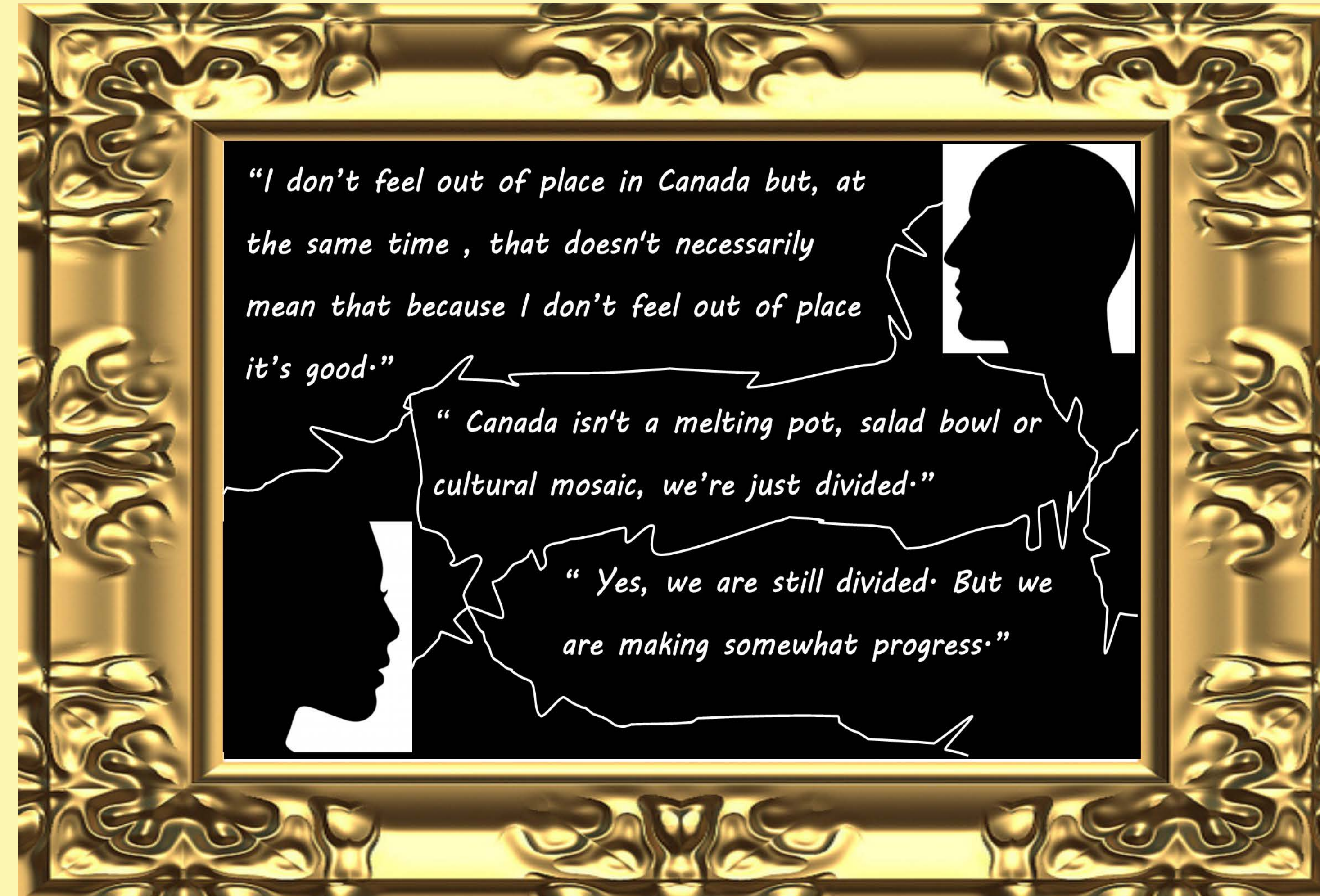


The Roses that Grew From the cracks in the Canadian Culture Mosaic

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Abstract

This research examines the perception of Canada throughout two generations of immigrants. Canada has been viewed as a cultural mosaic, an inclusive safe haven by immigrants regardless of sex, gender, age or religion, without exception, always welcoming to add to its beautiful and flawless masterpiece. However, does Canada truly fulfill its dominant international depiction to immigrants? Are we a cultural mosaic? Are the tools for success provided to immigrants and our citizens? Uncovering the marginalized stories of individuals that immigrated to our nation for a better life filled with opportunity will reveal the real narrative of our nation.



Personal Communication, 2017

Methods

Research was conducted through the interviews of two individuals, 28 years apart that migrated to Canada from Jamaica and Ghana West Africa.

Conclusion

The dominant stories of Canada form the beautiful frame of this mosaic, acknowledging that our glorious reputation towards immigrants has not changed throughout generations. The cracks within the frame originate from the marginalized stories of Canadians; the stories of the normalization of racism, workplace discrimination, the mistreatment of mental illness, the inhumane conditions of low income housing and First Nation reserves. The dominant stories of Canada are so powerful that the beauty of the frame remains intact while the cracks inside the frame continue to grow.

Thesis

Canada is not the beautiful cultural mosaic it claims to be but, a cracked masterpiece that often fails to provide safety and the tools to succeed for immigrants and citizens. Thus, causing success for immigrants to be as extraordinary as a rose growing from concrete.

*Did you hear about the rose that grew
from a crack in the concrete?
Proving nature's law is wrong it
learned to walk with out having feet.
Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,
it learned to breathe fresh air.
Long live the rose that grew from concrete
when no one else ever cared.*

The Rose that Grew From Concrete- Tupac Shakur 1999