

Neighbourhood spaces and migrant resilience: A comparative study of three neighbourhoods in Ottawa-Gatineau

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Context

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

Immigrants and neighbourhoods

- Spatial assimilation/segregation
- Housing experiences
- Everyday experiences

Resilience and neighbourhoods

- Psychology
- Spatial resilience, socio-ecological resilience
- Community resilience

Immigrants, neighbourhoods and resilience

- Individual and community resilience
- Measures of resilience
- Social resilience

LITERATURE IN FRENCH

Neighbourhood diversity

- From integration to cohabitation
- Access to housing
- Perceptions of diversity

Resilience and social capital

- Psychology
- Social resilience
- Socio-ecological resilience

Research Objectives

1. Examine neighbourhood factors that shape migrant resilience
 - How the spatial and social environment at the neighbourhood scale influences settlement and integration experiences
2. Understand the characteristics that make neighbourhoods “resilient”
3. Identify structures and actors of resilience at multiple scales



Conceptual Framework

The three principal dimensions of “resilience”:

1. The practices of resilience
 - Discourses, policies, programs
2. The structures and actors of resilience
 - “Top-down ” (state strategies)
 - “Bottom up” (community strategies)
3. The scales and spaces of resilience
 - Individual resilience
 - Family/household resilience
 - **Neighbourhood resilience – built environment and resilience**
 - **Community resilience – social environment and resilience**

Methodology

Collaborative approach

- Community and government partners
- **Gatineau:** The City of Gatineau, APO, SITO
- **Ottawa:** The City of Ottawa, OLIP, CESOC

Comparative study

- Ottawa-Gatineau
- 3 neighbourhoods (2 in Ottawa, 1 in Gatineau)
- Immigrants with English/French as their first official language spoken; the uneven geography of bilingualism in the Ottawa-Gatineau region

