# INTRODUCTION

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The first decade of the 21st century witnessed unprecedented changes in the politics of the Canada-U.S. border as well as dramatic increases in international migration worldwide. This special issue on boundaries and borders provides a geographical, historical, and political overview of the patterns, issues, and relationships linking Canada and the United States. As a set, the articles that appear on the following pages provide an analysis of some of the key processes shaping the fluid intersections of geography, migration, and identity north and south of the 49th parallel.

Despite a plethora of published work on international migration during the past decade or so, remarkably little has been said about American migration to Canada or the migration and settlement of Canadians in the United States. This is particularly surprising considering the many shared historical, economic, and cultural ties linking these two neighboring North American countries. Likewise, to date, scholars in a variety of fields have spent a great deal of time comparing and debating the national identities of Canadians and Americans (see, for example, Lipset 1989, Granatstein and Hillmer 1991, Konrad and Nicol 2008 among many others). However, despite ongoing attention to the impacts of migrant flows in other parts of the world, other than the historical analysis of Americans in Canada during the Vietnam War years by John Hagan (2000, 2001) and earlier work by geographer Randy Widdis (1997) and a few other scholars, very little has been accomplished on this topic. Even less has been said about Canadian migration into the United States with the notable exception of Jeffrey Simpson's *Star Spangled Canadians* (2000). The goal of this special issue is to help fill this gap in the literature on migration, identity, and place in Canada and the United States.

Identity is a much used term but it is rarely clearly defined. On the one hand, according to geographers Rachel Silvey and Victoria Lawson (1999), identity is linked to particular geographies and is constructed by space, place, and process. Anthropologists Caroline Brettell and Carolyn Sargent (2006) referred to identity as a process of defining the differences between two groups—of distinguishing oneself or one's country from others. These and other definitions of identity raise a series of intriguing and timely questions about the comparative processes of identity construction, especially the emerging identities of Canadian and American migrants.

We begin with a foundational look at basic knowledge of Canada as expressed by a group of American university students based on a pilot study conducted by James McCormick and Carol Chappelle. Data gathered and analyzed from this Iowa State University assessment of undergraduate students' knowledge of Canadian geography, politics, culture, and languages serves as a cogent reminder of the persistent lack of basic knowledge about Canada among many if not most Americans. Based on student responses to questions posed to Political Science and French Language students in this assessment, a great deal remains to be done to educate American students about their largest trading partner and northern neighbor.

Next, we have Geographer Susan Hardwick's article on American migration, settlement, and identity in Canada. Driven in part by an escape from the ultra-conservative policies of the former U.S. President George W. Bush era, as well as a desire for safety and security, multiculturalism, universal health care, gun control, and more open policies toward gays and lesbians, Hardwick's article shows how there are now more Americans in Canada than at any time since the Vietnam War era. Following her spatial analysis of the migration flows and settlement patterns of U.S.-born migrants in Canada, Hardwick then turns her attention to uncovering some rather surprising findings related to the shifting national identities of these borderland migrants. Based on data gathered and analyzed from survey questionnaires and narrative interviews, it appears that the majority of U.S. migrants in Canada become *Canadianized* quite rapidly as they replace their former identity as Americans to embrace

a new identity framed by a strong and abiding desire to become "Canadians."

The next article by Godefroy Desrosiers-Lauzon builds a regional case study on the southward flow of Canadian snowbirds to Florida. His work provides a fascinating critique on the usual discourse about Canadians in search of the "American Dream." According to Desrosiers-Lauzon, the "seismic mind-shift" in North America in the post-World War II years fostered the evolution of leisure retirement and encouraged more and more Canadians to move to Florida. Boosterism and the marketing efforts of eager entrepreneurs and politicians who promoted Florida sunshine, leisure activities, and economic development, (along with the social networks that linked Canadian migrants in the United States with friends and family at home), according to Desrosiers-Lauzon, resulted in the emergence of a re-imagined but lingering Canadian identity in the American South.

