

Attitudes on the New Canadian Federal Immigration Policies: A Butterfly Effect

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Research Question

What are the **attitudes of international students** regarding the fairness and effectiveness of Canadian immigration policies, and **how do these attitudes vary between domestic and international students?**

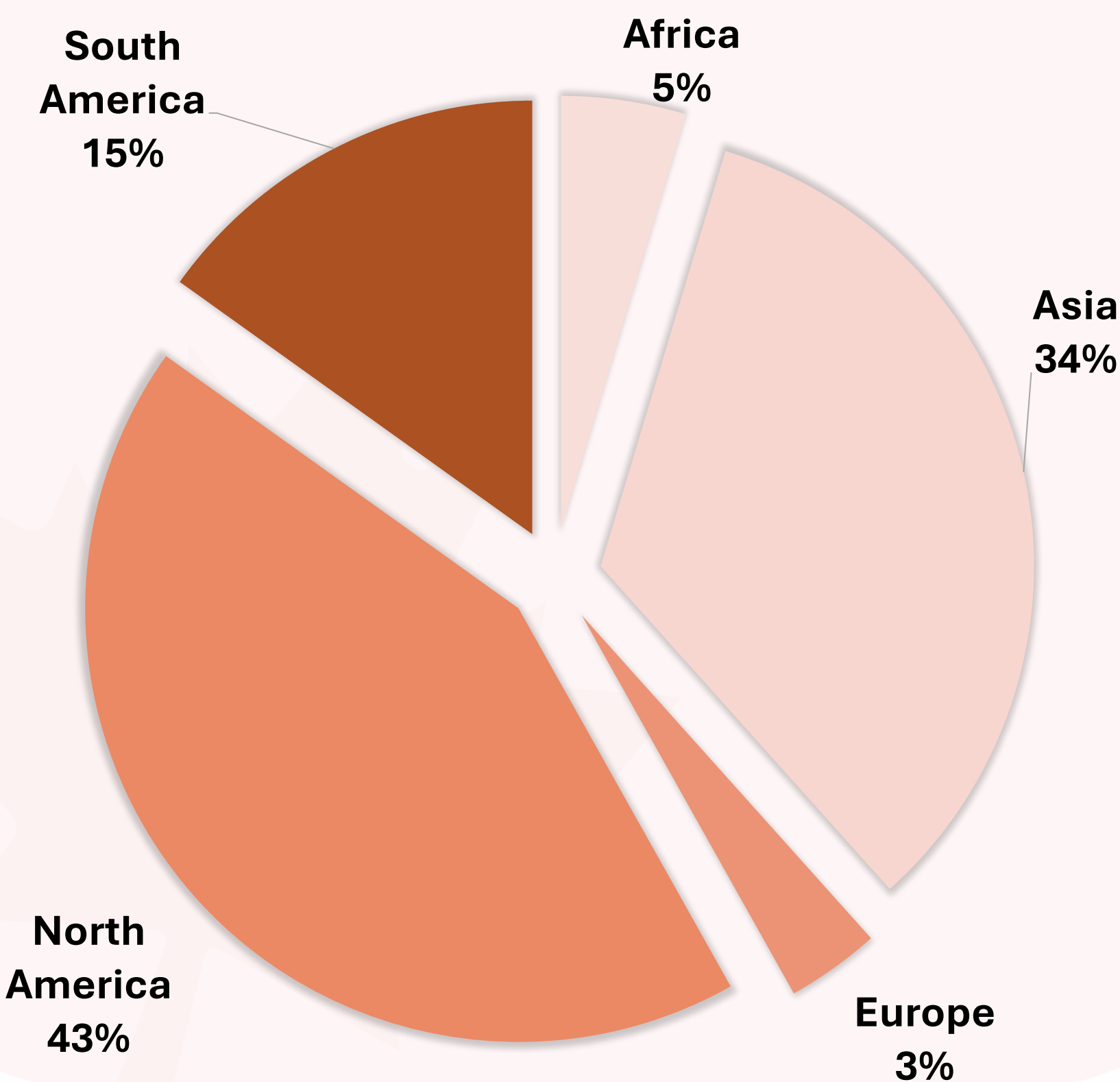
Abstract

In conducting this research project, we asked what the attitudes are regarding the fairness and effectiveness of Canadian immigration policies, and how these attitudes vary between domestic and international students? To gather the data and come to a conclusion regarding the research question the study uses questionnaires to obtain demographics, state of gratification, level of cultural humility and attitudes on the immigration policies.

Participants

From the total 133 survey participants **86 completed and are represented in this analysis**. For the purpose of this research project “International” participants are categorized as those that are temporary foreign workers (TFW) or students on a visa, and tourists, while “Domestic” participants are permanent residents (PR) or Canadian citizens.

	International	Domestic
Average Age	31	27
Male	29%	24%
Female	71%	69%
Other	0%	8%



Background

November 2023 immigration minister Marc Miller made some drastic changes to the policies that impact the international students within the Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) (Wong, 2024). **The new policies cover various areas most of which were relatively laxed**, changes include implementing a new cap on the number of students admitted to designated institutions, adjustments to the post graduate work permits (PGWP) which allow students to work after studies, spousal permits, and proof of income (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada [IRCC], 2024a). Similarly with the drastic changes for students, the IRCC has reinforced and slightly adjusted some relevant policies that **hold designated academic institutions increasingly more accountable** for who they accept. Gradually, academic institutions are given limited acceptance letters that come with a host of caveats; provide that they can accommodate the students financially, potentially offer on campus housing, ensure the students are eligible to attend the institution in a way that is conducive to their speaking and educational abilities (IRCC, 2024b).