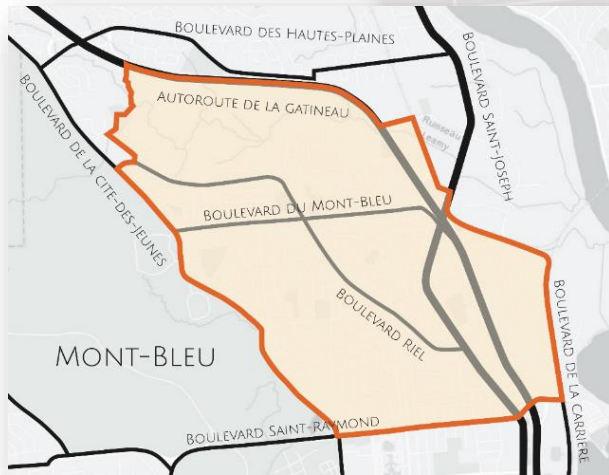
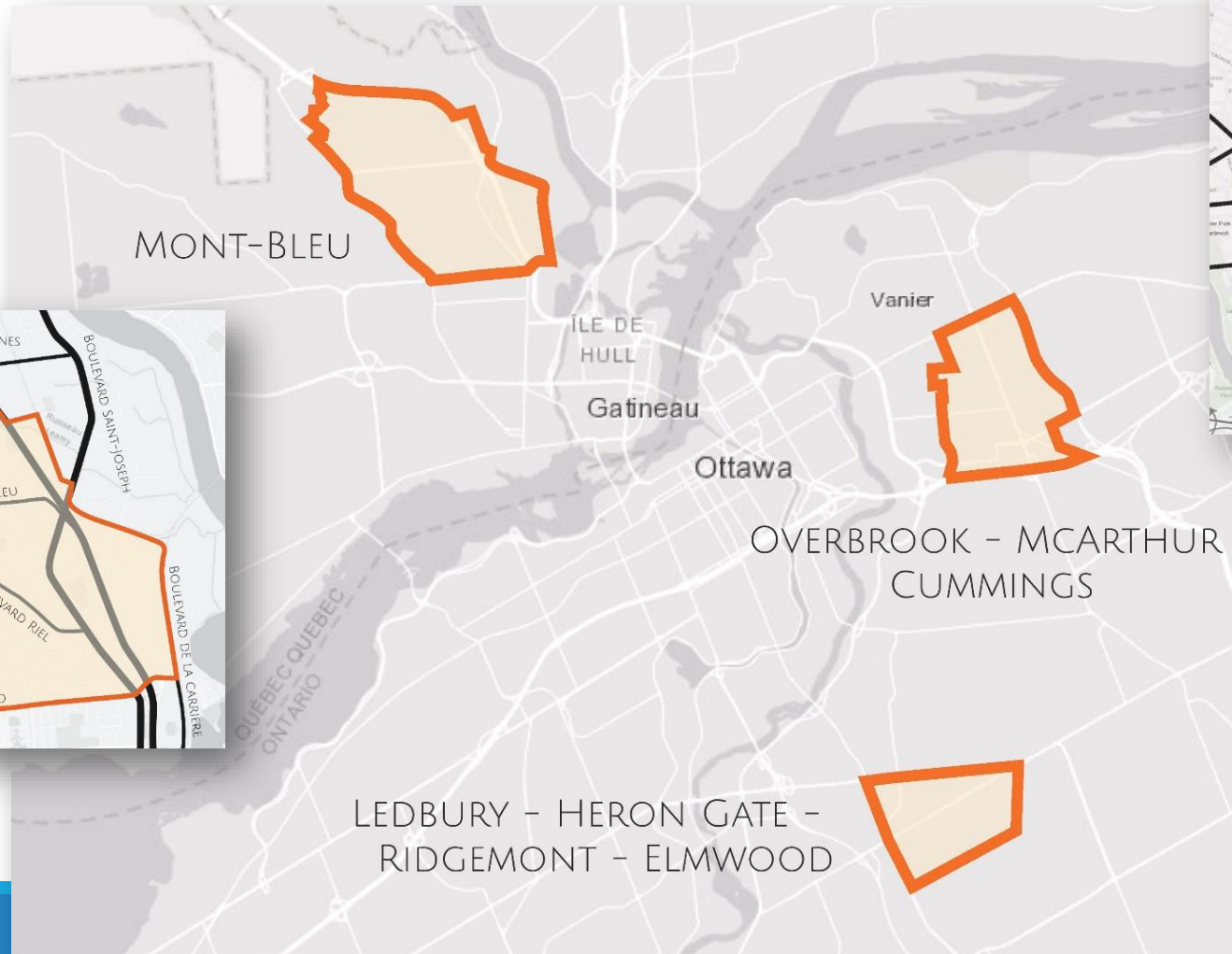
Qualitative Methods

4 main research stages:

1. Literature review and neighbourhood selection in collaboration with community partners (May-August 2018)
2. Ethnographic study, census data, media analysis (June 2018-May 2019)
3. Photovoice interviews (October 2018-July 2019)
4. Analysis and community meetings (spring-summer 2019)

