

Roundtable on EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME: GETTING MEANINGFUL JOBS, BREAKING POVERTY September 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm, North York site (2737 Keele St /M3M 2E9/ Keele & Wilson)

## Speakers

- **Luin Goldring** \* Associate Professor, Department of Sociology/ CERIS Director, York University
- **Patricia Landolt** \* Associate, Faculty of Sociology / Scarborough campus of the University of Toronto
  - **Online resource:** Immigrants and Precarious employment- **Latin American and Caribbean workers in the GTA**
- **Philip Kelly** \* Director, York Centre for Asian Research and Associate Professor, Department of Geography, York University – Principal Investigator for the Toronto Immigrant Employment Data Initiative (**TIEDI**)
  - **Online resource:** Roundtable Discussion Paper #3, "**The 'Gender Gap': Findings and Directions for Addressing the Position of Immigrant Women in the Labour Market**"

### Our concerns...

Many Latin Americans are unable to secure stable, well-paying employment. They face higher than average unemployment: 10% compared to only 7.4% of the general population. Although these statistics are derived from the entire Latin American population as a whole, the same trends appear in individual ward profiles in the North West area of Toronto. For instance, in Wards with high Latin American populations (Wards 7, 8, 9, 12), there is always an overrepresentation of workers in the manufacturing sector (14.4% of workers in Ward 9 are in Processing Manufacturing & Utilities versus only 7.1% of workers in all of Toronto) and an underrepresentation of workers in managerial positions (5.9% of workers in Ward 9 versus 10.6% in Toronto). Also, due to their lack of knowledge, many Latin Americans are exploited by opportunistic employers. These employers know that these immigrant workers do not know the rules governing issues such as pay, overtime, holidays etc. As a result of their inability to find well-paying, stable employment, many Latin Americans live in poverty and are receiving some form of social assistance.

- From your academic analysis, what would you consider to be the main causes of these trends?
- To what extent do you understand these problems to be limited to the Latin

**American community?**

- **How does your research address these causes?**
- **As the result of your involvement with the Latin American community, what would you suggest as a concrete action/project/campaign addressing these issues that is likely to have a meaningful impact in the short term (6 months)?**
- **In your opinion, why have similar initiatives not been able to generate meaningful effects?**

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