

WERA IRN launches international project on Education and Immigration

By using the WERA IRN *An International Knowledge Base for Educational Effectiveness* as a starting point members of this IRN initiated in 2017 an international research project in the field of education and immigration.

The research project entitled *Education and Immigration: Policy, Leadership and Praxis* is being conducted with participation of researchers from the Florida Atlantic University (USA) and from TU Dortmund University (Germany) – with critical friends from Western University (Canada), The Center for Academic Studies in Or Yehuda (Israel), and Monash University (Australia).

The purpose of this project is to investigate Canadian and German policies, programs, didactical approaches and educators' attitudes regarding the education and integration of immigrant/refugee students. Therefore, the researchers collected data in Fall 2017 at schools in two large school boards in southwestern Ontario (Canada) and in the State of North-Rhine Westphalia (Germany), supplemented with public documents and statistics generated by governmental authorities and NGOs. Project partners Ira Bogotch, Michael Pfeifer and Sarah Wieckert tell that the data collection that they just finished was interesting: “The interviews and classroom observations were very insightful, there seem to be differences but also similarities in how Canada and Germany are educating and integrating immigrant/refugee students. Now we are eager to conduct in-depth analyses of our data.”

The researchers plan to present their findings at international and national conferences: “It is our aim to capture by this research what Canada and Germany are doing successfully to support immigrant/refugee students in schools and to share our findings with educational policy, schools authorities, school leaders, teachers and other researchers”.

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Photo caption: >>Project partners (from left to right) Sarah Wieckert (TU Dortmund University, Germany), Ira Bogotch (Florida Atlantic University, USA) and Michael Pfeifer (TU Dortmund University, Germany) during a visit to the Ministry of Schools and Education of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany<<