

BELONGING: FEELING ATTACHED AND ACCEPTED AMONG IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA

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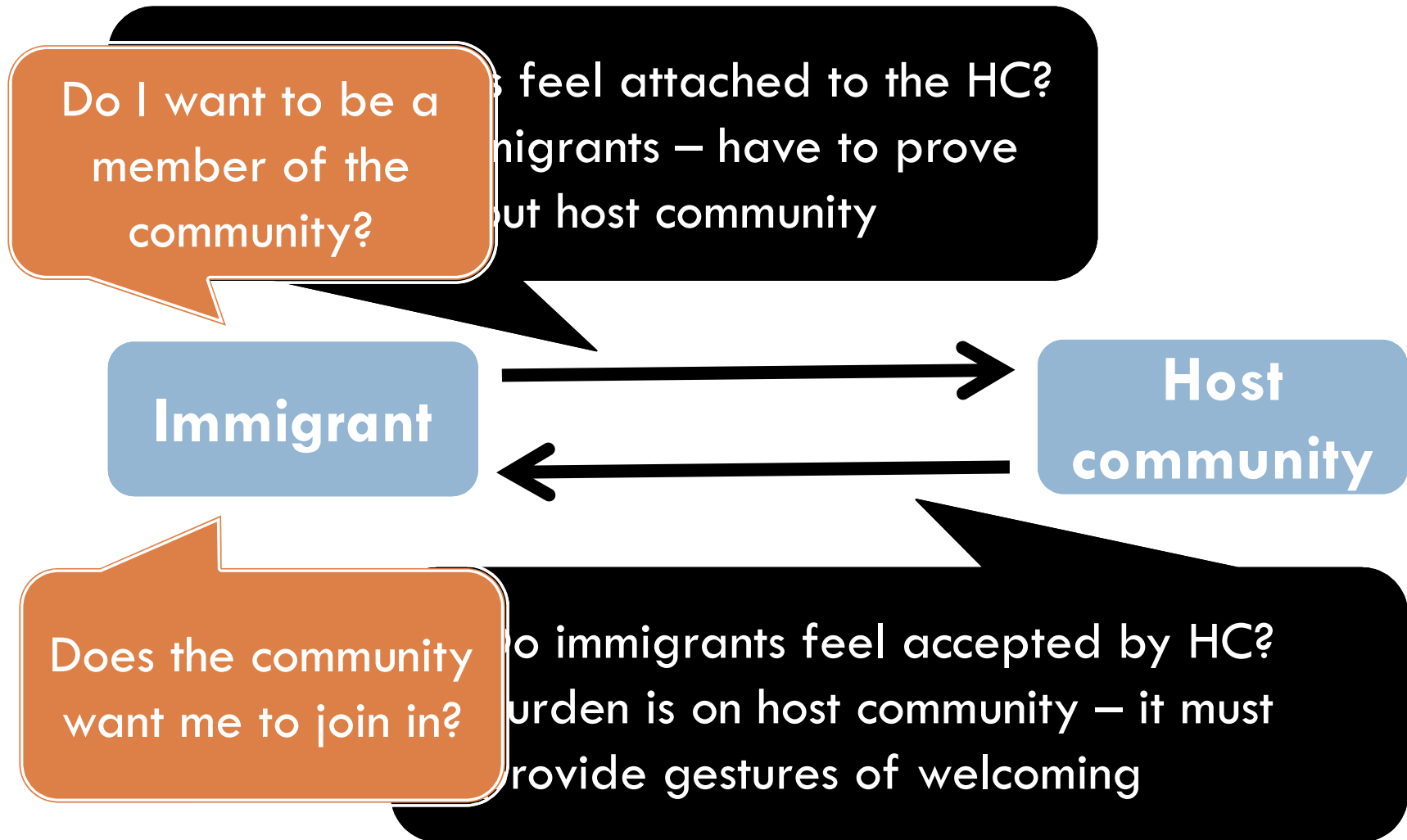
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Question 1: Does it matter if immigrants feel like they belong?

