CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN: TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS

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TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- MOTIVATION FOR RESEARCH
  - THEORETICAL
  - MEASUREMENT

- RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- DATA & METHODS

- RESULTS

- DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION
THEORETICAL MOTIVATION: WHY STUDY RACE & ETHNICITY?

- POWER OF RACE & ETHNICITY IN SOCIAL LIFE
- SOCIOLOGY AND THE STUDY OF ETHNICITY
- ETHNICALLY DIVERSE CANADA
- EMERGENCE OF A NATIONAL ETHNIC IDENTITY AS “CANADIAN”
CONCEPTUAL & THEORETICAL CHALLENGES IN STUDYING ETHNICITY

- MEANING OF ETHNICITY
- THE TRADITION OF MAX WEBER
SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST PERSPECTIVE

- MULTIPLE ETHNICITIES
- HIGHLY FLUID, SITUATIONAL
- SUBJECTIVE
- HERBERT GANS AND SYMBOLIC ETHNICITY
MEASUREMENT MOTIVATION: “RACE” & “ETHNIC” DATA

- “RACE” & “ETHNICITY” AS OBJECTS OF SOCIAL ANALYSIS
- THE ROLE OF THE CENSUS
MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES IN STUDYING ETHNICITY

- THE CENSUS
- POLITICAL CONSTRUCTION OF ETHNICITY
- ARTIFACTUAL EFFECTS
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- WHAT ARE THE TRENDS IN CHOOSING “CANADI AN” ETHNIC ORIGIN FROM 1991 TO 2001?

- WHAT FACTORS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CHOOSING “CANADI AN” ETHNIC ORIGIN?

- WHAT ARE SOME IMPLICATIONS?
DATA

- RESPONSES TO ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION
- CHANGES IN FORMAT AND WORDING OF ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION
Chart 1. Ethnic Origin Question, 1991 Canadian Census

To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?
Mark or specify as many as applicable.

Note:
While most people of Canada view themselves as Canadian, information about their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to reflect the changing composition of the Canadian population and is needed to ensure that everyone, regardless of his/her ethnic or cultural background, has equal opportunity to share fully in the economic, social cultural and political life of Canada. Therefore, this question refers to the origins of this person's ancestors.

See Guide

Example of other ethnic or cultural groups are:
Portuguese, Greek, Indian from India, Pakistani, Filipino,
Vietnamese, Japanese, Lebanese, Haitian, etc.

| French          |
| English         |
| German          |
| Scottish        |
| Italian         |
| Irish           |
| Ukrainian       |
| Chinese         |
| Dutch (Netherlands) |
| Jewish          |
| Polish          |
| Black           |
| North American Indian |
| Métis           |
| Inuit / Eskimo  |

Other ethnic or cultural group(s) - Specify
17 To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person's ancestors belong?

For example French, English, German, Scottish,
Canadian, Italian, Irish, Chinese, Cree, Micmac,
Métis, Inuit(Eskimo), Ukrainian, Dutch, East Indian,
Polish, Portuguese, Jewish, Haitian, Jamaican,
Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc.

Specify as many groups as applicable
While most people in Canada view themselves as Canadians, information on their ancestral origins has been collected since the 1901 Census to capture the changing composition of Canada’s diverse population. Therefore, this question refers to the origins of the person’s ancestors.

17 To which ethnic or cultural group(s) did this person’s ancestors belong?

For example, Canadian, French, English, Chinese, Italian, German, Scottish, Irish, Cree, Micmac, Métis, Inuit (Eskimo), East Indian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Filipino, Jewish, Greek, Jamaican, Vietnamese, Lebanese, Chilean, Somali, etc.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specify as many groups as applicable</th>
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METHODS

- LIMIT ANALYSIS TO PERSONS 15 YEARS AND OLDER
- DESCRIPTIVE AND MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES
MORE ARE CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN ONLY OR IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER ORIGINS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>&quot;Canadian&quot; Only</th>
<th>&quot;Canadian&quot; + Other Origin(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>14.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

"Canadian" Only
"Canadian" + Other Origin(s)
OVERALL TREND OF INCREASE WITH LARGE DIFFERENCES ACROSS PROVINCES
Non-metro residents are more likely to choose “Canadian” ethnic origin.
Non-Metro/Metro difference is observed in all provinces: example from 2001.
FEW IMMIGRANTS CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

- **Canada-Born**
  - 1991: 3.2%
  - 1996: 22.2%
  - 2001: 28.1%

- **Foreign-Born**
  - 1991: 0.5%
  - 1996: 0.6%
  - 2001: 1%
FEW VISIBLE MINORITIES CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

![Bar chart showing the percentage of visible and non-visible minorities choosing "Canadian" as their ethnic origin from 1991 to 2001.]

