

PIP Title: The Space In Between

PIP Research Question/Statement: An investigation into the diasporic experiences of second-generation immigrants in western societies such as Australia in relation to their acceptance or rejection of western culture.

Extract Section: Central Material -Chapter One

Central Material -Chapter One Extract

As the most culturally diverse nation in the world, international migration has functioned since the post-WWII period as an essential part of Australia's social, cultural and economic landscape. As of 2021, more than 7.6 million migrants have arrived in Australia and more than half of all Australians are either first or second-generation migrants, reflecting that Australia is "fast-changing, growing and culturally diverse nation".¹ Largely contemporary migration and cultural pluralism stemmed from the repeal of the White Australia Policy in 1972, also known as the 1901 Immigration Restriction Act, which had the primary goal of preserving Australia's Anglo-Celtic culture and ethnic background, which was the first major step towards welcoming people from other parts of the world including South American countries. While individuals born in the United Kingdom continue to constitute the largest group of overseas-born residents (5.3%), there has been a consistent flow of migrants from countries such as New Zealand, China, India and Vietnam,² prior to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. This cultural diversity was reflected in the results of the conducted primary research, as *Figure 1.1* illustrates that 52.6% Australians identified with a European heritage, 21.1% were Eastern Asian/Southeast Asian and 10.5% Middle Eastern.³ As such, Australia's multicultural immigration policy and ideological vision for the nation has since its inception in 1978, increasingly encouraged immigrants from all over the world to settle, establish ties, work and raise families in this country. This is confirmed by *Figure 1.2* which illustrates that of the cross-generational questionnaire respondents, 68.4% stated that either both of their grandparents, or both of their parents, were born overseas,⁴ indicating their status as either a second or third-

¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Migration Australia" *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, (2021), available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/migration-australia/latest-release>

² Australian Human Rights Commission, "Face the facts: Cultural Diversity: *Australian Human Rights Commission*, available from: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/education/face-facts-cultural-diversity>

³ Questionnaire, Question 3, Conducted March 2022

⁴ Questionnaire, Question 4, Conducted March 2022

generation migrant. The generalisability of this statistic to the broader Australian population was evidenced in the 2021 Census data which revealed that 48.2% of Australians had an overseas-born parent, and 27.6% were born outside Australia themselves.⁵ This represents a significant increase over time from the 2011 *Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census* report which indicated that there were 5.3 million first-generation Australians, 27% of the population, and 4.1 million second generation Australians, 20% of the population.⁶ Additionally, enshrined in the nation's multicultural policy was that "migrants have the right to maintain their culture and racial identity"⁷ and this notion, along with globalisation, has facilitated the creation of a unique personal and collective cultural identity. This was supported by a female focus group participant who stated that 'Australia has allowed for expression of my cultural background to be accepted and embraced.'⁸ Specifically, while still relatively small in comparative number, Latin American migrants have had an increasing presence in Australia since their first-wave of migration in the 1970s. Migrants particularly from Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador and Uruguay constitute a sizable cultural community in contemporary society.⁹ The 2011 Census revealed that 102,275 people made up the Latin American- Australian population, a substantial increase from the 61,471 Latin American born people registered in 1996, representing approximately 0.49 percent of the total population of Australia.¹⁰ This increase is arguably attributed to the second-wave of South American migration in the late-1990s which predominantly saw middle class students and skilled labourers settle in Australia,¹¹ many of whom elected to maintain a transnational and transcultural identity by continuing cultural ties within Latin American communities established by first-wave migrants in New South Wales.¹² This is confirmed by the first generation South American migrant believing that 'initially when migrating to Sydney at the age of 14, having no parental figures in the country I had to turn to those who I could

⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Migration Australia" *Australian Bureau of Statistics*, (2021), available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/migration-australia/latest-release>

⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics, "Cultural Diversity in Australia", *Reflecting a Nation: Stories from the 2011 Census* available from:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/lookup/2071.0main+features902012-2013>

⁷ Clyne, M & Jupp, J *Multiculturalism and integration: a harmonious relationship* (ANU Press: Canberra, 2011), p.5

⁸ Generation Z Focus Group Participant (Second-Generation), Conducted April 2022

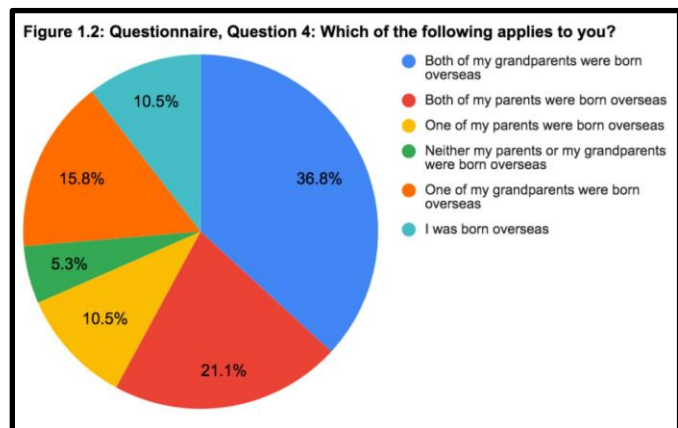
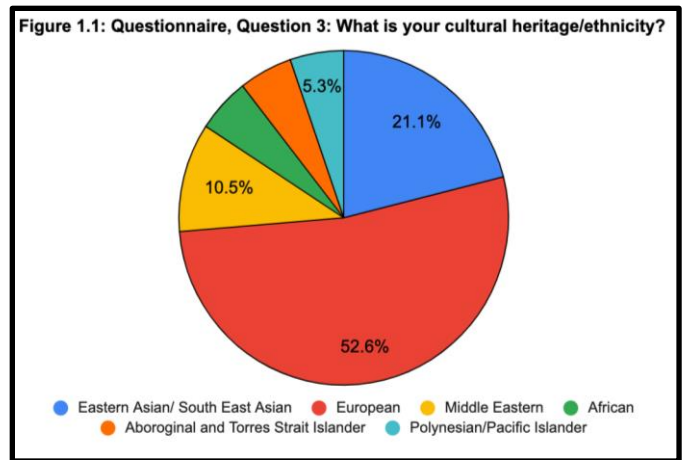
⁹ Rocha, C. & Coronado, G. (2014) "Imagining Latin America in Australia: Migration, Culture and Multiculturalism," *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 35, p.468

¹⁰ Kath, E. *Australian–Latin American Relations: New Links in a Changing Global Landscape* (Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2016), p.13

¹¹ Kath, E. *Australian–Latin American Relations: New Links in a Changing Global Landscape* (Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2016), p.24

¹² Yussuf, A. (2021). 'I have three cultures': How young multicultural Australians are finding their identity. The Feed. <https://www.sbs.com.au/i-have-three-cultures-australians-are-finding-their-identity>

communicate with and feel safe knowing there wasn't a cultural barrier.¹³ Thus, the establishment of, and engagement with, meso-level cultural community groups allowed for first-generation migrants in the 1990s and 2000s to maintain "connections with their home countries" within a network of "sites of the Latin American diaspora".¹⁴



¹³ Generation X Participant (First-Generation) Interview, Conducted April 2022

¹⁴ Rocha, C. & Coronado, G. (2014) "Imagining Latin America in Australia: Migration, Culture and Multiculturalism," *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 35, p.468