- “Do immigrants feel like they belong?”
- Question often asked because of fear that a weak sense of belonging could mean weak engagement with host community
- Yet research rarely studies how belonging relates to other dimensions of immigrant integration
- Most research documents sources of belonging

Question 2: What do we mean when we ask whether immigrants “belong”?



Research design and data



- Focus on visible minority Canadians
 - ▣ Growing population
 - ▣ Large share of immigrant population
 - ▣ Experience of discrimination

- Provincial Diversity Project
 - ▣ Visible minority survey (Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, BC)
 - 1st generation (n=891)
 - 1.5 & 2nd generation (n=736)
 - ▣ General Canadian population (n=3933)

Research design and data

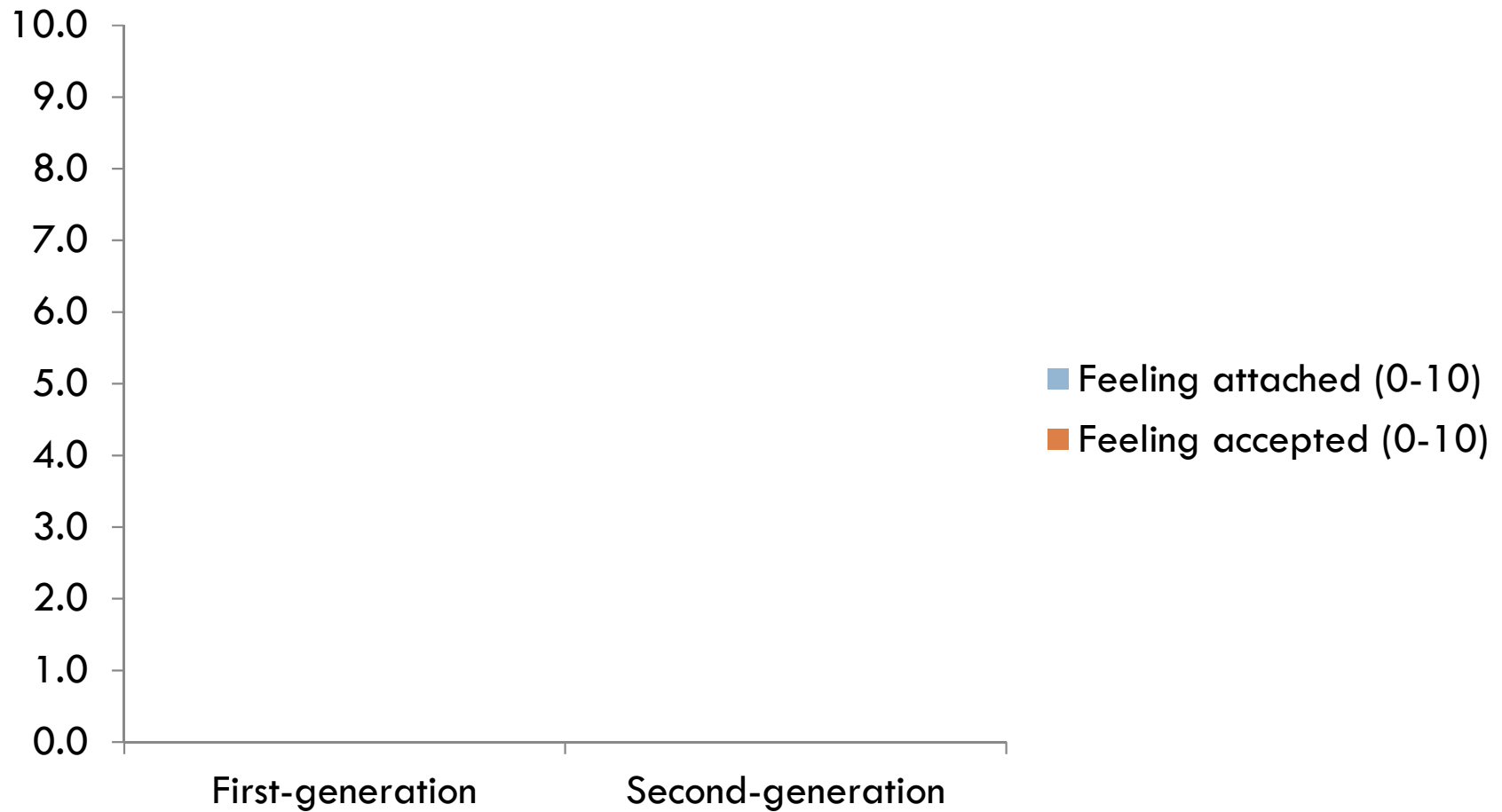
□ Measuring belonging

- ▣ How attached do you feel to Canada? (0-10)
- ▣ How much do you feel you have been accepted by Canada? (0-10)

