

## HOW ARE SYRIAN REFUGEES PORTRAYED IN CANADIAN AND GERMAN NEWSPAPERS?

**TITLE OF RESEARCH:** Refugee Reception and Perception in Germany and Canada

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**SUMMARY:** This analysis of the representations of Syrian refugees in one newspaper in Germany and one in Canada confirms that both newspapers reflect the national traditions of their respective countries.

**LINK:** Click [here](#) to read the executive summary; click [here](#) for the publication



By analyzing articles from the *Globe and Mail* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in the fall of 2015, the researchers aimed to see how national identity and refugee reception were articulated in the German and Canadian media.

### Both newspapers reflect the national traditions of their respective countries



Germany: an 'ethnic' nation, with a shared language, culture and ancestry



Canada: a 'multicultural' nation, with an ethnically and culturally diverse population

### The research adds important nuance



In Germany, increasing acceptance of the idea of integrating 'others'



In Canada, some complacency around refugee integration within a self-proclaimed 'caring' nation

### Themes in the Media Coverage



Media coverage of Syrian refugees in Canada is less negative compared to that of other refugee groups



Perception that refugees threaten public safety



Emphasis on "otherness" of refugees



Canadian and German citizens are represented as generous, benevolent, and playing a vital role in refugee integration; while refugees' agency in their own integration is not recognized.

## Recommendations:

- Planned integration of refugees/asylum seekers is crucial to improve public perception.
- Civil society activism can steer public opinion towards greater acceptance of immigrants.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the researchers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Child and Youth Refugee Research Coalition.