

Understanding Political Integration Among Syrian Refugees in Calgary

Mathew Vitale, Dr. Leah Hamilton

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary

Corresponding author email: mathew.vitale@ucalgary.ca

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

This file contains supplementary material for the following publication:

Vitale, M. and Hamilton, L. (2024) "Understanding Political Integration Among Syrian Refugees in Calgary" *Spectrum* Issue No. 13

- Supplementary Material 1: Instagram Stories Recruitment Poster
- Supplementary Material 2: Interview Questions
- Supplementary Material 3: Demographic Survey
- Supplementary Material 4: Predefined Descriptive Codes

Please refer to the main text of the submission for additional details.

TOPIC:

Political Integration of Syrian Refugees in Calgary

Recruiting participants for my honours thesis project!

- \$10 Starbucks card for participating.
- One 45 minute interview over Zoom, time chosen by you.
- Interview followed by a 5 minute demographic survey.
- Must be a Syrian refugee, over 18 and a Canadian citizen.

Contact us for more information at
ethics@ucalgary.ca or
www.ucalgary.ca/ethics

The University of Calgary Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board has approved this study (REB21-1936)



**REFUGEES
WELCOME**

Supplemental Material 2: Interview Questions

1. Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics? By politics I mean the governance of a city, province, or country.
2. How do you feel about the process of how government officials are elected here in Canada? How do you feel about the democratic process in which citizens vote?
 - a. Do you trust the electoral processes in Canada? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you trust the Canadian government? Why or why not?
3. Where do you get your knowledge about electoral processes and politics in Canada?
 - a. How often do you read or hear about political news through media? Which media do you use to find your information?
 - b. How often do you talk about politics with family or friends?
4. The last federal election in Canada happened on September 20, 2021. Were you engaged/interested in this election at all? Did you vote? Why or why not?
 - a. Probes: Did you hear anything about the candidates before the election?
 - b. Where did you find your information about the candidates?
 - c. Did you attend candidate debates?
 - d. Did you vote? Why or why not?
 - e. Are you planning to vote in future federal elections? Why or why not?
5. The last municipal election in Calgary happened on October 18, 2021. Were you engaged/interested in this election at all? Did you vote? Why or why not?
 - a. Probes: Did you hear anything about the candidates before the election?
 - b. Where did you find your information about the candidates?
 - c. Did you attend candidate debates?

- d. Did you vote? Why or why not?
 - e. Are you planning to vote in future municipal elections? Why or why not?
6. What do you think will increase the chances of you voting in future elections?
- a. What do you think the municipal, provincial, and federal governments can do to increase the likelihood of you voting in future elections?
7. Since your arrival in Canada, have you done any other political activities aside from voting? Examples include joining a political party, donating money to support a campaign/candidate, putting a candidate's sign on your lawn, reaching out to an official in government, joining a protest, etc. If yes, what were they?
- a. What type of political activities are you willing to participate in?
 - b. Since your arrival in Canada, have you signed any petitions? If not, do you think you will in the future?
 - c. Have you ever financially supported a party campaign? If not, do you think you will in the future?
 - d. Are you a member of a political party? If not, do you think you will become a member of a political party in the future?
 - e. Since your arrival in Canada, have you participated in any demonstrations or protests? Why or why not?
 - f. Since your arrival in Canada, how often have you participated in political discussions?
8. Do you have any ideas on how new initiatives can be taken to further improve the political integration of refugees?
9. To what extent do you feel a sense of belonging to Canadian society?

- a. Do you volunteer anywhere? (e.g., non-profits or religious institutions)
 - b. Are you a member of any organizations in Canada (e.g., gym, religious institution, library, political institution)?
 - c. What would make you feel like you belong even more?
10. Are there any factors of your political integration process that you think I did not ask about during the interview? If yes, please explain what they are?

Supplemental Material 3: Demographic Survey

1. Gender: What is your current gender identity?
 - a. Woman
 - b. Man
 - c. Non-Binary
 - d. I prefer to identify as: _____
2. Age: What is your current age, in years? _____
3. Ethnicity: What is your ethnicity? _____
4. Refugee Status: Are you a Syrian refugee? _____
5. Citizenship Status: Are you a Canadian citizen? _____
6. Length of Residency: How long have you been living in Canada? _____
7. Location: Where do you live? Please list city/town and province: _____
8. Education: What is your highest level of education?
 - a. Some High School
 - b. High School
 - c. Trades School
 - d. College Diploma
 - e. Some progress toward college or university degree
 - f. Bachelor's Degree
 - g. Master's Degree
 - h. Ph.D.
 - i. Other (please specify) _____
9. Is there anything else that you believe we should know about you?

Supplemental Material 4: Predefined Descriptive Codes

Codes	Definitions
1. Trust in Elections	“Trust in Elections” is defined here as participants’ trust of the electoral process in the receiving society and any mentions of their legitimacy or lack thereof.
2. Trust in Government	“Trust in Government” is defined here as participants’ trust of the Government facilities and officials in the receiving society and any mentions of their legitimacy or lack thereof.
3. Adherence to Democracy	“Adherence to Democracy” is defined here as any mention by the participant of their acceptance of the political values of the host nation (i.e., democratic values).
4. Sense of Belonging	“Sense of Belonging” is defined here as participants’ subjective identification with the host society.
5. Political Interest	“Political Interest” is defined here as participants’ general level of interest in politics.
6. Conventional Participation	“Conventional Participation” is defined here as participation or willingness to participate in political activities that are considered conventional (e.g., voting, joining a political party, donating money to support a campaign...etc.).
7. Unconventional Participation	“Unconventional Participation” is defined here as participation or willingness to participate in political activities that are considered unconventional (e.g., participating in demonstrations, boycotting, protesting...etc.).
8. Political Discussion	“Political Discussion” is defined here as participating in political discussions with peers, coworkers, and family members.
9. News Consumption	“News Consumption” is defined here as consumption of political news through any media platform (e.g., television, social media apps, news websites, newspapers...etc.).
10. Organizational Memberships	“Voluntary Memberships” is defined here as the number of organizational memberships participants have (e.g., library membership, gym membership, student membership...etc.).
11. Voluntarism	“Voluntarism” is defined here as participants’ practice of volunteering their time or talent for charitable activities within or outside their communities.