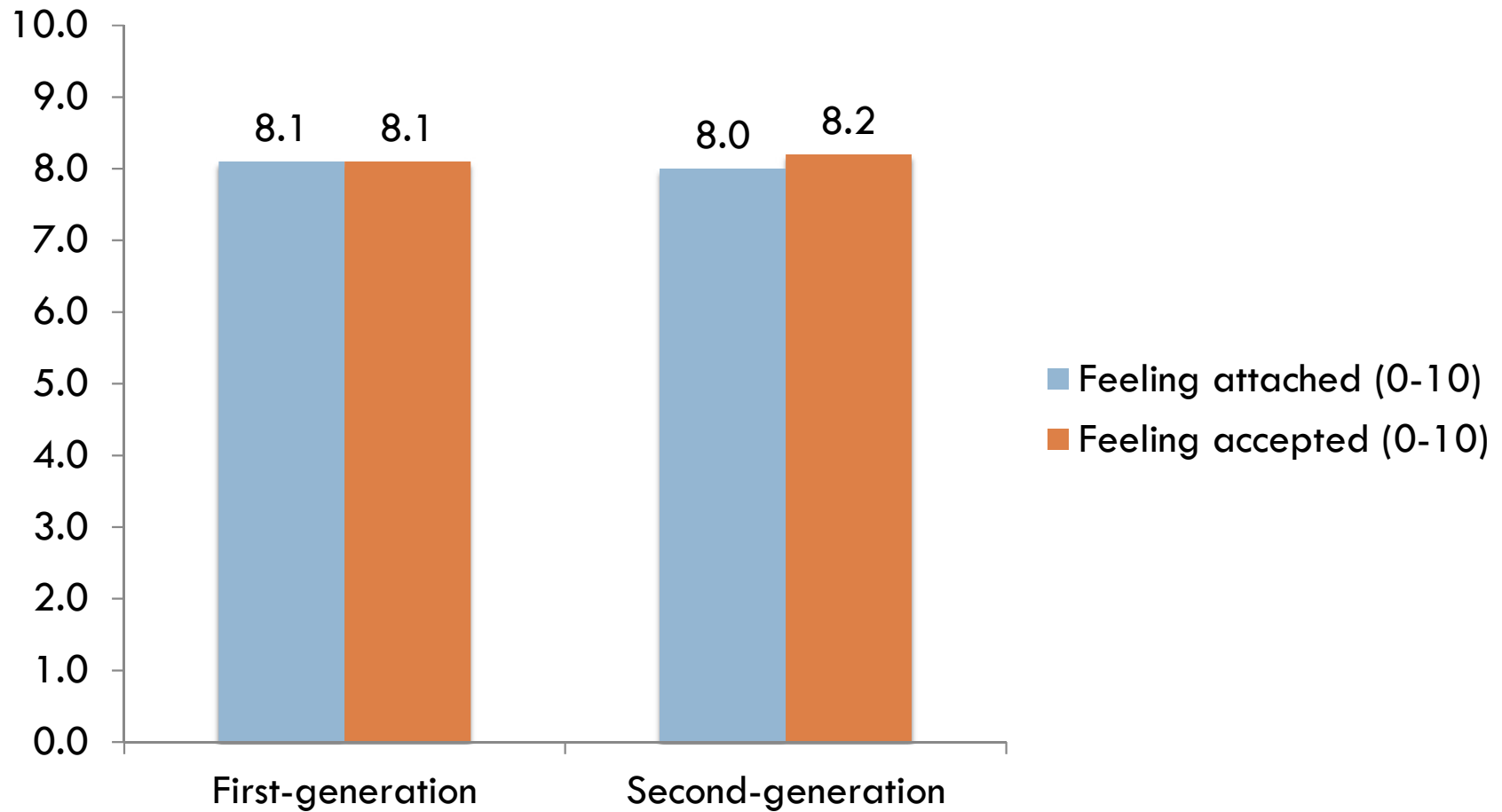
□ Measuring political integration

- ▣ Interest in federal politics (0-10)
- ▣ Confidence in institutions (HofC, Senate, Supreme Court) – (0-10)
- ▣ I would feel guilty if I did not vote in a federal election
(strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree)