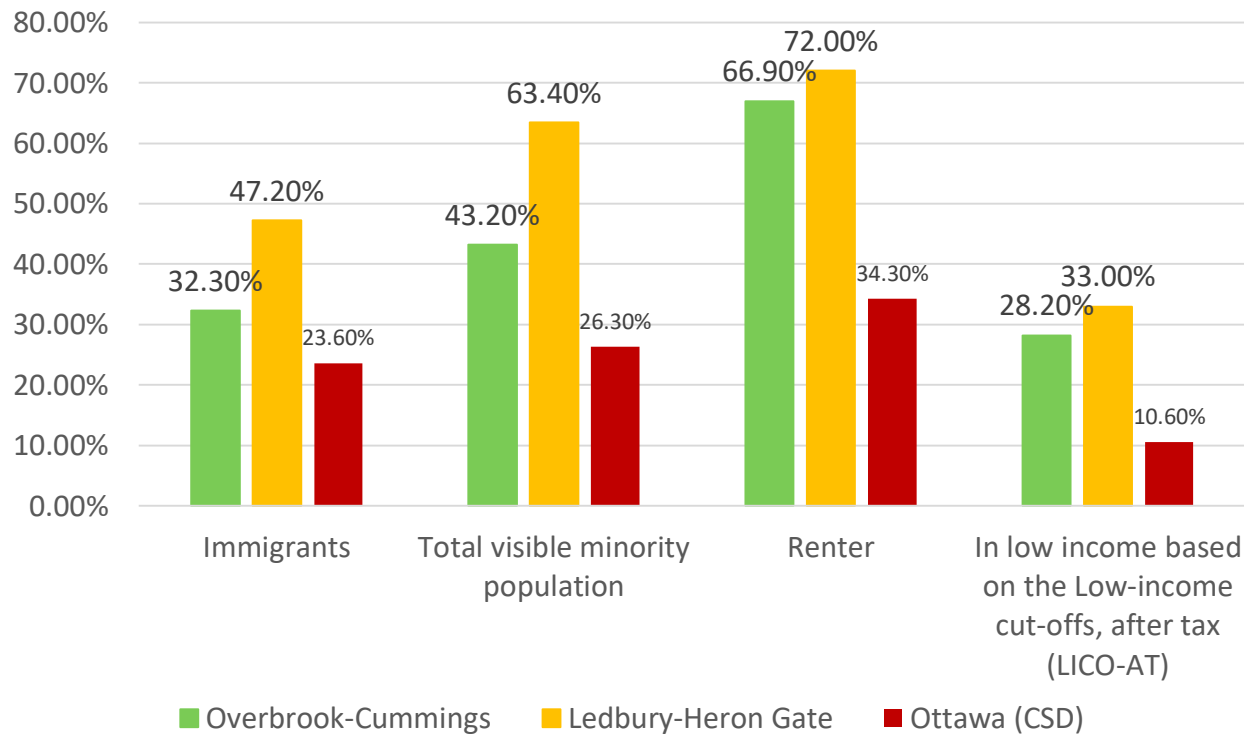
Case Study

3 neighbourhoods in Ottawa-Gatineau

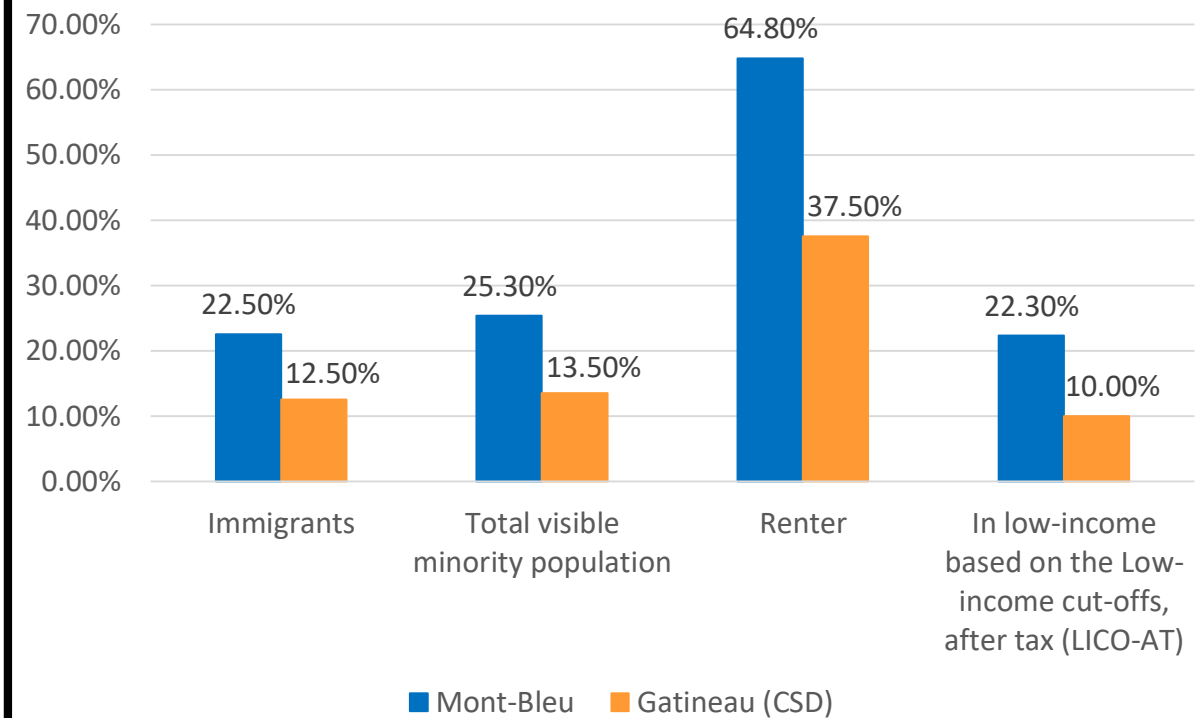


