WHY DO IMMIGRANTS FROM HONG KONG TO CANADA STAY OR LEAVE?

by

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ABSTRACT

A significant percentage of Hong Kong immigrants to Canada have now left Canada to

return to Hong Kong. In this study, survey data generated by the Chinese Stayer-

Returnee Project is used to compare "stayers" and "returnees" originally from, and those

who may have returned to, Hong Kong to examine the gap between their expectations

and their realities faced in Canada and Hong Kong. Evidence from the survey suggests

that substantial demographic differences exist between the "stayer" and "returnee"

groups. However, their responses to the key questions regarding their degree of

integration into Canada's economy and society are similar. Finally, a logit analysis is

used to try to identify the underlying factors that help explain the differences between the

stayer's and returnee's expectations and realities.

Key Words: Chinese Immigrant, Human Capital, questionnaire, Hong Kong, Canada,

brain circulation, logit.

至养我育我的父母，婉颖和嘉敏

I dedicate this paper
to my devoted parents,
Wanying and Jiamin.

父母：赴加国六载，虽未尝言回报，却无分毫孝敬，心极愧疚，唯望以此文表儿意。

婉颖：识卿卿少女，相知幸未恨晚，历尽委屈无怨，终眷天成，唯望以此文表匙意。

嘉敏：忆岁月如驹，夏天共读共玩，秋天休戚一心，笑骂至真，唯望以此文表文意。

文生有你夫复何求

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1 INTRODUCTION

Immigration and economic development has been a crucial issue for Canada's various governments since the beginning of the 20th century. Today, in a more contemporary setting, a focus in immigration policy is to expand immigration levels up to about 300,000[1] in order to supplement the Canadian skilled labour shortage. Thus, new policies have emerged to provide incentives for skilled workers to remain in Canada. For example, international students are now permitted to work part-time during their studies and, in most provinces, they may also work full-time for one year after graduation.

Recently, "return migration" has become one of the most significant Canadian immigration issues in the 21st century (DeVoretz and Shibao, 2006). The essential question asked is why do some immigrants stay and why do others return (Ley and Kobayashi, 2005)? Of particular interest is the further question: Why is return migration so prevalent amongst recent Chinese immigrants to Canada?

Chinese immigrants are prominent in Canada and are, in fact, the largest visible minority group with more than 1,100,000[2] Chinese living in Canada. In order to better understand the Chinese stayer-returnee motivation I propose the following study plan:

Stage 1 – The data collected for a sample stayer group from August 2003 to December 2006 is focused and analyzed the outcomes as reported by DeVoretz and Guo, 2006.)

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[1] The actual number of immigrants arriving Canada in 2005 is about 262,000 (CIC, 2006).
[2] According to the 2001 census, there were 1,029,400 Chinese in Canada, and the annual inflow of Chinese has been more than 20,000 since 2001.

Stage 2 – Returnee data collected between February 2005 and December 2006 is examined: 41 hard copy surveys and 124 online surveys were collected from returnees to Hong Kong.

Stage 3 –The findings for the stayers from stage 1 with those of returnees from stage 2 will be compared.

A Hong Kong-Chinese immigrant is defined in this study as a person who was born in Hong Kong (or held Hong Kong permanent resident status because he had lived in Hong Kong for more than ten years) and currently holds either Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent resident status.

For the purposes of this paper, a "stayer" is defined as a Hong Kong-Chinese immigrant who has immigrated to Canada and has since remained in Canada. A "returnee" is a Hong Kong-Chinese immigrant who has immigrated to Canada, and for any combination of reasons, has decided to return to Hong Kong.

There are two reasons for me to focus on the Hong Kong immigrants and return migrant population. First, Hong Kong immigrants were the dominant Chinese inflow from the late 1980's up to 1998 (Li, 1998). Second, the standard of living in Hong Kong is similar to Canada and therefore provides a more demanding test of the proposed returnee model in Section 3. Thus, the Hong Kongnese represents a cogent example of the stayer-returnee phenomenon.

How many Canadian Hong Kongnese have returned to Hong Kong? According to the 2001 Canadian Census, the total Chinese population in Canada was 1,029,400 and more than half spoke Cantonese as a first language. About forty percent of Cantonese speakers are from Hong Kong, therefore, the Canadian Hong Kongnese population in

Canada, circa 2001, can be estimated to be about 300,000 people. There is no official estimate of how many Canadian Hong Kongnese have returned to Hong Kong, but by examining the 2001 Hong Kong Census (cited in DeVoretz, Ma and Zhang, 2002) forty percent of the 85,793 Chinese who returned to Hong Kong between 1996 and 2001 previously resided in Canada, namely about 40,000 people. After 2001 the amount of returnees increased significantly and according to Statistic Canada Daily (March 2006), about fifty percent of past Hong Kong arrivals to Canada will have left within ten years after landing. This estimate implies that there are about 150,000 Canadian Hong Kongnese returnees now living in Hong Kong.

Organization of the paper

The paper is divided into the following five sections. Section 1 defines and introduces the stayer-returnee migration phenomenon. The next part, reviews the existing theoretical and empirical evidence regarding the re-migration issue. In section 3, a human capital model coupled with a triangular model of migration is constructed to explain the stayer-returner phenomenon.

Section 4 describes findings from the research data. The next section of the paper examines with the aid of a logit analysis whether there are any significant factors which influence the decision of Hong Kong immigrants to stay or leave Canada. I end the paper with conclusions and suggestions for further research.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

To understand the Chinese stayer-returnee phenomenon it is helpful to review the
evolution of Canada's immigration policy and the history of Chinese immigrants in
Canada. According to Li (1998) and Wong (1992), which are cited in DeVoretz and Guo
(2006), the three major waves of emigration from Hong Kong occurred 1) in the late
1950s, 2) after the 1967 Hong Kong riots and 3) during the uncertain period of the 1980s
to 1997. Our dataset mainly contains the third wave of Hong Kong immigrants. This
returnee migration started in early 1990s (Ma and Tian, 2006), and culminated in the
post- 1997 return to Hong Kong to exploit the growth in the mainland Chinese economy
and to enjoy the stable political environment.

Previous work on Hong Kong return migration relied on census data (DeVoretz,
Ma and Zhang 2002, DeVoretz and Zhang 2003, Ma and Tian 2006a, Ma and Tian
2006b), but all of these authors noted the inherent weakness[3] in the census data *in
isolating the forces which conditioned stay or leave decision.* Nonetheless, I would argue
that a pure interview methodology without quantitative analysis will lack the necessary
analytical rigour (e.g. Ley and Kobayashi 2005). Thus, I have followed the methodology
of the DeVoretz-Guo project, which develops a questionnaire approach to explore in
depth the motivations for staying or moving with a statistic analysis component.

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[3] Census data will provide only limited demographic information, few of them can provide us deeper
understanding on immigrant's motivations to stay or return.

3 TRIANGULAR THEORY OF RETURN MIGRATION BASED ON THE HUMAN CAPITAL MODEL

The conventional neo-classical framework (Todaro, 1969), which generally predicts one-way immigration movement, has been challenged by a new triangular model (DeVoretz and Ma 2002, DeVoretz and Zhang 2004). Based on the current immigration data, the triangular model was developed to go beyond the imperfect information assumption (DaVanzo 1981; Grant and Vanderkamp 1986) and information asymmetry (Stark 1995) motivations used to rationalize return migration. In addition to using the triangular model, I construct a more formal theoretical human capital framework to rationalize the set of research questions addressed in this paper to explain the stayer-returnee phenomenon.

The theoretical underpinnings of this research rely on the twin concepts of 'brain circulation' and a modified version of the human capital investment model (Ma and Tian 2006). Figure 1 below presents a schematic diagram of modern brain circulation as proposed by DeVoretz and Ma (2002).

Figure 1.   Simple Brain Circulation
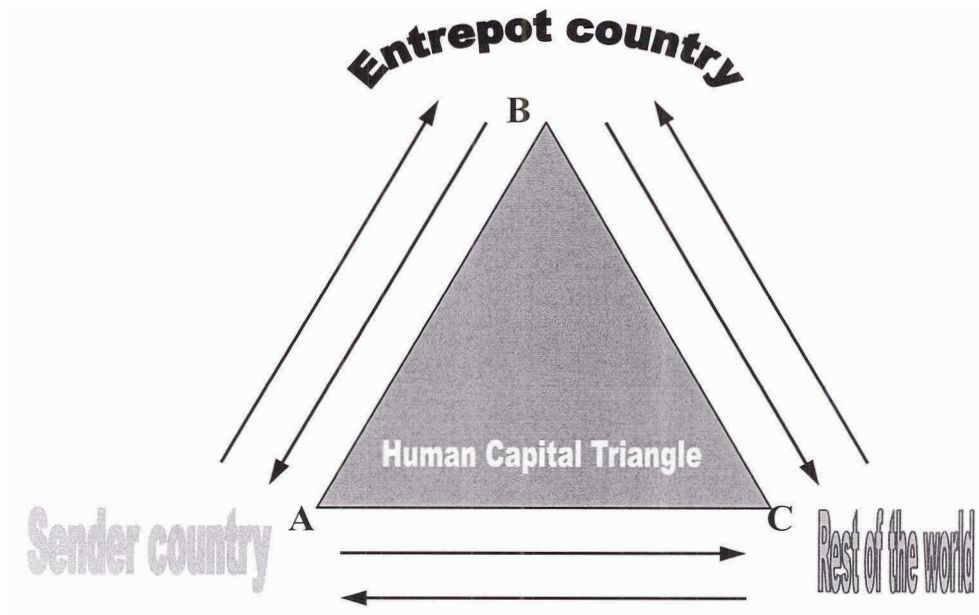
Source: DeVoretz and Ma (2002)

Under the dynamics of figure 1, highly skilled immigrants leave the sending region, move to Canada (the entrepot country) and then either stay or return (ABA) or move on to the rest of the world (ABC). The essence of the argument is that returning home or moving is not an expression of failure as depicted under the typical Neo-Classical model but part of an iterative strategy where the immigrant evaluates the following equation.

$$\text{Eq. 1} \quad C = \frac{\sum_{t=20}^{65}(\hat{Y}_{c,t} - \overline{Y}_{s,t})}{(1+r)^t}$$

In the above equation, C denotes the direct and indirect costs of migration and $\sum_{t=20}^{65}(\hat{Y}_{c,t} - \overline{Y}_{s,t})$ equals the sum of earnings differences over the migrant's lifetime as he

moves from the sending to the entrepot destination and the rate of return derived when

$$C = \sum_{t=20}^{65}(\hat{Y}_{c,t} - \overline{Y}_{s,t}) \ / \ (1+r)^t$$

The migrant's decision to stay or move can be predicted by comparing the expected return measured by income. If the expected return from moving exceeds a more certain income from staying then the individual would move (Assume they have a job and unemployment rate in HK is near zero). However, in reality the majority of people stay. Hence, in the sending region the majority of people evaluated their prospects and their expected return from migration was less than their realized actual return.

Human Capital Theory of Migration

Figure 2 represents a stylized view of the stayer-returnee decision process through the lens of the human capital investment model. For simplicity, I exploit this model to generate questions for my sample and to later analyze my stayer-returnee data. I assume that the individual earns a constant expected income of Y_1 from 20 to 65 before retirement, which is the average income level for Hong Kong stayers, which is used as benchmark in this model. The numbers in the figure are based on the findings of the data I will analyze in Section 4.