- ▣ Voted in previous federal election (0-1)
- ▣ I would rather live in Canada than in any other country
(strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree)

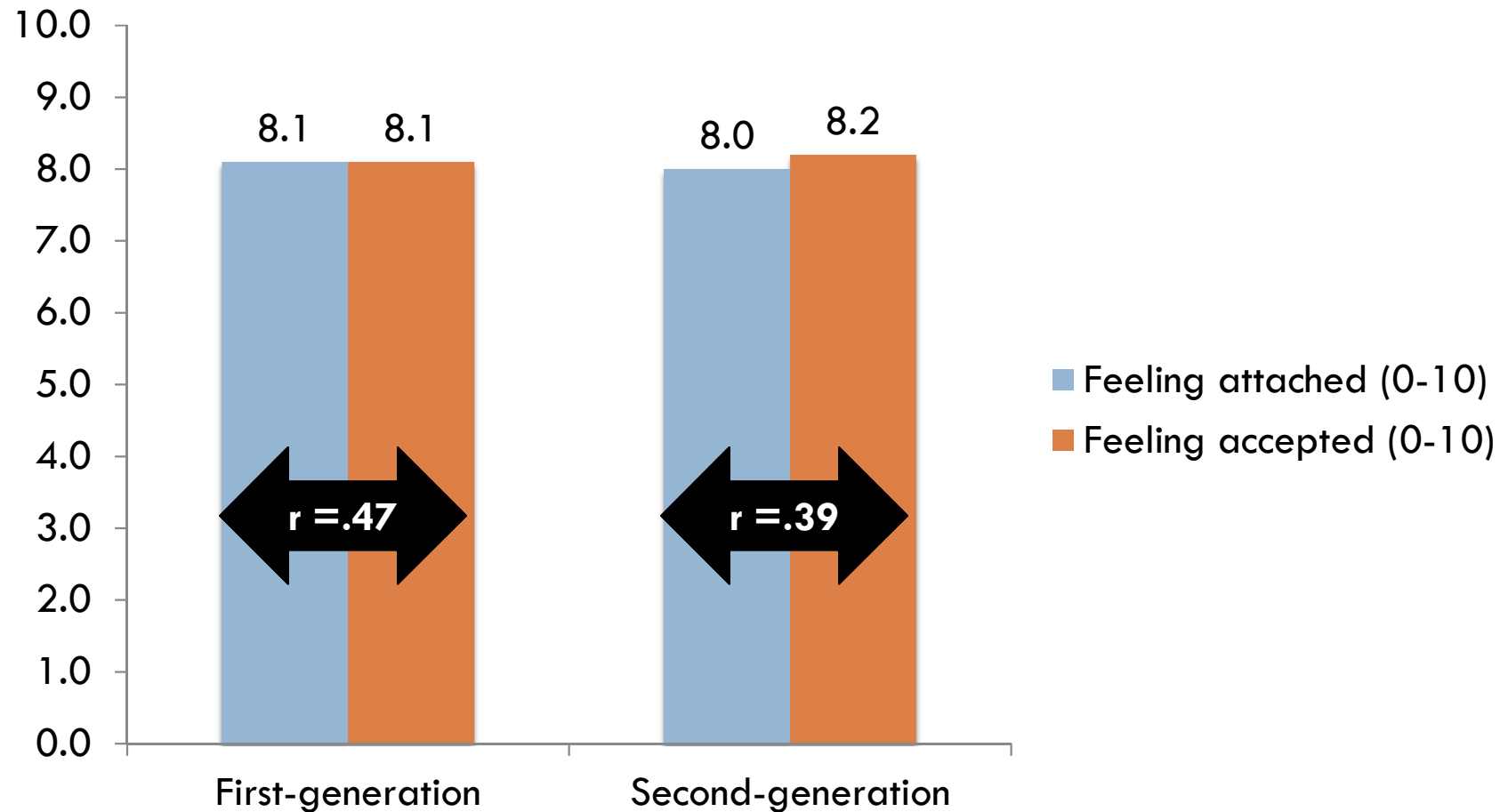
Feeling attached and accepted: Mean scores for 1st and 2nd generations