- **Visible Minorities**:
  - 1991: 0.2%
  - 1996: 1%
  - 2001: 1.3%

- **Non-Visible Minorities**: (Much larger bars for years 1996 and 2001)
  - 1991: 2.9%
  - 1996: 20%
  - 2001: 25.1%
FEW ABORIGINAL PEOPLES CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN

![Bar chart showing percentage of Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people choosing Canadian as their ethnic origin.](chart.png)

- 1991: 0% Aboriginal, 0% Non-Aboriginal
- 1996: 2.7% Aboriginal, 3.8% Non-Aboriginal
- 2001: 4.9% Aboriginal, 22.5% Non-Aboriginal
SINCE 1996, FRANCOPHONES ARE MORE LIKELY TO CHOOSE “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
Since 1991, Catholics are more likely to choose “Canadian” ethnic origin.
SMALL BIRTH COHORT DIFFERENCES IN CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN
PERCENT CHOOSING "CANADIAN" ETHNIC ORIGIN DECLINES WITH INCREASED EDUCATION

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35
Percent

<High Sch High Sch Some >HS Bachelor's >Bachelor's

PERCENT CHOOSING “CANADIAN” ETHNIC ORIGIN DECLINES WITH INCREASED EDUCATION
LOGISTIC REGRESSION MODEL

- DEPENDENT VARIABLE: “CANADIAN” AS ONLY RESPONSE TO ETHNIC ORIGIN QUESTION
- INDEPENDENT VARIABLES:
  - SEX, BIRTH COHORT, MARRITAL STATUS, RELIGION (1991 & 2001), PROVINCE, METRO/ NON-METRO RESIDENCE, EDUCATION, HOUSEHOLD INCOME
- ESTIMATE MODEL SEPARATELY FOR ANGLOPHONES, FRANCOPHONES, AND BILINGUALS, FOR EACH CENSUS YEAR
LOGISTIC REGRESSION RESULTS

- Used coefficients from logistic regression (logits) to produce predicted probabilities.
- Multiplied probabilities by 100 to produce percents in reporting results.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anglophone</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilingual</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francophone</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>56.8</td>
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Percent
Probability of Reporting “Canadian” Ethnic Origin by Birth Cohort, 2001

Anglophone

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Non-Metro</th>
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<tr>
<td>1991</td>
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Francophone

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<td>1991</td>
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<td>2001</td>
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Anglophone

Francophone

Percent

1996 2001

NB PQ ON SK BC

1996 2001

NB PQ ON SK BC

**Anglophone**

- Catholic
- Protestant
- Other
- None

**Francophone**

- Catholic
- Protestant
- Other
- None

1991 vs 2001

Anglophone

Francophone

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SUMMARY & DISCUSSION OF MAIN FINDINGS

- Increased trend of reporting “Canadian” ethnic origin but is not across-the-board

- Primarily movement out of “British” and “French” ethnic origins to “Canadian” ethnic origin
ANGLOPHONES: 1960s BIRTH COHORT

Change in Numbers During Period

-500,000 -400,000 -300,000 -200,000 -100,000 0 100,000 200,000 300,000 400,000

Canadian Origin
Multiple
Other Single
Other European
French
British

1996 to 2001
1991 to 1996
FRANCOPHONES: 1960s BIRTH COHORT

Change in Numbers During Period

Canadian Origin

Multiple

Other Single

Other European

French

British

1996 to 2001
1991 to 1996
MORE MAIN FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

- MOSTLY CONFINED TO PERSONS BORN IN CANADA

- DIFFERENCES BY EDUCATION, BIRTH COHORT, RELIGION, PROVINCE

- FRANCOPHONE BACKGROUND IS A KEY FACTOR
DISCUSSION: COMMON FACTORS

- Artifactual Effect
- Long History
- Reaction to Increased Immigration
- Different Dimensions of Marginalization
- Lack of Knowledge
DISCUSSION: DIFFERENT FACTORS

- FRANCOPHONES:
  - "CANADIEN" AS PRE-EXISTING IDENTITY
  - MAJORITY GROUP OR GROUP SIZE EFFECT
CONCLUSION: LIMITATIONS & FUTURE RESEARCH

- STUDY LIMITATIONS
- WHAT DOES “CANADIAN” OR “CANADIEN” MEAN?
- CHALLENGES FOR USERS OF DATA
- EXTEND ANALYSIS WITH 2006 CENSUS DATA
- COMPARATIVE RESEARCH ON NATIONAL ETHNIC ORIGIN AND IDENTITY
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