



Resettlement and The Crisis of Identity

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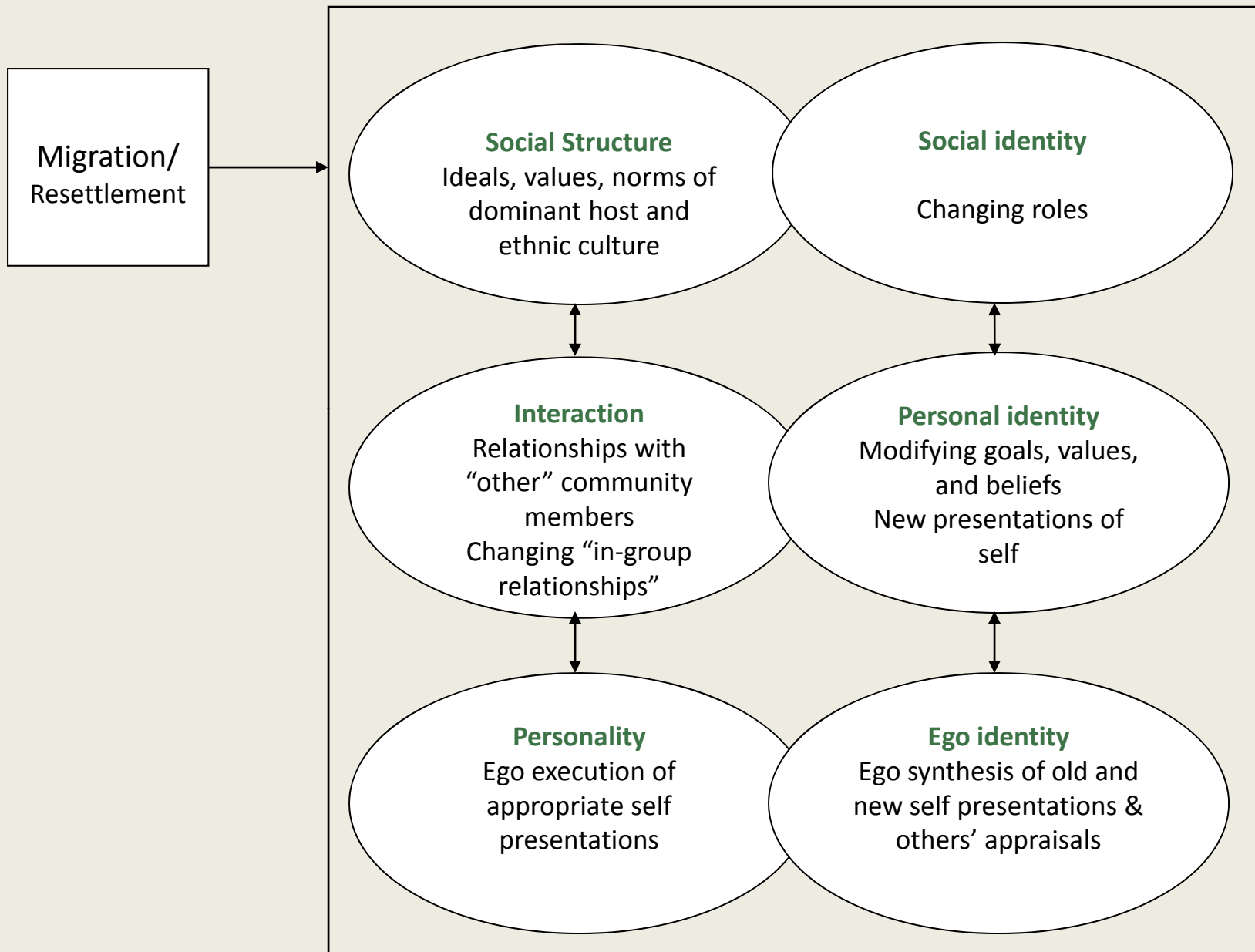
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Identity

- **Identity** : a sense of “personal sameness and continuity” both within oneself, in one’s representation of oneself to others, and in others’ perception of self (Erikson, 1959).
- 3 components of identity
 1. **Social identity**
 2. **Personal identity**
 3. **Ego identity**
- Adolescence-**Identity Crisis**
- Resolved identity -> suitable place in society & maintain a sense of continuity in social space and time.