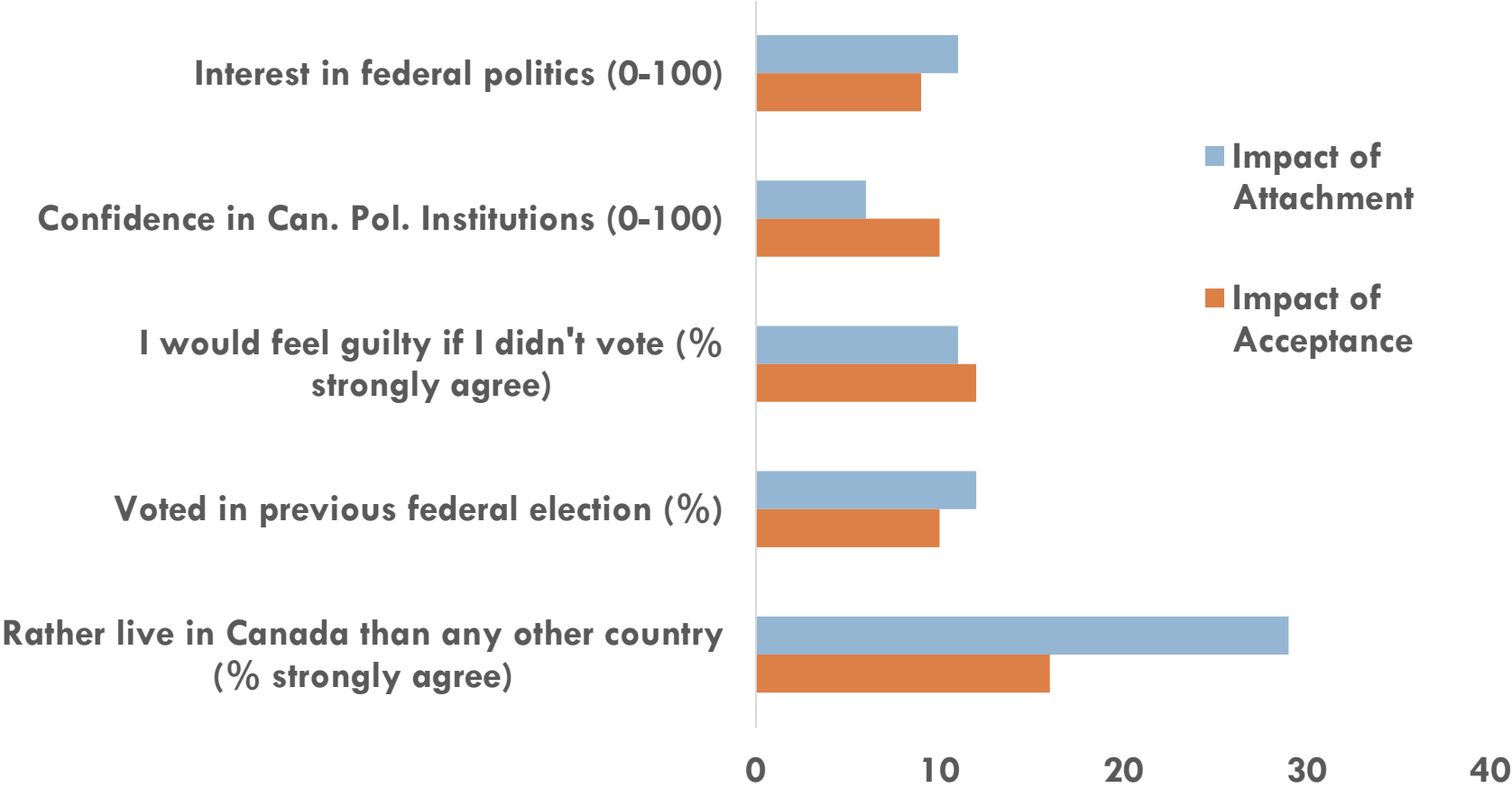
Feeling attached and accepted: Mean scores for 1st and 2nd generations