Figure 2.   Human Capital Analysis of Onward Migration
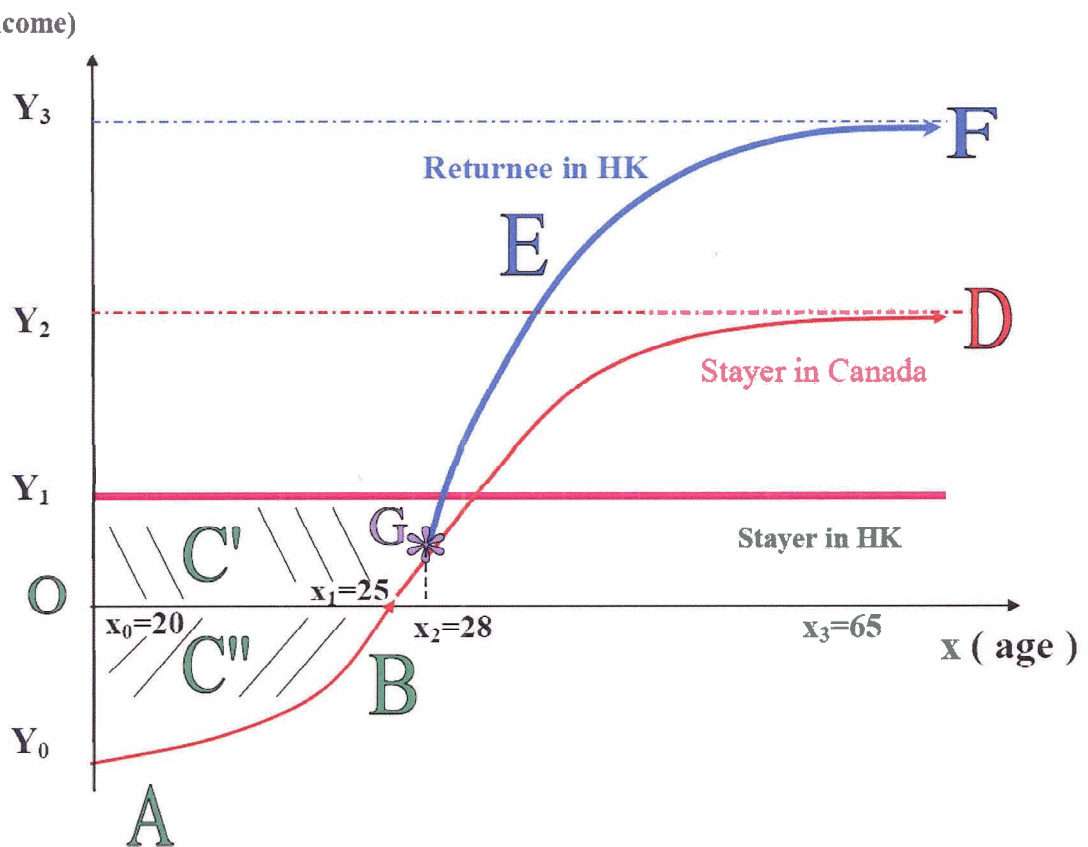
If the mover invests in himself in the form of moving to Canada, say at the age of 20, she will earn an income of Y_2 in Canada after accumulating human capital and experience. Under these conditions the migrant's total investment cost C can be divided into the amount C'+ C". C' is the indirect costs owing to foregone income while going to school and seeking employment after moving while C" is the costs incurred prior to get a job in Canada (travel costs, tuition costs). Based on the model, I assume that she starts to earn positive income starting from age 25.

The payoff to this joint investment in education and mobility occurs after age 28 when the educated student moves to the entrepot country and possibly earns Y_3 in Hong Kong. Depending on the migrant's risk aversion and the actual probability of earning Y_3, she will leave for the entrepot country (Canada). At age 28, the Chinese mover can now

see an earning option stream of Y_3 in Hong Kong and return home to Hong Kong after acquiring subsidized specific human capital (education) and general capital (language and citizenship).

The argument here relies on the assumption that a Hong Kongnese can accumulate more human capital at a subsidized cost in Canada than in Hong Kong. In addition, Chinese immigrants gain benefits from Canada's political stability and Canadian citizenship. This citizenship with a passport allows greater flexibility in travelling, and therefore is seen as possessing greater human capital from the employer's view point. In addition, Chinese immigrants perhaps gain English skills in Canada, which are desirable in Hong Kong[4]. Differential recognition of skills and their transferability also encourage return movement. Due to a lack of credential recognition, many new immigrants work at under skilled jobs in Canada but in Hong Kong, overseas qualifications are more acknowledged.

A more complicated and realistic version of the model is that a mover may leave Hong Kong with or without prior post secondary education. In this case if the migrant enters Canada and obtains a Canadian education then the earnings stream will be higher than those with post secondary education in Hong Kong, but may or may not be lower than the expected income if they return to Hong Kong, and then the migrant will likely stay in Canada (Zhang 2002). In short, by evaluating the various earnings streams open to the mover she can make her decision to stay, migrate, or return home.

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[4] Many media and studies have shown the decreasing English ability of Hong Kongnese since 1997.

Some Hypotheses

When I combine the stylized facts inherent in the triangular model and in the

human capital model, some hypotheses emerge which can shed light on the migrants

sorting problem.

Based on the human capital model in Figure 3, my research hypotheses are:

1) Hong Kong stayers should have less human capital than Hong Kong leavers to

Canada.

2) Returnees to Hong Kong should have more human capital than stayers in Hong Kong

or Canada.

3) Returnees to Hong Kong should earn more than stayers in Canada or Hong Kong.

In addition, given the arguments embedded in the triangular model of migration

described above, several more propositions emerge, including:

1) Returnees to Hong Kong are likely to be Canadian citizens.

2) Returnees to Hong Kong are likely to hold Canadian degrees.

3) Returnees to Hong Kong are likely to experience rapid promotion given their existing

social and human capital.

4 QUESTIONNAIRE DATA

An important methodological problem faced during this research is creating a representative sample for the Hong Kong portion of the return data sample in the DeVoretz-Guo project's dataset. I faced challenges of sample size and coverage given both the expense of data collection and the distance involved. Hence, to reduce costs, I have used both a combined web-based survey and an in person questionnaire approach. The latter approach is used to supplement missing portions of the sample.

I list below some evidence in support of the argument that my sample is representative of both the Hong Kong stayer and returnee populations.

For the stayer part of the survey the total sample size is 156: among which 62 were collected from organizations from the Vancouver area (mainly S.U.C.C.E.S.S.) in the form of a hard copy survey (September 2004 - June 2005); 43 were collected from five Chinese organizations in Edmonton in the form of hard copy survey (2004 - 2005); and 51 were collected in the form of an online survey across Canada[5] (August 2003 - September 2006). The total sample size is 123 for the returnee part of the sample – among which 11 were from a hard copy survey (February 2005 - April 2006) and 112 were from an online survey (September 2005 - September 2006). We estimate that about thirty percent of those are from the SFU Hong Kong alumni group.

The questionnaire which can be found in Appendices consists of four sections:

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[5] Tyson Wolmuth created the online questionnaire at http://www.riim.metropolis.net/frameset_e.

1) Basic demographic information gathered to ensure the representative nature of the sample.

2) Questions developed to determine the motivation for moving to Canada for stayers, and the motivation for both moving to Canada and returning to China for returnees.

3) Questions about the social and economic experiences in Canada for stayers and Hong Kong for returnees.

4) Open ended questions for the sampled Hong Kongnese to make policy suggestions.

The human capital model from section 3 suggests that immigrants either decide to stay in the entrepot country (Canada) or return to the original country (Hong Kong), depending on which location yields them higher expected returns. Based on this reasoning, predictions for the demographic differences between stayers and returnees are made based on human capital theory. In the following pages, I describe the main demographic findings related to the human capital model (age, marital status, etc) as reported from my sample.[6]

Section 1: Demographics

This section of the survey examines the demographic makeup of the sample population. Each figure was generated by a specific question in the questionnaire.

A. Age and Marriage

Human capital theory argues that younger and single people will be better equipped to realize the gains from migration. Figures 3 and 4 report evidence on the age and marital status for the stayer and returnee groups.

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Figure 3.   Age distribution for stayers and returnees
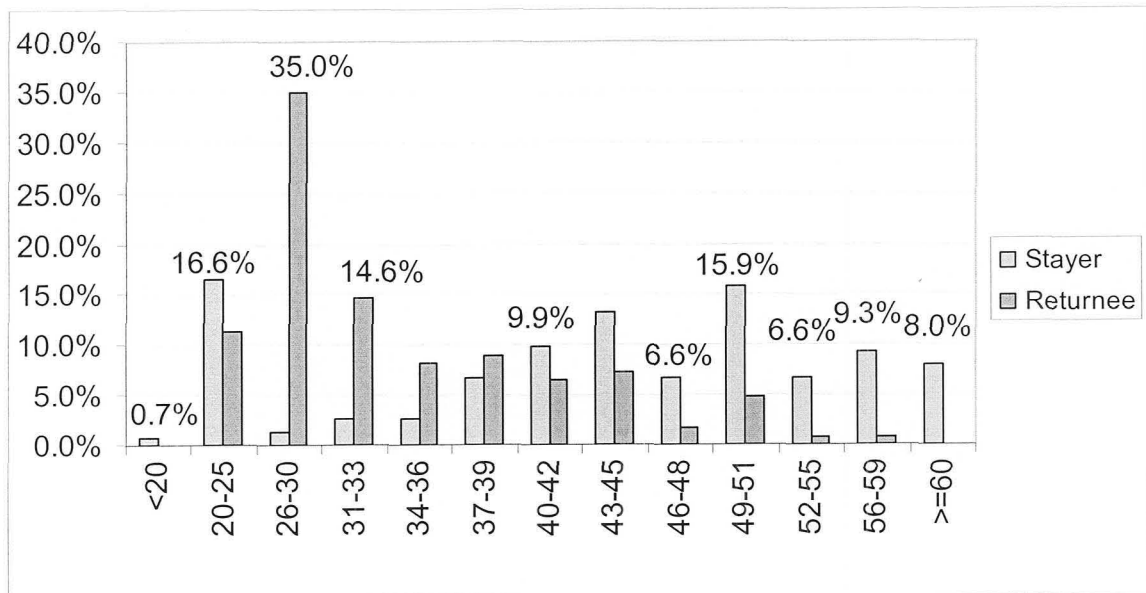
Figure 4.   Marital Status for stayers and returnees
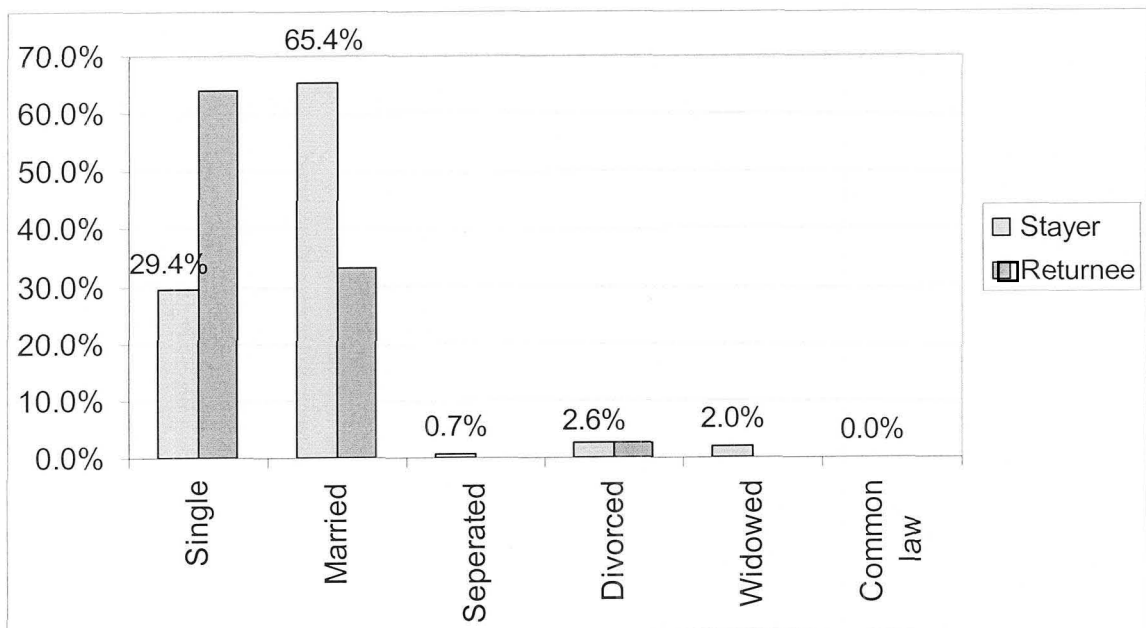
Comparing the 2001 census population distribution for the Canadian Chinese in Canada (mean age = 41.7) and in Hong Kong (mean age = 38.7), we can see our stayer population is relatively older (mean age = 43.1) than the entire Chinese population as reported by the 2001 Canadian census.

The returnee population is relatively younger (mean age = 33.3) and reflects the fact that a main component of the sample is SFU alumni. Generally speaking, our sample age distribution reflects the census distribution reasonably well. The returnee group is younger than the stayer group and more apt to form a household unit. This finding is confirmed by figure 6 which exhibits the stayers' and returnees' marital status. We see that about 65% of stayers are married, while about 65% of returnees are single indicating that single people are more mobile.

B. Gender

Now we will look at whether there is a tendency for one gender to stay and one to return. Do males and females make the same type of staying and returning decisions?