Adapted from Côté and Levine, 2002.

Research Question & Hypotheses

- After moving to the country of resettlement and being exposed to series of unfamiliar norms, rules, institutions, and lifestyles in the new context, refugee individuals are likely to experience a loss in their “sense of continuity”, which may lead to identity crisis and prolongation in identity resolution.
- (6 hypotheses)

Refugees from Burma (Myanmar)



Located in Southeast Asia, Burma shares borders with;
China (2185 km),
Thailand (1800 km),
India (1643 km),
Laos (235 km),
Bangladesh (139 km)

Mae La Oon- Refugee Camp



Burma is on the left,
Thailand on the right.

Samples

Karens

- 50 refugees from Burma
- 24 male, 26 female
- 18-45 years old
48% between 18-22
- 58% were born in a refugee camp
- Length of residence in Canada: 3-5 years

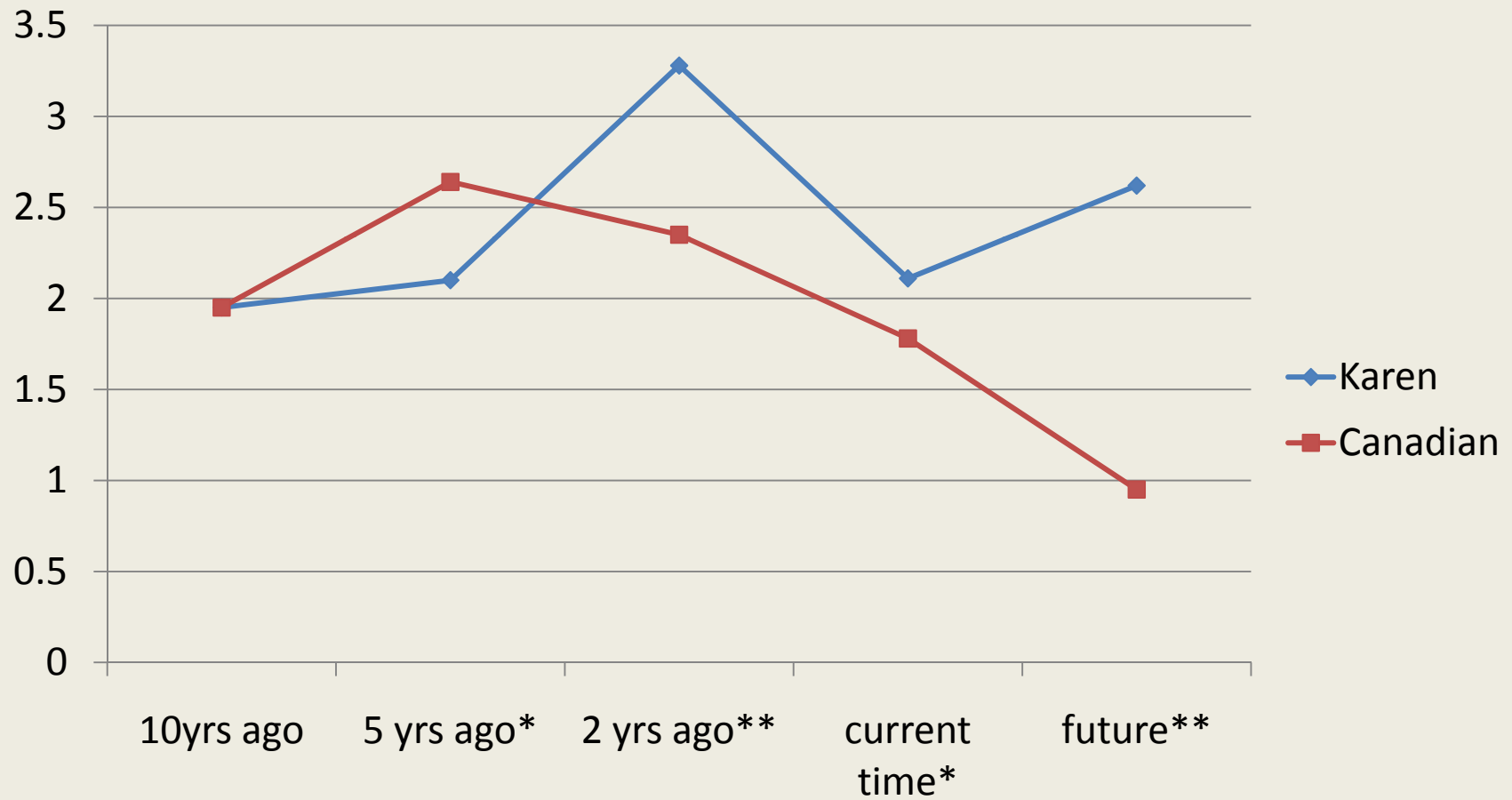
Canadians

- 50 Canadians
- 24 male, 26 female
- 18-45 years old
48% between 18-22
- 100% born and lived in Canada