Feeling attached and accepted: Mean scores for 1st and 2nd generations

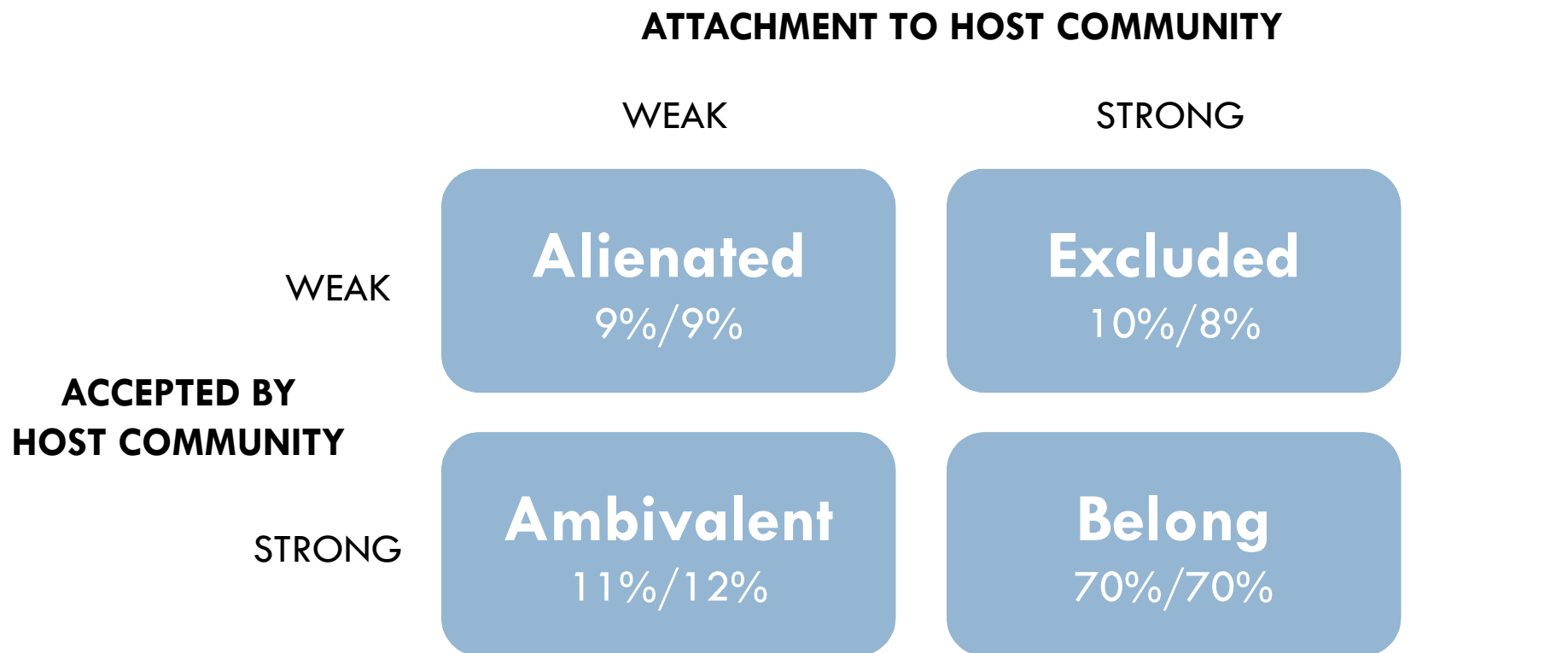


