



Health Effects of Taxi Driving

Academic English Seminar
Class 3

Class 3 Outline



1. Key points in Facey (2003)
2. Canadian population
3. T/F questions on Facey's article
4. Research method
5. Paper summary: racial formation, "Canadian experience," Health-endangering behaviors

Key points in Facey (2003)



Marcia E. Facey. 2003. "The health effects of taxi driving: The Case of Visible Minority Drivers in Toronto." *Canadian Journal of Public Health* 94(4): 254-257.

- i. Taxi drivers' backgrounds
- ii. Facey's research methods
- iii. Difficulties and challenges faced by taxi drivers
- iv. Taxi drivers' management of customer relations

Canadian population



- ✦ First Nations
- ✦ Founding Nations – English & French
- ✦ Newcomers, i.e. immigrants

True and False Questions



- ✦ Taxi drivers in Facey's paper had the same occupation before entering Canada. (T/F)
- ✦ The drivers' flexible work hours result in their good health. (T/F)
- ✦ They attempt to engage in conversation with their clients as part of their management tactics. (T/F)
- ✦ Their driving skills are highly respected by their clients. (T/F)
- ✦ Facey's research heavily relies on document analysis but rarely employs interviews. (T/F)

True and False Questions

- Answer keys

- ✦ Taxi drivers in Facey's paper had the same occupation before entering Canada. (F)
- ✦ The drivers' flexible work hours result in their good health. (F)
- ✦ They attempt to engage in conversation with their clients as part of their management tactics. (T)
- ✦ Their driving skills are highly respected by their clients. (F)
- ✦ Facey's research heavily relies on document analysis but rarely employs interviews. (F)

Research method



Research method: How does the author collect 'data' to support her argument? How do these methods complement with each other in her research?

- ✦ Interviews
- ✦ Participant observation
- ✦ Document analysis

Racial formation

- ✦ “It is estimated that 80 percent of the taxi drivers in Toronto are visible minorities”(Facey, p. 254).
- ✦ Do they become taxi drivers BECAUSE they are visible minorities?
- ✦ Did a taxi driver saw himself a visible minority before immigrating to Canada?
- ✦ Everyday racism: abuse and stereotyping

“Canadian Experience”



- ✦ The devaluation of ‘foreign’ credentials are justified as the ‘adjustment period’ in the host economy
- ✦ Professional organizations set regulatory standards (e.g. medicine, law, nursing, social work, teaching, etc.)
- ✦ “The Canadian educational and certification systems translate ‘inherited’ Canadian birthplace into economic privilege” (Bauder 2003, 700).
- ✦ Reference: Harald Bauder. 2003. “‘Brain Abuse’, or the Devaluation of Immigrant Labour in Canada.” *Antipode* 35(4): 699-717.

Health-endangering behaviors



- ✦ Economic uncertainty
- ✦ To attempt to control income, drivers could work long hours; do not refuse unfavorable or risky clients (e.g. smokers, sex-workers, drug dealers); trade personal care for economic security (e.g. skipping meals and bathroom breaks)
- ✦ Serious psychological and health effects
- ✦ Control of risky clients: “strategic talk” (p.256)