Figure 5.   **Gender breakdown for stayers and returnees**
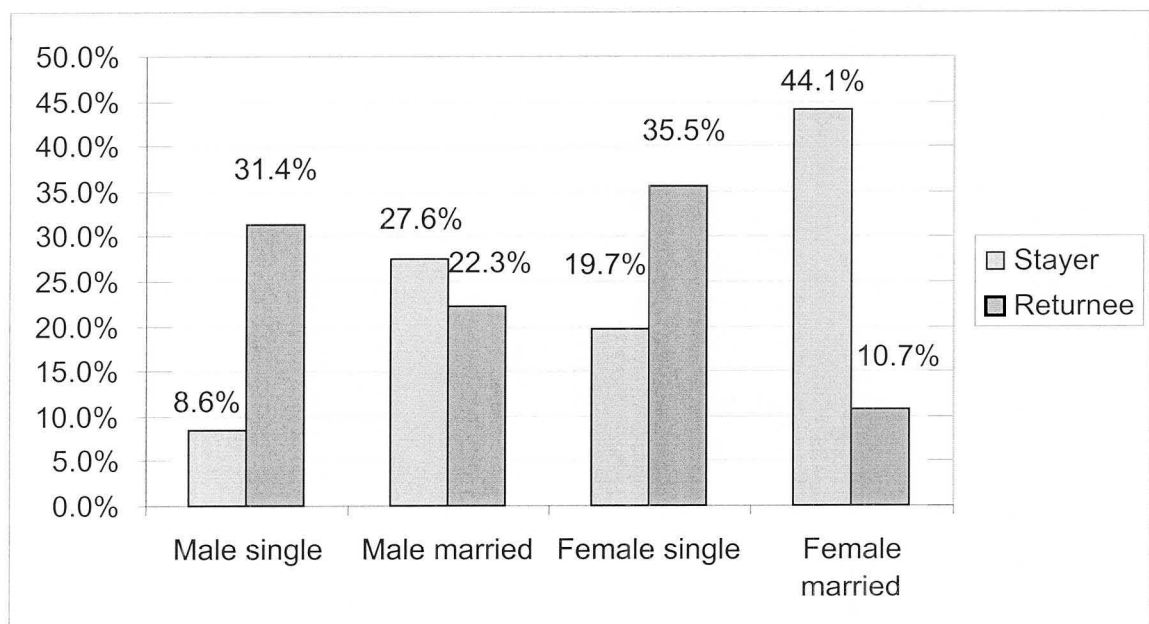
Figure 5 shows us that there is a higher percentage of females staying (63.8% vs. 36.2%) and more males returning (53.7% vs. 46.3%), especially from the married group. This implies that there are socio-economic motivations for decisions of the returnee group because in Chinese families the husband is the main person to earn money. For single people, there is a greater percentage of females staying in Canada (19.7% vs 8.6%), but the marital status distribution for returnees is almost even (31.4% vs 35.5%). According to the human capital model, this means that the expected return difference between staying and returning is similar for both single male and female immigrants. Also single people are usually young and less concern to return.

In sum, females are less apt to return.

C. Residence Status

Participants are asked about their residence status since the greater degree of permanent status (including citizenship) could imply greater integration into the Canadian society, and their ability to increase their economic returns in Canada. Both groups are predominately Canadian citizens (75%) with about 10% of returnees only holding permanent Canadian residence status which implies that they will lose this status after returning to Hong Kong. Also, since the majority of returnees are Canadian citizens the prediction of the triangular model which argues that acquisition of a Canadian passport raises the return in the human capital model seems to hold for this returnee group.

D. Educational Level

Education is the key investment tool in the human capital model and drives the motive to move as argued earlier, and Figures 6 and 7 report this feature.

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Figure 6.   Education Level Distribution of stayers and returnees
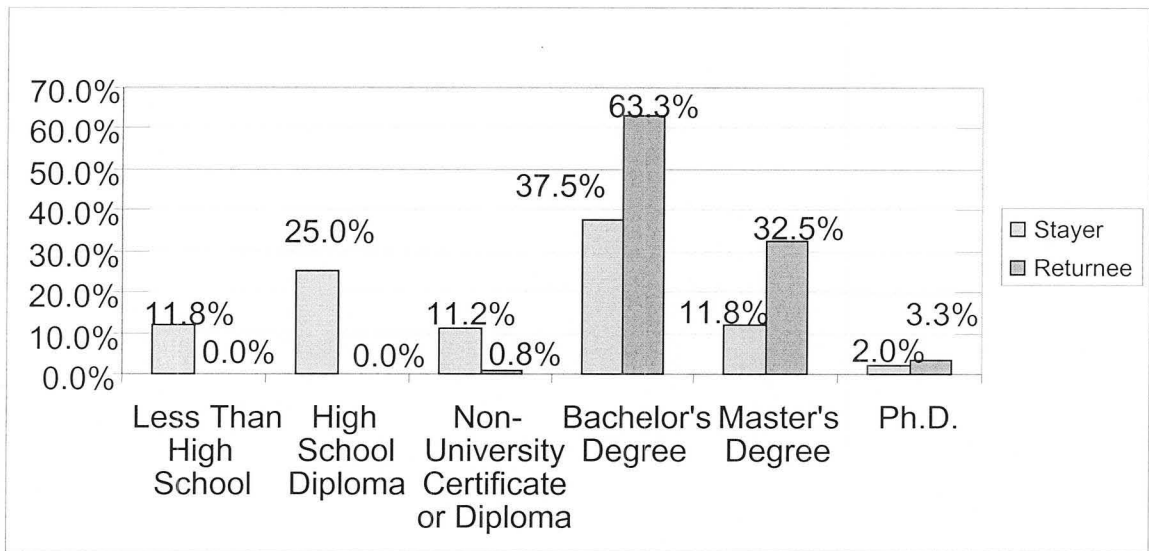
Figure 7.   Origin of Education of stayers and returnees
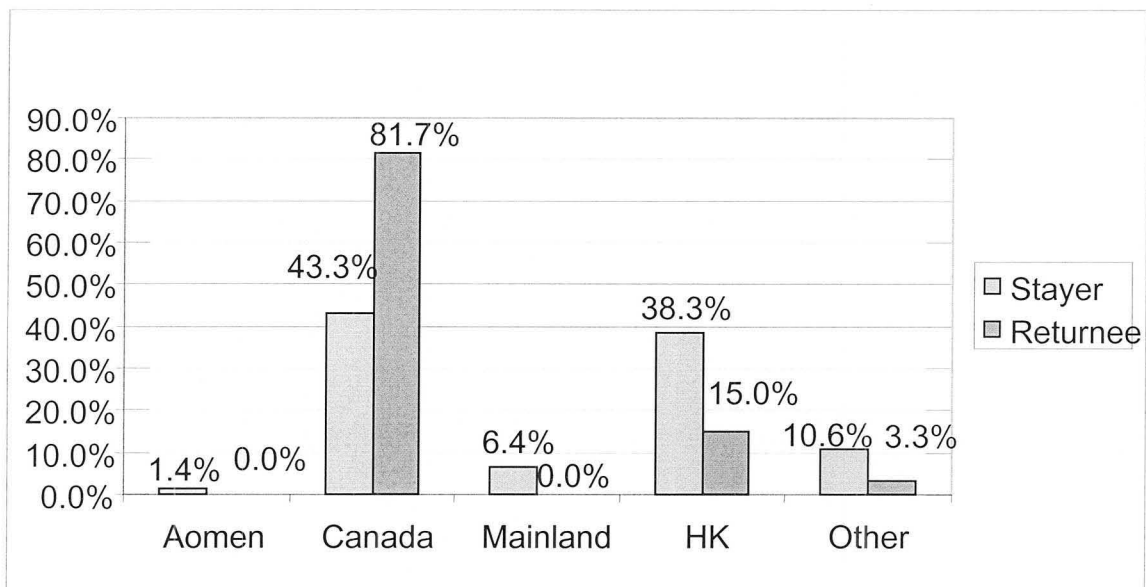
The returnee group is more educated with 99.2% having received a Bachelor's

degree or higher[7], while for the stayers only 52% had this level of education. 81.7% of

the returnees were educated in Canada while the corresponding figure is 43.3% for the

[7] Note that more than 30% of the returnee sample is SFU alumni, which might overestimate returnees' education level, and probably income as well.

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stayers. All these observations are consistent with the predictions of the 'triangular model': people choose the entrepot country where the education system is subsidized to acquire human capital, and then move on to the rest of the world for higher incomes.

Section 2: Experience in Canada

The immigrants' social and economic experience in Canada plays a crucial role in forming their decisions to stay or return, which is what Section 2 in the questionnaire is designed to address.

A. Length of Stay in Canada and in Hong Kong

Theoretically, living longer in a place should increase the resident's earnings and increase the odds for staying. Is it true for our sample?

As shown in Figure 8a, the length of stay in Canada is similar for the stayer (mean = 8.8 years) and the returnee (mean = 8.7) group. But 62.2% of stayers have been in Canada for at least 10 years, whereas only 33.9% of the returnees have been in Canada for a comparable amount of time.

In Figure 8b, the length of residence in Hong Kong for returnees is relatively long (mean = 6.3 years), with 64.1% less or equal to 6 years, while 34.2% have returned for less than or equal to 3 years. This time pattern implies that the return stream in this sample started mainly after 1997 when the security of Hong Kong was more judged accurately.

Figure 8.   **(a) Length of stay for stayers and returnees and**
             (b) How long returned to China for returnees

(a)
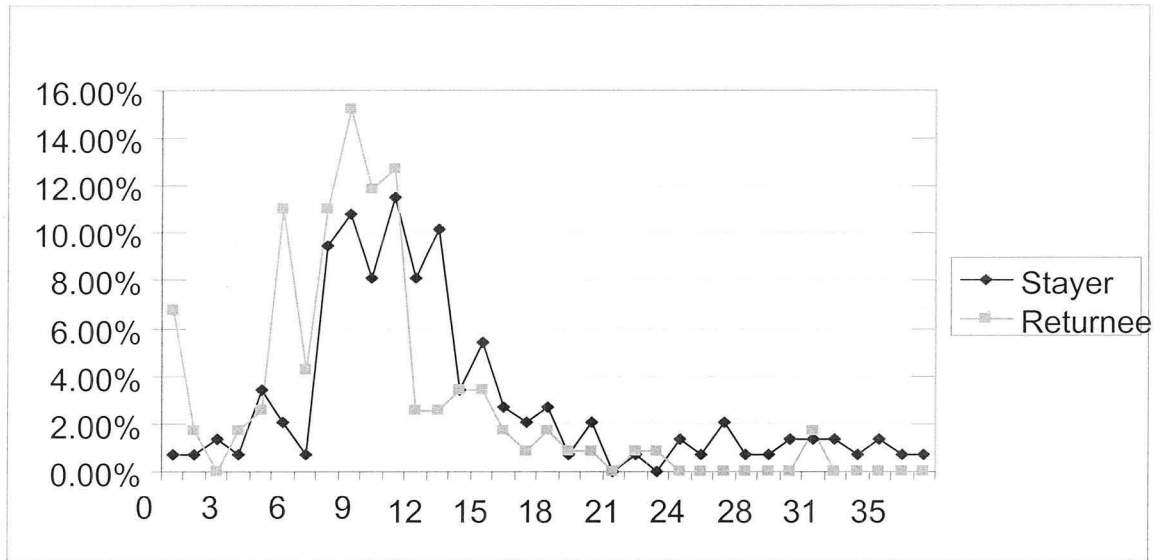
(b)
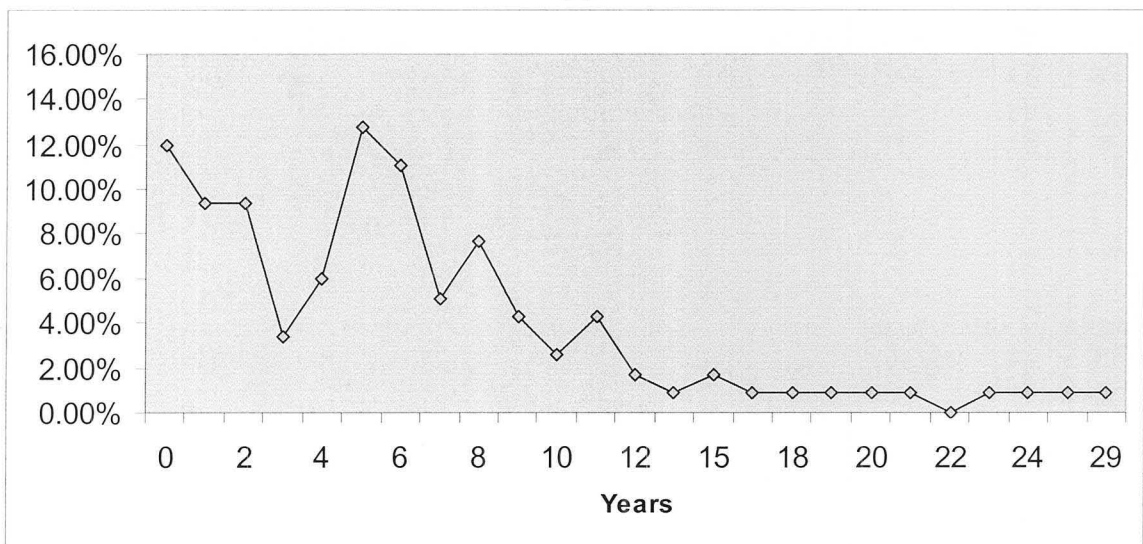
B. Motivations

In the human capital model, the expected return is the main motivation to stay or

return. Is this true for my sample? Moreover, are the motivations to move different for

the stayers and returnees, therefore leading to their different movement patterns?

