

Does Geography Matter? Variations in Perceived Discomfort and Discrimination in Canada's Gateway Cities

Brian Ray, University of Ottawa
Valerie Preston, York University


A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Does Geography Matter?

- ◆ Are experiences of exclusion the same in Canada's gateway cities?



Outline

- ◆ Canada's gateway cities
 - ◆ Ethnic Diversity Survey
 - ◆ Experiences of exclusion
 - ◆ Explanations of discomfort and discrimination
 - ◆ Implications
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of a silhouette of a mountain range in a teal color, extending from the right side towards the center.

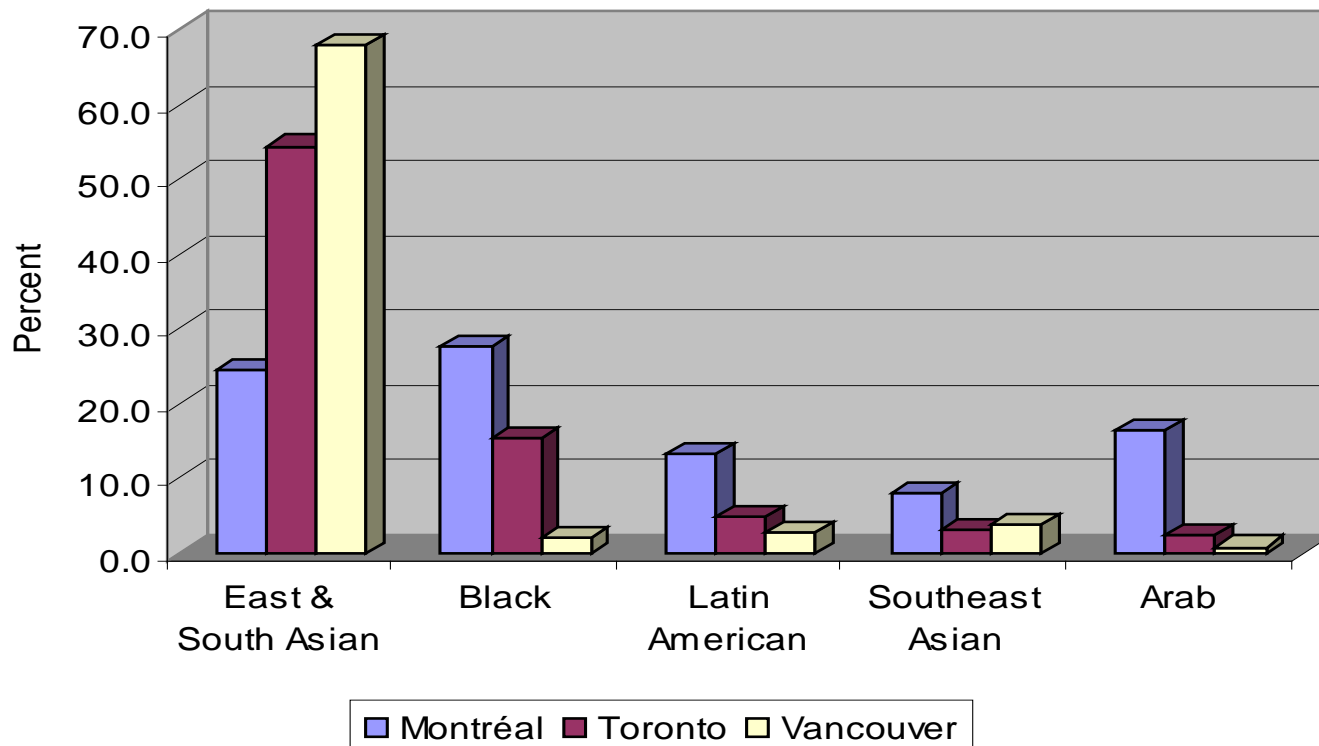
Canada's Gateway Cities



- ◆ Major destinations for immigrants
- ◆ Distinct social histories
- ◆ Labour & housing markets differ
- ◆ Public policy interventions vary
- ◆ Characteristics of *contemporary* visible minority & immigrant populations vary

