

Appendix

Database of 7,000 Case Files

The case files from which the database was created are found in the International Institute of Metropolitan Toronto collection at the Archives of Ontario, Toronto. The finding aid gives the agency's dates as 1952–1975, but it ceased to exist on 31 December 1974 and I found no documents that are dated 1975. A more accurate periodization is 1952–74.

The International Institute collection is vast, the materials spanning 18.23 metres. The total number of case files cover the period 1952–72 and make up a significant portion (7.2 metres) of the collection. The case files were generated as follows. When an individual (and on occasion, a couple) came to the Institute seeking assistance with a personal matter (such as finding work, sponsoring the immigration of a child still overseas, or dealing with an elderly mother), a cover form that asked for biographical information and type of “problem” was filled out. (Once established in 1960, the Reception Centre staff carried out this task, though a counsellor or caseworker might also do so.) The subsequent entries on the form and on any additional pages were made by the counsellor during the initial and subsequent appointments with a given client, though a client might meet with more than one counsellor. The secretaries typed up the counsellors' notes, adding pages as they needed, but some counsellors may have sometimes done their own typing. (Some secretaries were also home visitors and probably typed up their own notes.) The database contains 7,000 of these case files for the period 1952–72.

The process of selection combined a sampling technique and a specific strategy. Every tenth case file was included for the period 1952–72. In addition, every lengthy file was added in the expectation that they would be more informative. By lengthy, I mean more than three pages of qualitative text, which might consist of a counsellor or caseworker's entries and/or a report(s) or summary report(s) conducted by the social agency or medical or court authorities

that referred the client to the Institute. The numbering of the case files in the endnotes of the relevant chapters in no way reflects where a specific case was located in the records or entered into the database. This final database is the product of a career-long engagement with the Toronto Institute collection, and the work of a dozen research assistants, several of them now established scholars. Ethically, handling such sensitive material requires sensitivity on the historian's part, and I have tried to do just that.

The quality of the case files varies enormously, becoming increasingly scanty by the late 1960s. The record-keeping increasingly eschewed qualitative remarks and many of the later files provide only the most basic information in a standard chart format. The files for the 1970s are particularly terse. I did not sample the files for 1973 and 1974 because they were so slim and appeared unhelpful. Regrettably, the case files for later-arriving clients, including newcomers from Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, as well as from Central and South America, are the least well-documented cases.

Tables 1 (world regions by nationality/ethnic groups) and **2** (top 15 nationality/ethnic groups) provide information on the clientele in the database, which represents 120 different groups. (All 120 groups could not be displayed in one format.) Most groups were defined by nationality (country of origin) but a handful of them were defined by ethnicity (as in a majority or minority ethnic group from within a given nation). An example of the latter is the Czech group in **table 2**, which refers to the ethnic Czech group from Czechoslovakia and not both Czechs and Slovaks. As **tables 1** and **2** demonstrate, the database is heavily skewed to Europeans who formed the great bulk of the Institute's caseload particularly during the 1950s and 1960s.

As **tables 3** (male age groups) and **4** (female age groups) show, men outnumber women in the database. As regards age, a large proportion of both the male and female clients fell into the age 22–34 category. The general youthfulness of the clientele reflects the overall youthfulness of immigrants to Canada (e.g., average age 24.9 in the period 1946–67).

Table 5 shows the types of case files. Referrals to English classes are the single largest group of files, but I did not make explicit use of them because they were so routine. Individuals were assigned to a class and non-counselling staff or volunteers dealt with the enrolments.

Combined, male and female employment made up the largest type of case file: 3,248 or 46.4 per cent of the total number of files. Men significantly outnumber women. In contrast to the records of most social welfare institutions, which rarely “catch” middle-class clients, one third of the files (2,310 cases) involve clients from professional backgrounds. The other two-thirds involve skilled tradespeople and clients variously defined as semi- or low-skilled or

of rural origins. Rather than simply rely on a counsellor's initial designation, I decided on the primary designation to assign each file. Many files fit more than one type of case and some files quickly or eventually shift in focus from one theme (such as employment) to another one (such as generational conflict). During the collection phase, my researchers and I attached more than one thematic category to about one-third of the files. Once the database was completed, I determined the primary type of case after carefully reading the entire contents of a file.

Throughout the book, I make use of both brief and lengthy case files, but I rely more heavily on the lengthy files that deal with more complicated cases. My analysis of the examined files is informed by my familiarity with all the cases in the database. Putting aside the referrals for English class, the case files that were examined for this book represent two-thirds of the total files in the database.

The case files, which contain sensitive material, are the only restricted records in the collection. In order to gain access to them, I signed a research agreement in which I agreed to respect the privacy of the clients. I have anonymized each client's identity by using a fictitious name or initials or avoiding both. I have modified or omitted details (such as the exact age, home address, employer, and so on) without altering the ethnicity of individuals or key features of a case. My research agreement did not specifically require me to anonymize the counsellors. They are briefly profiled in [chapter 3](#) on the basis of information contained elsewhere in the collection and in other sources. My detailed analysis of certain case files draws on relevant aspects of a counsellor's profile. However, in order to fully respect their privacy as well, when discussing the contents of a case file, I have not divulged the identity of the counsellors or caseworkers.

