

## Prof. Cao Participating in the International Academic Lecture Series at the Southeast University, China

Invited by the School of Architecture of the Southeast University, Prof. Cao presented an overview of the history of Chinese Immigrants in Canada and its policy implications to students and teachers on November 14, 2020.

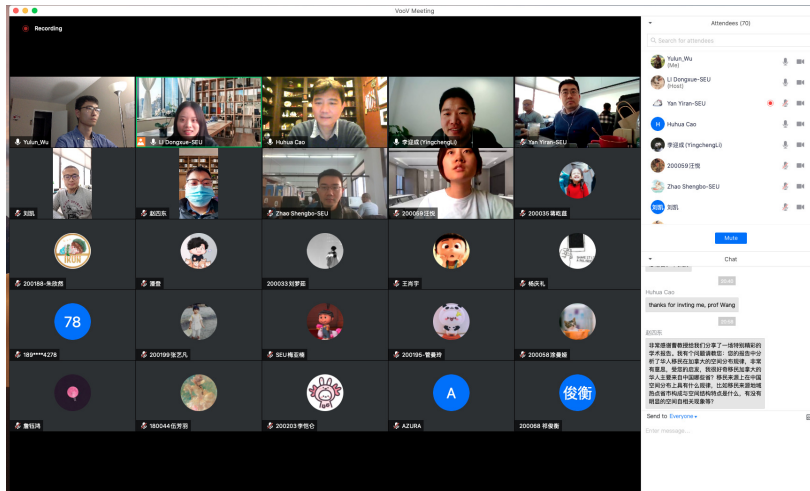
This presentation was in the second part of the International Academic Lecture Series at the Southeast University, under a theme “Comparative Study on Urbanization Mode and Spatial Planning System along the Belt and Road Area”.

**Title:** Changing Territorial Strategies: Chinese Immigrants in Canada 加拿大华人移民定居空间的都市新格局

**Abstract:** Canada is a country whose demographic characteristics heavily depend on immigration. In 2006, 19.6 percent of its total population were born outside Canada, and 3.8 million had settled in Canada after 1980. The new migration flows were part of a broader immigration boom in Canada, reflecting important changes in Canada’s immigration policies.



This movement of recent immigrants is also characterized by a profound change in the source countries of immigration: Europe is no longer the main source of immigrants, having been replaced by the Asia–Pacific region. Mainland China has become a major source of immigrants to Canada since the mid-1990s. The motivations of Chinese migrants to Canada have also evolved considerably over time. While those who arrived at the beginning of the 20th century left their country of origin in the hope of escaping poverty and political instability, recent migration flows have been more selective, mostly consisting of students, entrepreneurs and investors.



Since the 1990s, an increasing number of Chinese immigrants chose to settle in large and dynamic urban areas other than Toronto and Vancouver, such as Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa-Gatineau. Starting in the 1960s, suburbanization began in major urban centers in North America and had a considerable impact on new Chinese immigrants' choice of residential areas. The presentation takes Ottawa as an example, to analyze the change of Chinese immigrants' residential preferences and associated policy implications.

## **International Academic Lecture Series (Online) 02:**

### **Comparative Study on Urbanization Mode and Spatial Planning System along the Belt and Road Area**

#### **1. Lecture time:**

08:30-11:50, November 14, 2020 (Beijing time, China)

19:30-22:50, November 13, 2020 (Ottawa time, Canada)

07:30-11:50, November 14, 2020 (Bangkok time, Thailand)

#### **2. Lecture mode:**

VooV Meeting (Meeting ID: 533 322 968)

#### **3. Academic speaker:**

- 1) Dr. Huhua Cao, Professor  
Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics  
University of Ottawa, Canada
- 2) Dr. Panit Pujinda, Associate Professor  
Head of Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of Architecture  
Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

#### **4. Lecture content:**

##### **1) Title: Changing Territorial Strategies: Chinese Immigrants in Canada**

Abstract:

Canada is a country whose demographic evolution has depended upon immigration. In 2006, 19.6 percent of its total population had been born outside Canada, and 3.8 million had settled in Canada after 1980. These new migration flows were part of a broader immigration boom in Canada, reflecting important changes in the country's immigration policies. This movement of recent immigrants is also characterized by a profound change in the source countries of immigration: Europe is no longer the main source of immigrants, having been replaced by the Asia-Pacific region. Mainland China has become the country with the largest proportion of citizens migrating to Canada since the mid-1990s. The specific motivations of Chinese migrants to Canada have also evolved considerably over time. While those who arrived around the beginning of the 20th century left their country of origin in the hope of escaping poverty and political instability, recent migration flows have been more selective, mostly consisting of students, entrepreneurs and investors. Since the 1990s, an increasing number of Chinese immigrants chose to settle in other large and dynamic urban areas such as Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa-Gatineau. Starting in the 1960s, suburbanization began in major urban centers in North America and had a considerable impact on new Chinese immigrants' choice of residential areas. The speech take Ottawa as a case study, to analysis the change of Chinese immigrants' residential areas and give policy suggestions.

