

## ACTIVITIES OF THE METROPOLIS PROJECT

### *Metropolis Project*

The International Metropolis Project is a set of co-ordinated activities carried out by a membership of research, policy and non-governmental organizations who share a vision of strengthened migration policy by means of applied academic research. The Metropolis membership, now from over twenty countries and a number of international research and policy organizations representing a wide range of policy and academic interests, is sustained by the attractions of its core idea. It is the promise of more effective policy making, more socially meaningful research practices, and the excitement of international collaboration towards common goals that bring people to the Metropolis table to turn a vision into a concrete project. The underlying idea is that the members will work collaboratively on issues of immigration and integration, always with the goal of strengthening policy and thereby allowing societies to better manage the challenges and opportunities that immigration presents, especially to their cities.

Metropolis is an evolving project and has witnessed considerable growth since its beginnings in 1995. Members are now from:

<b>North America:</b>	Canada, United States
<b>South America:</b>	Argentina
<b>Europe:</b>	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
<b>Middle East:</b>	Israel
<b>Africa:</b>	South Africa
<b>Australasia:</b>	Australia, New Zealand
<b>International Organizations and NGOs:</b>	European Commission, UNESCO, OECD, International Organization for Migration, Migration Policy Group, Quartiers en Crise, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies, Swiss Red Cross

#### A. THE UNDERLYING IDEA: RESEARCH ENRICHING POLICY

The idea of using academic research to stimulate and strengthen policy making now enjoys considerable currency. Metropolis is an attempt to advance the role that research plays in policy-making on an international scale. There are many ways that one can try to link policy with academic research. A traditional way is to follow a broadly consumer transaction model, a very simple transfer of knowledge from a supplier, the researcher, to a consumer, the policy analyst or decision maker. Metropolis does provide many fora for conveying the research products from the supplier to the consumer, including the internet, conferences and seminars, and publications of various sorts. However, Metropolis goes beyond such traditional means of transferring knowledge by creating settings in which policy makers and researchers can, in complete confidence, engage one another, explore situations or problems, challenge assumptions and probe each others' expertise, all to advance the policy process and to create the basis for solutions in practice.

Metropolis places a premium on serious conversation among researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners and encourages joint initiatives to:

1. Identify and articulate issues and problems for policy and research work;
2. Develop appropriate data;
3. Conduct international comparative research directly related to our policy priorities;
4. Exchange and analyze experiences amongst the partnership regarding the effects of immigration, especially in our cities, and the effects of government and non-government interventions to facilitate integration;
5. Develop conclusions, especially with regard to best policy practices; and

6. Exchange and analyze information about effective practices where these have been identified and explained on the basis of rigorous empirical research.

Metropolis encourages these joint initiatives by fostering the growing international network of researchers and policy makers, by convening events that provide opportunities for its members to hold informed discussions, to discover where potential for collaboration exists, and to plan accordingly. There is no question that a partnership arrangement is more demanding than a mere supplier-consumer relation; there is also no question that its potential is far richer. Metropolis has organized its activities on the premise that one reason for the relatively low level of exchange that often has existed between the academic and the policy communities is that neither organizational culture was attuned to work with the other. Consequently, Metropolis has conceived of itself as a project wherein opportunities would be provided for intensive face to face collaboration on active policy issues. The means for doing so have been conferences, seminars and workshops that emphasize conversation over presentation, organizational meetings, international comparative research projects, an interactive internet website, and a new peer-reviewed policy-research journal.

Metropolis has currently a special interest for the following policy-research issues:

1. Migration and third world development;
2. International co-operation on migration management;
3. Managing migration for peace;
4. Migration, multiculturalism and social stability.

