



UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

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Session: Self and Settlement

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Community Engagement and Volunteerism: A Case Study of Ukrainian Canadians' Adaptation Experiences

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This presentation draws on material from two studies. The first was a formal study which collected migration stories with thirty-three individuals in 2020/2021. Participants were grassroots Ukrainian Canadians who immigrated to Canada as adults after 1991. The second source of data is informal interviews and discussions held with Ukrainian scholars being hosted by the University of Manitoba through Scholars at Risk (SAR) program. These materials are augmented by a document search related to Russia's armed aggression, war, against Ukraine which escalated in February of 2022.

Common themes, struggles and challenges that contribute to the formation of the modern Ukrainian Canadian fabric and how these factors impact research participants' interactions with the host community are explored. Special attention is paid to the newcomers' sense of inclusion and social cohesion as well as challenges in finding their own sense of belonging in the new multicultural environment. We analyse the immigrants' perceptions of the hosting communities, identify gaps in understanding, and recommend ways to improve their experiences to foster integration. We search for the patterns in the make-up and perceived levels of engagement in the Ukrainian Canadian community based on the data collected in 2021 and 2023 by comparing the experiences of those who came "willingly" to Canada and those who were forced to flee their home country.