

# A Comparative Study of Haitian Immigrant Communities in Montreal and Miami

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## **Abstract**

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This thesis seeks to examine how those in the Haitian communities of Montreal and Miami differ in their lived experiences. I focus on: (1) their residential patterning in the contexts of segregation theory with an analysis of census tract data; (2) factors affecting Haitian migration to each city with an analysis of survey data; and (3) on the relative labour market performance of Haitians in Montreal using log-wage regression analyses of Canadian Census Public-Use Microdata Files from 1991 and 2001. While Montreal's Haitian community does not appear to be as prone to the negative neighbourhood effects of segregation as the Haitian community in Miami, it nevertheless suffers from a sizable wage differential in the labour market. My findings raise questions concerning the roles of segregation and spatial assimilation of an ethnic minority upon its socioeconomic status. I show the tenuousness of assuming a causal relationship between the spatial distribution of a community and its overall wellbeing.

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