Table 1. World regions by nationality groups

Africa	103
Asia	1,292
Americas	1,091
Eastern Europe	1,640
Western Europe	2,393
Middle East	414
Other (Australasia)	4
Unknown	63
TOTAL	7,000

Table 1 World regions by nationality groups

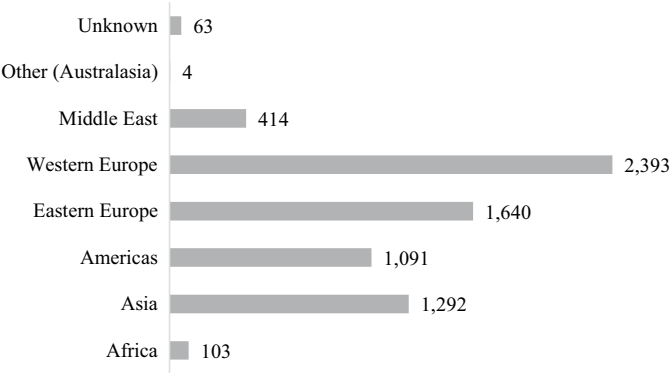


Table 1 World regions by nationality groups

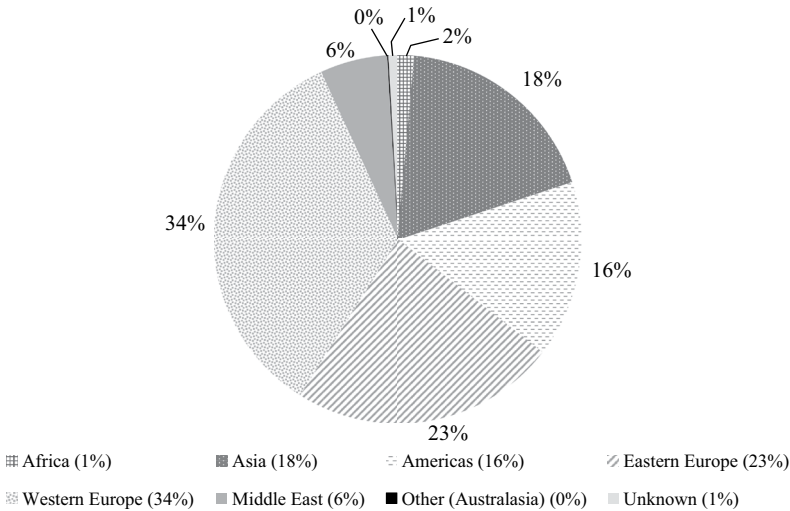


Table 2. Top 15 nationality and ethnic groups

	Count
Hungarian	707
Greek	704
Portuguese	648
Italian	448
Korean	310
Indian	298
Yugoslavian	298
German	254
Chinese	252
Ecuadorian	229
Japanese	213
Czech	194
Polish	182
Uruguayan	158
Colombian	109
TOTAL	5,004

Table 2 Top 15 nationality and ethnic groups

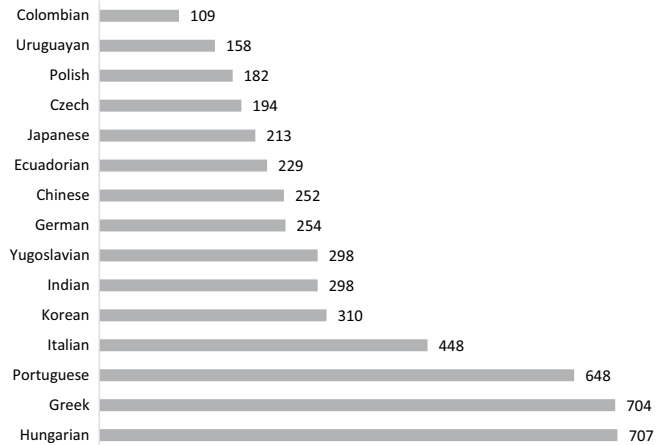


Table 2 Top 15 nationality and ethnic groups

- ✧ Hungarian (14%)
- ▨ Greek (14%)
- ✳ Portuguese (13%)
- ▤ Italian (9%)
- ▥ Korean (6%)
- ▦ Indian (6%)
- ▧ Yugoslavian (6%)
- ▨ German (5%)
- ▩ Chinese (5%)
- Ecuadorian (5%)
- Japanese (4%)
- ▬ Czech (4%)
- ▮ Polish (4%)
- ▯ Uruguayan (3%)
- ▰ Colombian (2%)