Figure 9. **(a) Motivations for Moving to Canada for stayers; (b) Motivations for Moving to Canada for returnees; (c) Main motivations returned to China for the returnees**

(a)
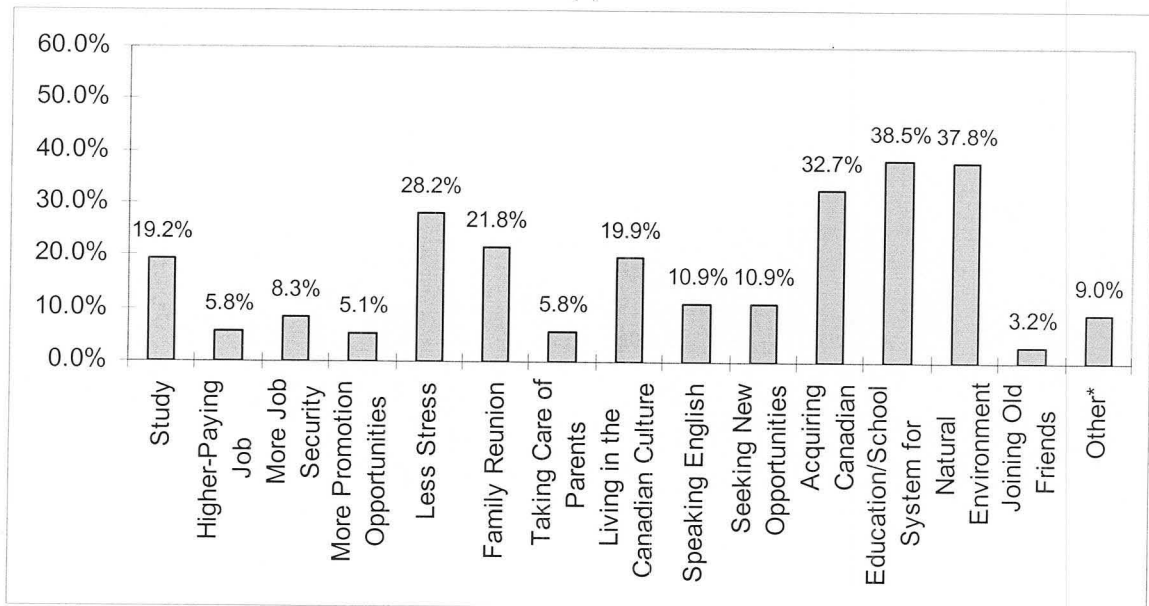
(b)
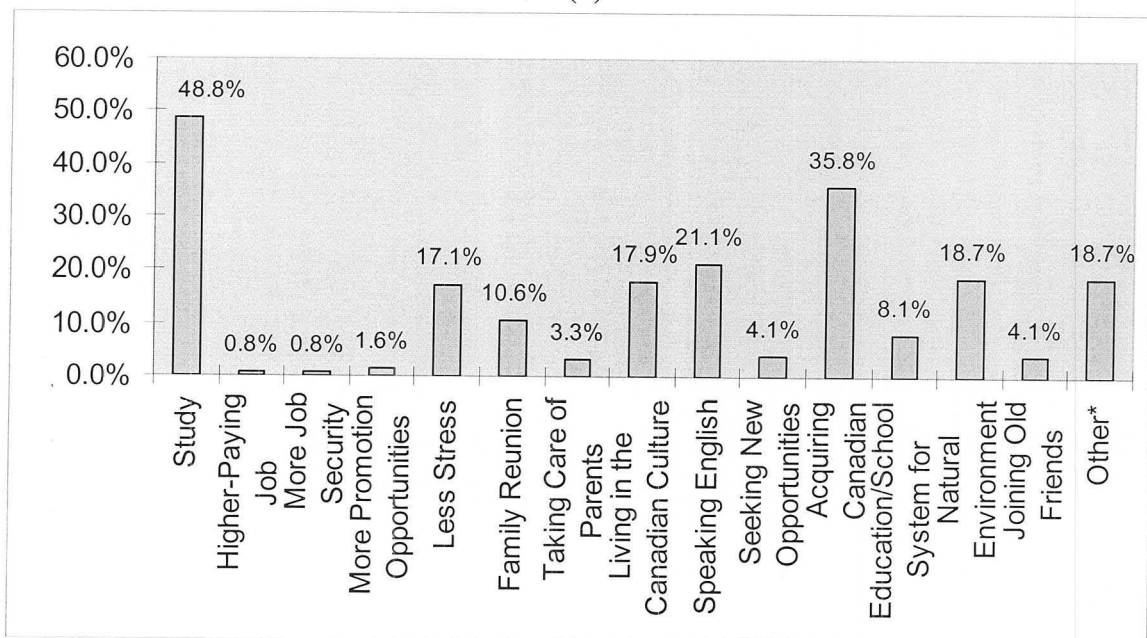
(c)
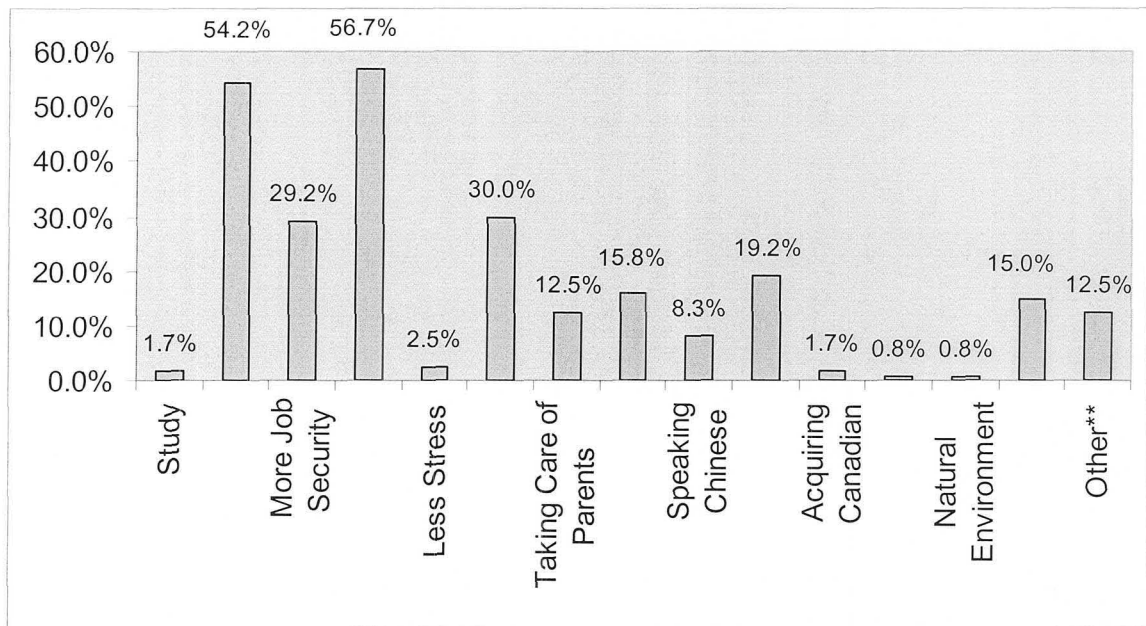
Citizenship acquisition is a key motivation for both stayers (32.7%) and returnee (35.8%) to initially move to Canada (Figure 9a for stayer and Figure 9b for stayer). Stayers were also motivated to move to Canada to access education for their children (38.5%), enjoy the Canadian environment (37.8%) and less stressful environment (28.2%). Returnees were highly motivated to study in Canada (48.8%), which explains why returnees have greater education levels in Figure 6. In sum, economic opportunity as expressed by income is not the main reason why stayers moved to Canada, rather, their decisions are multi-faceted.

For returnees, the main motivation to move to Canada was to study and gain citizenship which further confirms the predictions of triangle model of migration. The main factors motivating their return to Hong Kong are mainly economics, including access to higher-paying jobs (54%), greater job security (29%), job promotion

opportunities (57%) and family reunification (30%). These employment related reasons which motivated their return, are consistent with a human capital framework.

C. Achievement of goals.

Whether one's main goals are realized through migration is one of the main questions which may reveal the underlying motivation to stay or leave. We explore the realization of these goals below.

Even though their motivations to come to Canada differ for stayers and returnees, both stayers (75%) and returnees (89%) achieved their main goals in Canada. Now we have a paradox, returnees whilst having achieved their goals now may return. What is their reasoning behind this? In the next section, we will run a logit analysis to find the factors influencing their answers. For those who claimed not to achieve their main goals, there are numerous inhibiting factors, such as weak language ability, poor social networking and sparse employment and we will explore the influence of these forces in a more rigorous manner.

Figure 10. **(a) Preventing Factors in Canada for stayers; (b) Preventing Factors in Canada for returnees;**

(a)

(b)
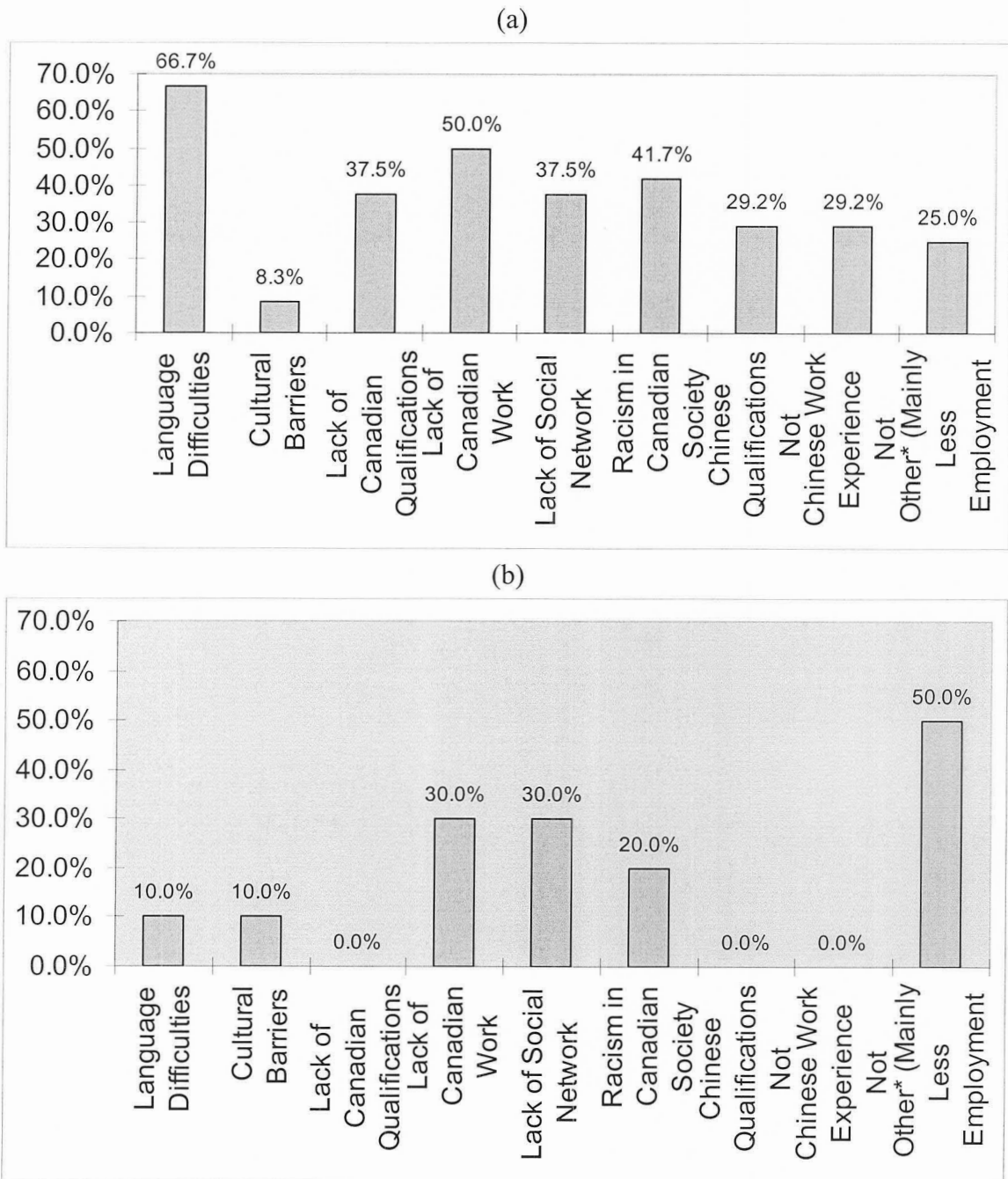
Section 3 Experience in destination country

What are the actual barriers to integration for these movers whether in Hong Kong or Canada for either the returnees or stayers? Moreover, what was their degree of economic integration as measured by their earned incomes in either place?

A. Integration Experience in Canada.

Do stayers encounter major difficulties in Canada and returnees in Hong Kong? If so, what are the difficulties? In the following tables we tease out the factors which affect the integration experience for the Chinese.