Neighbourhood Profiles

Neighbourhood Profile - 2016



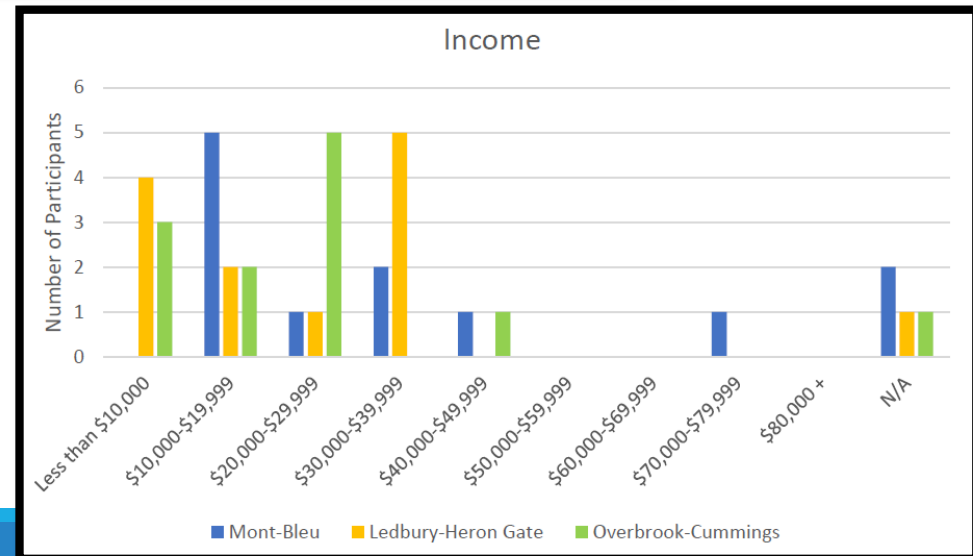
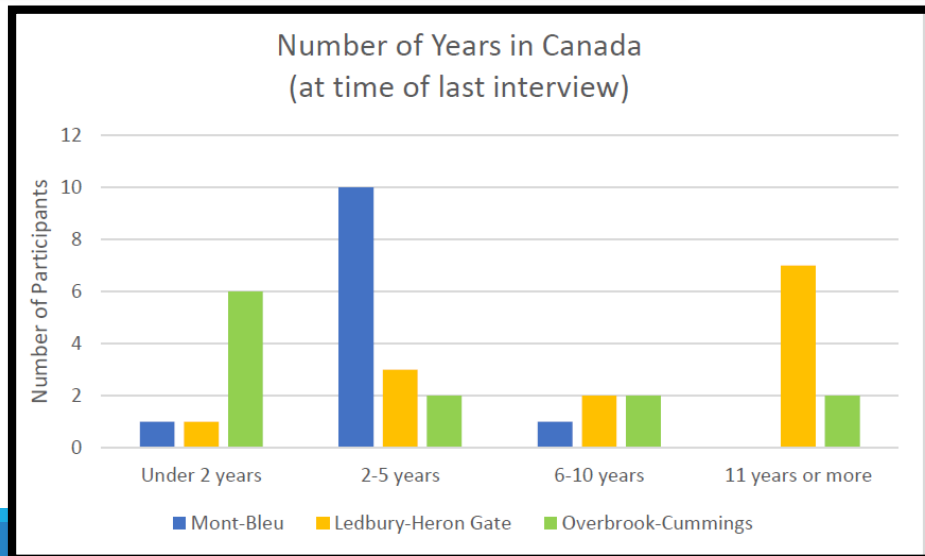