Uneven Geography of Visible Minorities

FIGURE 1: Size of Selected Racial Minority Groups as a Proportion of All Visible Minorities, Montréal, Toronto & Vancouver, 2006

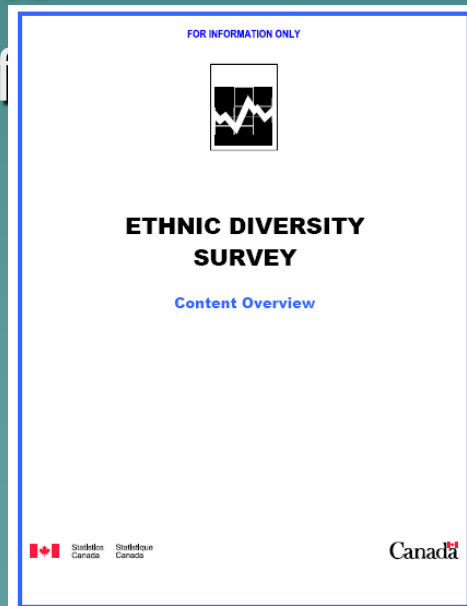


Ethnic Diversity Survey

- ◆ *A general population survey*
- ◆ Post-census survey
- ◆ Over 42,000 respondents
- ◆ 15 years of over

- ◆ **Methodological considerations:**

- Eliminated individuals under 18 and over 70
- Eliminated Aboriginals
- Six ethno-racial groups
 - ◆ East Asian
 - ◆ South Asian
 - ◆ Black
 - ◆ Other visible minority
 - ◆ White Charter
 - ◆ White Non-charter



Visible Minorities in EDS

TABLE 1. Ethnoracial Groups in
Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver Metropolitan Areas

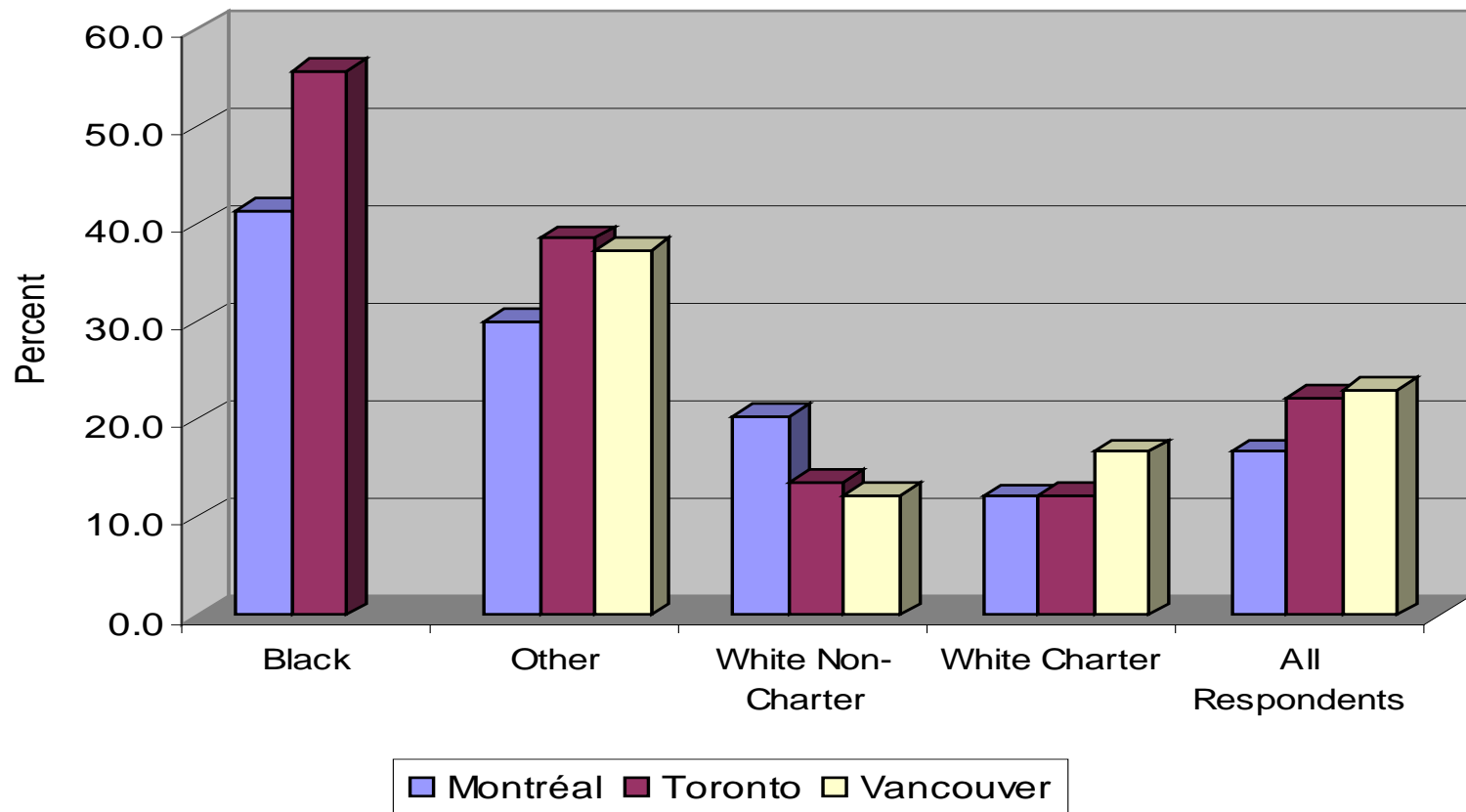
Montréal	Toronto	Vancouver
East & South Asian (5%)	East & South Asian (20%)	East & South Asian (30%)
Black (4%)	Black (6%)	N/A
Other racial minority (5%)	Other racial minority (10%)	Other racial minority (8%)
White non-charter (21%)	White non-charter (33%)	White non-charter (27%)
White charter (65%)	White charter (31%)	White charter (35%)
N=1,971,580	N=3,035,720	N=1,297,460

