**Request for Proposals**

**Research Data Centre Program**

**Statistics Canada**

**Extended Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC-IMDB)**

**Fall 2017**

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC), an immigration panel survey, and tax data information from the Longitudinal Immigration Database (IMDB) have been combined to provide an extended analytical file (LSIC-IMDB). Topics covered in the survey include language proficiency, housing, education, foreign credential recognition, employment, health, values and attitudes, the development and use of social networks, income, and perceptions of settlement in Canada. Latest additional socio-economic outcomes are then provided from tax filing information.

There exists a constant need for information on immigrants to Canada. As part of adapting to life in Canada, many immigrants face challenges such as finding suitable accommodation, learning or becoming more fluent in one or both of Canada's official languages, participating in the labour market or accessing education and training opportunities. The results of the survey provides indicators of how immigrants are meeting these and other challenges. While settlement process may take many years, the LSIC is designed to examine the first four years, a time when newcomers establish economic, social and cultural ties to Canadian society. To this end, the objectives of the survey are two-fold: to study how new immigrants adjust to life in Canada over time; and, to provide information on the factors that can facilitate or hinder this adjustment.

As part of the extended LSIC-IMDB data, the researcher obtains a linkage key that provides access to the IMDB database. The linkage to IMDB tax data offers a unique opportunity to connect the respondents’ social characteristics to long term socioeconomic outcomes without adding a new wage of interviews. With IMDB tax files updated yearly, LSIC respondents can be followed longitudinally without any sort of respondent burden. Additional detailed economic outcomes increase the analytical capacity of the survey. The benefits of analysis using the LSIC-IMDB included:

* Support for evidence based policy making;
* Increase the use of administrative data sources for research, thereby reducing the cost of data collection and the burden on respondents for surveys;
* Allow inferential statistical analysis on the confidential microdata and analytical work complex in nature or not suitable for other forms of data access.

The decision to conduct a pilot project at the Research Data Center (RDC) aims to address the feasibility of supporting the extended use of the LSIC-IMDB. This will allow further testing of the confidentiality vetting rules and testing of the IT resources necessary to transfer and analyze these large data files.

**The Data**

Extended Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada ([LSIC](http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4422) - [IMDB](http://www23.statcan.gc.ca:81/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=5057&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2&fpv=30000))

The target population for the LSIC survey consists of immigrants who meet all of the following criteria:

- arrived in Canada between October 1, 2000 and September 30, 2001;

- were age 15 years or older at the time of landing;

- landed from abroad, must have applied through a Canadian Mission Abroad.

Refugees claiming asylum from within Canada are also excluded from the scope of the survey. To be linked to the IMDB, the respondent will have filed at least one tax return since 1982. This extended survey has a longitudinal design where data from tax are collected on a yearly basis, no additional sampling is done.

This linkage is deterministic, it uses the immigrants’ Serial number from admission file provided by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). Additionally, the IMDB brings together immigration from IRCC, taxation data from the Canada Revenue Agency ([Annual Income Estimates for Census Families and Individuals –T1 Family files](http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=4105&lang=en&db=imdb&adm=8&dis=2)), and the date of death from Statistics Canada’s Amalgamated Mortality Database (AMDB).

Researchers unfamiliar with administrative data are cautioned that the LSIC-IMDB requires the manipulation of multiple large data files via linkages. Consequently, many researchers have found it takes some time to become familiar and to be able to operationalize the data in their research.

**Submissions**

While a limited number of proposals for both cross sectional and longitudinal analyses will be considered, research that includes the following types of analyses or results is of particular interest:

* Proposals making use of the longitudinal aspects of the database
* Proposal making use of economic outcomes in relation to settlement characteristics
* A mix of SAS users and STATA users.

Researchers are invited to submit proposals for consideration by **December 22, 2017**. The submitted research proposals will be assessed based on the research areas of interest as well as the proposed types of analysis, including the viability of the proposed research. The proposals that are better aligned with the above described research areas of interest, types of analysis and results will receive more favorable consideration.

All researchers will be notified by **early 2018**. The researchers whose proposals have been accepted *should* be able to access the data early in 2018.

Researchers with approved projects are expected to:

* Attend user group meetings as required
* Provide feedback on the data and documentation
* Be prepared that vetting rules are being tested and vetting is being done by committee, and therefore, the release of output may take longer than non-pilot projects.

We will be testing the robustness of the vetting rules, over the next year, with these proposals. Therefore, vetting could be delayed. Researchers should bear this in mind when considering the appropriateness of applying for access to LSIC-IMDB, at this time, because of the potential impact on the timely completion of their research.

Please refer to the [IMDB technical report](http://www5.statcan.gc.ca/olc-cel/olc.action?objId=11-633-X2017007&objType=46&lang=en&limit=0) .

Please contact Mustafa Ornek (rdc2@mcmaster) for questions related to proposal development and submission. Please contact Dong Shen (qrdc@queensu.ca) for data related questions.

**Proposals should be submitted by December 22, 2017 to:**

**Lisa Oliver, Regional Manager**

**Research Data Centre Program**

[**lisa.oliver@canada.ca**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Colivlis%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CB8Y4D5HH%5Clisa.oliver%40canada.ca)

**Proposals received after this date will be considered as long as space permits.**