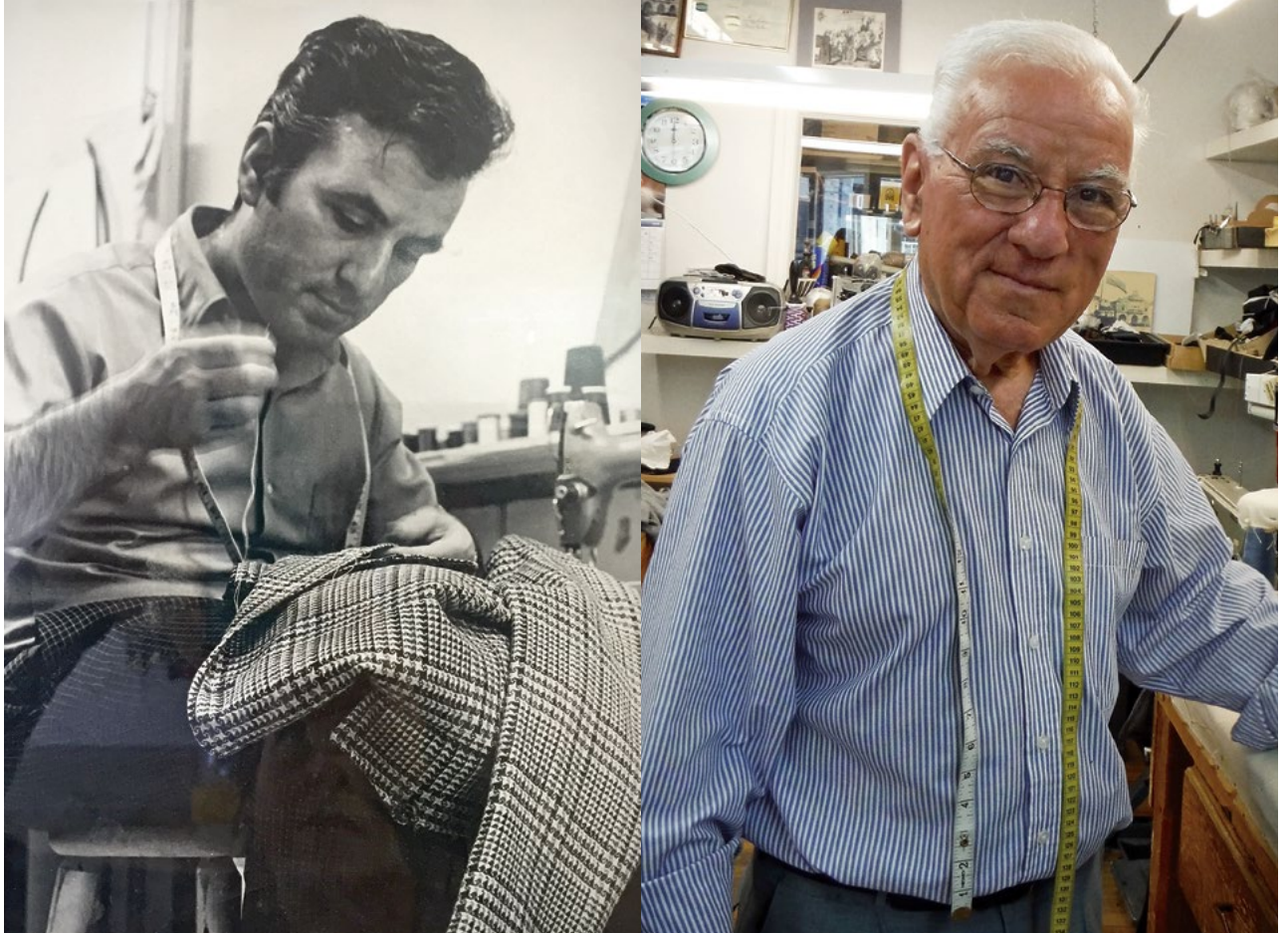


# Shaping Canada's future

RESEARCH



Italian immigrants have played an important role in the history of Guelph. **Giovani Giardino is pictured here in 1971 and now, in his 45-year-old tailor shop on Quebec Street, downtown Guelph. See the story on the importance of Italian immigrants to Guelph on page 3.**

**C**anada has a long and rich history of immigration. Our country's growth has relied largely on attracting individuals from around the world. Federal policies encourage immigration of young, highly skilled workers while offering protection to vulnerable migrants such as refugees.