Political integration by Attachment and Acceptance



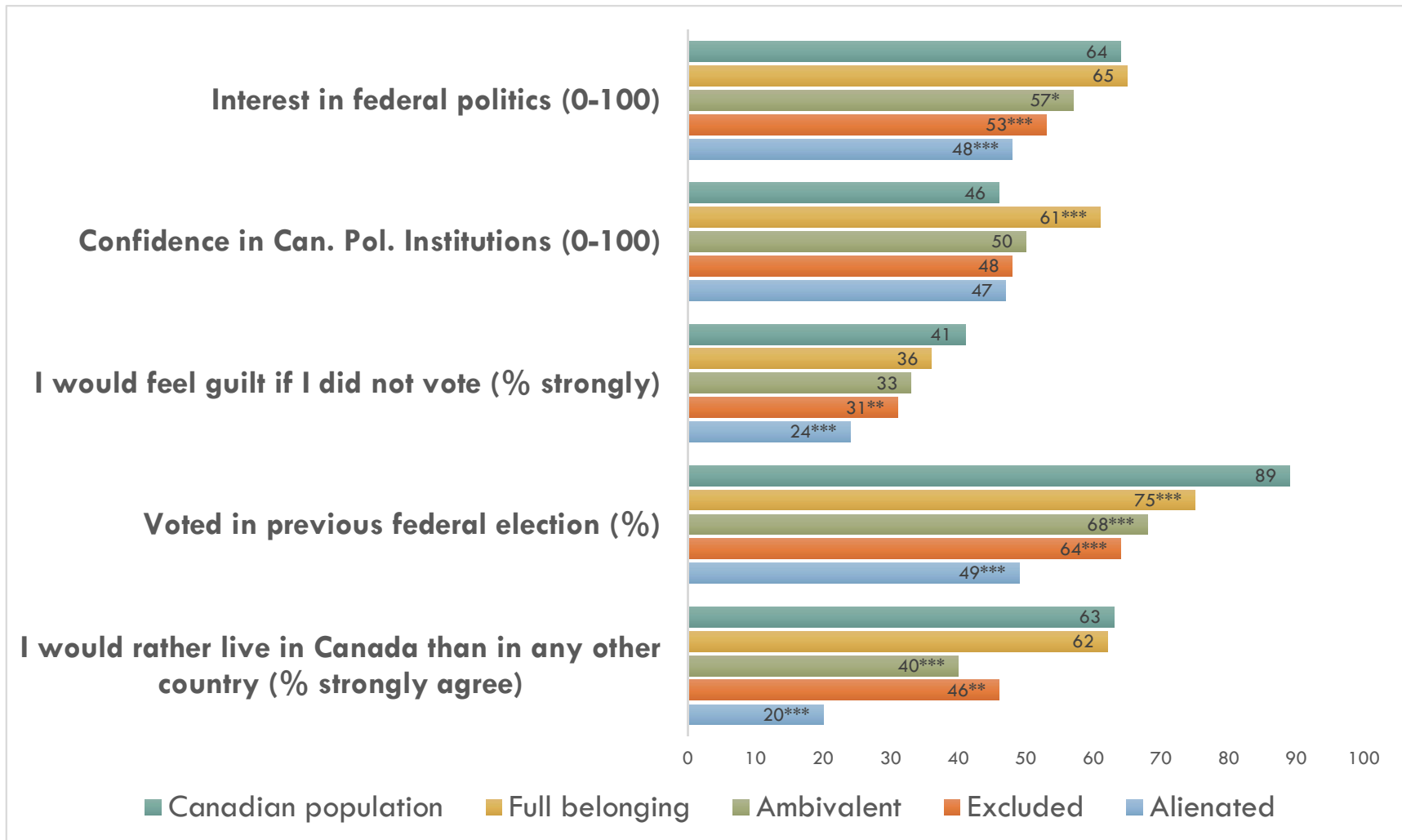
Results derived from multivariate analyses.