Experiences of Exclusion

- ◆ *Discrimination:* discrimination or unfair treatment because of ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, language, accent or religion in past five years
- ◆ *Discomfort:* feeling uncomfortable or out of place because of ethnicity, culture, race, skin color, language, accent or religion in past five years

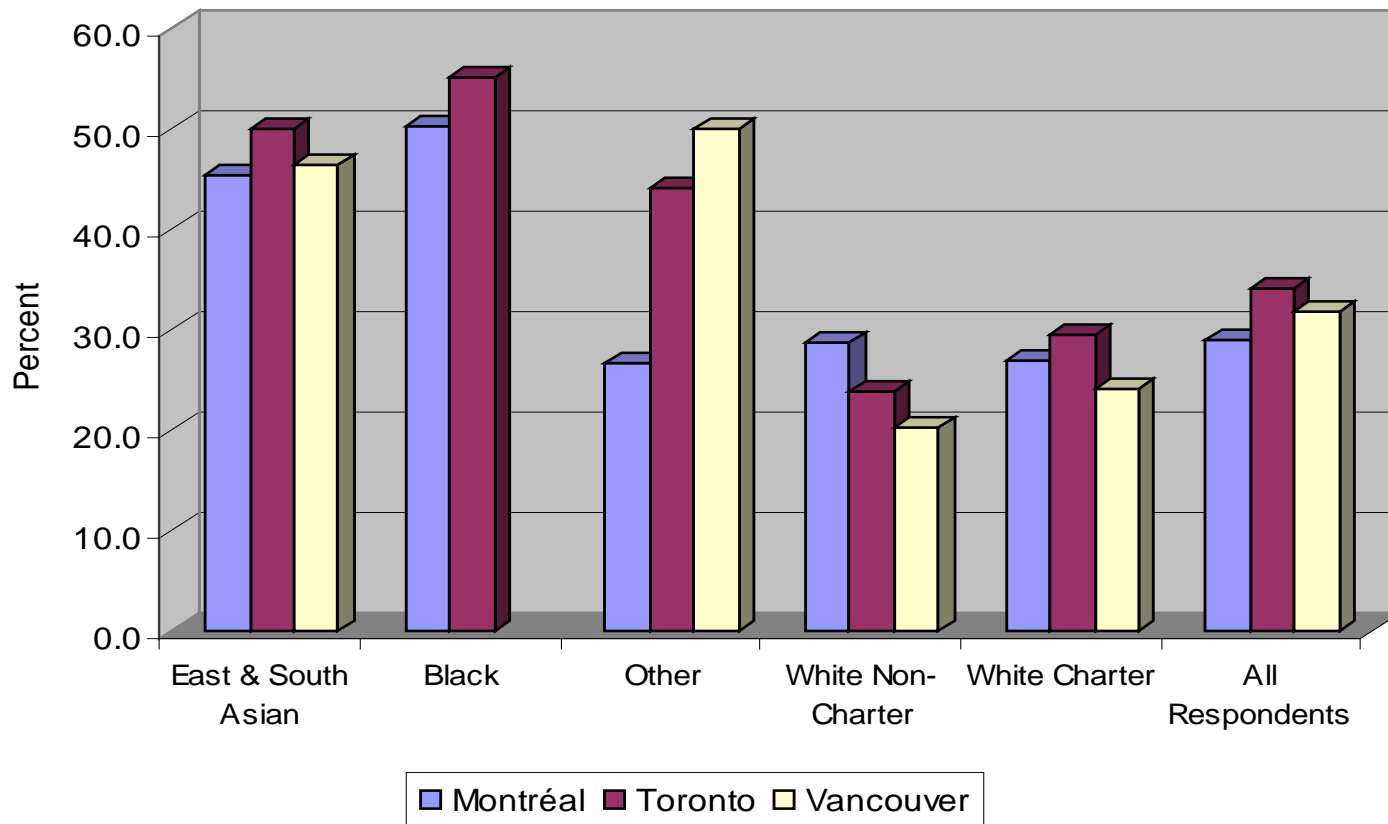
Discrimination Experiences

FIGURE 2: Ethnoracial Groups Reporting Any Type of Discrimination by City