##### **2) Title: Thailand's Spatial Development Strategy**

Abstract:

Thailand is located in the heart of Southeast Asia and the ASEAN Economic Community. By this type of location combining with globalization and technology disruption, Thailand has to revise her

development strategy in order to compete in the Global economy war.

The major strategy focuses on cross-border linkage to be the gateway of ASEAN. Twelfth Special Economic Zones (SEZ) at the border are planned to be trans-national collecting and distribution centers.

Furthermore, Bangkok and its vicinity are trying to solve their traffic problem by Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). Areas around mass transit stations will play the major role in pulling the passenger out of their private vehicle and decrease the notorious traffic jam.

## 5. Academic Convener

**Xingping Wang**, professor and doctoral supervisor, School of Architecture, Southeast University

## 6. Academic Moderator

**Yingcheng Li**, professor and doctoral supervisor, School of Architecture, Southeast University

## 7. Detailed agenda

agenda	Time (Beijing Time)	content
	08:30-08:45	<b>Prof. Yingcheng Li</b> : Introduce the background of this Academic Conference and the supporting projects(Comparative Study on Urbanization Mode and Spatial Planning System along the Belt and Road Area). Introduction to Prof. Huhua Cao and the theme of this lecture
	08:45-09:45	<b>Prof. Huhua Cao</b> : Academic report speech
	09:45-10:05	<b>All</b> : Questions and Discussion
	10:05-10:20	<b>Rest</b>
	10:20-10:25	<b>Prof. Yingcheng Li</b> : Introduction to Ass. Prof. Panit Pujinda and the theme of this lecture
	10:25-11:25	<b>Ass. Prof. Panit Pujinda</b> : Academic report speech
	11:25-11:45	<b>All</b> : Questions and Discussion
	11:45-11:50	<b>Prof. Yingcheng Li</b> : Summary of Academic Conference <b>All</b> : Group photo online

## 8. Invite participants

——Southeast University: Dongxue Li, Xiao Chen, Kai Liu, Shengbo Zhao, Sidong Zhao, Taher J.T moghayer, soniya falahatdoost, ISAH Ibrahim Danja, lakhte Hyder Syed, kyule Bosco mumo, keredin Bayu Nuru, Souleymane Barry, rosalia shiveva, Oussama Nabil boulghbra, etc.

——China Architectural Design and Research Group:Liang Hu

——SCP Consultants Pte Ltd: Sihan Yang.

——Jiangsu planning and Design Group Co., Ltd: Jun Zheng, XinGuo Yuan.

——Others: Teachers and students from other universities are welcome to attend the Conference

## 9. Contact:

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Xiao Chen, 13700235936, 358408401@qq.com

# Changing Territorial Strategies: Chinese Immigrants in Canada 加拿大华人移民定居空间的城市新格局

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Dr. **Huhua Cao**, Full Professor  
Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics  
University of Ottawa, Canada



东南大学  
建筑学院  
SEU-ARCH



November 14, 2020

# Chinese Immigrants in Canada

- Canada is an immigration country, 102,000 people migrated to Canada between 1981 and 1985, 823,925 between 1991 and 1995, and 1,109,980 between 2001 and 2006.
- In 2016, Canada had a population of 35.15 million, out of which
  - 22 percent, or 7.5 million people, were born outside Canada
  - 2.4 million had settled in Canada after 2006
- China is the second leading source country of immigrants in Canada, Chinese immigrants play an important role in Canada's social and economic development.

