SOCIAL CAPITAL, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG CANADIANS

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INTEGRATION DEFINED

- Social cohesion:
  - different identities are recognized as legitimate,
  - newcomers are incorporated in the economy,
  - citizens bring their diverse values and identities into the political life and
  - all groups engage in the political institutions (Soroka, Johnson, and Banting, 2007: 8)

- Social cohesion - a multi-dimensional concept:
  - *economic* inclusion and equality,
  - *social* recognition and belonging, and

- Integration is social cohesion viewed at the *individual* level.
CANADIAN
2002 ETHNIC DIVERSITY SURVEY

Respondents

- Total number of respondents -- 42500
- This study -- 15431 men and women aged 15-34

Table 1: Distribution by Ethnic Groups, Canadians Aged 15-34

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Groups</th>
<th>Weighted N</th>
<th>Per Cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Visible Minority</td>
<td>12447</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visible Minority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asians</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Visible Minority</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing information on ethnicity</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15431</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Tabulated from 2002 Ethnic Diversity Survey

Enough cases for separate analysis of these groups
Figure 1: Framework of Analysis for Social Integration and Political Participation

**Individual/Family Characteristics**
- Individual
  - Education
  - Labour Force Status
  - Household Income
  - Language Proficiency
- Parental
  - Mother’s Education
  - Family Structure

**Social Capital**
- Membership in Organizations
  - Ethnic
  - Sports club/team
  - Other
- Social Capital through Ethnic Group
  - Sense of belonging to ethnic group

**Family Social Capital**
- Trust in family
- Sense of belonging to family

**Integration**
- Social
  - Discrimination
  - Sense of belonging to society
- Political
  - Voting

**Social Capital: organizations & ethnic groups**

**Demographic**: Gender, Age, Generation Status, Marital Status
SOCIAL CAPITAL BY ETHNIC GROUPS

Membership in Ethnic Organizations

“Very Strong” Sense of Belonging to Ethnic Group

Membership in Sports Organizations

Blacks – highest in membership

In sports, Whites highest, followed by Blacks
EXPERIENCE OF DISCRIMINATION

Measure of Discrimination

“Yes” to the question:

- In the last 5 years (or, since the time of arrival): “do you feel that you have experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly by others in Canada because of your
  - ethnicity, culture, race, skin colour, language, accent or religion?”

Discrimination by Ethnic Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Visible Minority</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visible Minority</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asians</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>60.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DESCRIPTIVE - % WITH EXPERIENCE OF DISCRIMINATION

By Membership in Ethnic Organization
- Non-Member
- Member

By Sense of Belonging to Ethnic Group
- Not strong at all
- 2
- 3
- 4
- Very strong

By Membership in Sports Organization
- Non-Member
- Member
DISCRIMINATION: RESULTS OF MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS

Table 5: Binary Logistic Regression of Discrimination Experience By Ethnic Groups, Canadians Aged 15-34, 2002
Results for Social Capital Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital</th>
<th>All Visible Minority</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>South Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership in Organizations (ref: Non-Member)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Ethnic Organizations</td>
<td>0.459 ***</td>
<td>0.601 **</td>
<td>0.694 *</td>
<td>-0.128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Sports Organizations</td>
<td>0.276 ***</td>
<td>0.506 ***</td>
<td>0.187</td>
<td>0.157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Belonging to Ethnic Group (ref: Not strong)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ...</td>
<td>0.590 ***</td>
<td>0.747</td>
<td>1.258 ***</td>
<td>0.683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 ...</td>
<td>0.632 ***</td>
<td>0.742</td>
<td>1.960 ***</td>
<td>0.771 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 ...</td>
<td>0.768 ***</td>
<td>0.772</td>
<td>2.187 ***</td>
<td>0.461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ... Very strong</td>
<td>0.806 ***</td>
<td>0.916 *</td>
<td>2.758 ***</td>
<td>0.587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N of Cases</td>
<td>4328</td>
<td>1083</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudo R Square</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS

- For the positive relation between belonging to ethnic group and discrimination
  - Strong sense of belonging to one’s group accentuates differences, leading to greater perceived (or actual) experience of discrimination
  - Or, felt discrimination and thus sought support from own group

- For positive relation between sports team membership and discrimination
  - The greater the participation, the greater the exposure to risk of discrimination
SENSE OF BELONGING TO WIDER SOCIETY

Measure of belonging

- A score derived from factor analysis of the strength of belonging to
  - Town, municipality or city,
  - Province,
  - Canada, and
  - North America

- wider society (as opposed to a sense of belonging to the family or an ethnic group)
DESCRIPTIVE – MEAN SCORE OF BELONGING

By Membership in Ethnic Organizations

By Sense of Belonging to Ethnic Group

By Membership in Sports Organizations
### Table 7: OLS Regression of Sense of Belonging to Society
By Ethnic Groups, Canadians Aged 15-34, 2002
Results for Social Capital Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Capital</th>
<th>All Visible Minority</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Blacks</th>
<th>South Asians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership in Organizations (ref: Non-Member)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Ethnic Organizations</td>
<td>-0.113 *</td>
<td>0.111</td>
<td>0.249 *</td>
<td>-0.208 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Sports Organizations</td>
<td>0.103 ***</td>
<td>0.188 ***</td>
<td>0.466 ***</td>
<td>-0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member of Other Organizations</td>
<td>-0.026</td>
<td>0.027</td>
<td>0.122</td>
<td>-0.263 ***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Sense of Belonging to Ethnic Group (ref: Not strong) | | | | |
| 2 … | 0.256 *** | 0.292 * | -0.247 | 0.465 ** |
| 3 … | 0.556 *** | 0.439 *** | -0.042 | 0.785 *** |
| 4 … | 0.647 *** | 0.794 *** | -0.105 | 0.762 *** |
| 5 … Very strong | 1.053 *** | 1.120 *** | 0.259 | 1.207 *** |
| N of Cases | 4146 | 1045 | 759 | 911 |
| R Square | 20.8% | 20.2% | 21.0% | 23.4% |
POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS:

- On the positive relation between belonging to one’s ethnic group and belonging to wider society
  - Recognition of one’s cultural identity fosters greater belonging to society
  - Evidence that multiculturalism works?

- On the positive relation between sports team membership and belonging
  - Participation engenders belonging

- For both discrimination and belonging, cultural differences exist
  - Particularly true for South Asians where effects of organization membership differ from those of other ethnic groups
SOME CONCLUDING REMARKS

- A strong *bonding* [social capital] with one's own ethnic group does not preclude a strong *bridging* [social capital] with the wider society.
- Experience of discrimination reduces the sense of belonging to the wider community.
- Future research: better understanding of the links between ethnic social capital, discrimination, and belonging to wider society.
- Experience of discrimination by a high proportion of Visible Minority is a matter for concern:
  - Realm of individual behaviour -- need for greater awareness of discrimination
  - State need to play active role in promoting tolerance and acceptance