Discomfort Experiences

FIGURE 3: Ethnoracial Groups Reporting Any Type of Discomfort by City



Patterns of Exclusion

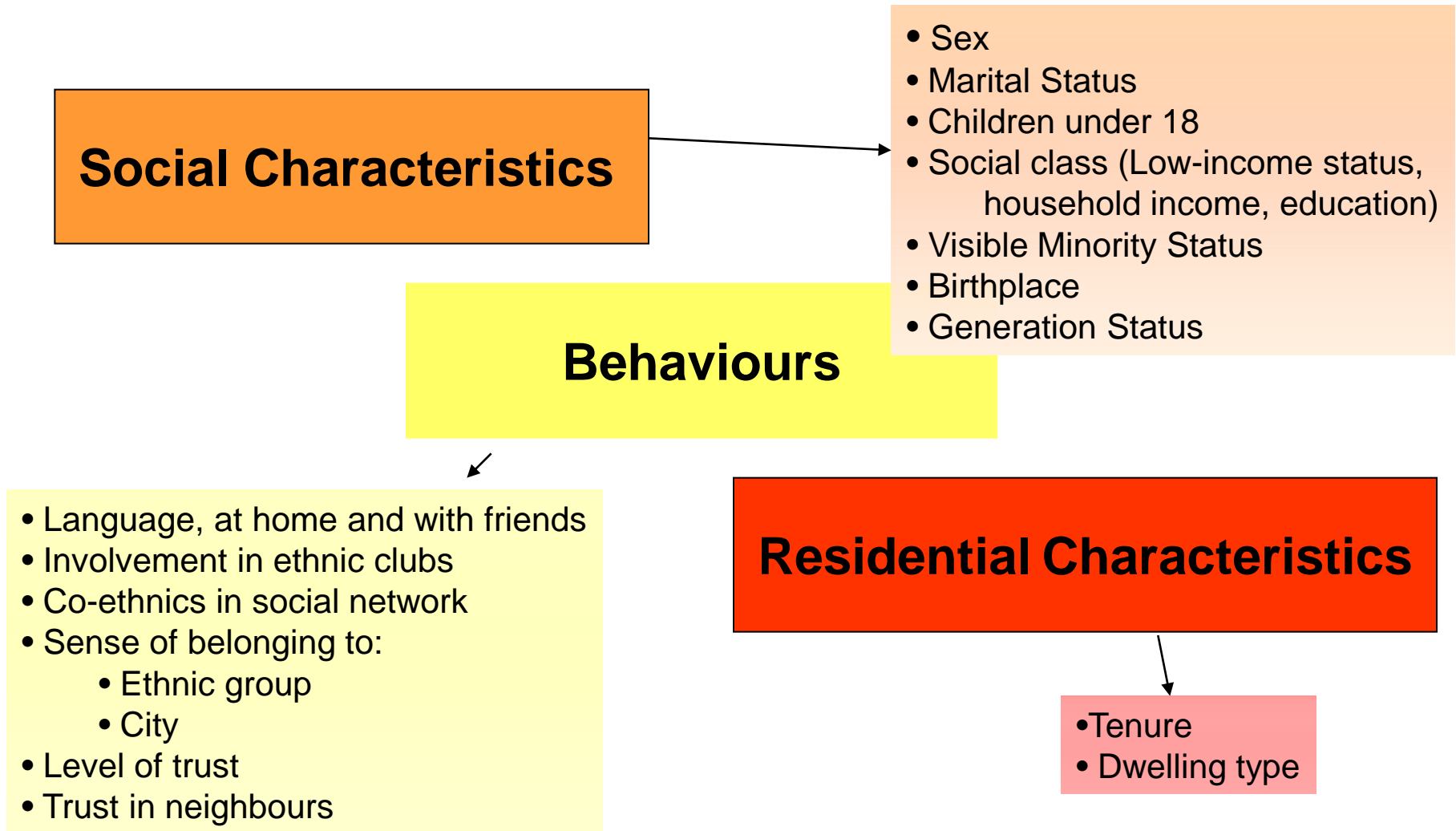
- ◆ Discomfort is more frequent than discrimination
- ◆ Racial discrimination and discomfort are most frequent type of exclusion
- ◆ Racialized minorities report discrimination and discomfort more often than White Charter and White Non-charter
- ◆ Blacks most likely to report exclusion by wide margin