# Outline

- History of Chinese Immigrants in Canada
- Where do Chinese Immigrants Settle?
- Suburbanization and Chinese Immigrants
- Case Study: Ottawa
- Conclusion and Policy Implications

# History of Chinese Immigrants in Canada 1

- **1800s:** early Chinese immigrants came to escape poverty and political instability
  - **1858-1860:** Fraser River Gold Rush
  - **Late 1870s:** Construction of the transcontinental railway
- **1900s to 1920s:** an average of 2,000 Chinese immigrants settled in Canada each year
  - More diversified professions such as opening laundry shops and western-style restaurants



collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca, gov.bc.ca



# History of Chinese Immigrants in Canada 2

- There was political pressure on Chinese immigrants.
- **1890s:** British Columbia's Legislative Assembly passed a law prohibiting the use of Asian labour, in response to a coalmine explosion for which Chinese workers were responsible
- **1902:** The federal government imposed head tax and other restrictions on Chinese immigration
  - **2006:** PM Stephen Harper publicly apologized
- **1923-1947:** The federal government issued a total ban on Chinese immigration into Canada



collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca, gov.bc.ca

# History of Chinese Immigrants in Canada 3

- The growth of Chinese immigrants
  - **1920s-1940s:** Very few Chinese immigrants made it to Canada because of the immigration ban
  - **1947 onwards:** Increase of Chinese immigrants due to the repeal of the immigration ban, the right to vote for all citizens, and political events and economic reforms in China
  - **1967:** A points system was introduced to rank potential immigrants.
    - Based on education, work experience, knowledge of French and English, etc.
    - Race and nationality no longer used in selecting immigrants.



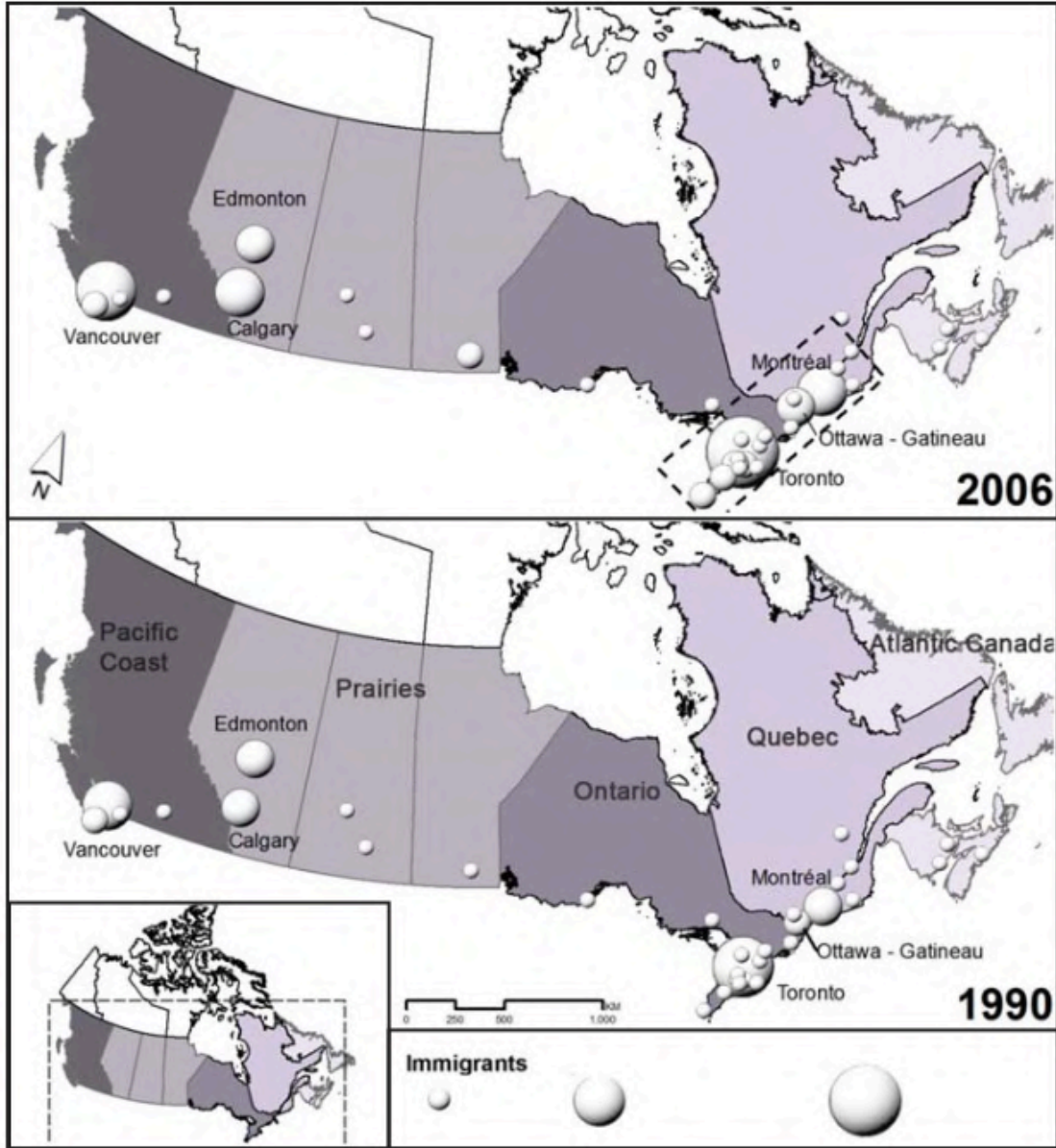
[collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca](http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca), [gov.bc.ca](http://gov.bc.ca)

