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

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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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Ottawa</th>
<th>London</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Key informant interviews</td>
<td>N = 8</td>
<td>N = 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Focus groups (4 in each city)</td>
<td>N = 43</td>
<td>N = 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Semi-structured interviews</td>
<td>N = 3</td>
<td>N = 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Town hall meetings</td>
<td>N = 20</td>
<td>N = 9</td>
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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
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
“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
“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 providing opportunities for engagement in meaningful occupations.
- Different types of spaces are important for supporting varying occupations and forms of participation.
- Spaces must ensure they are inclusive and 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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