FIVE YEARS LATER: REFLECTING ON THE GERMAN AND CANADIAN RESPONSE TO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

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Over the past 20 years, the number of displaced persons has steadily increased. The past five years have been unique in that more and more refugees wish to make their new lives in places much further away from conflict. In 2015, Germany was thrust into the international spotlight when over one million people sought protection there. German Chancellor Angela Merkel remained one of the few European leaders to openly welcome the arrival of refugees. In Canada, the refugee welcome became an election issue after three-year-old Aylan Kurdi's photo shocked the world. The image became a symbol for human suffering that Canadians could no longer ignore. Shortly after their election, the Liberals under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau declared their intention to sponsor more refugees, a commitment they carried forward into 2018.

Five years later, both countries have had time to reflect and take stock of their responses to the refugee arrivals. While our challenges were similar in many ways, they were also different and unique in their context. In Germany, settling and housing over a million refugees was a major challenge. To put this challenge into perspective for a Canadian context, Munich is roughly the size of Calgary and saw over 63,000 refugee arrivals over three days. This is double what Canada received in a whole year. However, Canada had challenges of its own. In the first few months, many Canadians worked hard to open their doors, wallets and hearts to sponsor refugees through the private sponsorship program. The response was overwhelming and meant that refugees were often settled in areas where refugees had never settled before, bringing about new challenges in settlement. The two countries looked to one another for help and advice. This special issue is the culmination of some of these new partnerships.

This special issue of *Canadian Diversity* brings together 15 papers that discuss the outcomes of refugee integration in both Canada and Germany. The three papers in section one describe the legal implications and public receptivity toward refugees. Labman's paper outlines Canada's role in refugee resettlement and identifies some of the glaring gaps in our legal system. Winter and Patzelt conduct an extensive media analysis of both Canada and Germany in order to compare public sentiment towards refugee arrivals. Beißert measures the attitudes adolescent Germans have toward their Syrian peers. In the next section on children and youth refugees, Pelley examines some of the challenges to youth integration in mid-sized Canadian centres by examining the context in Halifax. Shamim and her colleagues provide evidence from refugee parents and teachers of refugee children in Germany and Canada with regard to literacy development. Macleod and her research team provide an overview of an exciting new language support program called StimuLER. Abojedi and his colleagues dive into an in depth review of existing research to help summarize the effect of loss and separation on the learning outcomes of refugee youth. Höfler's paper concludes this section by discussing refugee youth and resilience.

The next three papers outline the economic and employment outcomes of refugees. Logan's analysis of service delivery for entrepreneurs in Germany reminds us that there is no "one size fits all" approach to refugee integration. Russert and her

team describe the challenges they faced when developing a social competence training program for newly arrived refugees. Boyd and Parin take us back to the early 1980s to discuss how the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees faired in the labour market forty years after their arrival. The news was good!

Two papers discuss issues with settlement services. Akbari and Palenburg compare the responses by the settlement sector in both countries. Jacobsen and his colleagues follow by discussing a pilot project that connected settlement service providers with researchers in Germany – very similar to the Canadian model. Our issue ends with a discussion of family issues and resettlement. Bhattacharyya and her colleagues examine some of the challenges that Yazidi refugee women face in accessing and attending language classes in Canada. De Dieu Basabose and his colleagues end the special issue with an excellent discussion of how the Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre helped newly arrived refugees cope with their new lives in Canada.

We hope that you enjoy the papers in this special issue!