#### B. KEY METROPOLIS FORTHCOMING EVENTS

##### **Ninth International Conference Metropolis**

Co-operative migration management: International, national and local answers

27 September to 1 October 2004, Geneva University, Geneva

*International Organisation for Migration*

*Swiss Forum for Migration and Population Studies*

*Metropolis Project*

International migration now figures prominently on the agenda of multilateral bodies, the European Union, North and Central America, the Mediterranean and Asia-Pacific regions, and for numerous individual states world wide. At issue is not only whether but also how to manage the complex phenomena associated with international migration as well as how to manage the flows themselves. Of central importance is whether cooperative migration management can create mutual advantages for both countries of origin and destination. Countries from the developing world continue to be concerned with the loss of skilled human capital yet are often interested in the emigration of those with fewer skills in return for remittances. Developed countries increasingly welcome migrants' human capital, both skilled and unskilled, but remain concerned with maintaining sovereignty over their borders both for security reasons after 9/11 and from the point of view of maintaining a flow level that their societies and labour markets can successfully integrate.

Recently, we have seen not only the Metropolis Project but the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, the UNHCR, the International Labour Organization, the Berne Initiative, the Society for International Development, and others look carefully at how international co-operation will be able to help all countries involved in migration benefit from the phenomenon. The Geneva Conference will see speakers at the forefront of this issue describe the current state of the discussions and consider what lies ahead for the international community.

National and local Governments are confronting this same issue of managing international migration flows and, consequently, the diversity that is characteristic of today's societies. One of the issues of our discussion will be the role of dialogue between all levels of Government, international organizations, and civil

society to overcome the fears and barriers to successful migration management that often arise in our contemporary multicultural societies.

The Conference's programme of plenary sessions and workshops will cover a range of issues from managing flows to managing their effects, from policy on admissions to policy on integration, from economic and social benefits to developed nations to facilitating development advantages for the poorer regions of the world. Discussions will include the concerns over global security, economic impacts at the national level and integration measures at the local level. Of particular interest will be actions to improve intercultural understanding and co-operation which has met significant challenges since 9/11.

Note: Workshop Proposals are due **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**

<b>Forthcoming International Metropolis Conferences</b>	Potentials: Belgium, Australia...
2005 - Toronto	Next International Steering
2006 - Lisbon	Committee Meeting: Rotterdam
2007 - Croatia	(Winter 2004)

To know more about the Conference: [www.international.metropolis.net](http://www.international.metropolis.net)

### **Seventh National Metropolis Canada Conference**

Immigration and integration at the heart of the debate: Research, policy and practice

25 to 28 March 2004, Centre Sheraton Hotel, Montreal

*Immigration and Metropolis: Montreal Centre for Inter-university Research on Immigration,*

*Integration and Urban Dynamics*

*Metropolis Project*

The programme for the Seventh National Metropolis Canada Conference will be developed on the basis of themes proposed by partners, researchers and stakeholders. The programme will be structured in such a way so as to ensure active participation of policy-makers, researchers, graduate students, NGO representatives and community groups.

Plenary sessions:

1. Migratory Flows and International Cooperation
2. Immigration and the Labour Market
3. Citizenship Charter: A Step Backward or Back?
4. Globalization and Challenges of Linguistic and Cultural Diversity
5. Immigration and the Arts

Note: Workshop and paper presentation proposals are due **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003.**

For more information about this Conference: [www.canada.metropolis.net](http://www.canada.metropolis.net)

### **Metropolis Presents: Bringing International Experience and Cutting-Edge Research to Policymakers and Practitioners**

Since its inception, the Metropolis network has sought to both pursue cutting edge research on immigration, integration and diversity in global cities and to provide opportunities for the international exchange of past practices. Over the last year the Metropolis Project Team at Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has launched a new means to exchange past practices and to bring new research into the Canadian policy process: The "Metropolis Presents" series of public lectures. These lectures bring together researchers from several countries to consider the international past practices and the state of contemporary international discourse on important policy topics.

The first *Metropolis Presents* on citizenship was organized in partnership with the EU delegation to Canada in October 2002. This event attracted the participation of approximately 130 people including academics, researchers, parliamentarians and bureaucrats from numerous departments in Ottawa as well as provincial government representatives.

The second *Metropolis Presents* entitled 'Religious Communities in Pluralistic Societies: "Clash of Civilizations" or Sources of Social Capital?' was organised in partnership with the Multiculturalism Programme at the Department of Canadian Heritage in March 2003. The central question asked was whether trust, reciprocity and co-operation benefits only individual religious communities (Putnam's "bonding" capital), or if they also benefit the broader society (Putnam's "bridging" capital). Panelists were asked to consider how religious or faith communities contribute to the overall stock of social capital in pluralistic societies, and to tackle head-on the perceived linkages between religious communities and terrorism.