Methods

To gather the data the study used questionnaires to obtain demographics, state of gratification, level of cultural humility and open-ended questions on attitudes on the immigration policies. Pre-existing scales for cultural humility and gratitude were used to ensure increased validity, this included the Personal Report of Interethnic Communication Apprehension (Neuliep, & McCroskey, 1997), the Gratitude Questionnaire – 6 (McCullough, et al., 2002) and an adapted version of the Cultural Humility Scale (Foronda, et al., 2021).

The research correlated how participants levels of cultural competence and their state of gratification correspond with overall themes from domestic and international attitudes provided from the open-ended questions.

Discussion

The research showed that between Domestic: Internationals there is a negative correlation with Cultural Humility & PRECA ($r=-0.5$: and $r=-0.17$) which indicates people tend to be culturally aware but less inclined to talk with other cultures. Yet there is a positive correlation between Cultural Humility & Gratitude ($r=0.16$: $r=0.34$), and Gratitude & age ($r=0.19$: $r=0.48$). **Both internationals and domestic residents** are relatively more grateful as they age, just as their level of Cultural Humility increases with Gratitude.

Limitations

This research illustrated some interesting relationships with the results, however there are some limitations with the research.

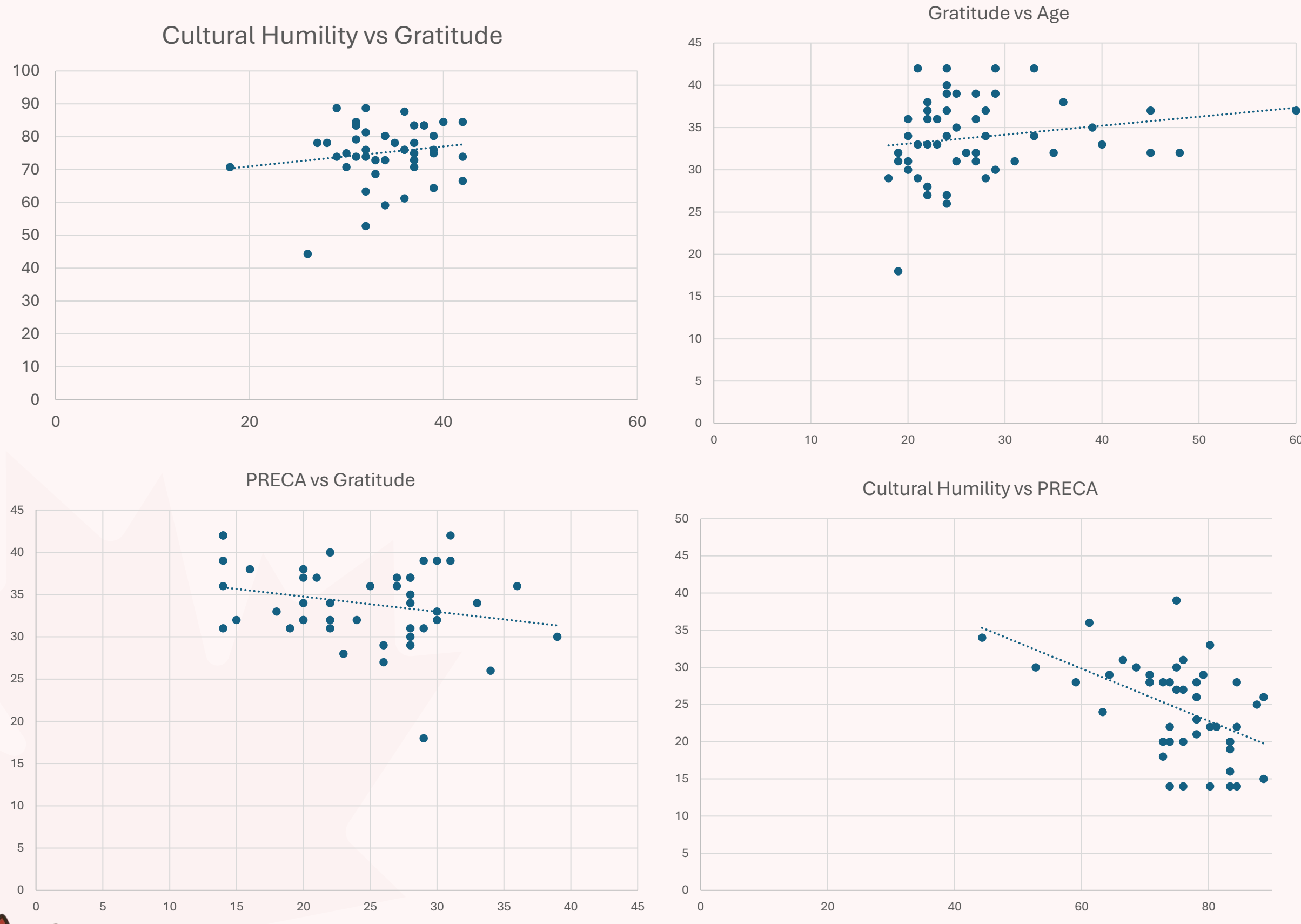
1. Small sample size, not generalizable given scope of sample.
2. **Low response rate (64%)**, due to potential survey length (avg time = 10 minutes).
3. Question wording, causing **possible confusion**.

Themes

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact
International (i.e. temporary foreign workers, students visa, tourists)	New expectations for studying in Canada.	Causing separation from family (spouse, grandparents, parents). Causing stress, anxiety, depression. Experiencing increased discrimination.
Domestic (i.e. permanent residents (PR), Canadian Citizens)	Perceived increased job prospects. Perceived increased access to education programs. Increased support to immigration system.	Experiencing separation of friends and family.

Results

Domestic



International



References

See researcher for references