For the Hong Kong stayers in Canada, 51.5% said major difficulties they faced were derived from a lack of cultural adjustment (45.6%), limited language skills (70.6%), lack of social networking (51.5%), reduced employment opportunities (51.5%) and simply being a foreigner (29.4%). In direct comparison, 60% of the returnees say they did not encounter any major difficulties, which means upon return migrants found integration easier. For those returnees who answer yes there did exist difficulties, cultural adjustment (78%), social networking (63%) and pollution (58 %) were the source of these difficulties.

Figure 11.   **(a) Major Difficulties encountered in Canada for stayers; (b) Major Difficulties encountered after returning to China for returnees.**

(a)

(b)
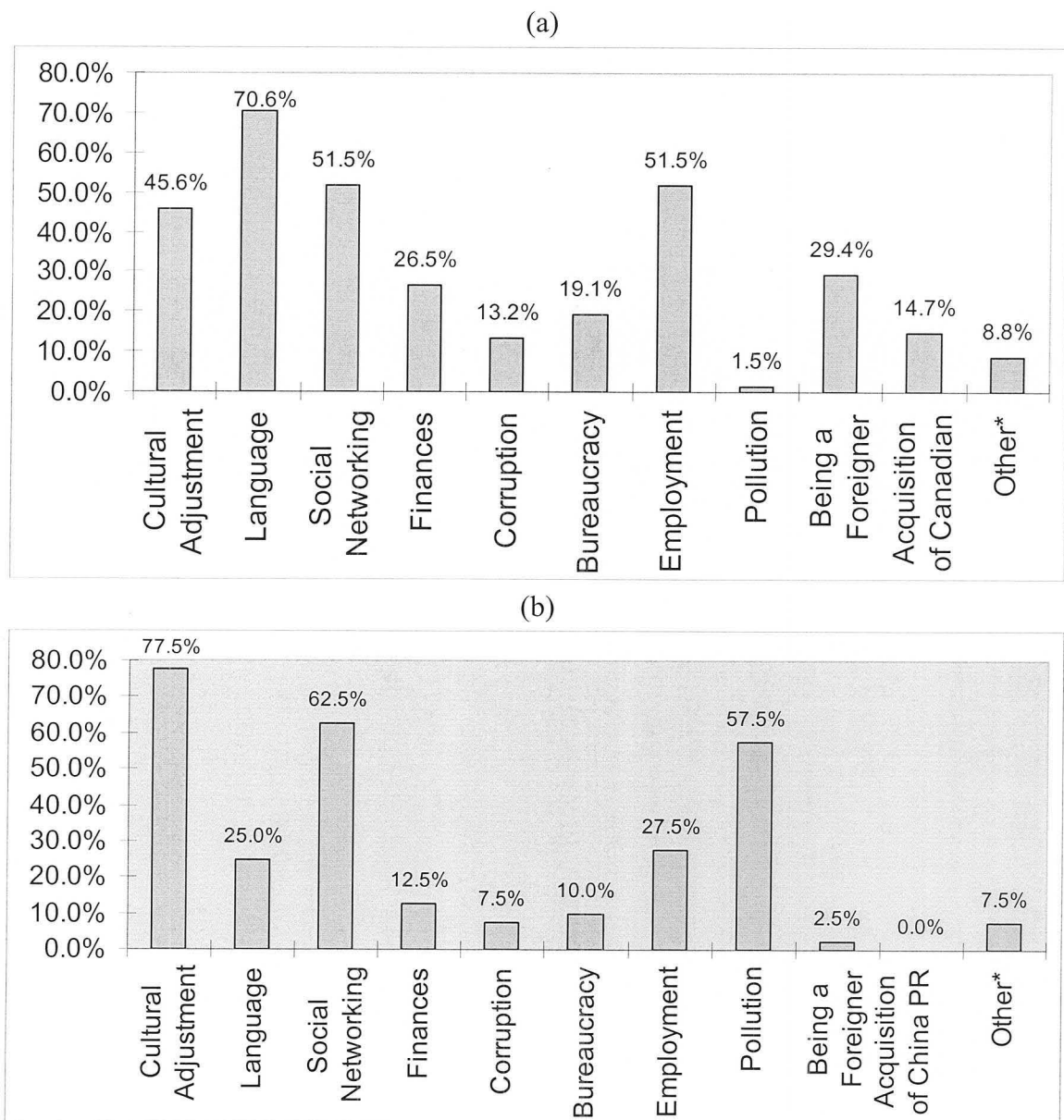
B. Household Income by location and mover-stayer status

The human capital model predicts that moving and staying ultimately rests on the income earned at various locations. I analyze these outcomes below.

Figure 12. **(a) Household Income in China (in CAD) for stayers; (b) Household Annual Income in Canada (in CAD) for stayers; (c) Household Income in Canada (in CAD) for returnees; (d) Household Annual Income in China now (in CAD) for returnees.**

(a)
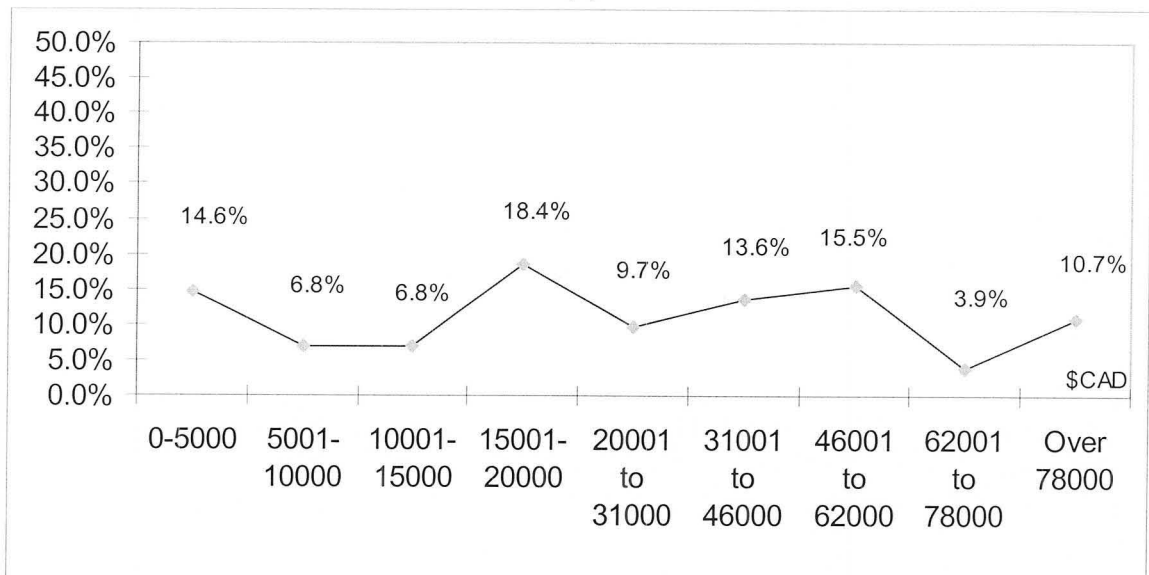
(b)
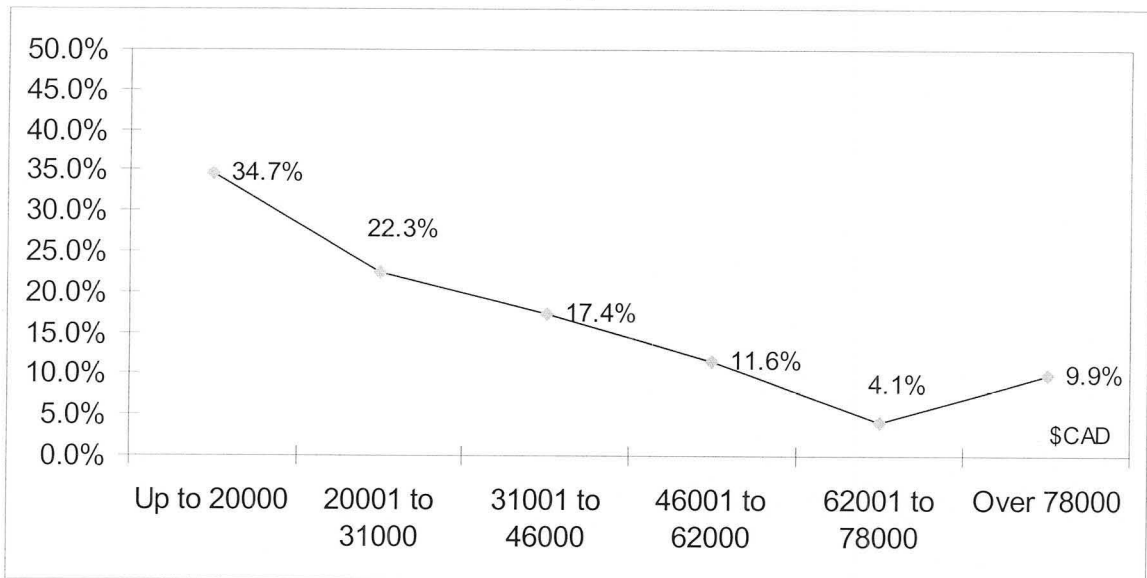
(c)
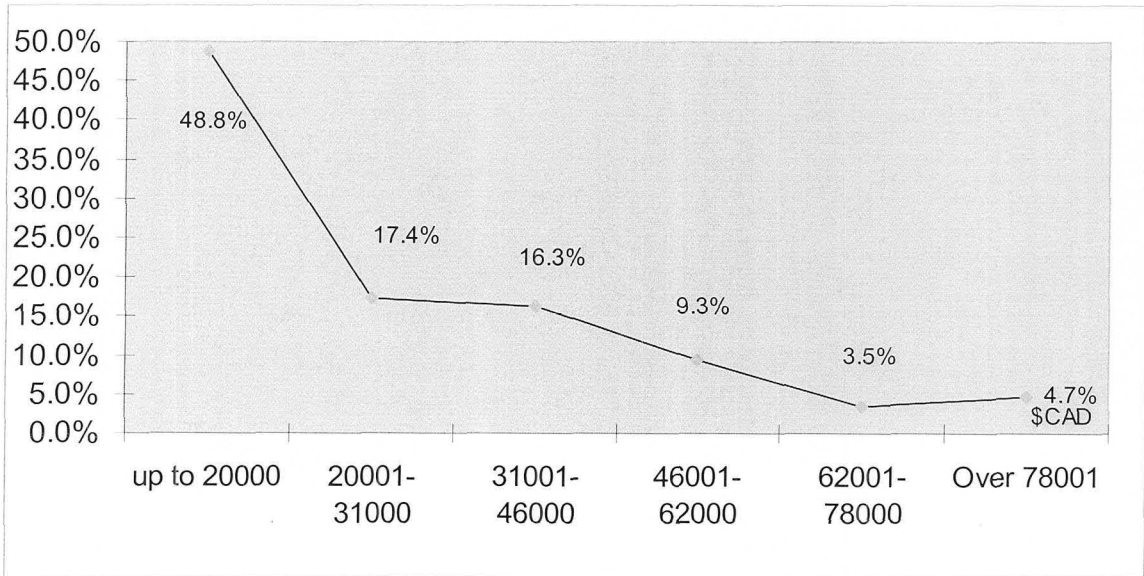
(d)
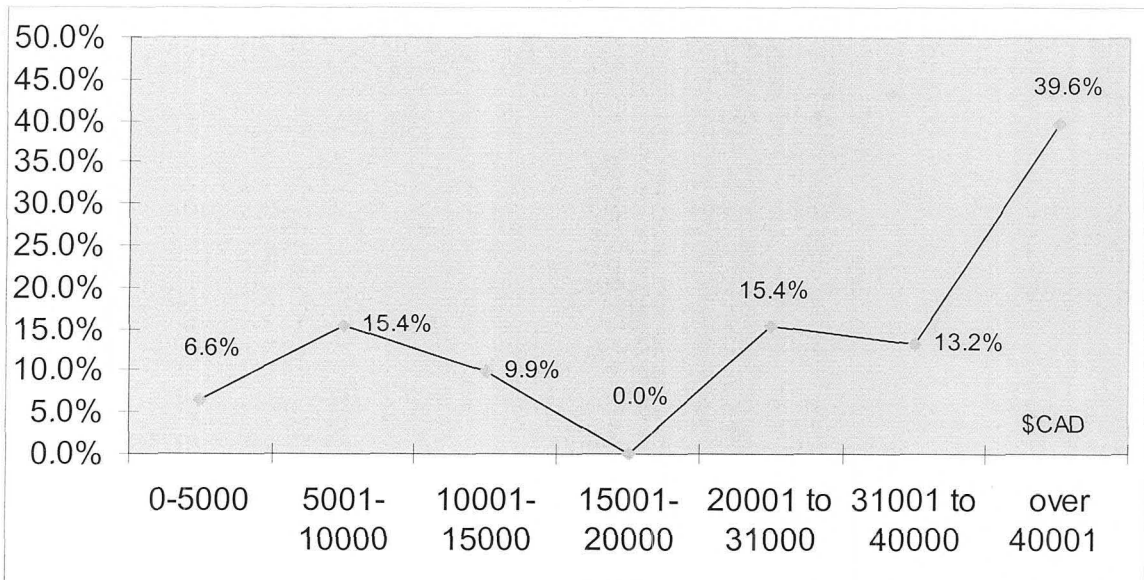
It should be noted first that the answers contained in Figures 12a - d are sensitive questions, especially for those filling in hard copies of the questionnaires. Since 10% choose not to respond; the validity of the income data in the statistical analysis can be questioned.