A typology of belonging



(% 1st gen / % 1.5 & 2nd gen)

Political integration by type of belonging



Results derived from multivariate analyses.

Conclusions



- There is an added value in thinking about belonging in terms of attachment and acceptance
 - ▣ Attachment: “do I want to be a community member?”
 - ▣ Acceptance: “does the community want me to join in?”
- Only when both conditions are met are immigrants as engaged as the rest of the Canadian population
- Belonging (and integration) is thus best understood as a two-way street

Table 2. Feeling Attached and Accepted: Relationship with Political Integration

	Interest in federal politics ¹		Confidence in institutions ¹		Feel guilty if not voting ²		Voted in federal election ³		Would rather live in Canada ²	
	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE	B	SE
Age	.28	.06a	-.26	.05a	.03	.01a	.05	.01a	.01	.00b
Education	4.85	.91a	2.98	.92b	.24	.06a	.25	.08b	-.05	.08
Women	-6.08	1.51a	.39	1.38	-.18	.11	-.24	.14	.19	.12
Feeling accepted	2.07	.65b	2.71	.53a	.12	.05b	.14	.06c	.16	.05b
Feeling attached	2.59	.60a	1.68	.47a	.19	.04a	.13	.06c	.31	.05a
Second generation	6.61	7.60	-1.94	6.17	2.33	.60a	1.74	.69c	-.24	.62
Feeling accepted (2 nd gen.)	-.37	.92	-.46	.72	-.09	.07	-.06	.08	-.06	.07
Feeling attached (2 nd gen.)	-.74	.88	-.37	.66	-.18	.06a	-.06	.07	.10	.07
Province (ref. cat.: ON)										
Quebec	2.68	2.10	-3.67	1.81c	-.04	.16	.51	.20c	-.02	.17
Alberta	-2.10	2.05	-4.51	2.01c	-.29	.15	-.31	.19	-.07	.17
British Columbia	-4.20	2.31	-3.33	1.91	-.33	.16c	.01	.20	-.03	.17
Constant	3.52	6.10	29.60	5.05a	---		-4.43	.64a	---	
/cut1	---		---		2.44	.44	---		.05	.61
/cut2	---		---		3.61	.45	---		2.04	.59
/cut3	---		---		5.19	.46	---		4.31	.60
R-square/pseudo R-square	.15		.16		.04		.11		.10	
N	1513		1293		1402		1313		1463	

Source: 2014 Provincial Diversity Project.

a: p<.001; b: p<.01; c: p<.05;

Entries report unstandardized B coefficients.

1. OLS regression. 2. Ordered logit regression. 3. Binomial logit regression.

Table 3. Feeling Attached and Accepted: Explanatory Power of Political Integration

	Interest in federal politics¹	Confidence in institutions¹	Feel guilty if not voting²	Voted in federal election³	Would rather live in Canada²
Only with socio-demographic variables	.085	.065	.030	.086	.012
With feeling attached only	.131 (+.046)	.119 (+.054)	.042 (+.012)	.100 (+.014)	.091 (+.079)
With feeling accepted only	.122 (+.037)	.141 (+.076)	.038 (+.008)	.100 (+.014)	.046 (+.034)
With both feeling attached and accepted	.145 (+.060)	.158 (+.093)	.045 (+.015)	.105 (+.019)	.098 (+.086)

Entries report R-square/pseudo R-square based on analyses presented in Table 2.

Entries in parentheses report change in value in R-square/pseudo R-square with model of reference including only socio-demographic variables.