

Examining the role of  
minority community spaces  
for enabling the  
performance of  
intersectional identities  
through occupation

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# PURPOSE

- Explore the role of minority community spaces in the social & cultural integration experiences of French-speaking immigrants & refugees residing in Canadian Francophone minority communities (FMCs)
- Research objectives critically examined:
  - Access to and use of minority community spaces for migrants' participation and social & cultural integration
  - Migrants' experiences of inclusion and participation in these spaces in light of their intersecting identity markers
  - How migrants' daily experiences varied in light of different local contexts being compared

# APPROACH

- Instrumental case study methodology (Stake, 1995)
- Comparative study of 2 cities in Ontario, Canada
- 4 stages of data collection
- Data analyzed through using an occupational perspective informed by intersectionality theory

Stage	Method	Ottawa	London
1	Key informant interviews	N = 8	N = 8
2	Focus groups (4 in each city)	N = 43	N = 13
3	Semi-structured interviews	N = 3	N = 3
4	Town hall meetings	N = 20	N = 9

# FINDINGS

- **Implications of living in a linguistic minority context**
  - Isolation
  - Lack of services available in French
- **Supporting occupational engagement through minority community spaces**
  - Building a social network
  - Enabling performances of intersecting identities through occupation

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# ILLUSTRATIVE COMPARISON

- “Here at the college I met a girl, she is Algerian and she helped me a lot. She’s the one who brought me, she did things like volunteering (...) we went to (community organization) to do sewing and cooking, and now we are like sisters” (FG4 London)
- Making a friend of a different ethnicity through a French-language college and participating in activities at an English-language community organization

# ILLUSTRATIVE COMPARISON

- **“For me the church is very important (...) it’s a meeting place, a place where we go with the same objective of praying and socializing with people who have the same beliefs. So in London I was happy to discover that there was a Francophone community, I was able to go to church in French and remain connected to my Francophone culture.” (FG2 London)**
  - **Building a social network among members of the congregation who have diverse identities and backgrounds, but who share a language and religious beliefs**

# CONCLUSION

- **Minority community spaces can enable performance of intersectional identities by provide opportunities for engagement in meaningful occupations**
- **Different types of spaces are important for supporting varying occupations & forms of participation**
- **Spaces must ensure they are inclusive & representative of the diverse populations using them**

**“If we didn’t have community centres, especially Francophone ones, we would be lost [...]” (FG2 Ottawa)**

**“That’s who became my family, we had a family who was not our family, the [ethno cultural] community is so important” (FG2 London) (Huot & Veronis, 2017, pp. 8-9)**

# REFERENCES

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