More than one in five Canadians is foreign-born, and migrants have arrived here from each of the world's nearly 200 countries.

The federal government plans to accept 300,000 immigrants in 2017 — the same number as in 2016 and a 15-per-cent increase over the annual target between 2011 and 2015.

Immigration and growing diversity bring significant economic and social rewards to Canada, and offer opportunities both domestically and internationally. These trends also raise questions and create tensions as we strive to adapt to our changing world.

From family studies to economics and agriculture, University of Guelph researchers bring multidisciplinary perspectives to help us understand the contexts and challenges of immigration.

The following pages illustrate U of G research efforts to improve immigrants' lives and to strengthen inclusive, multicultural communities.



**Differences abound in parenting styles between East Asian cultures**  
PAGE 2



**Toward a strategic welcome for Syrian refugees**  
PAGE 3

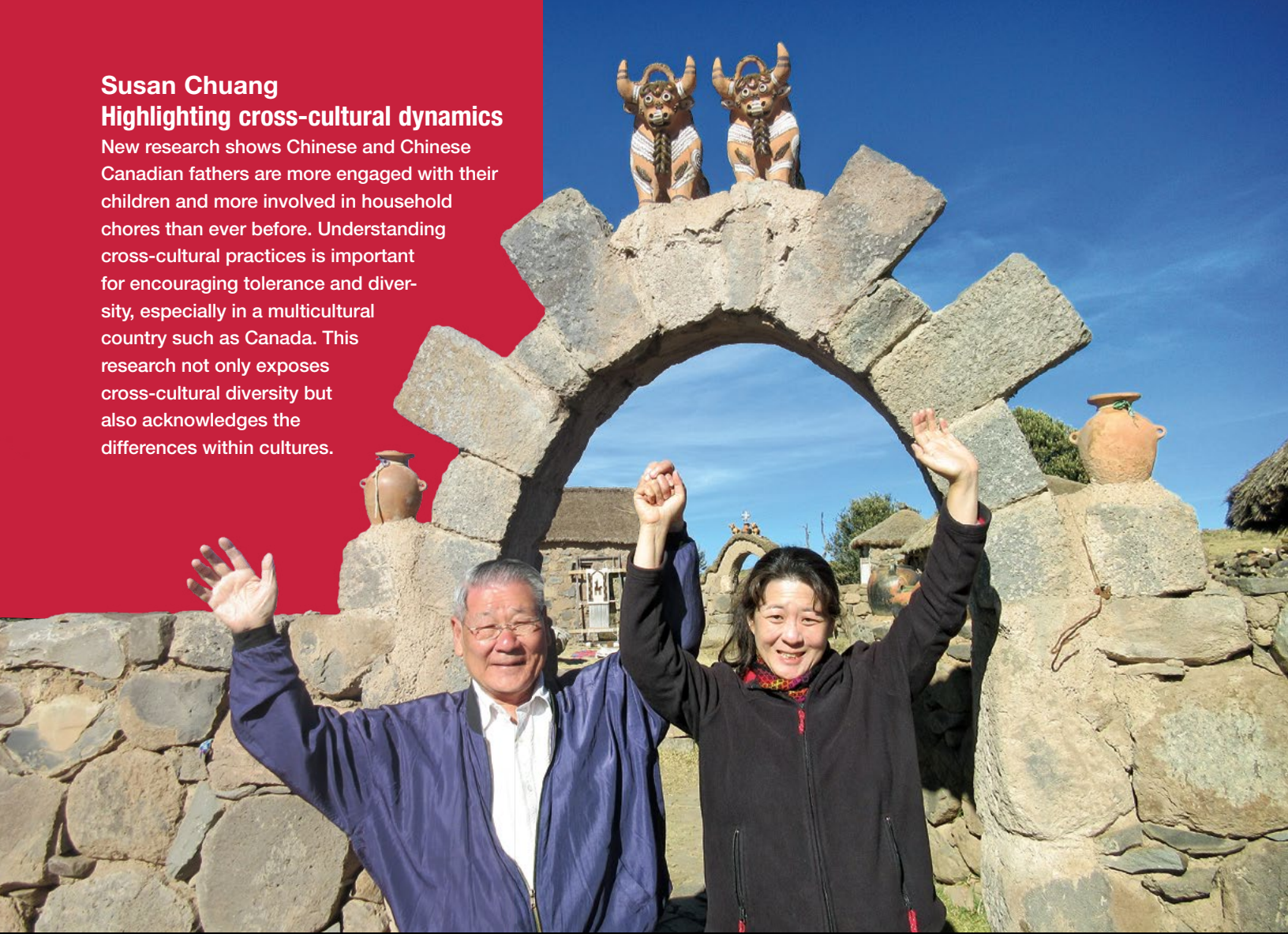


**Understanding Somali Canadian population dynamics to determine food shortcomings**  
PAGE 4



## Susan Chuang Highlighting cross-cultural dynamics

New research shows Chinese and Chinese Canadian fathers are more engaged with their children and more involved in household chores than ever before. Understanding cross-cultural practices is important for encouraging tolerance and diversity, especially in a multicultural country such as Canada. This research not only exposes cross-cultural diversity but also acknowledges the differences within cultures.



Differences abound in parenting styles among East Asian cultures, says Prof. Susan Chuang, pictured here with her father, James Chuang, on a trip to Peru.

## Jill Bucklaschuk Temporary foreign workers pursue permanent residency

Most temporary foreign workers (TFWs) cannot become permanent residents in Canada. In Manitoba, they may do so through a provincial program that takes at least two years. During that period, TFWs are separated from their families and lack access to many government-funded services. By interviewing Manitoba TFWs, a U of G researcher hopes to influence government policy to ensure that all TFWs have access to permanent residency and associated resources and rights.

