equally absent are assessments of what is happening over time. Is occupational segregation between immigrants and the Canadian born increasing or declining over time?

In this paper, we track trends in occupational segregation of immigrants who landed in Canada as adults (the first generation) and the native born using harmonized Census microdata from 1996 to 2016. We consider variations in immigrant-native-born occupational segregation by gender and visible minority groups.