Racial Discomfort and Discrimination

TABLE 4. Percent Reporting Racial Discrimination and Racial Discomfort by Ethnoracial Group and Metropolitan Area

Ethno racial Group	Metropolitan Area					
	Montréal		Toronto		Vancouver	
	Discrimination	Discomfort	Discrimination	Discomfort	Discrimination	Discomfort
East & South Asian	16.0%	17.5%	21.2%	20.9%	25.3%	22.1%
Black	36.7%	42.2%	50.9%	44.7%	NA	NA
Other Racial Minority	10.1%	10.0%	18.7%	15.4%	24.0%	24.0%
White Non-Charter	2.5%	2.5%	3.7%	4.6%	7.2%	8.2%
White Charter	1.5%	2.7%	6.0%	12.5%	12.3%	15.2%

Explaining Racial Discrimination and Discomfort




Analysing Racial Discrimination and Discomfort

- ◆ Logistic regression
- ◆ Predicts whether individual experienced racial discrimination or racial discomfort in past five years
- ◆ All possible variables entered, but few had significant relationships
- ◆ Retained variables that were significant and that influenced the overall goodness of fit

Logistic Regression Results

- ◆ Ethnoracial identity has most influence on perceived racial discomfort and racial discrimination
 - Blacks have highest coefficients
- ◆ Ethnic attachment increases perceived racial discomfort and discrimination
- ◆ Trust in others and in neighbours reduces perceived racial discomfort and discrimination
- ◆ Coefficients vary among gateway cities

Geographical Patterns

- ◆ Complicated patterns of exclusion across cities
 - ◆ Interurban variation in who reports discrimination and discomfort
 - ◆ Interurban variation due mainly to visible minority status, ethnic origin, and behavioral factors
- 

Implications

- ◆ Processes of racialisation and exclusion are local, geographically variable
- ◆ Significant challenges for effective public policy formation & delivery
 - How to coordinate actions of multiple jurisdictions; federal, provincial, and municipal?
 - How to adapt policies and programs to local circumstances?

“The Rest of the Story”

- ◆ B. Ray and V. Preston, 2009, “Geographies of Discrimination: Variations in Perceived Discomfort and Discrimination in Canada’s Gateway Cities,” *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*, Vol. 7 (3): 228-249.