# Where do Chinese Immigrants Settle? 1

- Toronto and Vancouver continue to be the two major destinations
- Since the **1990s**, an increasing number of Chinese immigrants chose to settle in other large and dynamic urban areas such as Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa-Gatineau.



**Map 16.1 Spatial Distribution of Immigrants from Mainland China in Selected Canadian CMAAs, 1990 and 2006**



[vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)



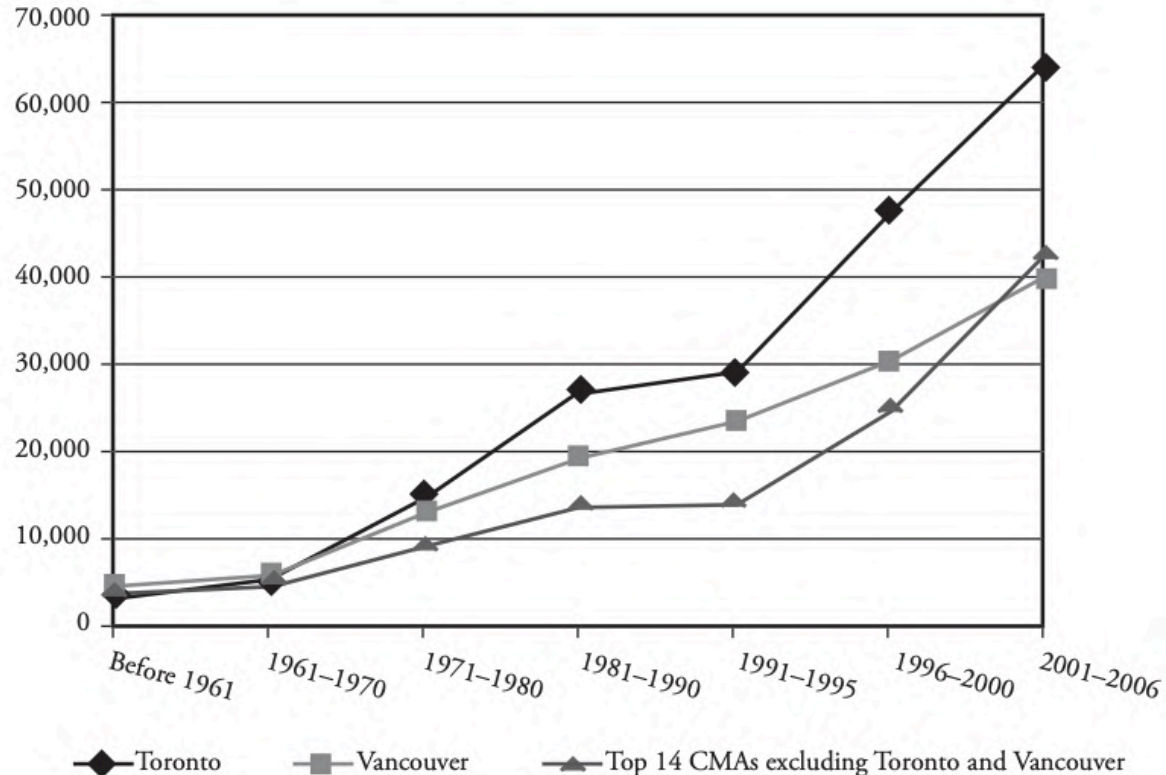
[toronto.ca](http://toronto.ca)



[ville.montreal.qc.ca](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca)

# Where do Chinese Immigrants Settle? 2

**Figure 16.1 Increase in Numbers of Chinese Immigrants in Toronto, Vancouver and Twelve Other CMAs, in Successive Periods from before 1961 to 2001–2006**

