Faith-based Ethnic Communities in the Greater Toronto Area: Process of Inclusion or Exclusion?

Sandeep Kumar Agrawal Ryerson University

sagrawal@ryerson.ca

Outline

- Introduction
- Research questions
- Context
- Method
- Community profiles
- Findings
- Conclusion
- Future research

Introduction

- What is Faith-based ethnic community?
 - Planned
 - Organically-evolved
- Religious pluralism? Or gated community?
- Faith-based community a planning challenge

Research questions

- What are the internal structure and characteristics of faith-based ethnic communities?
- What social and personal considerations draw people together to faith-based communities in this modern age?
- What is the role of religion in binding people together? Does it contribute to increased neighbourliness?
- Are these communities sites of spatial and social segregation?
- How do local municipalities deal with the growth of such communities?

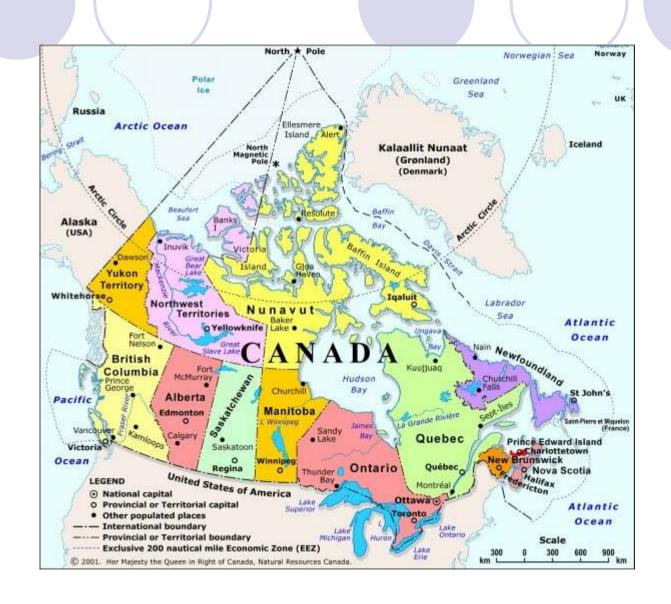
Context

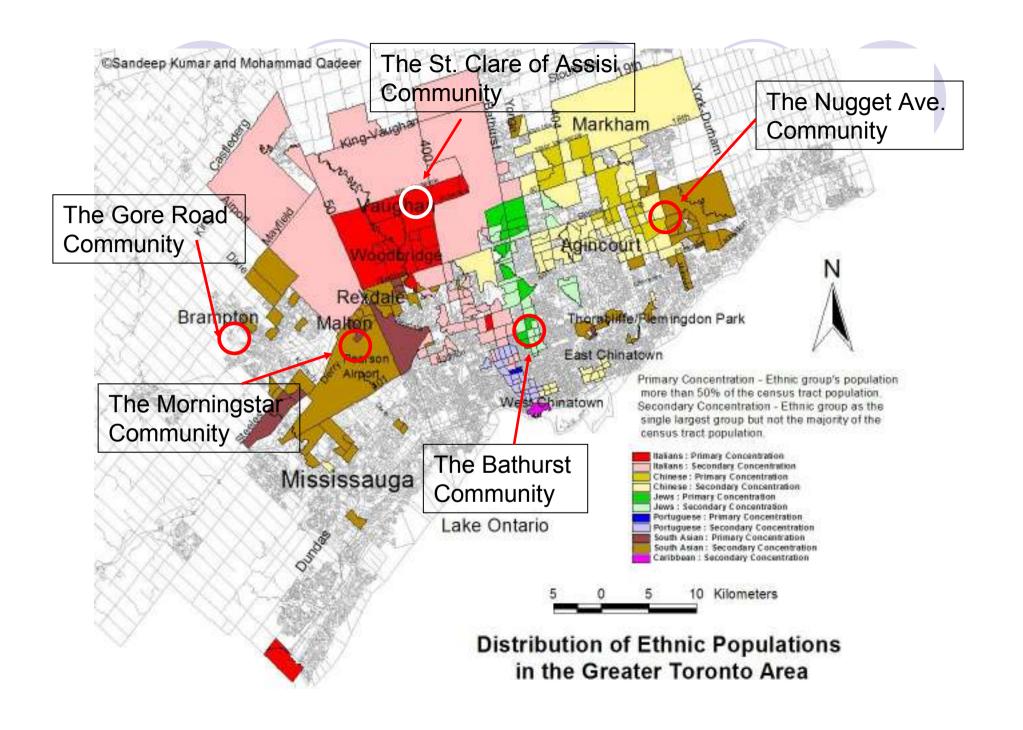
- Religion and immigrants
- Role of places of worship
- Congregations, ethnic enclaves and faithbased communities
- Ethno-religious institutions and urban planning

Method

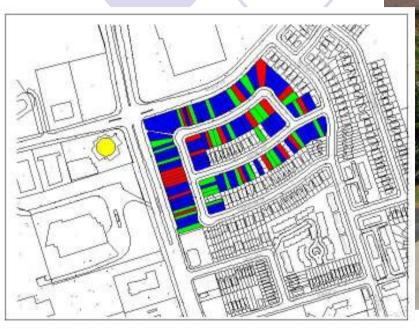
- 5 Case Studies
- Quantitative
 - Census data/GIS
 - Assessment Roll
- Qualitative
 - Survey
 - **o**interviews