Survey Package

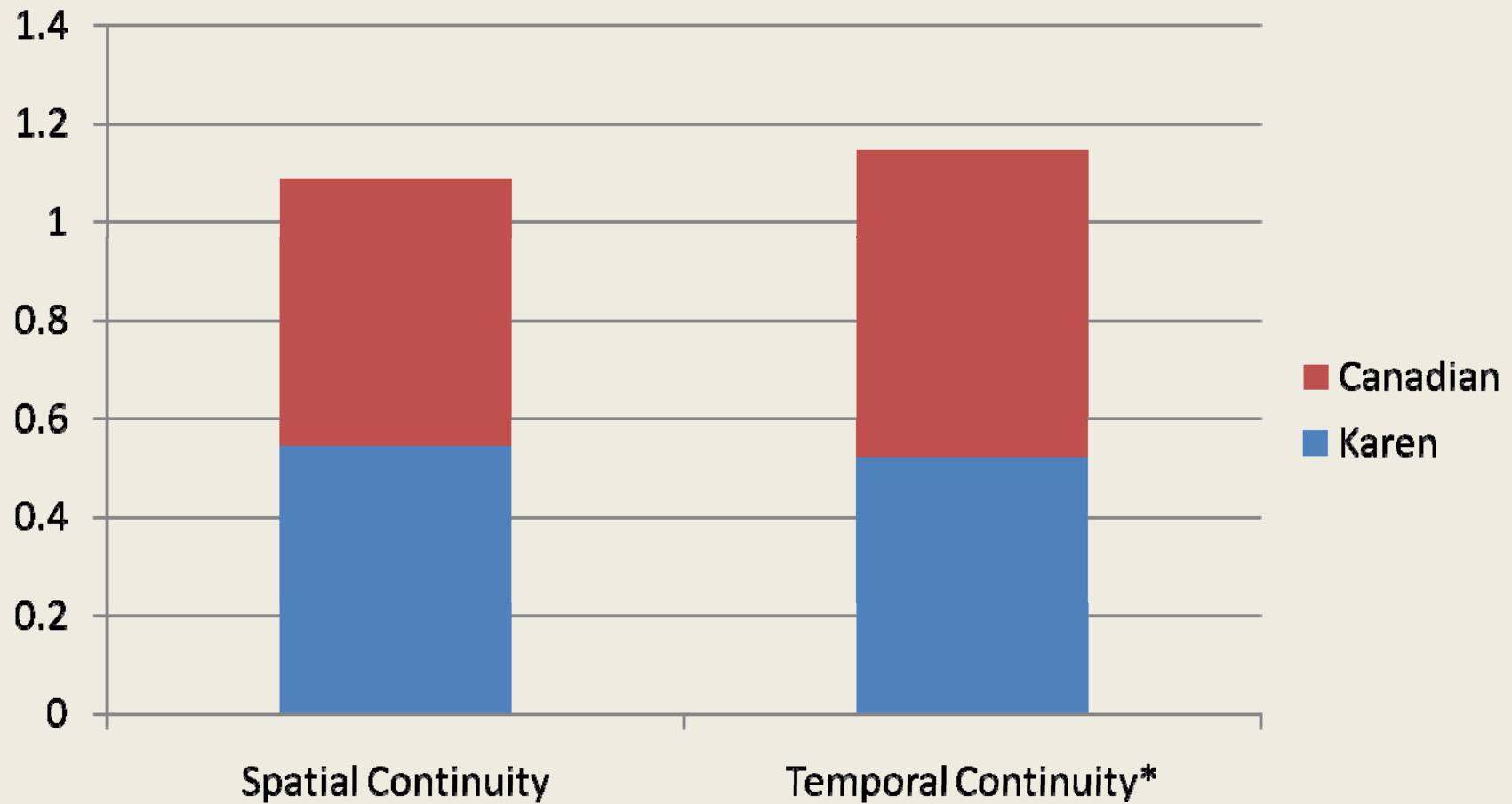
- Demographics and Life Experiences
- Identity Crisis Modality (Côté, 1986)
- Temporal-Spatial Continuity (Dunkel & Anthis, 2003)
- Identity Issues Inventory (Roberts, 2007)
- Identity Distress (Berman, Montgomery & Kurtines ,2004)
- Psychological Health (WHO)
- Karen Acculturation Measure (Erdogan)