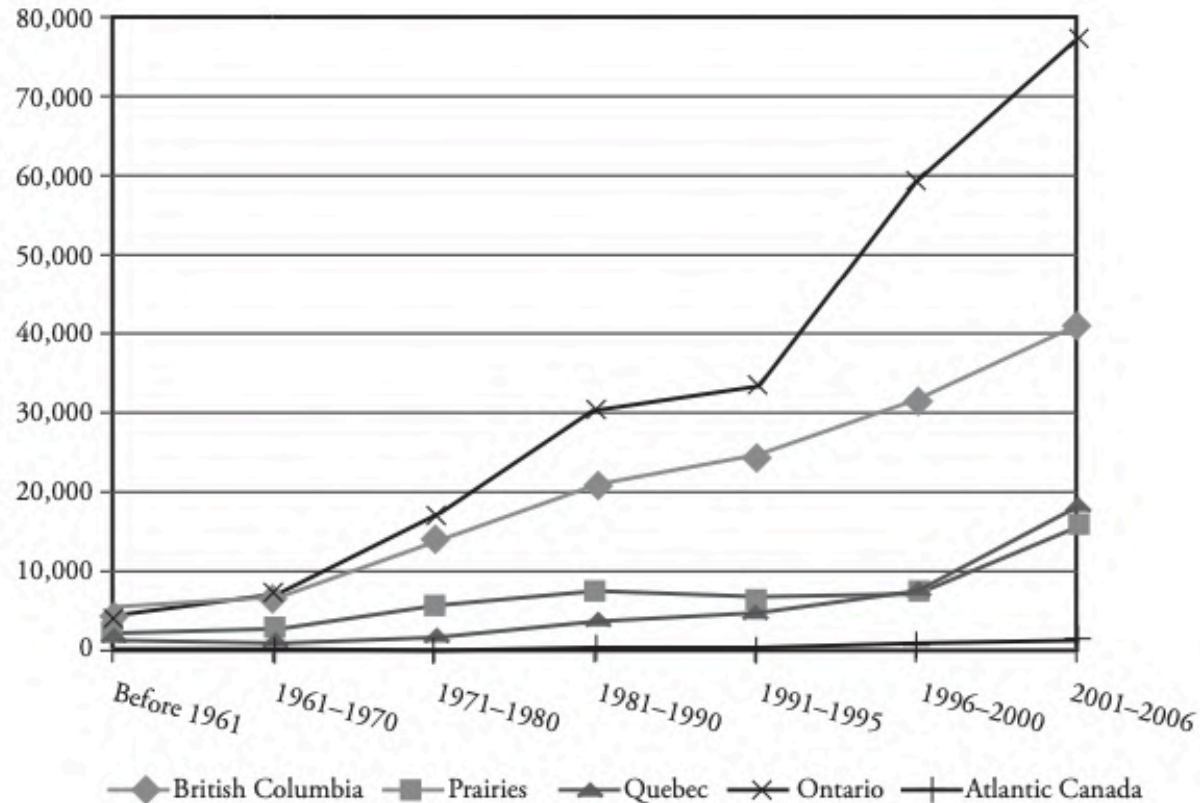


- Since the 1970s, Chinese immigrants tended to spread further throughout Canada particularly in urban centres
- Other twelve CMAs had significantly increasing numbers of Chinese immigrants, in Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa-Gatineau, etc.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of 2006.

# Where do Chinese Immigrants Settle? 3

Figure 16.2 Increase in Numbers of Chinese Immigrants in the Canadian Provinces, in Successive Periods from before 1961 to 2001–2006



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of 2006.

- The same trend can be observed province-wise.
- The flows of Chinese immigrants favoured Ontario, especially the Greater Toronto Area and neighbouring cities.
- The popular destinations are located along the urban corridor stretching from Toronto toward Montreal.

# Suburbanization and Chinese Immigrants 1

- Starting in **the 1960s**, suburbanization began in major urban centres in North America and had a considerable impact on new Chinese immigrants' choice of residential areas
  - Suburbanization is the process of non-central city development and spatial expansion
  - Suburbanization is linked to the development of capitalist economies, and factory-led agglomeration economies and disintegration of household-based production



# Suburbanization and Chinese Immigrants 2

- Chinatown was initially associated with an enclave of culturally isolated Chinese communities
- Chinese immigrants increasingly chose to settle in suburbs in search of work opportunities
- Those who chose to live in suburbs tend to have a higher socioeconomic status than those who live in ethnically and culturally homogenous areas such as Chinatowns.





