

SCOPING REVIEW OF YOUTH ASYLUM INTERVIEWING

A Scoping Review of Research on Interviewing Asylum-Seeking Children

Shayla Chilliak, Sabrina Musacchio, Tina Montreuil & Shanna Williams

McGill University

December 16, 2023

This research was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in partnership with Genome Canada. Cette projet était financé par le Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines en partenariat avec Génome Canada.

Executive Summary

Immigration interviews with asylum-seeking youth have been largely understudied. In domestic legal settings, children interviewed about abuse and maltreatment provide more detailed, relevant responses when asked open-ended questions and when interviewed in a neutral environment, among other supportive practices. In asylum settings, guidance for interviews with youth derive from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. It is not clear to what extent specific practices employed during asylum interviews with youth reflect best practice in the fields of human rights and forensic psychology. This scoping review was performed to i. provide an overview of empirical literature on interviews with children in immigration settings, including border screenings, interviews with representatives, and asylum hearings, ii. explore whether best practices derived from forensic psychology and children's rights are observed in asylum interviews, and iii. reflect on the unique needs of asylum-seeking youth, including implications for research and practice. Included articles were quantitative and qualitative studies in English from 2003 - 2023 in which participants were asylum-seeking youth or stakeholders in the asylum process, and where the research question or study findings pertained to interviews in immigration contexts. Three databases were searched in August 2023 yielding 2793 studies. Of these, 21 were included in the review. Three articles identified were quantitative, and 18 were qualitative. While several articles touched on interview practices and youth's experiences of interviews, only a few examined how asylum-seeking youth responded to different interview factors such as question type and interview setting. Findings of the included

studies highlight inconsistent application of best practice principles, and several areas where best practices to support asylum-seeking children require clarification through further research.

Background

What do we currently know about interview practices employed in immigration settings with asylum-seeking youth? Across diverse international contexts, children's asylum decisions rest on whether a child would risk persecution, torture, death, or mistreatment if returned to their home country (Reisdorf, 2021). This decision may require children to report past experiences of trauma and maltreatment during border screenings, interviews with legal representatives, and immigration hearings, where officials seek information about why the child migrated and what dangers they would face if they returned (Warren & York, 2014). Due to developmental limitations in memory, language, and social understanding, however, children "may not be able to articulate their claims to refugee status in the same way as adults and, therefore, may require special assistance to do so" (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2008).

Forensic Research on Interviewing Children

In legal contexts where a child is either the victim or the only witness to a crime such as abuse or assault, children face several barriers to articulating their experiences in interviews. Research on child testimony has found that children are susceptible to be influenced by leading and suggestive questioning (Peterson et al., 1999; Waterman et al., 2000). On forced-choice questions (ie., yes/no), children also respond inaccurately, displaying a bias to respond positively (Peterson & Grant, 2001). Youth who have experienced maltreatment are especially susceptible to alter their reports under pressure (Vagni et al., 2015; Benedan et al., 2018) and are more likely to incorrectly respond "yes" to leading questions (Gudjonsson et al., 2021).

Several interview practices are recommended to support children's ability to accurately communicate their experiences (i.e., American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children [APSAC], 2012; Saywitz & Camparo, 2009). For instance, it is recommended that children be given the option to be interviewed by of a member of the same sex, particularly when sexual abuse or exploitation is suspected. The interview should be conducted in a neutral setting, and interviews should begin with a child-friendly opening statement and rapport-building, including *narrative practice*, in which children practice sharing information on a neutral topic. Interviewers should use facilitators and supportive statements, and whenever possible should pose open-ended questions. Objective record keeping, such as audio or preferably video recording, is recommended.

The above practices are supported by empirical research - a neutral interview setting, use of facilitators, and supportive statements have been found to increase the amount of information children share with interviewers (Hershkowitz et al., 2009). Open-ended questions (i.e., "tell me everything that happened") have also been found to elicit more accurate, detailed, and coherent responses from children (Feltis et al., 2010; Hershkowitz et al., 2012; Lyon, 2014). Conversely, close-ended questions (i.e., yes/no questions), which do not allow for spontaneous recollection of events, result in lower quality and quantity of information (Lyon, 2014; Snow et al., 2009), often eliciting one- or two-word responses from children (Snow et al., 2009).

Asylum Interview Best Practices

Asylum interviews with children face many similar challenges to domestic forensic interviews, as asylum-seeking children have often experienced maltreatment and trauma, may have been separated from their parents and caregivers, and are required to provide accounts of difficult experiences to various immigration officials. In immigration contexts, recommended

practices largely derive from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989 and ratified by 196 signatory nations (United Nations General Assembly, 1989). The CRC reflects the global consensus on safeguarding the rights and welfare of children, and puts forth that every child regardless of nationality or immigration status possesses inherent rights, including the right to seek asylum and protection from persecution. Although states differ in their immigration policies and practices, their success in upholding children's rights is evaluated based on adherence to the CRC.

Several key articles of the CRC are particularly pertinent to children's rights within asylum processes. Under Article 22, states are obligated to offer protection and humanitarian aid to youth seeking refugee status. Accordingly, family reunification should also be a priority in decision-making. The principle of non-discrimination laid out in Article 2 commits states to ensure children are not subject to discrimination based on individual, social and political factors, and to protect children from deportation when such discrimination motivated their migration. Article 3 presents the best interests of the child principle, stating that "the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration" in all actions concerning children, including asylum decisions and the conduct of application processes and hearings. Article 12 ensures a child's right to participate in and express their views during asylum proceedings filed by themselves and their parents. This article highlights that children may have their own unique migration motivations and asylum claims apart from their parents.