For stayers, the average annual household income is $41,231 CAD before moving to Canada and $36,190 CAD while residing in Canada. For returnees, the average annual household income is $31,575 CAD in Canada before returning to China and $22,482 CAD in China. One reason for this decrease in income is because of the purchasing power issue. If we use a PPP-based exchange rate, such as the Big Mac Index, then the exchange rate is 3.4 HKD/ CAD and the income in Hong Kong is actually higher than Canada. For example, the returnee can actually make $39,674 CAD according to PPP-based exchange rate, which is $8,099 CAD more than what they earned in Canada, and $3,484 CAD more than the stayers in Canada. For stayers, the income in Hong Kong is always higher than in Canada under both the nominal and PPP exchange rate. Also if we see the percentage comparison, for returnee, 49% were lower than $20,000 CAD in Canada, and only 32 % are lower than $20,000 CAD after returning to Hong Kong. Together with the PPP exchange rate factor, this reveals that the returnee's economic performance is actually better. For stayer, 46.6% had an income lower than $20,000 CAD in China before moving to Canada and 34.7% in Canada now. This fits the finding from Figure 11a about their working difficulties in Canada. The stayer's economic performance is actually worse.

This suggests that income is not the dominating factor in the stay-move decision. But for returnees, the main motivations to return to Hong Kong is higher income. This fits the predictions of the human capital.

C. Overall Comparisons

A series of questions tried to summarize their overall life experience of the Chinese migrants. In particular, the answer to these questions: "describe your life as a

whole in Canada" and "describe your life in China now compared with Canada or initially in China before moving to Canada" are revealing. For stayers, those who said their life is *much better or better* (35.1%) constitute a larger group than those who said *worse or much worse* (21.1%), or those who said their life was the same (32.5%). Similarly, for returnees, those who said *much happier or happier* (47%) represent a greater percentage than those who said they were *worse or much worse* (23%), or the 30% who said their life was the *same.*

The questionnaire also reveals that 50% of returnees said they are happier in China now as compared to before they migrated with only 14% indicating that they are *less happy* and 36% feeling the *same.* Again, this is consistent with the triangular model: people accumulate more human capital in entrepot country and then have a better life when moving to the rest of the world later.

Another important question asks if they had any regrets about moving to Canada or for same returning to Hong Kong[8]. For stayers, 59% said *no* and 31.5% said *in some ways* they had regrets. For the returnee, even more, 70 % said they had *no* regrets and 26% said *in some way* they had.

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[8] I did not do adjustment here because while kids just follow their parents' decisions, they can still feel regret or not.

5 LOGISTICAL REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR STAYER-RETURNEES

I next ask which factors are more significant than others. What do some of the major questions in the questionnaire tell us about the underlying motivations to stay or leave? I examine several of these important questions through a logit analysis to isolate the significant factors.

Model setup

Similar to DeVoretz-Guo's paper, I assume the questions which contain a *yes* or *no* answer can be described using the logistic function[9].

First, I look at three crucial questions: 1) whether immigrants achieved their main goal in Canada (goal), 2) whether they encountered difficulties (difficulty), and 3) whether they regret coming (regret), where Y=1 if they say *yes*, Y=0 if they say *no*. These questions are of interest because the participant's answers may reveal their underlying motivations to stay or return.

I performed a logit analysis on Yes and No answers to these questions. X_i are independent variables on the right hand side: gender (figure 5 male=1, female=2), marital Status (single/separated/divorced/widowed =1, married/common law =2), education level (six categories ranged from *Less than high school*=1 to *PhD*=6), where they received their highest level of education (China: Mainland, Taiwan, HK, Macao =1 or non-China =0), number of years in Canada, and returned to China for returnee, different income

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[9] I thank James Kwan for this insight.

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level (for stayer, his income in Canada minus income in China; for returnee, his income in China now minus income in Canada). These are the variables which the human capital model suggests should have significant effect on migrant's decision to stay or return[10].

Logit result interpretations

I used STATA to perform maximum likelihood estimation, I choose the significance level to be 5% for two tail test, or $z* = 1.960$. The main results are reported below:

Table 1 analyzes whether stay or return decision depends on gender, marital status, education level, where educated, years in Canada and income in Canada as the independent variables. Marital status, education level, where educated, year in Canada all obtain a high level of significance. The results imply that single and/or higher educated immigrants holding a non-China (Canadian) degree are more likely to return and would stay in Canada a relatively shorter period of time, which fit the human capital's hypothesises. In contrast, gender and income in Canada appear to play no significant effect in people's decision to stay or move.

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[10] Compared with DeVoretz-Guo paper, I do not use an age variable to avoid the multi-collinearity problem (correlation > 0.5) with variables like *Years in Canada and China*, which will reduce the significance for econometric hypothesis testing.

Table 1.   Logit analysis of whether to stay or return.

stayreturn		Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>|z|	[95% Conf. Interval]	
gender	-0.0438	0.3651	-0.12	0.905	-0.7593	0.6718
*marstc	**-0.7924**	**0.3955**	**-2.00**	**0.045**	**-1.5676**	**-0.0173**
*educ	**1.5508**	**0.2984**	**5.20**	**0.000**	**0.9659**	**2.1358**
*ecoun	**-1.6693**	**0.4628**	**-3.61**	**0.000**	**-2.5765**	**-0.7622**
*yrcastay	**-0.1574**	**0.0357**	**-4.40**	**0.000**	**-0.2274**	**-0.0874**
incan	-7.68e-06	0.0000	-0.67	0.504	-0.0000	0.0000
_cons	-2.8360	1.3871	-2.04	0.041	-5.5547	-0.1173

Notes: Number of observations = 237, Pseudo R2 = 0.3993

I now analyze the question "**Have you achieved your main goals in Canada? a. yes, b. no.**" Table 2 and Table 3 present an analysis of this question.

For the returnee, with a sample size of 96, none of the estimated coefficients are significant. I also performed a joint significance test with the seven variables and the chi-square value is 4.09 (which is less than 12.02, the chi-square critical value for degree of freedom 7 at 10% significance level), so there is no joint significance for all variables as well[11]. I believe the main reason for the insignificant coefficients is that the sample size of 96 is not large enough. In addition, about 90% of the respondents answered "yes", which implies there is not enough variation in the data[12].

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[11] The similar regressions in DeVoretz and Guo (2006) have more significant variables, such as age, marital status, and whether one obtained his degree and income in Canada, since their sample size is more than 200.

[12] Basic statistics says larger sample size will reduce the variance of the sampling distribution and therefore increase the z value and significance.

Table 2.   **Logit analysis of "main goal" question for returnee**

goal	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>|z|	[95% Interval]	
gender	1.003	0.9902	1.01	0.311	-0.9375	2.9442
marstc	2.2114	1.6011	1.38	0.167	-0.9267	5.3495
educ	0.0297	1.1596	0.03	0.980	-2.2431	2.3024
ecoun	-1.3293	1.3848	-0.96	0.337	-4.0434	1.3847
yrcastay	0.0005	0.1107	0.00	0.996	-0.2165	0.2175
yrca	-0.1367	0.0943	-1.45	0.147	-0.3214	0.0481
diffincome|	0.0000	0.0000	0.84	0.403	-0.0000	0.0001
_cons	-0.1265	4.9770	-0.03	0.980	-9.8812	9.6283

Notes: Number of observations = 96, Pseudo R2 = 0.1117
Joint test: gender = marstc = educ = ecoun = yrcastay = yrca = diffincome = 0
chi2(7) =   4.09   Prob > chi2 =   0.7696

For stayers, the sample size is 121 and the only significant variable is the

lengthstay. In addition, the joint significant test with the other 5 variables and the Chi-

square value implies that there is no joint significance for the rest of the variables as well.

This means an increase in the length of staying in Canada significantly increased the log

odds of stating since this the log odds of having achieved their main goal in Canada

improved.

Table 3.   **Logit analysis of "main goal" question for stayer**

goal	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>|z|	[95% Conf. Interval]	
gender	-0.2604	0.5594	-0.47	0.642	-1.3568	0.8361
marstc	0.7891	0.6102	1.29	0.196	-0.4069	1.9851
education	-0.2502	0.2269	-1.10	0.270	-0.6949	0.1945
econu	0.1824	0.6938	0.26	0.793	-1.1775	1.5423
*lengthstay	0.1256	0.0546	2.30	0.021	0.0186	0.2326
diffincome	-3.84e-06	5.98e-06	-0.64	0.521	-0.0000	7.88e-06
_cons	-0.0325	1.6200	-0.02	0.984	-3.2077	3.1427

Notes: Number of observations = 121, Pseudo R2 = 0.1147
Joint test: gender = marstc = education = ecoun = diffincome = 0
chi2(5) =   6.26   Prob > chi2 =   0.2818

Tables 4 and 5 analyze whether the immigrants who experienced difficulties in the destination country or who had regrets about moving to their destination country were conditioned by a variety of factors. .

For returnees with a sample size of 93, the specific question is: "**Since your return to China, have you encountered any major difficulties in re-integrating into the Chinese society? a. yes b. no**"

The only significant variable is *yrcastay* with positive sign. The joint significance test with the other 6 variables and the Chi-square value indicates there is no joint significance for the rest of the variables as well. This means an increase in the length of staying in Canada did significantly increase the log odds of stating that the log odds of having encountered difficulties after returning to China. Considering the society in Hong Kong is very different than in Canada, this means the longer they stay in Canada, the further they are away from Hong Kong customs, and the more difficulties they will have after returning Hong Kong, especially in the short run.

Table 4.   Logit analysis of "difficulty" question for returnee

difficulty	Coef.	Std.Err.	z	P>|z|	[95% Conf. Interval]	
gender	0.8239	0.5107	1.61	0.107	-0.1771	1.8249
marstc	0.8466	0.6116	1.38	0.166	-0.3522	2.0454
educ	0.6781	0.4763	1.42	0.155	-0.2555	1.6117
ecoun	-0.9811	0.7185	-1.37	0.172	-2.3894	0.4272
*yrcastay	0.2355	0.0904	2.60	0.009	0.0583	0.4128
yrca	-0.0277	0.0649	-0.43	0.669	-0.1548	0.0994
diffincome	-0.0000	0.0000	-1.49	0.135	-0.0000	7.28e-06
_cons	-7.6000	2.5855	-2.94	0.003	-12.6674	-2.5325

Notes: Number of observations = 93, Pseudo R2 = 0.1796
Joint test: gender = marstc = educ = ecoun = yrca = diffincome = 0
chi2(6) =   8.55   Prob > chi2 =   0.2006

In this instance for the stayer group (N = 119), the question is "**Since your moved to Canada, have you encountered any major difficulties in re-integrating into the Canadian society? a. yes b. no**"

Both *econu* and *lengthstay* are significant conditioners with negative signs. The joint significant test with the other 6 variables is no joint significance for the rest of the variables as well. This means a person with a Chinese educational background who stays longer in Canada will have greater log odds of reporting no difficulty.

Table 5.   Logit analysis of "difficulity" question for stayer

goal	Coef.	Std.Err.	z	P>|z|	[95%Conf.Interval]	
gender	0.0746	0.4425	0.17	0.866	-0.7927	0.9420
marstc	-0.2909	0.5068	-0.57	0.566	-1.2842	0.7023
education	-0.0723	0.1825	-0.40	0.692	-0.4300	0.2854
*econu	-1.4026	0.5601	-2.50	0.012	-2.5004	-0.3048
*lengthstay	-0.0976	0.0351	-2.78	0.005	-0.1664	-0.0288
diffincome	5.87e-06	4.58e-06	1.28	0.200	-3.10e-06	.0000
_cons	2.6041	1.3258	1.96	0.050	0.0055	5.2027

Notes: Number of observations = 119, Pseudo R2 = 0.1329
Joint test: gender = marstc = education = diffincome = 0
chi2(4) =   2.37   Prob > chi2 =   0.6678

It makes sense for those staying in Canada longer to have less difficulties, but shouldn't it also be the case if a person gets his education from a non-China country (e.g. Canada). To explore this problem in depth, I look at the data reported in Table 6.