# Suburbanization and Chinese Immigrants 3

- New dimensions of Chinese immigration and investment facilitated the development of residential areas and cultural shopping centres outside Chinatowns
- **Chinatown became a symbolic cultural and commercial centre** but not necessarily a residential area for new immigrants



# Case Study: Ottawa 1



## Ottawa Vacation Travel Guide

- Original video: <https://youtu.be/DtW0VqNkM9U>
- With subtitles: <https://www.bilibili.com/video/BV1tV411d7jw/>

# Case Study: Ottawa 2

- Ottawa is the capital of Canada
- Ottawa is located on the border between Ontario and Quebec,
- 74 percent of the 1 million Ottawa residents are of European descendants, Chinese and Arab are among the most populous minority groups
- Ottawa is a bilingual city, 97 percent of the residents can speak English, 39 percent can speak French, 38 can speak both English and French



ottawa.ca, tripadvisor.ca

# Case Study: Ottawa 3

- Ottawa has a relatively large immigrant population
  - One person out of five is an immigrant
  - One out of seven is a member of visible minorities
- Number of Chinese immigrants in Ottawa
  - **Early 1960s:** 1,000
  - **1981:** 3,800
  - **1991:** 7,600
  - **Today:** around 40,000 (4% of Ottawa population)



ameriquefrancaise.org (Orléans)



krpproperties.com (Kanata)

# Case Study: Ottawa 4

- Chinese immigrants in Ottawa are culturally and socially diverse
  - Early immigrants were mostly from Hong Kong and Taiwan, which had been more influenced by the west
  - Early immigrants were market-oriented, opening restaurants, grocery stores and laundry shops. They spoke Cantonese and English, and in many cases were Christians
  - After the **1970s**, recent immigrants are mostly from mainland China and speak Mandarin
  - Recent immigrants tend to be non-religious and highly educated, working as doctors, engineers or professors