The next article by historian and national pollster, Jack Jedwab, presents a comparative study of recent migration flows across the Canada-U.S. border. His article is an overview of migration flows southward from Canada to the United States and offers an analysis of the large-scale patterns of Canadian settlement in the U.S. in the past and present. Basing his analysis on census reports, Gallup Surveys, and the results of a bi-national poll conducted by Leger Marketing commissioned by the Association for Canadian Studies, Jedwab found that Canadians who express an interest in moving to the United States most often also strongly agree that they would like to live there for at least part of the year. In the early twentieth century, Canadians flowed into the U.S. in large waves mainly for economic reasons. Similarly, many Canadians move to the U.S. today as "brain drain migrants" in search of economic opportunities in high tech and other professional fields with many depending on NAFTA visas for long-term residency south of the border. Other Canadians come to the United States as permanent or semi-permanent residents as retirees, vacationers, and others attracted to leave home by the perception of a sunnier climate and lifestyle amenities in Florida and other U.S. Sunbelt states.

Next, historian Hector Mackenzie provides a series of astute observations on the relationships between geography, identity, and politics in his contribution entitled "Mapping Canada's World." Mckenzie's examination of Canada's international relations in the twentieth century provides evidence that the shifting perceptions of Canada's geographical place in the world significantly influenced the nation's foreign policy during this time period. Canada's views of the world beyond its borders, (especially Europe and the United States), McKenzie argues, were critically important for the development of Canadian policies on immigration and investments as well as the establishment of markets for Canadian exports. Of central importance to the themes in this issue is Mckenzie's reminder that the dominant trend of the past century was the broadening and deepening of Canadian-American relationships. This trend continues in the current century.

The following article, authored by historian Richard Jensen, is a study of historical and political patterns and processes in Canada and the United States. In Professor Jensen's discussion of "Comparative Nativism," he looks at nationalism in three comparative nation states—Canada, the United States, and Australia. These countries, Jensen argues, have a great deal in common. Each espouses a strong commitment to human rights for all citizens, has highly developed political, economic and social systems, and depends upon similar legal systems. In addition, all three of these countries have long been dominated by Protestant majority cultures of British descent while also featuring large ethnic minority groups and relatively large numbers of Catholics. However, important differences exist in the ways that each of these countries have debated religious and ethnic issues over the years. Each one also continues to search for its own solutions and policies related to diversity and the integration of minority groups. Among many of the fascinating outcomes of Jensen's article is his finding that, despite often dramatic differences in viewpoints and negative attitudes about immigrants and religious diversity in Canada, the United States, and Australia, during the 1880 to 1914 period, not one single politician in any of these countries took up the cause of nativism or anti-Catholicism (even though it was well known that these issues would carry weight in popular elections for the majority of the electorate). Interestingly, he caps his argument that these similar attitudes led to the successes of both the McKinley Republicans in the United States and the Laurier and King Liberals in Canada.

Historian Jack Little's article offers an analysis of the impact of the approximately 40,000 American Loyalists on Quebec's Eastern Townships between 1792 and 1850. Adding to the important role of these English-speaking settlers in the construction of local identities in this region were the important impacts of British missionaries, loyalties established during the War of 1812, the rebellions of 1837-1838, and a drive for economic development in this part of Quebec in this "true American frontier" during the first half of the nineteenth century. Little's observations on the differences between the landscapes and identities of residents of Quebec and Vermont during this time period provide important new evidence of the related historical and geographical processes involved in

shaping *local identities* versus *national identities* in the Eastern Townships.

This special issue on the impacts of borders and geographic boundaries in Canada and the United States culminates with a reflection on the status of human rights and identity in Canada by Roderick MacDonald, an expert in Constitutional and Public Law. His contribution is the text of a speech given at a symposium commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Canadian Declaration of Human Rights. Throughout his discussion, MacDonald invokes legal pluralism theory to analyze five vignettes during the past few years that illustrate some of the issues involved with human rights in Canada today. Each of these reflections provides a cogent analysis of the impacts of this important document for lives and livelihoods in Canada as well as a powerful conclusion for this collection on the status of geography, migration, and identity in North America.

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