## Lynda Ashbourne Support for family safety in communities

More than 30,000 Syrian refugees have settled in Canada over the past year, and many are still recovering from traumatic experiences in conflict zones. This history of trauma paired with the difficulties of migration may lead to family violence and hinder integration. Researchers are developing a new model to better welcome these families and connect them to their local Arab community and professional service providers. Their goal is to ensure early risk identification of family violence in a way that is culturally informed.

## Wayne Caldwell Shared community values help with immigration

Low birth rates and aging baby boomers are contributing to the decline of the working population and affecting public services in rural communities. Researchers are working with rural municipalities to investigate how to attract immigrants to those communities. Results suggest that when communities develop values that accept diversity, they are more likely to attract newcomers. Researchers are establishing a framework to welcome immigrants into communities, thus helping to address labour needs in rural areas.



**John Cranfield**

### **Assessing food consumption in immigrant populations**

Western diets, along with a lack of exercise, contribute to increased obesity in Canada. Immigrants are less likely to be overweight when they arrive in Canada, but they eventually adopt the cuisine of the surrounding culture. That means greater consumption of convenience foods, which in excess may harm an individual's health.

**Andrea Breen**

### **Sharing stories helps new immigrants fit in**

For new immigrants, sharing their stories may improve mental health, foster inclusion and reduce isolation. It's a simple yet important tool for improving the well-being of people in marginalized communities who are struggling to build their identities. Researchers are looking at story-sharing to create a sense of belonging for recently arrived Syrian refugees in Mississauga, Ont.

**Sunghwan Yi**

### **Learning more about the grocery basket**

Understanding fruit and vegetable consumption patterns can improve meal and nutrition guidelines. Researchers have looked at fruit and vegetable consumption by studying purchasing, consumption and food preparation habits. They believe these data may help grocery stores, nutritionists and even the government to improve nutrition among immigrants.

**Sandra Parmegiani**

### **Italian Canadian heritage goes digital**

Italian Canadian culture is a rich aspect of Guelph's history. In a one-of-a-kind course, students are collecting narratives and artifacts from Guelph's Italian Canadian community for an online exhibition. This research is part of a larger Italian Canadian archives project to preserve the contributions of Italian immigrants.

