



INTEGRATION
OF IMMIGRANTS
PROGRAMME

2007 – 2012

From the Braai to the BBQ: Making home in Aotearoa/New Zealand

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Content

- Research overview
- Affect
- Recreating home
 - Home ownership, home making and doing family at home
 - Church and neighbourhood
- The last word[s]

Research Overview

- Integration of Immigrants Programme
 - Two objectives
- Survey of migrant employers and employees
 - China, India, Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom
- South African migrant focus
 - Depth and range of emotion
 - Complex narratives
 - Active construction of 'home'

Affect

- What is affect?
 - Embodied
 - Situated
 - Relational
- Memory common to each of these

Home Ownership

- A commitment to *this* place
 - ‘putting down roots’
 - ‘... we will be able to establish ourselves more, you know, especially now with a family. That has helped to settle us more and when we get a house and all those things will root us deeper into New Zealand’
- Memory and the ‘African Ache’

Making Home

- Replicating home
 - ‘I can change my surroundings to suit me. We still live the same. We still like a braai ... we have changed the surroundings so that we can live the life. We have the lifestyle block because we are used to open space’
- Creating new ways of being in the home
 - ‘I had a Bull Mastiff outside, six feet fence, gates, burglar bars, alarm system, whereas I leave my front door sometimes open when I am at home.
- Active construction of home that is deeply embedded in remembering

Doing Family in the Home

- ‘Immigration places a huge amount of pressure on the relationship. If your relationship isn’t rock solid, then it can come unravelled’
- Renegotiating gendered relations
 - Domestic labour
 - ‘We used to come home and the food was cooked and the kids were ready to go to bed ... so you would go and have a glass of wine, have supper, wind down and do your own thing ...’
- Building intimacy within the family
 - ‘I was not close to my son when we were in Africa, because he was just a child that was looked after by nannies ... It has changed totally. We go away together now ...’
 - ‘... every day I take my kids to school and I never did in Africa ... I take them every day, even if there are people in the shop’

Neighbourhood

- Emotional response to landscape/place.
- Commitment to place – acts of engagement
- A society that “works”
- Longing for home: choices
- Living in “South African” neighbourhoods vs integration

Church

'I have got my church. That is my anchor in life.'

- Place of safety and continuity
- Friendships and support
- Networking
- Outreach into community

The last word[s]

- Nga Tangata Oho Mairangi
 - Interconnectedness
 - Place matters
 - Attachment and belonging
 - Affect

<http://newsettlers.massey.ac.nz>



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