Identity Crisis



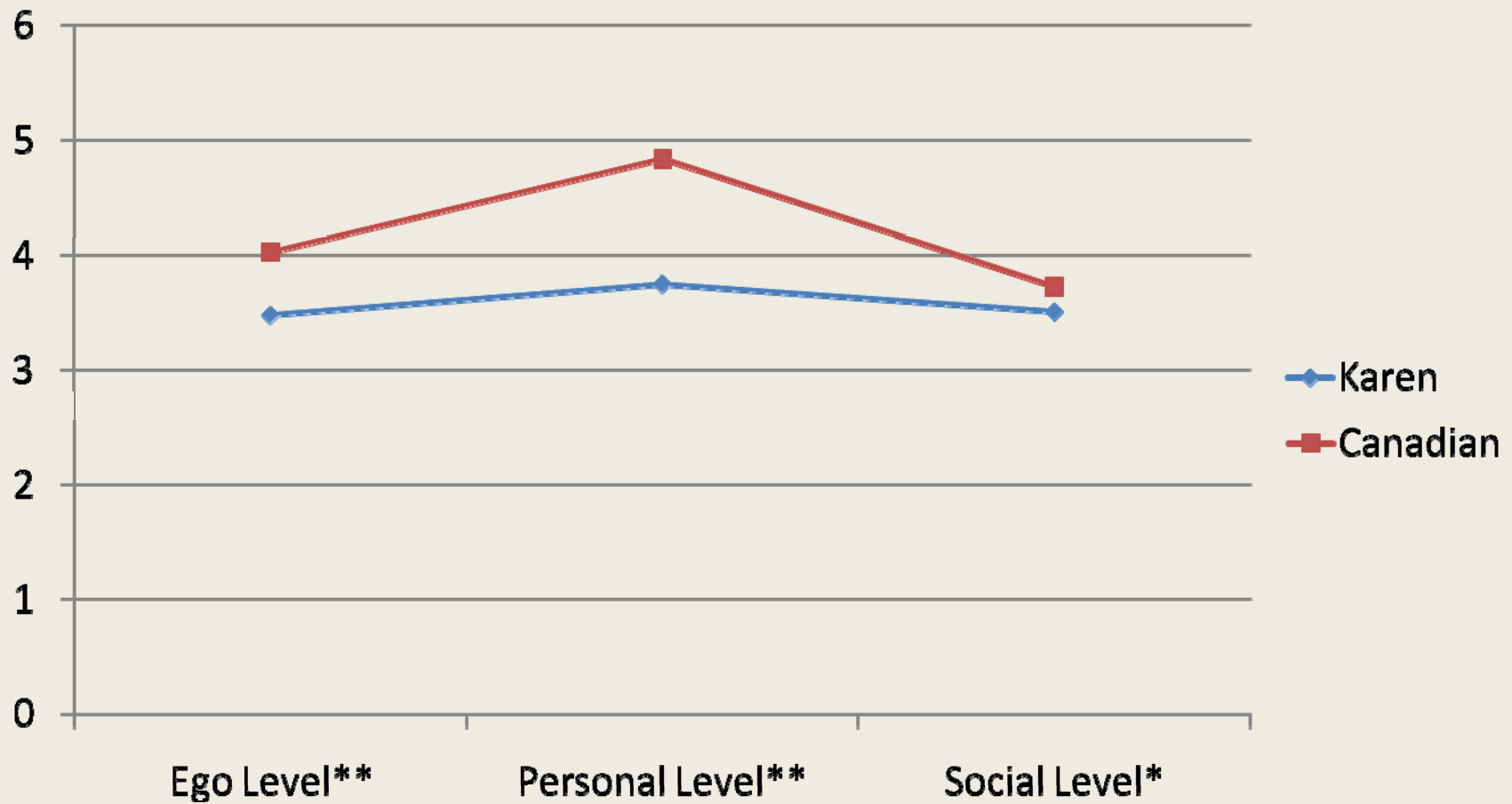
* p<.05, ** p<.01

Temporal-Spatial Continuity



