

Information Sheet

Multicultural Common Spaces: Hockey Arenas and Social Integration

Introduction

Hockey has been and continues to be intertwined with peoples' ideas of what Canada is. This research project investigates whether hockey arenas are places where newcomers to Canada develop a sense of belonging to Canada. The study will look at a variety of newcomers to Canada, and study differences according to gender, ethnicity, race, and immigrant status.

If you have a question about this study, please contact Lloyd Wong, the investigator (llwong@ucalgary.ca), or Howard Ramos, the co-investigator (Howard.Ramos@dal.ca).

Purpose

Whether hockey and hockey arenas are places where newcomers to Canada can socially integrate and develop a sense of belonging to Canada is of emerging importance. While non-academic Canadian writers have discussed these topics, there is currently a lack of academic writing on whether hockey arenas are a site of social integration. Our research will help policymakers and hockey organizations at local, provincial, and the federal level increase their awareness of the ways hockey does or does not facilitate social integration for newcomers.

Research Methods

We will use interviews, structured observation, and photographs to understand whether social integration happens in hockey. We will conduct interviews with hockey players, parents, and fans to learn about people's experiences with the game of hockey. Through observation conducted in hockey arenas at the minor to professional levels, we will observe what kinds of social interaction happen in hockey arenas. Finally, through digital photographs taken of crowds at hockey arenas, we will learn about what kinds of people spend time in hockey arenas.

Confidentiality/Ethics

Steps will be taken to ensure the confidentiality of all participants in this study. Pseudonyms will be used in interview transcripts. Observation data will be taken in terms of groups of people, not individuals. Photos will not be taken at a hockey arena unless at least 200 people are present.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns about this research project, please feel free to contact the investigator, Lloyd Wong (llwong@ucalgary.ca) or Howard Ramos (Howard.Ramos@dal.ca), the co-investigator for this study.

Thank you,
Lloyd Wong, Investigator
Howard Ramos, Co-Investigator
Martine Dennie and Patrick Bondy, Research Associates