Canada





The Nugget Avenue Community

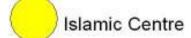


Legend

completed survey

no response

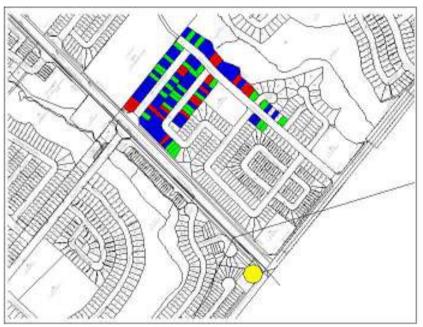
refused to participate







The Gore Road community

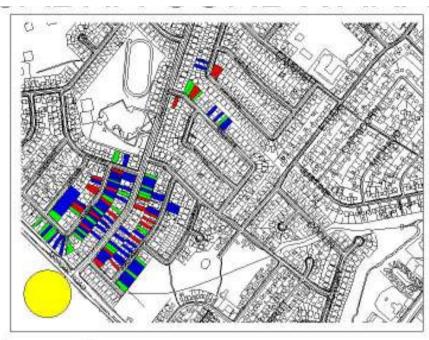


Legend

- completed survey
- no response
- refused to participate
- Hindu Sabha Temple







The Morningstar community

Legend

completed survey

no response

refused to participate

Siri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara



The Bathurst community



Legend

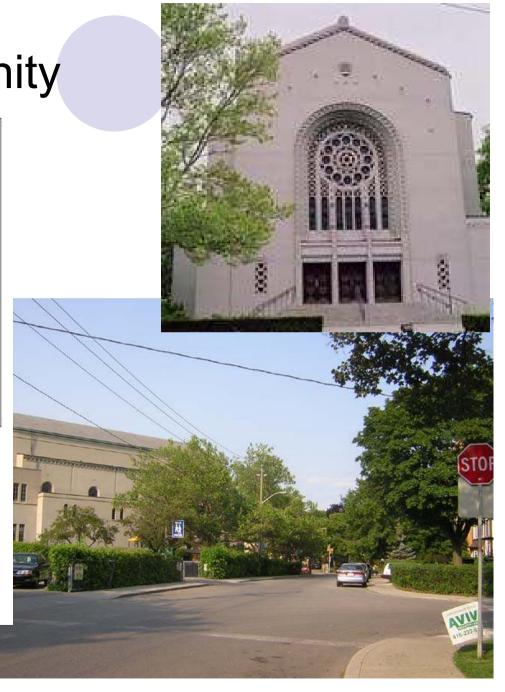
survey completed

no response

refused to participate

Holy Blossom Synagogue





The St. Clare of Assisi Community



Legend

completed survey

no response

refused to participate

St. Clair of Assisi



Findings

- Social Characteristics
 - **oreligion**
 - Immigrants/non-immigrants
 - Education
 - OHome ownership
- Reasons for moving
- Services offered by place of worship
- Neighbourly interaction

Social characteristics

variables	the Nugget Ave.	the Gore Road Community	the Morningstar community	The Bathurst community	St. clare of Assisi community
religion					
muslim	56.70%	6.45%			
hindu		41.90%			
jewish	3.33%			66.66%	
christians	23.33%	12.90%	16.66%	6.66%	71.42%
sikh		45.16%	63.33%		7.14%
other	10.00%		10.00%		17.85%
ethnicity					
south asians	50.00%	64.50%	50.00%		
other visible minority		33.33%	30.00%		50.00%
jewish				46.67%	
white					
italian					39.28%
Non-Immigrant					33.00%
immigrants	93.00%		96.66%	16.66%	35.71%
country from (Pakistan, the					
middle-east)	43.00%				
India		54.80%	60.00%		
Trinidad/guyana		22.58%			
iraq					25.00%
language spoken					
english only	23.00%			40.00%	14.28%
english+ 1 ethnic language	76.70%	70.96%	73.33%	43.33%	82.14%
education					
below high school	6.70%	12.90%	20.00%	13.33%	
high school	36.70%	22.58%	26.67%	3.33%	32.14%
university	26.70%	25.80%	16.67%	43.33%	25.00%
university professional	3.30%	9.67%		40.00%	
other (college)	20.00%	16.12%		10.00%	28.57%
time lived in the neighbourhood					
0-5 years	46.70%	93.55%	43.33%	26.66%	
6-10 years	23.33%	3.22%		16.66%	
11+ years	30.00%		30.00%	56.66%	35.71%
time lived in Canada					
0-5 years	23.33%		16.66%		60.71%
6-10 years	13.00%	19.35%	16.66%		25.00%
11+ years	40.00%	67.74%	63.33%	1.66%	3.57%
all their life				83.33%	
ownership					
own house	73.33%	100.00%	96.67%	90.00%	89.28%
rent house	23.33%		3.33%	10.00%	3.57%
1st move	10.00%		3.33%		
2nd move	80.00%	80.64%	76.66%	73.33%	82.14%
3rd move	10.00%	12.90%		30.00%	14.28%

Findingscontd.

- Reasons for moving
- Services offered by place of worship
- Neighbourly interaction

Planning challenges

- Approval of the place of worship
 - Rural areas
 - Multiple uses of the establishment
- Approval of new subdivisions around places of worship
 - Access
 - Connectivity
 - Municipal services
 - Community institutions

Conclusion