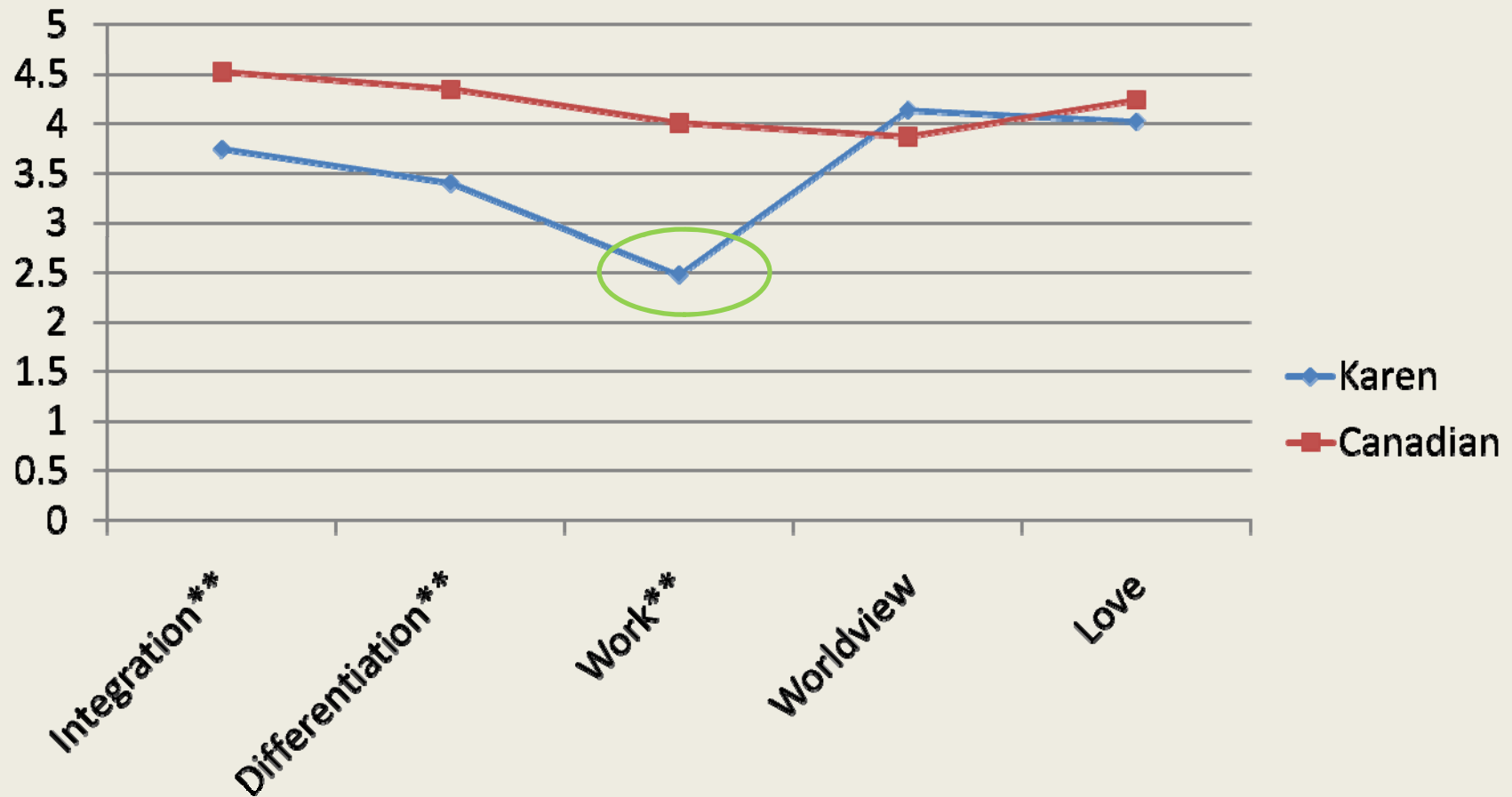
* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Identity Resolution



