



YAGHOOB FOROUTAN

Cultural Values vs. Migration Politics: Socio-Demographic Analysis

This paper examines the challenge between cultural values and migration policies. The paper also gives specific attention to the role of religion in this challenge. The underlying aim of migration policies is to facilitate and accelerate the process of cultural integration of immigrants with the values of the host society. The focus group of this research provides a typical case study to explore this underlying aim. The indicator employed, the context of the study, the method of analysis, and the particular focus group provide the opportunity to deal appropriately with the key objective in this paper. The fields of this study are the multiethnic and multicultural contexts of Australia

and New Zealand, holding a wide range of people with varying socio-cultural backgrounds from all around the world. This is beneficial for the comparison purpose in this study. The multicultural contexts of this study operate as a unique human and social laboratory to examine the key research objective outlined above. In order to examine the key research objective more appropriately, this analysis gives specific attention to migrants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). They experience two typical patterns of cultural values in the origin and the destination societies: on the one hand, their region of origin is a well-known place in the world representing unique traditional values including patriarchy, high fertility, male-breadwinner model, and low rates of

education and waged work outside the home for women. On the other hand, the opposite cultural values exist in their western residing societies. This particularly applies to Muslims from this region. Hence, more specifically, this paper focuses on Muslim migrants from the MENA in order to highlight the role of religion in this complex relation. Finally, this study employs an appropriate statistical technique (that is, logistic regression analysis) which examines the differentials while the competing determinants such as human capital, age, family and ethnic characteristics are held constant in the models.