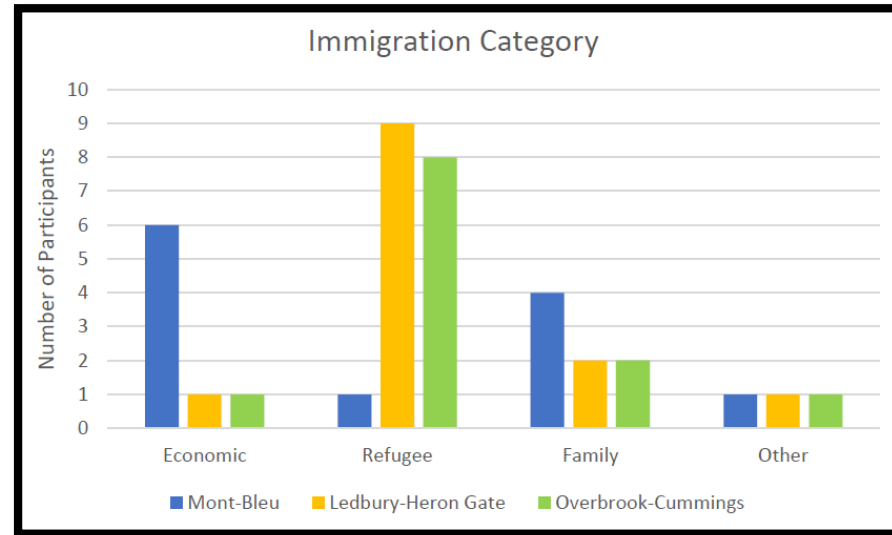
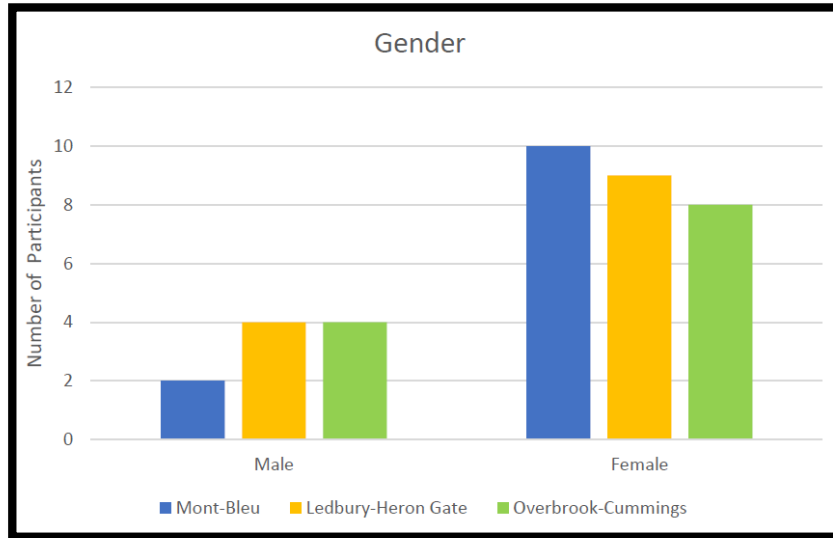
Neighbourhood Profile- 2016