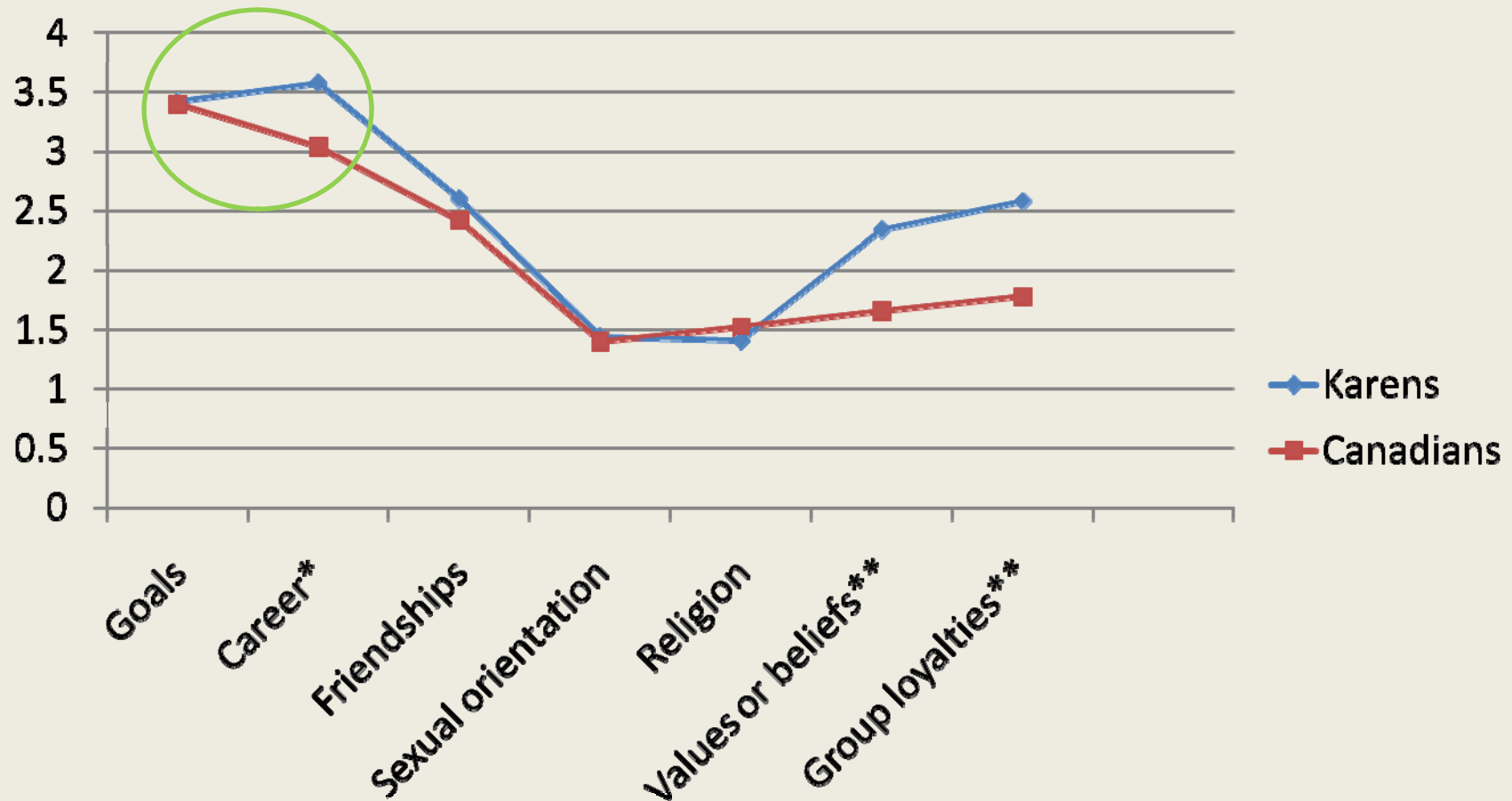
* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Identity Resolution



* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Identity Distress



* $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

Conclusion

- Refugees are distressed over identity issues, feel a sense of loss in “temporal continuity” → identity crisis
- Highest → at the time of arrival and resettlement
- Increases → future
- Social identity (career) most problematic
- Social support



THANKS!

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