

## 論文審査の結果の要旨および担当者

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STEWART Jennifer Leanne

論文題目

An Analysis of Refugee Resilience: Evidence from the Lived Experiences  
of Resettled Syrian Refugees in Canada  
(難民のレジリエンスに関する分析：カナダに再定住するシリア難民の生きた経験から得る証左)

論文審査担当者

主査	名古屋大学	准教授	Francis david PEDDIE
委員	名古屋大学	教授	伊東早苗
委員	名古屋大学	教授	東村岳史

# 論文審査の結果の要旨

## 1. 論文の概要と構成

This dissertation presents evidence of resilience among Syrians resettled in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada, as a result of the ongoing civil war in their country of origin. The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with 26 resettled Syrians and a number of non-Syrians involved in their resettlement process (sponsors and government workers). An interpretist phenomenological approach was used to analyze the content of the interviews and identify systems and aspects of resilience, divided into three systems (macro, meso, and micro) with eight aspects identified: place attachment and new rights and opportunities (macro), family relationships, Syrian and Arab networks, and non-Arab immigrants and Canadian citizens (meso), and the resilient individual and expression and sense-making (micro). The research relies on the quoted testimony of the former refugee respondents to support her classifications and analysis that despite images of refugees as disempowered passive agents, resettled Syrians in fact display distinct and recognizable signs of resilience that allow them to rebuild from trauma and integrate into their new host society. The researcher chose this approach based on a perceived absence of subjective, personalized discussion of refugees in the academic literature, which the dissertation argues is biased toward policy-based analysis of refugee issues that ignores the actual experiences and reflections of refugees themselves. Viewing this particular movement of refugees within a constructivist paradigm, the researcher argues that an objective, quantitative or policy-oriented approach to refugee studies is inappropriate as objective truth in the study of human subjects is unattainable.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters. The introduction presents the background and the context of the research, defines the terms used (such as resilience and well-being), the methodological approach chosen, and the significance and contributions of the research. Chapter Two consists of a literature review covering defining refugees, the evolution of Refugee and Forced Displacement Studies, and the debate in the literature between subjective and objective approaches to studying refugees. The chapter also discusses the possible definitions of resilience and well-being and explains how the researcher employs the terms. Chapter Three outlines the theoretical underpinning to the study, the methodology chosen, and how the research tools were developed and employed. Chapter Four presents the systems of resilience the researcher developed from the testimony of the respondents and quotes the

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interviews to support the systems. It makes extensive use of direct quotations from the interviews accompanied by the researcher's interpretations. The concluding chapter discusses the consequences of developing resilience for resettled refugees, the connection of refugee resettlement to the broader question of international cooperation, and the answers to the research questions. It also includes the limitations of the approach used and findings and recommendations for incorporating the findings into resettlement efforts and using the approach in other refugee research.

### 2. 評価

This paper warrants consideration for the original approach it takes to examining how refugees deal with the challenges of displacement and third-country resettlement.

1) This dissertation uses a research paradigm and theoretical approach that is seldom used in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. The reliance on subjective testimony and the association of resilience with positive resettlement experiences introduces a new way of viewing refugees that avoids a depersonalized, sterile view on what is essentially a human story.

2) The current geopolitical climate leads us to believe that refugee movements will not decrease, and may increase. Third-country resettlement is a highly debated issue in many countries of the developed world. In light of this, a study of this nature highlights the human face of the issue and shows how resettled refugees can recover from trauma and integrate into their new societies and make a contribution rather than being viewed as passive victims and/or drains on the social welfare network of the country of resettlement.

However, the dissertation had the following areas where improvement may be advised:

1) There is a lack of depth to the analysis in some areas, specifically the understanding of the broader field of Refugee and Forced Displacement literature and where this dissertation fits into it. There is furthermore an uncritical acceptance of Canadian multicultural policy as a positive force that explains Canadian refugee policy that misses the nuances of where refugee acceptance fits into the country's

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immigration policy.

2) The use of a subjective perspective based on testimony can be criticized as creating a positivity bias. While the researcher acknowledges this in the study, there is the sense in the study that there is something missing when the discussion underscores almost exclusively positive aspects discovered by individuals because of surviving trauma and dislocation.

However, these points are issues that the author should address in order to deepen the research on refugee resettlement in the future, and do not detract from the value or originality of this paper. This dissertation is judged to have sufficient originality and academic value for a doctoral dissertation.

### 3. 判定

Based on the results of the above examination, this paper is judged to be worth a Ph.D. (International Development) degree.