

UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

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Diaspora mobilization in times of crisis: a comparative analysis of Ukrainian, Afghan and Sri Lankan diasporas in Canada

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Drawing on the methodological framework of “Diasporas, Remittances and State Fragility: Assessing the Linkages” (Lum et al. 2012), this paper is aiming to identify and test relevant indicators of diaspora linkages to Fragile and Conflict-Affected States (FCAS) during the time of the security and economic turbulence in the home country.

The research unfolds in two-part. In the first part, I use data from quantitative analysis for the determinants of FCAS such as the level of per capita income and growth rate (economic factors), trade openness and inflation (policy variables), civil rights and regime change (institutional variables) and estimate the impact of diaspora linkages on homeland stability in the categories of Authority, Legitimacy and Capacity during the last ten years. These dependent variables will be refined on theoretical grounds (Tikuisis et al, 2015, Carment and Samy 2019) to reflect on past conflict (case of Sri- Lanka), the ongoing war (case of Ukraine) and the deep structural state crisis (case of Afghanistan).

The second part of the paper will consist of the focus-group discussion extracts, conducted in 2022 and 2023 in Canada with representatives of the abovementioned ethnic groups. The interviews were structured to reflect on the dependent variables and their dynamics during the crisis.

Variations in migration to Canada of the groups of interest allow for a meaningful comparison of diaspora strategies in response to the home state crisis. Some groups may possess a higher capacity to mobilize resources and are better situated to influence policy within the host state. Additionally, a diaspora exhibiting a strong and distinctive identity that differentiates itself from others may facilitate unity of identity and action.

We are interested in understanding and explaining how mobilizing support for the home country is affected by generational differences, gender and regional specifics of diaspora representatives.