

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION IN IMMIGRATION, RACE AND ETHNICITY, AUGUST 23-  
27, 2021**

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You are required to answer THREE (3) QUESTIONS (ONE QUESTION FROM EACH OF PARTS A, B & C). Each answer should be 10-12 pages (12-point font and double-spaced) in length. The complete exam should not total more than 36 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font), not including references. THE COMMITTEE WILL NOT READ PAST THE 36TH PAGE.

In your answers, please indicate the studies you are drawing from and use examples where possible. Also, make sure to use clear, readable language, defining any terms and concepts you introduce. Assume that your reader is well-educated but does not know anything about the sociology of immigration, ethnicity, and race.

**Part A**

1. How have scholars theorized 'race' and racism? What role does colonialism play in the creation of racialized differences and in what ways does culture play a role in structuring the process of racialization? How does an understanding of the intersections of race, culture and gender complicate feminism, whiteness, (settler)colonialism, capitalism and nationhood?
2. According to Constance Backhouse and a number of other authors on your reading list, the law functions as a key technique of racism and of colonization. How does the law serve to enable and/or facilitate and/or legitimate racism and colonization? What is the link between law, decolonization, and reconciliation? What might be done to address the law/laws (broadly construed by a variety of authors on your list) to hold it/them more accountable?

**Part B**

3. What is the relationship between inequality and migration? To what extent does migration mitigate inequality, and to what extent does the cross-border movement of people worsen inequality? In your answer, you may want to consider gender, race, and class; neoliberal capitalism; settler-colonialism; the causes, functions, and consequences of migration policymaking; as well as political, economic, and social inclusion and exclusion of im/migrants and their descendants, emigrants, deportees, and anyone else whose life is touched by migration.
4. David Fitzgerald, Alejandro Portes, Peggy Levitt, and Tanya Golash-Boza walk into a bar. The United Nations has asked them to prepare a report together about the causes and characteristics of contemporary migration and what actions different actors—particularly

states—can take to improve the lives of migrants in the global north. After a few rounds of drinks, the discussion grows so heated that the bartender threatens to kick the rowdy group out if they don't simmer down. Explain what these four sociologists of immigration might argue about and why. If you were there with them, whose side would you take (if any), and what would you say to support your position? Remember, you can draw on the breadth of your knowledge about race, ethnicity, and migration (i.e., readings from the comp list not by these scholars).

### **Part C**

5. How can an analysis of classification processes aid in our understanding of race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity? In other words, if we think of race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity through a lens of categorization, as opposed to taking racial, ethnic and national categories for granted, what insights do we gain?

In answering this question, make sure you discuss the role that categorization plays at different levels of analyses (micro, mezzo, macro) and in different social and institutional contexts: in cognition and micro-level interactions, in organizations, and in the definition of national belonging. Also, please be sure to describe how scholars of race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity have taken classification processes into account in their interpretation of statistical data and qualitative evidence.

6. Scholars of race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity have increasingly paid attention to questions of citizenship. How have different scholars in the comp list described and problematized this relationship between citizenship, on the one hand, and race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity, on the other?

In answering this question, you should consider how the legal and substantive citizenship has been defined historically around categories of race, immigration and indigeneity, in Canada and elsewhere. You should also discuss the different ways of conceptualizing citizenship that can be found in the comp list, and what these definitions allow us to **see** that other frameworks might miss. In a parallel manner, you should also consider the **limits** of citizenship frameworks for understanding race, ethnicity, immigration and indigeneity.