Photovoice Interviews



Profiles of Research Participants



Results

1. Neighbourhood/Built environment

1. Fostering resilience
2. Hindering resilience

2. Community/Social Environment

1. Fostering resilience
2. Hindering resilience

Built environment: fostering resilience

Proximity

- Central location, accessibility
- Shops, ethnic stores, amenities

Transportation

- Public transit
- Walkability

Amenities

- Parks, community spaces/centres, daycares, schools, libraries, places of worship
- ESL courses, services

Housing

- Affordable housing, especially 3 or more bedroom dwellings for larger families
- No request for prior rental history

It's very easy because in this area, everything is very close. Like even 5 minute walk, we go Shoppers, halal food is too, halal meat store. My doctor in South Keys, it's very good. It's very good, that's why I like this house now. (LHG, Sakina, female)



Oh, the library, I love the library. It's amazing. They have an indoor pool, they have hockey courts, they have a basketball court. It's really nice. (OC 9)

...pour l'emplacement, pour la densité des écoles et des garderies ici c'est parfait aussi, au niveau des parcs, il y en a beaucoup, (...) si on parle de la proximité des commerces et des infrastructures très bien aménagés.
(MB, Anastasia, femme, Moldova)



Built environment: hindering resilience

Proximity

- Lack of ethnic stores
- Settlement services

Transportation

- Safety, lack of bus shelters, sidewalks, snow, potholes

Amenities

- Problems with maintenance, disrepair
- Inaccessible community spaces (indoor/outdoor)
- Lack of programming
- Cost barriers

Housing

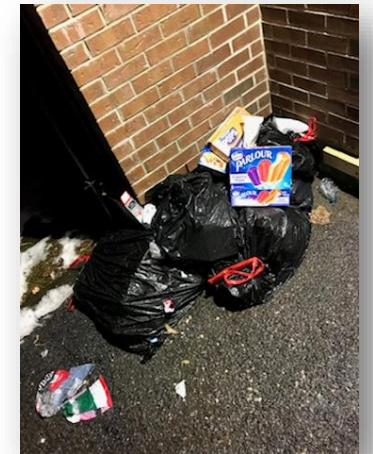
- Evictions (LHG)
- Problems with maintenance

Je vois qu'il y a un service de la ville pour couper l'herbe, pour nettoyer, mais... pas entretenu au niveau des équipements, des bancs, des glissades, le sable... le sable est tellement sale... Parfois, je permets pas mes enfants de jouer là. (MB, Anastasia, femme, Moldova)



More than 10 [phone calls]. Sometimes they tell you they are coming, they don't come. Things like that. Until you walk yourself to the office and go claim again. (OC 8)

The street is so dark, no lights (...) we call, yeah, they have to fix it. Call 211, you call 311, you don't even know? The city take the sweet time, because which neighbourhood? (LHG, Nour, female, Sudan)



Social environment: fostering resilience

Services/programs

- Open, accessible, comfortable programs building familiarity and mutual support

Participation

- Volunteering

Networks

- Family, neighbours
- Social connectedness

Support/solidarity

- Childcare, housing, political activism, places of worship

Sense of belonging

- Cultural diversity
- Shared identity

Yeah, so you know, "Can you pick up the kids for me? Can you do this for me?" That's what I'm saying, sense of community. There's nothing important like having a sense of community, you know? (...) You know, what they say, it takes a village to raise a kid, right? (LHG, Samira, female, Somalia)

Le fait que Mont-Bleu est quand même habité par beaucoup de nouveaux arrivants, bien quand je sors, j'ai ce sentiment de ... de... compréhension ou d'acceptation par l'autre. (MB, Mackenzy, homme, Haïti).

She said they [the immigrant community]'re very good and they're very helpful. (OC.4, through translator)



Conclusions

Structures facilitating resilience

- Proximity and convenience to everyday amenities (parks, shops, ethnic stores, etc.)
- Accessible community spaces, especially indoor
- Presence of immigrants, cultural diversity
- Community support and solidarity

Structural actors:

- Municipal/city government, community organizations/centres, settlement services, places of worship
- Open and compassionate authority figures, community leaders, grass-roots organizations
- Mainstream media, landlords

Structures hindering resilience

- Inaccessible/missing programs, services, amenities (youth programming, mental health services, legal counsel, etc.)
- Poor maintenance of buildings and neighbourhood spaces by the City and by private corporations
- Discrimination and stigmatization

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- *Preston, V. PI, Belkhodja, C., Gabriel, C., Lochhead, C., Douglas, D., Dyson, D., Zikic, J., Hennebry, J., Shields, J., Veronis, L., Hynie, M., Mandell, N., Bhuyan, R., Ghosh, S. and collaborators. Migration and Resilience in Urban Canada - Immigration et résilience en milieu urbain (BMRC-IRMU): Discovering Strengths and Building Capacity, Partnership Grant. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, SSHRC#896-2016-1004, 2,499,525, 2016-2021 \$.*
- For more information on the project, see: <http://bmrc-irmu.info.yorku.ca/>



Thank you

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