**Yuriko Cowper-Smith**

### **Cultural opinions on municipal immigration**

Over the past decade, about 180 Rohingya people from Myanmar have settled in the Kitchener-Waterloo region. Canada was the first country to formally resettle Rohingya people, many of whom had lived in refugee camps in Bangladesh for years. Using interviews, focus groups and participant observation, researchers aim to learn more about this population's civic and political engagement needs and goals. By examining how communities are made and unmade, this research will provide a more coherent picture of diverse community-building and political engagement in Canada.

**Kris Inwood**

### **Great Depression posed extra challenges for immigrants**

Investigating historical wage earnings helps us understand immigrant assimilation and possible discrimination in the labour market. Looking at census data from 1911 to 1931, Guelph researchers found that immigrants, even those who had lived in Canada for decades, lost more income than Canadian-born individuals following the economic downturn of 1929-31. The "immigrant penalty" differed by country of origin, indicating that the state of the economy was connected to earnings differentials.



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who stepped down at the end of 2016, visited the Kara Tepe refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, where he met with refugees, as well as with local volunteers and authorities.

**Saba Safdar**

### **Toward a strategic welcome for refugees**

In an ongoing cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural project, researchers are examining the effectiveness of service providers and community organizations in assisting Syrian refugees to settle in Spain, Germany and Canada. Looking mostly at how refugees engage with society and the labour market, researchers hope to improve policies and services to help refugees integrate into their new community.

Sara Mann

## Year-round benefits of seasonal workers

Ontario's Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP) helps farmers and immigrants work together during peak harvesting seasons. The SAWP has traditionally been considered a benefit in helping farmers to meet hard-to-fill labour needs. Researchers are learning how the program also benefits workers, whose earnings — up to five times more than in their home country — can support their families abroad, including supporting children's education.

Edward Koning

## Inclusive policies benefit immigrants

Politicians and commentators disagree strongly on whether immigrants should have the same access to public benefits as native-born citizens do. Using policy documents and academic literature, researchers will compare national approaches and investigate economic and social impacts of inclusionary and exclusionary policies.

Community Engaged Scholarship Institute

## Increasing immigrant representation benefits all

Boards of directors can benefit from the experiences and knowledge that immigrants bring. While some organizations implement strategies to increase diversity on their boards, various obstacles still hinder the ability of immigrants to be represented. Research found that, on average, the proportion of immigrants serving on boards of directors in Guelph-Wellington is lower than their representation in the general population. Findings were used to inform the development of a pilot program aiming to increase the participation of immigrants in leadership positions in our community.



Better understanding Somali Canadian population dynamics helps determine food shortcomings in vulnerable populations. Research associate Bamidele Adekunle is pictured here at Seif, a major Somali grocery store in the GTA helping to address these needs.

## Bamidele Adekunle Studying Somali eating habits

Understanding food consumption habits can paint a clearer picture of Somali demographics in Canada. Using survey data from Somali Canadian grocery stores and restaurants, researchers will develop a comprehensive Horn of Africa food guide. Their work will promote food sovereignty, helping to make culturally appropriate foods available to vulnerable groups.

Benjamin Giguère  
Mamta Vaswani  
Adjusting to Canadian life

By examining how second-generation South Asian youth negotiate potential conflicts between their heritage culture and mainstream Canadian culture, researchers aim to help improve their well-being, motivation and ability to mature. Researchers will study potential conflict scenarios such as choosing a romantic partner or a career path to help identify strategies for young people caught at a cultural crossroads.

Martha Nandorfy  
Chronicles of border-crossing from Mexico to the U.S.

Transnational migration stories of crossing the U.S.-Mexico border lend insight into the violence, culture clashes and hope involved for north-bound migrants. Shining a spotlight on social justice issues in the U.S. and Mexico borderlands, researchers have examined the narratives of literary journalism and indigenous storytelling. These diverse stories give voice to the realities faced by immigrants and show the human costs of crossing borders.

Mel Choubak  
What influences perceptions of immigrants

Do ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation of immigrants interact to create unique stereotypes and prejudices? Hoping to learn why attitudes toward immigrants may be ambiguous, researchers are looking at biases attached by Canadians to immigrants of varied background, gender and sexual orientation. The researchers aim to reveal unique challenges faced by various immigrants.