The third *Metropolis Presents* will take place 14 October 2003 at the National Library in Ottawa. It will be held in conjunction with the Integration Branch of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Canadian Studies Programme at Canadian Heritage and the EU delegation to Canada. Panelists from several countries will be asked to focus on the relationship between a sense of shared citizenship and the role of diversity in national identity formation and articulation. Watch the Metropolis website for more information ([www.canada.metropolis.net](http://www.canada.metropolis.net)).

Additional *Metropolis Presents* on diversity, youth and justice; family and integration; and diversity and the media are planned for 2003-2004.

### C. OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

#### 1. *The Metropolis Institute and the Programme of Migration and Diversity Studies*

The Metropolis Institute provides expert training based on cutting edge research specializing in immigration, integration and diversity issues. It nurtures innovative activities strategically focusing on learning opportunities and policy-research dialogues.

In 2002, the Metropolis Institute launched "The Programme of Migration and Diversity Studies", offering thirteen courses on immigration and diversity issues. These courses were developed based on academic knowledge and policy or community experience. They are available to civil servants from the three levels of Government and NGO leaders. Drawing on proven knowledge transfer methods and some recent technology, these courses put employees in contact with experts, valuable learning material, and learning opportunities.



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Immigration in Context: History, Demography and Settlement</li> <li>2. The Policy Context</li> <li>3. Immigration, Transnationalism and Citizenship</li> <li>4. Public Attitudes Toward Immigration and Cultural Diversity</li> <li>5. "Race" and Racism in Canada</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Enforcement, Criminality, Smuggling and Security</li> <li>7. Canada's Refugee and Humanitarian Policies</li> <li>8. Economic Impact and Integration</li> <li>9. Social, Political and Cultural Integration</li> <li>10. Migration, Immigration and Health</li> <li>11. Education</li> <li>12. The Normative Legal Framework</li> <li>13. Governance</li> </ol> |
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### **Single Client Offerings**

For organizations or departments that have up to 30 people who are interested in attending a course, the Metropolis Institute can offer it exclusively to your group.

#### **How do Corporate Group Offers work?**

Instead of your staff going to the scheduled course, the course instructor comes to you on a mutually convenient date. You provide the venue, arrange the catering and cover the travel/accommodation costs of the instructor and his or her teaching materials.

#### **In what circumstances is this beneficial?**

- When you need an efficient, fast and easy way to train your staff; OR
- When a new or emerging policy area requires your staff to have specialized knowledge and background on an issue; OR
- If you need to provide training for your new employees and put them in contact with experts working in diversity and immigration; OR
- When you have up to 30 people who are interested and whose work would benefit from attending a course; OR
- If travelling to a scheduled course would be too costly or inconvenient.

#### **What are the cost savings to my group?**

The fee for the Corporate Group Offer is \$9,800 (Cdn) + the instructor's costs (per diem, travel and accommodation) + location costs (venue and catering) + teaching materials. This rate applies for groups up to 30. Regularly scheduled courses cost \$650 per participant.

#### **How can I get more information?**

[institute@metropolis.net](mailto:institute@metropolis.net)

fax: (613) 957-5968

### *2. Metropolis International Steering Committee (ISC)*

The ISC is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the international component of Metropolis and approves the venue and content of the annual international conferences. ISC meetings take place twice every year, once immediately following the annual conference and once in the spring. The post conference meeting is used to analyze the conference and the state of the Project overall in addition to regular items of business which concern such matters as communications, inter-conference seminars and other events. The spring meeting tends to concern Project directions such as the recruitment of new members, new areas of activity and emphasis, Project management and financing, research-policy partnerships, and international comparative research.

### *3. The Metropolis Policy-Research Committee (PRC)*

The Policy-Research Committee's mandate is to advise the International Steering Committee (ISC) on how best to implement the strategic policy-research interests of the International Metropolis Project. The Policy Research Committee members are: Lucinda Fonseca, Danielle Juteau, Kristine Dosen, Meyer Burstein, Andreas Wimmer, Steve Vertovec and Demetrios Papademetriou.