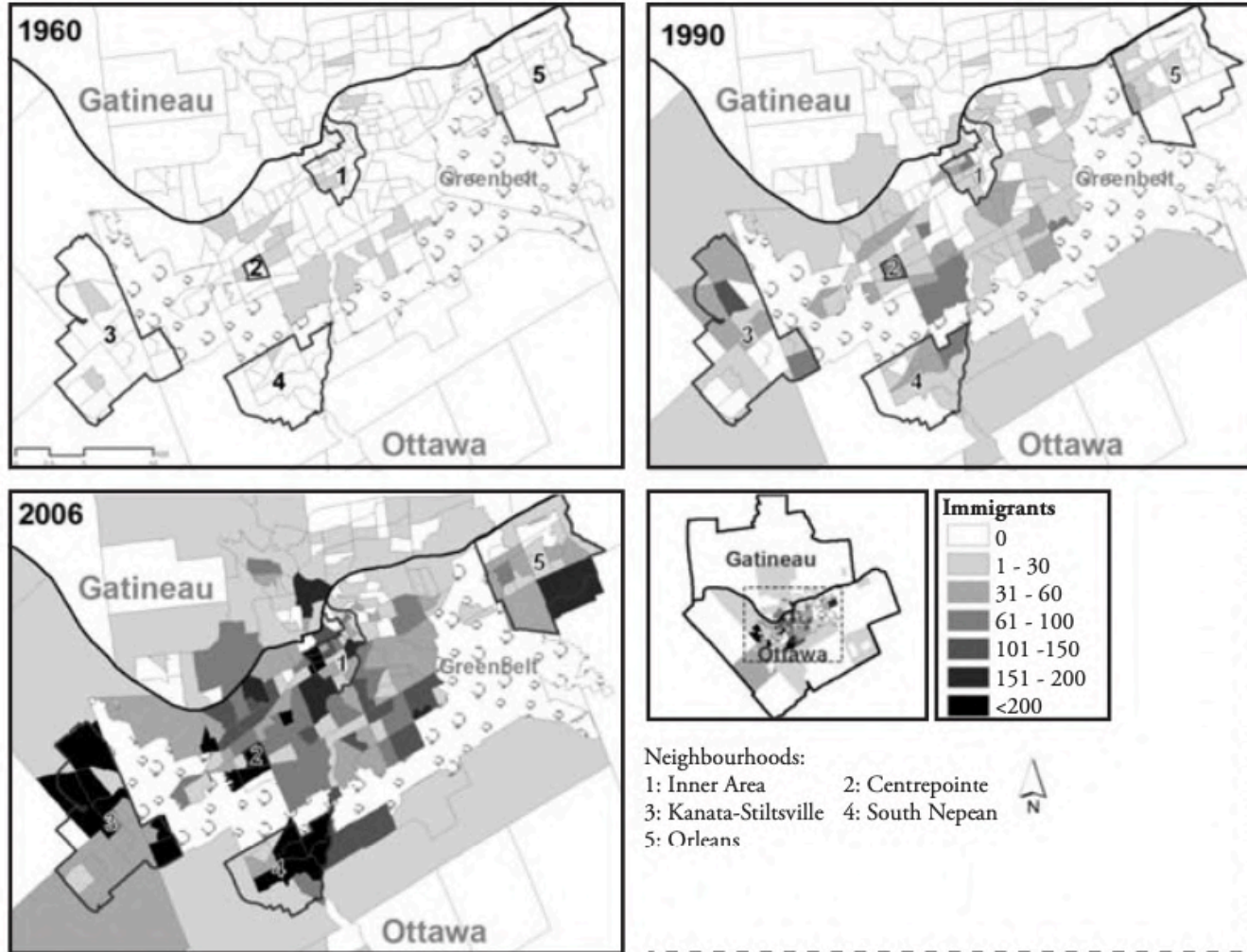


uottawa.ca



rentals.ca (Barrhaven)

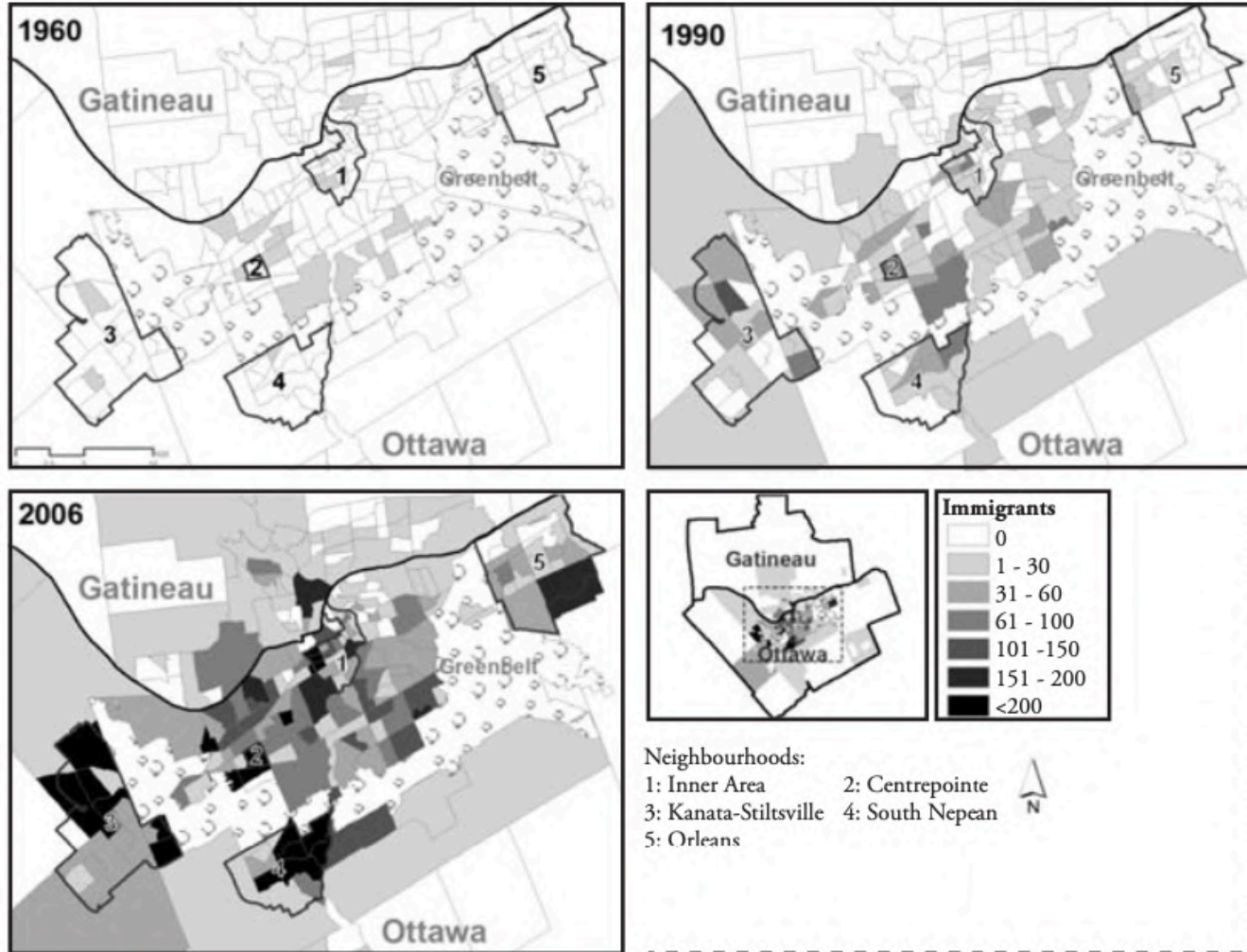
Map 16.2 Spatial Distribution of Chinese toward Suburban Areas of Ottawa, 1960, 1990, and 2006



