



Graduate Seminar

Department of
Economics and Finance

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Second Reader: Bram Cadsby



Title: The Dynamics of Occupational Structure of Chinese Workforce in Canada, 1881-1921

Occupation, as a social factor, represents a person's social status and economic condition. A shift of job from one place to another by one person maintains an underlying social change, and the sum of all individuals in terms of their occupation development forms patterns of their migration footprint. This paper traces four-decade experience of Chinese Canadian from 1881 to 1921 by analyzing the early Canadian census samples and discovering historic documents. It lists the main push-pull factors which drove Chinese to migrate to Canada, and studies the dynamics of the occupational structure in Chinese origins before the Great Depression, and argue that the choice of vocation and geographical mobility of Chinese workforce in Canada depends on the need in the market seeking for cheap labour in the new Canadian developing areas from coast to coast and countryside to cities where white labour are in lack or expensive. Chinese culture and tradition had decreasing influence and a less role to play along with the adaption of Chinese's choice of occupation and small business setup.

Date: Friday August 16th 2019

Time: 3:00 PM

Room: Mackinnon 720

