

Does Culture Matter When Refugees are Crossing Borders: The Case of Liberian Refugees in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

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Many migration scholars argue that cultural links have significant influence over the trajectories of border crossings by immigrants and refugees. The argument of how culture dictates border crossings is underpinned by the deductive notion that migrants and refugees are likely to go and settle where they can culturally relate. Using Liberian refugees in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as a case study, this research troubles the validity and reliability of the culture and migration location choice logic by questioning as to why did the Liberian refugees resettle in Canada and not the United States, which shares historical, political, economic, social and cultural ties with Liberia? What role did culture play in this particular border crossing decision-making process? Preliminary findings from interviews provide new reasons to ponder the culture and migration location choice logic.