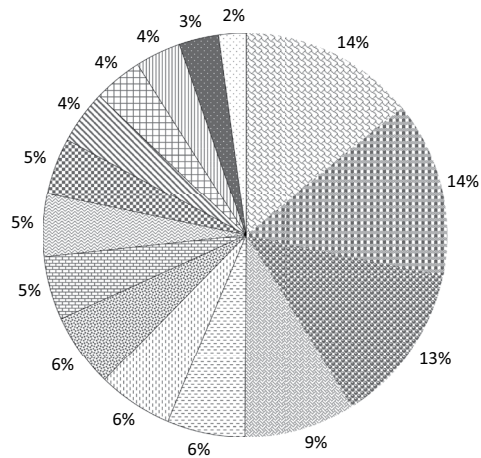


Table 3. Male age groups

	Male (Total Database)
13–21	686
22–34	2,650
35–50	883
51–64	211
65–80	34
Unknown	29
TOTAL	4,493

Table 3 Male age groups

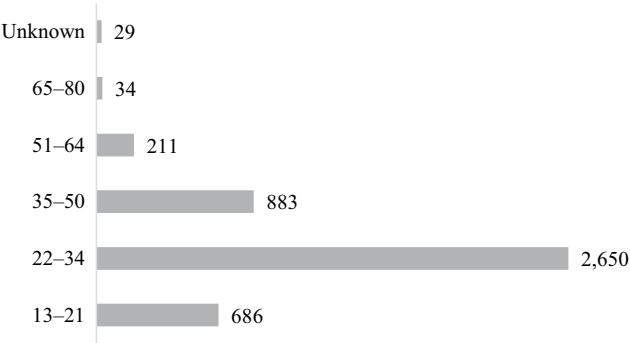


Table 3 Male age groups

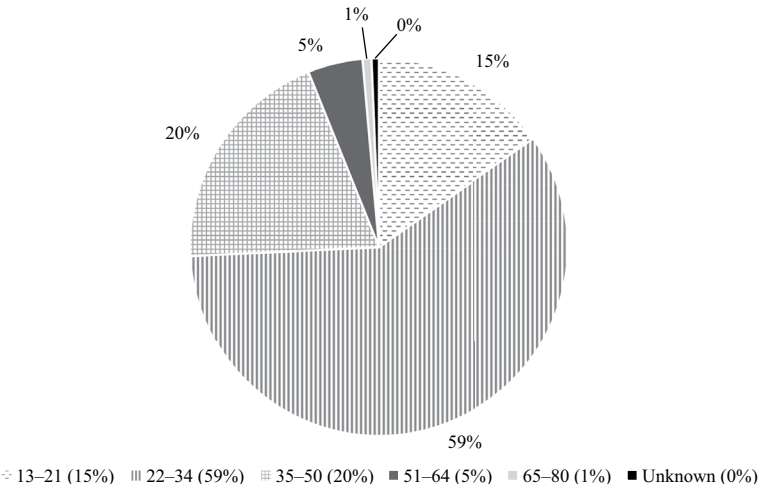


Table 4. Female age groups

	Female (Total Database)
13–21	531
22–34	1,276
35–50	531
51–64	138
65–80	16
Unknown	15
TOTAL	2,507

Table 4 Female age groups

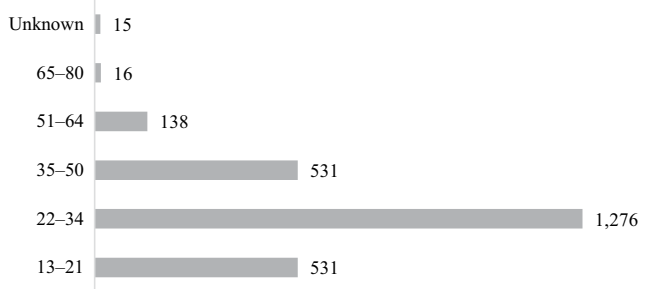


Table 4 Female age groups

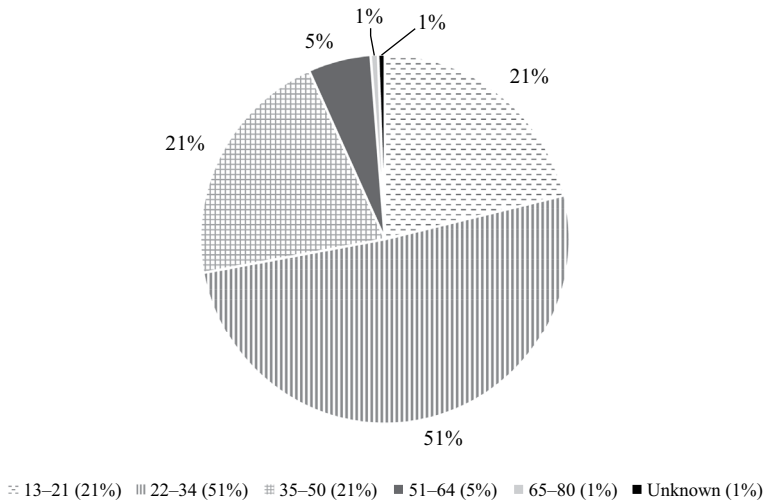


Table 5. Types of case files

	Total
Generational conflict	150
Marital conflict	100
Referred to Institute for English classes	2,728
Referrals to other social agencies	359
Female employment	1,085
Male employment	2,163
Legal aid counselling	177
Health/mental health counselling	98
Other	140
TOTAL	7,000

