How do the information and communication technologies (ICTs) used by immigrant and expatriate members of Twitter interact with (a) the information values of community members, (b) the information those members share and exchange within and across community boundaries, and (c) the cultural memory established by their communities?

Purpose

- Information-centric online communities are popular sources for seeking, sharing information
- Greater information sharing is encouraged when users share similar information value judgments
- Information sharing is particularly important for new immigrants to and expatriates in a country
- Rely on social ties and online communities to find informational and social support
- Bring existing cultural memories, may create new ones during sharing of information with others
- Little research has examined, within & across online community boundaries, immigrants and expatriates’ negotiation of information values
- creation and invocation of cultural memory
- Information sharing and use of ICTs in this

Framework

Initial Findings

Valued and Shared

- Canadian culture, connections (or lack thereof; incl. articles, jokes)
- Experiences of expats (self-authored, interviews)
- Moving to Canada (opinions and facts; political elements)
- Scenic photos of Canada

Boundaries

- Physical: countries, provinces
- Languages: English (dialects), French, German, etc.
- Communities: geographic, political, media-based, expatriate

Cultural Memory

- Experiences of new immigrants
- Attending events (e.g. concerts)
- Life events (e.g. births)
- Supportiveness of Canadians
- Homesickness
- Becoming permanent residents

Research Design

1. OBSERVATION
   - Ethnographic
   - Unobtrusive
   - Info Value Negotiation
   - Information Sharing
   - Cultural Memory
   - Select hashtags and keywords
   - Guide codebook

2. CONTENT ANALYSIS
   - Info Values
   - Boundaries
   - Information Sharing
   - Cultural Memory
   - Information Worlds
   - About 500 tweets

3. INTERVIEWS
   - Semi-Structured
   - Critical Incidents
   - Info Value Negotiation
   - Information Sharing
   - Cultural Memory
   - At least 15 users, until saturation