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INTRODUCTION

Leisure, ethnicity, race and migrations

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In recent decades, we have witnessed an increase in international and domestic migrations as well as growing ethnic and racial diversity not only in Western countries, but throughout most of the world. In the second decade of the twentieth century, more than 232 million people, or 3.2% of the world population, live outside of their countries of birth (United Nations, 2015). These migratory flows include a combination of long-term residents, migrant workers and refugees (United Nations, 2014). International migrations are being fuelled by push factors, such as economic disparities, wars and political instability in North and Central Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, as well as by natural disasters that ravaged countries across the world. The promise of economic opportunities and political stability as well as policies of some of the destination countries aimed at addressing labour shortages through immigration (Durand, Massey, & Capoferro, 2005; Eurostat, 2014) have set in motion millions of people destined to start new life in a foreign country.

The USA is the top destination country in the world, followed by the Russian Federation, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Canada (The World Bank, 2011). In 2013, the USA attracted about 20% of the world's international migrants (Zong & Batalova, 2015). More than 41 million immigrants (13% of the total population) lived in the USA and approximately one-quarter of its population were either first or second generation immigrants (Zong & Batalova, 2015). The majority of the newcomers to the USA came from Mexico (28%), followed by India and China, which both accounted for about 5% of immigrants to this country (Zong & Batalova, 2015). Germany and France were home to the largest bilateral migrant stocks in Europe (United Nations, 2014). In 2013, Germany hosted approximately 1.5 million immigrants from Turkey, many of whom settled there under the guest worker programme in the 1960s and 1970s, and France was home to about 1.5 million of immigrants from Algeria, a former French colony. Major migratory flows have also taken place in the states of the former Soviet Union, especially the Kazakhstan, Ukraine and the Russian Federation. In the South, Southern and Western Asia were host to some of the largest bilateral stocks of international migrants that included refugees from Afghanistan to Pakistan and Iran, and migrant workers from South Asia who had settled in the oil-producing Gulf States (United Nations, 2014). In fact, the Gulf countries are the top immigration countries, relative to their population. In 2011, 87% of Qatari population, 70% of the United Arab Emirates' population and 69% of the Kuwaiti population was foreign-born (The World Bank, 2011).

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Considering high fertility rates among many immigrant groups in the USA, Canada and Western Europe, it is anticipated that the population of these countries will become even more racially and culturally diverse in the future (Humes, Jones, & Ramirez, 2011). Research has shown that leisure plays an important role in ethnically and racially diverse societies. It is a context for positive interracial/interethnic interactions (Shinew, Glover, & Parry, 2004), it helps immigrant youth develop their identity (Stodolska & Yi, 2003), it allows immigrants to preserve ethnic culture (Allison & Geiger, 1993; Huang, Norman, Ramshaw, & Haller, 2015) and contacts with their communities of origin (Stodolska & Santos, 2006). Moreover, leisure fosters social cohesion (Peters, Elands, & Buijs, 2010) and contributes to cross-cultural understanding (Kim, Heo, King, & Kim, 2014; Tirone & Goodberry, 2011). Conversely, leisure activities and settings can be sites of interethnic/interracial tensions, conflict and discrimination (Blahna & Black, 1993; Sharaievska, Stodolska, Shinew, & Kim, 2010).

Few of the studies in our discipline, however, have explored broader aspects of leisure behaviour among immigrants, including how sport and tourism are experienced by the newcomers. Research on migrants in the field of tourism tends to concentrate on heritage tourism among first generation immigrants and more established ethnics (e.g., Coles & Timothy, 2004; De Santana Pinho, 2008; McCain & Ray, 2003). Scholarship in the area of sport, on the other hand, has explored a variety of topics related to race, ethnicity and migrations, including migration of athletes and sports personnel (e.g., Bale & Maguire, 1994; Carter, 2011), history of sport in immigrant communities (Innis-Jimenez, 2009) and immigrant sport clubs and associations (Moniz, 2007; Pescador, 2004). Moreover, the role of sport in national and ethnic identity development (e.g., Hassan, 2002; Maguire, 2001; Maguire, Jarvie, Mansfield, & Bradley, 2002; Palmer, 2001; Tiesler & Coelho, 2007), in promoting integration and breaking down racial and ethnic barriers (Walseth & Fasting, 2004), or conversely, in fostering interethnic conflicts, racism, stereotyping and discrimination (e.g., Brooks & Althouse, 1999; Carrington & McDonald, 2001; Cunningham, 2010; Jarvie, 2005) have also been examined. With few exceptions (e.g., the special issue of *Leisure Studies* on Race/Nation/Sport in 2004), these topics rarely enter the mainstream discourse in the leisure literature. This special issue is meant to help break down some of these artificial disciplinary boundaries and to showcase the diverse ways in which issues of migration, race and ethnicity intersect with recreation, tourism and sport. It features articles from an international group of authors that discuss migration issues in the context of the USA, New Zealand, Austria and Australia.

In the first paper, Perry, Xiao and Manning examine to what extent transportation is a barrier to national park visitation among Hispanic, Black and White residents of New York City. Their study shows that Blacks have the lowest rates of visitation to national parks of the three groups, but that Hispanics rate transportation constraints as the most important in limiting their access. Hispanic respondents are also most receptive to transportation “bridges”, or incentives, such as more/better forms of public transportation to/from parks. The findings of the study provide important insights on potential pathways the National Park Service (NPS) in the USA may take to encourage greater visitation and enjoyment of NPS units among minority residents.

The second paper by Kerr and Moore uses life story interviews with Russian gymnastics coaches who migrated to New Zealand and conceptual resources from

discursive psychology to examine how coaches understand unfamiliar cultural discourses relevant to their coaching practice, and how they respond to, and discursively negotiate these understandings. Kerr and Moore's findings reveal how migrant coaches have constructed discourses around their experiences in New Zealand that involved the recruitment of broader discussions concerning childhood, parenthood and social ideology.

In the third paper, Höglhammer, Stokowski, Muhar, Schauppenlehner, Yalcintepe and Renner examine the meanings and experiences of leisure among Turkish and Chinese immigrants to Austria. Their findings show that the meanings of leisure vary strongly among generations of immigrants and that people who migrate for labour purposes show stronger preferences for work over leisure. The study also reveals how cultural backgrounds affect attitudes to leisure and how immigration processes produce constraints to leisure participation.

In the fourth paper, Li, Sotiriadou and Auld examine how sport- and leisure-related factors influence the acculturation experiences of Chinese immigrants in Southeast Queensland, Australia. Their findings reveal that familiarity with an activity, duration of settlement, influence of key persons and community groups, and media related consumption of sport, impact the nature and extent to which sport and leisure provide conditions and opportunities for immigrants to interact with locals and experience local culture.

In the fifth paper, Iarmolenko and Kerstetter draw on theories of self-construal, media use, context of exit and entry, and destination image to explore factors motivating Ukrainian immigrants to the USA to travel to their ethnic homeland. Findings of the study suggest that older immigrants are less likely to travel to their home country than their younger counterparts and that a different set of destination image items matter for immigrants compared to a general tourist population.

Taken together, these papers provide evidence of the varied roles that leisure, sport and tourism play in the experiences of people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds and immigration status. Considering the growing diversity in the contemporary world and the scale of international and domestic migrations, we hope that this special issue will provide the impetus for future studies on how leisure, sport and tourism can improve well-being among minority members, quality of life in diverse communities and contribute to positive interracial/interethnic relations in destination countries. We would like to extend a special thanks to the reviewers for this special issue. They will be formally acknowledged of their contribution at the first issue of 2016.

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