Table 6.   Details of "difficulty" question for stayer

Group	mean	number	age	education	Length in Canada
1	ca-yes	41	32.9512	3.7073	12.2195
2	ca-no	23	40.0217	3.7826	18.8696
3	cn-yes	26	44.6539	2.3846	9.7692
4	cn-no	41	47.6585	2.8049	11.3902

Groups 1 and 2 who obtained their education in Canada have almost obtained a bachelor degree and stayed in Canada more than 12 years on average, while groups 3 and 4 who received their education in China just have almost a non-university certificate and stayed in Canada for less than 12 years on average. Considering that one of their major difficulties is employment, one speculation is that those who obtained an education in Canada and those who were educated in China are not competing in the same job market, rather, Group 1 and 2 should target on more professional jobs than Group 3 and 4. This speculation is indirectly supported by the question in the survey asking about the stayer's job in Canada. It shows that for Canadian degree holders, 13% are on management and professional in business category and 2.2% in a cashier category. But for Chinese degree holders only half are in management category and double are in cashier category.

What about the other major difficulties about cultural adjustment, languages and social networking? Why does the youngest Group 1, which has the higher education and who has lived in Canada for a longer period still have these difficulties? A similar argument applies. For Group 2, they are in Canada long enough to integrate into the mainstream society, for Group 4, they can stay in the Chinese group where they will not have cultural barriers. It is Group 1 who may claim to have difficulties integrating into

the main stream society and Group 4 into the Chinese society because of their relative short time in Canada.

Therefore, Group 1 is more likely to consist of potential returnees because it still takes them six years (from 12.22 to 18.87) to overcome the difficulties for employment and integrate into mainstream society, while Group 3 is more likely to stay in Canada, because it only takes them two more years (from 9.77 to 11.39) to overcome their difficulties. Our data therefore implies about 30% of the Hong Kongnese immigrants in Canada now who are relatively young and well educated have the potential to return in the near future.

Tables 7 and 8 report the logit results for returnees with respect to the question **"Overall, do you have any regrets about your return to China? a. yes b. no c. in some way"[13]**.

The only significant variable from the logit analysis is *diffincome* with negative sign. The joint significant test with the other 6 variables and the Chi-square value = 1.7 < 10.64 (where the Chi-square critical value with a degree of freedom of 6 at 10% significant level), so there is no joint significance for the rest variables as well. This means higher income in Hong Kong now did significantly increase the log odds of answering no regret for returning.

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[13] I treat "in some way" as answering *yes* because the question is asking "any" regret.

Table 7. **Logit analysis of "regret" question for returnee**

difficulty	Coef.	Std.Err.	z	P>|z|	[95%Conf.Interval]	
gender	-0.1345	0.5525	-0.24	0.808	-1.2174	0.9484
marstc	-0.4613	0.6680	-0.69	0.490	-1.7705	0.8479
educ	0.2866	0.5186	0.55	0.580	-0.7298	1.3030
ecoun	-0.5558	0.8273	-0.67	0.502	-2.1772	1.0657
yrcastay	0.0353	0.0595	0.59	0.553	-0.0814	0.1519
yrca	0.0205	0.0619	0.33	0.741	-0.1009	0.1419
*diffincome	-0.0000	-0.0000	-2.50	0.013	-0.0001	-8.58e-06
_cons	-1.8321	2.3217	-0.79	0.430	-6.3825	2.7182

Notes: Number of observations = 77, Pseudo R2 = 0.1064
Joint test: gender = marstc = educ = ecoun = yrcastay = yrca = 0
chi2(6) = 1.70   Prob > chi2 = 0.9455

For stayers with sample size = 117, the question is **"Overall, do you have any regrets about your moving to Canada? a. yes b. no c. in some way"**

I consider "in some way" to also mean "yes" because the question is asking "any" regret. Both *lengthstay* (negative sign) and *diffincome* (positive sign) are significant. The joint significant test with the other 4 variables and the Chi-square value indicates there exists no joint significance for the rest variables as well. This implies a person staying in Canada longer and earning less will have greater odds of reporting no regrets.

Table 8. **Logit analysis of "regret" question for stayer**

goal	Coef.	Std.Err.	z	P>|z|	[95%Conf.Interval]	
gender	0.5290	0.4672	1.13	0.257	-0.3867	1.4447
marstc	-0.2510	0.5170	-0.49	0.627	-1.2642	0.7623
education	-0.0717	0.1847	-0.39	0.698	-0.4337	0.2903
econu	-0.1147	0.5723	-0.20	0.841	-1.236	1.0069
*lengthstay	**-0.1343**	**0.04274**	**-3.14**	**0.002**	**-0.2181**	**-0.0506**
*diffincome	**0.0000**	**5.04e-06**	**2.17**	**0.030**	**1.05e-06**	**0.0000**
_cons	1.1055	1.3834	0.80	0.424	-1.6059	3.8169

Notes: Number of observations = 117, Pseudo R2 = 0.1196
Joint test: gender = marstc = education = econu = 0
chi2(4) = 2.06   Prob > chi2 = 0.7239

It makes sense for those staying in Canada longer to have fewer difficulties, but

shouldn't it also be the case if a person earns a higher income after moving to Canada?

To explore this proposition deeper, I focus on the data in Table 9:

Table 9. **Details of "regret" question for stayer**

group	mean	number	diffincome
1	regret	36	-5877
2	not regret	50	12022
3	in some way	16	6079

It is not surprising for those answering *regret* to have lower income in Canada

compared with their initial income in Hong Kong, and for those answering *no regret* to

have higher income in Canada, for those answering *in some way*, is may be because their

income did not increase very much after moving to Canada, therefore, they feel some

kind of regret because of the opportunity cost for this relatively low gain. When running

the regression, Group 3 offsets the negative effect for Group 1, and therefore leads to the

opposite sign problem.

When we redefine the *in some way* equal to 0, same as *not regret*, the diffincome variable becomes insignificant, which indirectly supports the above argument about the opposite sign.

In sum, these logit results add little to our understanding of the underlying causes which determinate levels of satisfactions with their moves. This is no doubt due to the relatively small sample size.

6 CONCLUSIONS

There has been a substantial influx of immigrants from Hong Kong to Canada since the middle of the 20th century, and it is curious that, after immigrating to Canada, many Hong Kongese have elected to return to Hong Kong, while others elect to stay in Canada permanently. This phenomenon is described as an immigrant stayer-returnee phenomenon and my interest in this topic concerns the possible demographic, educational, and earning differences which may influence the stay and leave decision.

When I compare the results across the stayer and returnee groups, I found substantial differences in their demographic characteristics, but similarities in their responses to key questions relating to the social and economic integration experience.

In order to generate a representative data set, I used diversified sources. Data was collected from various cities across Canada through various organizations like SUCCESS and the SFU Alumni group in both English and Chinese with hard copy and electronic forms available. The sample size for stayers is 156, and for returnees is 123. I was able to replicate key features of 2001 Canadian census. The reported sample results for the stayers and returnees support the human capital model's predictions which include that returnees are better educated with more human capital who hold a Canadian passport and a Canadian degree as predicted by the triangular migration model. This higher human capital accumulation helps returnees to experience a more rapid promotion.

If I compare stayer and returnee groups, evidence exists that the job market is a crucial factor to "push" immigrants to return, including their job status, leadership role

and poor income levels in Canada. Thus, solving the credential problem would be an effective start to reduce the push factors to leave Canada.

More importantly, given that both the stayers and returnees say they have achieved their main goals while resident in Canada implies that the triangular model which indicates that many migrants never planned to stay in Canada but rather invested in themselves for later movement. Thus, no policy will halt this flow.

APPENDICES

Appendix A
Questionnaire for Stayers

I.   Basic Information

1.1   Gender

      a.   Male   b.   Female

1.2   Can you tell us approximately how old you are? Please circle.

Younger than 20	20-25	26-30	31-33	34-36	37-39	40-42
43-45	46-48	49-51	52-55	56-59	60 and over	

1.3   Place of birth (city/province): _____

1.4   Place of current residence (city/province): _____

1.5   Language(s) spoken at home: _____

1.6   Current status in Canada

a.	Chinese Citizen
b.	Canadian Citizen
c.	Landed Immigrant or Permanent Resident of Canada
d.	Temporary Resident of Canada: i. Student Visa; ii. Business Visa; iii. Visitor
e.	Other:

1.7   Current marital status:

a.	Single	b.	Married	c.	Separated
d.	Divorced	e.	Widowed	f.	Common-law partners

1.8   Number of people in your household: _____

Family Member One	
Relationship to you:	Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.):
Occupation:	Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other

Family Member Two	
Relationship to You:	Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.):
Occupation:	Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other

Family Member Three	
Relationship to you:	Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.):
Occupation:	Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other

1.9   Do you have (other) immediate family members who currently live in Canada?

     a.   Yes   b.   No

1.10   What is the highest level of education?

Level of Education	Subject/Specialization
a. Less than high school b. High school diploma c. Non-university certificate or diploma Bachelor's degree Master's degree Ph.D. Other (specify):	

1.11   In which country did you receive your highest level of education?

a. Canada   b. China   c. USA   d. Other (Specify)

Motivations for Immigrating to Canada

2.1   How long have you been in Canada?

_____years _____months

2.2   Which city did you come from in China?

Name of the city: _____

2.3   Did you come directly from China to Canada or via a third country?

    a.   Directly   b.   Via a Third County (Specify)

2.4   What was the approximate household cost of moving to Canada, including travel expenses, school fees, legal fees, visa, and other related fees?

Approximate total cost (in Canadian Dollars): _____

2.5   What were your major motivations for moving to Canada? Check all that apply.

a.	Your own studies (level/subject)
b.	Higher-paying job
c.	More job security
d.	More opportunities for promotion
e.	Less stress
f.	Family reunion (with whom)
g.	Taking care of your parents
h.	Living in the Canadian culture

i.	Speaking English
j.	Seeking new opportunities (please specify:)
k.	Acquiring Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Residency
l.	Education/School system for your children
m.	Natural environment
n.	Joining old friends
o.	Other motivations (specify):

2.6   Did you achieve your main goals in Canada?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   Don't know or hard to say

2.6.1   If "no," what prevented you from achieving your main goals?

a.	Language difficulties (English or French?):
b.	Cultural barriers (specify:)
c.	Lack of Canadian qualifications
d.	Lack of Canadian work experience
e.	Lack of social network
f.	Racism in Canadian society
g.	Your Chinese qualifications are not recognized
h.	Your Chinese work experience is not recognized
i.	Other:

2.6.2   If "no," what is the possibility of achieving the main goals you set up for yourself for moving to Canada?

a. Very high   b. High   c. Not sure   d. Slim   e. Very slim

Canadian Experience

INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

3.1   While in Canada, have you encountered any major difficulties?

a.   Yes   b.   No

3.1.1   If "yes," what were some of the major difficulties? Check all that apply.

a.	Cultural adjustment
b.	Language
c.	Social networking

d.	Finances
e.	Corruption
f.	Bureaucracy
g.	Employment
h.	Pollution
i.	Being a foreigner
j.	Acquisition of Canadian Permanent Resident or Citizenship Status
k.	Other motivations (specify):

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES IN CHINA & CANADA

3.2   What was your job before leaving China?

Job title: _____

3.3   Did you hold any administrative positions?

a.   Yes   b.   No

3.3.1   If "yes", what was your position?

Position title: _____

3.4   What is your current job in Canada?

Job title: _____

3.5   Do you currently play any leadership role at your company?

a.   Yes   b.   No

3.5.1   If "yes," what is your position?

Position title: _____

3.5.2   Did your Chinese experience and identity help you get this current position in Canada?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   Don't know or hard to say

3.6   Can you tell us approximately what household income you had during the last year in China before arriving in Canada (before tax, in your local currency, RMB or HK$)? You may provide an approximate number, circle the income group that applies to you.

a.	Up to 20,000	b.	20,001 to 50,000
c.	50,001 to 150,000	d.	150,001 to 500,000
e.	500,001 to 1,000,000	f.	Over 1,000,001

3.7   What is your current household income in Canada (before tax, in Canadian dollars)? You may provide an approximate number, circle the income group that applies to you.

a.	Up to 20,000	b.	20,001 to 31,000
c.	31,001 to 46,000	d.	46,001 to 62,000
e.	62,001 to 78,000	f.	Over 78,000

3.8   Compared with your job in CHINA, how would you describe your current employment situation in CANADA?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

SOCIAL EXPERIENCE

3.9   Please comment on your social experience in Canada. Check all that apply.

a.	I have reconnected with old friends and colleagues.
b.	I have made new friends.
c.	I live very close to my relatives.

3.10   What activities do you share with your new friends?

a.	Work-related activities
b.	Study
c.	Leisure activities

3.11   Compared with your situation in CHINA, how would you describe your social life in CANADA?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE

3.12   How would you describe your level of English and French when you just arrived in Canada?

| English | a. Advanced | b. Intermediate | c. Basic | d. None |
| French | a. Advanced | b. Intermediate | c. Basic | d. None |

3.13   Did your language help you find a job you like in Canada?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   Don't know or hard to say

3.14   Did your language prevent you from participating in social activities in Canada?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   Don't know or hard to say

3.15   Did you attend any English and/or French classes since you arrived in Canada?

English   a.   Yes   b.   No
French   a.   Yes   b.   No

       3.15.1 If "yes," were these classes sponsored by government agencies?

       a.   Yes   b.   No

3.16   Do you still need help from government or non-government organizations to assist you with your language improvement?

       a.   Yes   b.   No

IMPRESSIONS OF CANADA

3.17   Is the Canada you moved to the same as the one you expected before you left China?

       a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   In some ways

3.17.1 If it's different, how would you describe it (in comparison with what you expected before you left China)?

       a. Much better   b. Better   c. Worse   d. Much worse

3.18   After you moved to Canada, what experiences brought you the most satisfaction?
Be as specific as you can.

a.
b.
c.