## Case Study: Ottawa 5

- There is a changing trend of social mixing of Chinese immigrants and others
- Three stages
  - **1960s:** Cultural enclaves near the Chinatown (number 2 on the map)
  - **1990s:** Suburbanization and moving out of Chinatown
  - **More recently:** Higher density of Chinese immigrants in certain neighbourhoods, outside of Chinatown (3, 4 and 5 on the map)

Map 16.2 Spatial Distribution of Chinese toward Suburban Areas of Ottawa, 1960, 1990, and 2006



## Case Study: Ottawa 6

- High-technology industries were among the main motives for immigration
  - Starting in the **mid 1990s**, many Chinese engineers from mainland China settled in Kanata (3 on the map), where IT corporations such as Nortel had their headquarters.
  - The downfall of Nortel and other high-tech companies in the **early 2000s** left many unemployed, this was improved by investments from China in the **2010s**.



(Getty Images)

## Conclusion and Policy Implications 1

- Since 1996, Chinese languages as a group have replaced Italian as the most commonly spoken non-official mother tongue in Canada, being the mother tongues of 3.3 percent of Canada's population.
- The Chinese population in Canada is in favour of the most dynamic urban areas, primarily Toronto and Vancouver, but also increasingly other cities.
- Most Chinese immigrants are primarily motivated by the quest for better living conditions and higher income, regardless of their qualifications and level of education.





(Getty Images)

## Conclusion and Policy Implications 2

- There is an increasing demand for policies targeted at retaining the talents of skilled Chinese immigrants.
- Immigrant workers have linguistic, cultural and network advantages in attracting foreign investments. Foreign investments, in turn, help economic development in Canada and retaining skilled workers.
- We need an environment that promotes inclusiveness and social services to connect Chinese immigrants with non-Chinese members of the Canadian society and break cultural and language barriers.

# Thank you, Merci, 谢谢

**Presented article:** Cao, H., & Dehoorne, O. (2011). Chapter 16. Changing Territorial Strategies: Chinese Immigrants in Canada. In V. Poy (Ed.), *The China Challenge: Sino-Canadian Relations in the 21st Century* (pp. 222–240). University of Ottawa Press.  
<http://books.openedition.org/uop/910>

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4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU4) will be hold in Montreal in July 2021, please see details on <https://icccasu2021.org>



The poster for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese, and African Sustainable Urbanization (ICCCASU4) is set against a background of a stylized world map. The title "ICCCASU" is prominently displayed at the top in large, bold letters, with a red maple leaf and a green globe integrated into the "C"s. Below the title, the conference details are provided in three languages: French, English, and Chinese. The French text reads "4<sup>ème</sup> Conférence internationale sur l'urbanisation durable au Canada, en Chine et en Afrique" and "Densité, diversité et mobilité les villes à l'ère des risques aggravés". The English text reads "4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese, and African Sustainable Urbanization" and "Density, Diversity, and Mobility The City in an Era of Cascading Risks". The Chinese text reads "集聚、多元与流动：连锁危机下的城市发展". The dates "juillet / July 27 - août / Aug 1, 2021" and the location "MONTREAL, CANADA" are also included, along with the note "IN-PERSON & ONLINE". A QR code and the "LIVABLE CITIES 2021" logo are visible in the bottom right corner. The bottom of the poster features logos for the organizing institutions: UN HABITAT, McGill University, Université de Montréal, uOttawa, and Carleton University.

4<sup>ème</sup> Conférence internationale sur l'urbanisation durable au Canada, en Chine et en Afrique  
4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Canadian, Chinese, and African Sustainable Urbanization

**Densité, diversité et mobilité**  
les villes à l'ère des risques aggravés

**Density, Diversity, and Mobility**  
The City in an Era of Cascading Risks

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Université de Montréal  
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