3.19   After you moved to Canada, what experiences brought you the least satisfaction?
Be as specific as you can.

a.
b.
c.

3.20   Compared with your life in CHINA, how would you describe your situation in
CANADA as a whole?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

3.21   Overall, do you have any regrets about your move to Canada?

    a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   In some ways

EXPERIENCE WITH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

3.22   Which group(s) did you find most helpful in assisting you with your integration
when you arrived in Canada? Circle all that apply.

a. Your company	b. Government organizations (specify)
c. Friends and family	d. Non-government organizations (specify)
e. Other (specify)	

3.23 Did you visit any of the following organizations for help? Check all that apply.

a.	Burnaby Multicultural Society
b.	Family Services of Greater Vancouver
c.	Immigrant Service Society of BC (ISS)
d.	MOSAIC
e.	North Shore Multicultural Society
f.	S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
g.	Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society
h.	Taiwanese Canadian Cultural Society
i.	Other associations (please specify:)

3.24 In which areas do you still need the most help? Circle all areas that apply.

a. Finding a job	b. Finding accommodation
c. Applying for a Social Insurance Number	d. Applying for medical coverage
e. Setting up a bank account	f. Coping with daily life
g. Applying for a loan to start a business	h. Applying for loans to buy an apartment or a house
i. Finding a school for your children	j. Enrolling in English language classes
k. Finding a job for your spouse	l. Other (specify):

3.25 Did you also go to overseas Chinese associations in your area for help?

   a.   Yes   b.   No

3.25.1 If "yes," which association(s) do you use most often? Please circle all that apply.

a.	Chinese clan associations
b.	Chinese district/locality associations
c.	Chinese university/college alumni associations
d.	Overseas Chinese professional associations
e.	Chinese immigrant service organizations
f.	Other associations (please specify:)

Concluding Remarks

4.1   From your experience, what could the Canadian Government do to help new Chinese immigrants integrate into Canadian society more effectively?

Comments: _____

4.2   Is there anything both the Canadian and Chinese governments could do in cooperation to better help Chinese immigrants?

Comments:

4.3   Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Comments:

Thank you again for your time and participation! If you would like to share more information with us about your experience, please leave your contact information here.

| Name: |
| Contact Information: |

Appendix B
Questionnaire for Stayers

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Center for Research
on Immigration
and Integration
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Re: Interview for Returned Chinese Immigrants

Dear Participant:

First of all, thank you for participating in this research! This survey is sponsored by the Center for Research on Immigration and Integration in the Metropolis (RIIM) at Simon Fraser University, Canada. It is designed to understand the experience of returned Canadian Chinese immigrants, who were landed immigrants or citizens of Canada but later returned to China (including Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao). It is hoped that findings from this research will help policy makers identify areas that may need adjustment in order to assist immigrants with their (re)settlement and (re)integration in China. Hence, your contribution to this research is important.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. All information provided remains confidential. By participating in the interview you agree that the results can be published uniquely in an anonymous fashion.

If you have any questions about this study, feel free to contact any of us through emails which are provided below.

For Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese) service, contact RIIM Researcher Nuowen (Roman) Deng (or *Tang Lok Man in Cantonese*): **ndeng@sfu.ca**

Thanks again for your time and participation!

Yours sincerely,

<table>
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Basic Information
1.1   Gender
        a.   Male   b.   Female

1.2   Can you tell us approximately how old you are? Please circle.

| Younger than 20 | 20-25 | 26-30 | 31-33 | 34-36 | 37-39 | 40-42 |
| 43-45 | | 46-48 | 49-51 | 52-55 | 56-59 | 60 and over |

1.3   Place of birth:
1.4   Place of current residence (city/province):
Language(s) spoken at home:
1.6   Your citizenship status in Canada (BEFORE returning to China):

| a.   Canadian Citizen |
| b.   Chinese Citizen or Hong Kong Permanent Resident with Canadian Landed Immigrant Status |
| c.   Chinese Citizen or Hong Kong Permanent Resident on Canadian Visa: |
| i.   Student Visa; |
| ii.   Business Visa; |
| Visitor |
| d.   Other: |

1.7   You CURRENT citizenship in China

| a.   Canadian Citizen with i. Chinese Green Card   ii. HK Permanent Resident |
| b.   Canadian Citizen on Chinese Visa: |
| i.   Student Visa; |
| ii.   Business Visa; |
| Visitor |
| c.   Second Generation Canadian Citizen (first in family born in Canada) |
| d.   Chinese Citizen with Canadian Landed Immigrant or Permanent Resident |
| e.   Other: |

1.8   Current marital status

| a. | Single | b. | Married | c. | Separated |
| d. | Divorced | e. | Widowed | f. | Common-law Partners |

1.9   Number of people in your household:

| Family Member One |
| Relationship to you: Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.): |
| Occupation: Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other____ |

| Family Member Two |
| Relationship to you: Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.): |

Occupation:	Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other____

Family Member Three
Relationship to you: Approximate Age (early 30s, mid-40s, etc.):
Occupation: Place of Residence: a. Canada; b. China; c. Other____

1.10   Do you have (other) immediate family members who currently live in Canada?

      a.   Yes   b.   No

1.11   What is the highest level of education?

Level of Education	Subject/Specialization
a. Less than high school b. High school diploma c. Non-university certificate or diploma Bachelor's degree Master's degree Ph.D. Other (specify):	

1.12   In which country did you receive your highest level of education?
a. Canada   b. China   c. USA   d. Other (Specify)
Reasons for Moving
MOTIVATIONS FOR IMMIGRATING TO CANADA
2.1   What were your major motivations for immigrating to Canada? Circle all that apply.

a. Your own studies (level/subject)	
b. Higher-paying job	
c. More job security	
d. More opportunities for promotion	
e. Less stress	
f. Family reunion (with whom	)
g. Taking care of your parents	
h. Living in the Canadian culture	
i. Speaking English	
j. Seeking new opportunities (please specify:	)
k. Acquiring Canadian citizenship or Permanent Residency	
l. Education/School system for your children	
m. Natural environment	
n. Joining old friends	
o. Other motivations (specify):	

2.2   Did you achieve your main goals in Canada?

a. Yes   b. No

2.2.1 If "no," what prevented you from achieving your main goals?

a.	Language difficulties (English or French?):	
b.	Cultural barriers (specify:	)
c.	Lack of Canadian qualifications	
d.	Lack of Canadian work experience	
e.	Lack of social network	
f.	Racism in Canadian society	
g.	Your Chinese qualifications are not recognized	
h.	Your Chinese work experience is not recognized	
i.	Other:	

MOTIVATIONS FOR RETURNING TO CHINA

2.3 What was the total number of years you stayed in Canada?   years
2.4 Which city in Canada did you live in before returning to China?
     Name of the City:

2.5 How long has it been since you returned to China?
                        years   months
2.6 What were your major motivations for returning to China? Check all that apply.

a.	Your own studies (level/subject)	
b.	Higher-paying job	
c.	More job security	
d.	More opportunities for promotion	
e.	Less stress	
f.	Family reunion (with whom:	)
g.	Taking care of your parents	
h.	Living in the Chinese culture	
i.	Speaking Chinese	
j.	Seeking new opportunities (please specify:	)
k.	Acquiring Chinese citizenship	
l.	Education/School system for your children	
m.	Natural environment	
n.	Joining old friends	
o.	Other motivations (specify):	

Chinese Experience
RE-INTEGRATION EXPERIENCE IN CHINA
3.1 What was the approximate household cost of returning to China, including travel expenses, school fees, legal fees, visa, and residence permit application fees?

Approximate Total Cost (in Chinese Yuan):

3.2   Since your return to China, have you encountered any major difficulties in re-integrating into the Chinese society?

      a.   Yes   b.   No

3.2.1   If "yes," what are some of the major difficulties? Check all that apply.

a.	Cultural re-adjustment
b.	Language
c.	Social networking
d.	Finances
e.	Corruption
f.	Bureaucracy
g.	Employment
h.	Pollution
i.	Your status as a Canadian immigrant or citizen
j.	Acquiring Chinese Permanent Resident Status
k.	Other motivations (specify):

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCES IN CHINA

3.3   What was your job before leaving China?
      Job Title:

3.4   Did you hold any administrative positions?

      a.   Yes   b.   No

3.4.1   If "yes," what was it?
      Position Title:

3.5   What is your current job in China?
      Job Title:

3.6   Do you currently play any leadership role at your work unit?

      a.   Yes   b.   No

If "yes," what is it?
      Position Title:

3.7   Did your Canadian experience help you get this new job/position?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   Don't know or hard to say

3.8   Can you tell us approximately what household annual income you had during the last year in Canada before returning to China (before tax, in Canadian dollars)? You may provide an approximate number, circle the income group that applies to you.

a.	Up to 20,000 CND	b.	20,001 to 31,000
c.	31,001 to 46,000	d.	46,001 to 62,000
e.	62,001 to 78,000	f.	Over 78,000

3.9   What is your current household annual income in China (before tax, in Chinese Yuan)? You may provide an approximate number, circle the income group that applies to you.

a.	Up to 20,000 Yuan	b.	20,001 to 50,000
c.	50,001 to 100,000	d.	100,001 to 150,000
e.	150,001 to 250,000	f.	Over 250,001

3.10   Compared with your job in CANADA, how would you describe your current employment situation in CHINA?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

3.11   Compared with your job BEFORE you left China, how would you describe your situation NOW?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

SOCIAL EXPERIENCE:

3.12   Please comment on your social experience in China upon returning. Check those that apply.

a.	I have reconnected with old friends and colleagues.
b.	I have made new friends.
c.	I live very close to my family/families.

3.13   I share similar activities with my new friends.

a.	Work-related activities
b.	Study
c.	Leisure activities

3.14   Compared with your situation in CANADA, how would you describe yourself as a whole in CHINA?

a. Much happier   b. Happier   c. Same   d. Unhappy   e. Very unhappy

3.15   Compared with your situation BEFORE you left China, how would you describe yourself as a whole NOW?

| a. Much happier | b. Happier | c. Same | d. Unhappy | e. Very unhappy |

IMPRESSIONS OF CHINA
3.16   Is the China you returned to the same as the one you left?

a.   Yes   b.   No

3.16.1 If "No", how would you describe it? Only select one item from each row.

a. More open	b. Same	c. Less open
d. More developed	e. Same	f. Less developed
g. More bureaucratic	h. Same	i. Less bureaucratic
j. More difficult to travel	k. Same	l. Less difficult to travel
m. More polluted	n. Same	o. Less polluted
p. More difficult to move	q. Same	r. Less difficult to move

3.17   After you returned to China, what experiences brought you the most satisfaction? Be as specific as you can.

```
a.
b.
c.
```

3.18   After you returned to China, what experiences brought you the least satisfaction? Be as specific as you can.

```
a.
b.
c.
```

3.19   Compared with your life in CANADA, how would you describe your situation in CHINA as a whole?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

3.20   Compared with your life BEFORE you left China, how would you describe your situation in China NOW?

a. Much better   b. Better   c. Same   d. Worse   e. Much worse

3.21   Overall, do you have any regrets about your moving back to China?

a.   Yes   b.   No   c.   In some ways

EXPERIENCE WITH GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT
ORGANIZATIONS

3.22   Which group(s) did you find most helpful in assisting you with the re-integration
since your return to China?

a. Your work unit	b. Government organizations (specify)
c. Friends and family	d. Non-government organizations (specify)
e. Other (specify)	

In which areas do you still need the most help? Circle all areas that apply.

a. Finding a job	b. Finding accommodation
c. Applying for Resident Permit	d. Applying for research grant
e. Applying for loan to start a business	f. Applying for loans to buy an apartment or a house
g. Finding a school for your children	h. Providing Chinese language classes
i. Finding a job for your spouse	j. Other (specify):

Concluding Remarks
4.1   From your experience, what could the Canadian Government do to help new
Chinese immigrants integrate into Canadian society more effectively?
        Comments:

4.2   What could the Chinese Government do to help you with your re-integration
process in China?
        Comments:

4.3   Is there anything both the Canadian and Chinese governments could cooperate to
help returned Chinese immigrants?
        Comments:
4.4   Is there anything else you'd like to add?
        Comments:

Would you like to recommend a friend or colleague who meets the criteria of this project? You can send him or her this URL or leave his or her contact information here. Thanks.

Name: Contact Information:

Thank you again for your time and participation! If you would like to share more information with us about your experience, please leave your contact information here.

Name: Contact Information:

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