The UNHCR provides additional guidance on the interpretation and application of the best interests of the child principle, including guidance pertaining to asylum interviews (2008). Namely, a comprehensive assessment is required to determine a child's best interests, taking into consideration the child's cultural and familial background, reasons for leaving home, and fears

motivating their migration. Each child should be interviewed by a child welfare officer who, along with interpreters, has relevant training in issues of gender, age, and cultural sensitivity. Interviews should be informal, use child-friendly language, and take place in a confidential and child-friendly location, preferably chosen by the child. All interview protocols and notes should be retained in a file. To ensure children's full participation, the welfare officer should ensure the child understands the best interests determination process, and should support the child in sharing their views. To avoid subjecting the child to repeated interviews, the officer should collect information from the child and present it directly to decision-makers. Caution should be exercised when interviewing children in front of parents or guardians, as this may influence the child's responses. Decisions on a child's best interests should be made by a multi-disciplinary panel rather than a single member, should weigh the child's own views in the decision, and should take into account that trauma and developmental stage may lead to incomplete or inaccurate recollections from children.

Empirical Research on Asylum Interviews with Youth

While a robust body of research has examined how children are questioned and respond to questioning in forensic legal contexts, literature on asylum interviews with children is less developed. Research findings from forensic psychology may apply to asylum-seeking youth in many instances; indeed, factors impacting victimized children's reports may be exacerbated in asylum-seeking children due to frequency, severity, and duration of traumatic experiences (Quas & Lyon, 2019). For instance, children are often reluctant to share information out of fear of harm to themselves or their family members (Lev-Weisel et al., 2014; Alaggia et al., 2017), a concern which may be particularly salient for youth with family who remain in their country of origin. Of

note, best practice guidelines for interviewing asylum-seeking youth have also been proposed based on forensic research (Quas and Lyon, 2019).

However, the experiences and needs of young asylum seekers may also be unique in ways that impact interview responses and require specific practice recommendations. Child refugees experience many unique stressors, including pre-migration trauma, in-transit separation from family and parents, and post-migration stressors such as uncertain legal status (Bean et al., 2007; Heptinstall, 2003; Ellis et al., 2008). In the context of asylum interviews, studies conducted in social work, medical, and research contexts suggest that child refugees may avoid discussing past experiences due to fear of flashbacks, nightmares, and intrusive thoughts (Vickers, 2005), and may view secrecy as a protective strategy to maintain agency and control (Chase, 2010). Asylum-seeking children may also mistrust representatives, translators, and lawyers due to prior experiences with authorities in their home countries (De Haene, 2010; Majumder et al., 2015; Thomas et al., 2004). Interpretation, language and cultural sensitivity have also been highlighted as important considerations in interviews with asylum-seeking youth (UNHCR, 2008). Of note, the above research on factors impacting asylum-seeking youth largely derives from studies of medical interviews, social work practice, and psychotherapy with asylum-seeking youth, rather than studies examining interviews in immigration contexts.

Objectives

The present review aims to identify what empirical literature exists on interviews with children in immigration settings (i.e., border screenings, interviews with representatives, and asylum hearings). This addresses a knowledge gap at the intersection of the fields of psychology and immigration and refugee studies - no prior review has been conducted of research on interviewing children in immigration contexts. Of particular interest is whether best practices

from forensic psychology and children's rights are upheld during immigration interviews, how youth themselves experience these interviews, and whether asylum-seeking youth require unique interview considerations that differ from those of maltreated children in general. Review findings will be interpreted with regards to implications for interview best practices in immigration settings, including a critical evaluation of a) the extent of empirical support for best practices and gaps in research, b) how forensic and asylum best practices are integrated and where they diverge, and c) practice recommendations in need of additional research, clarification or revision.

Methods

Establishing the Research Questions

The research questions were refined through an iterative process prior to conducting the preliminary searches, resulting in the following questions. 1) What empirical literature exists examining the interviewing and questioning of asylum-seeking youth in immigration contexts? 2) What interview practices are used by professionals who interview asylum-seeking youth, such as judges, representatives, border agents, and other officials? 3) How do asylum-seeking youth respond to questioning in immigration contexts, and how does questioning style impact their abilities to report relevant experiences? 4) How do asylum-seeking youth subjectively experience interviews in immigration contexts? 5) What best practices should be employed by officials and representatives interviewing youth seeking asylum, to ensure complete and accurate testimony while safeguarding the well-being and rights of these youth?

Scoping Review

Scoping reviews are used to map and summarize available literature on a topic in order to identify sources of evidence and gaps in research, and are particularly suited to condensing and summarizing diverse and heterogenous literature (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). As such, this

approach was deemed suitable for the aims of the current study. The review was conducted in line with the Joanna Briggs Institute methodological guidelines for scoping reviews (Peters et al., 2020). In advance of conducting this review, a protocol was drafted and preregistered at <https://osf.io/8kzgf/> to ensure transparency and robustness (Peters et al., 2022).

Search Strategy and Screening Process

A preliminary search strategy for the PSYCINFO database was reviewed by an academic librarian in Education and Counselling Psychology and refined for the Scopus database, and a search strategy for the Hein Online database was reviewed by an academic librarian in Law. This search, conducted in October, 2023, is outlined in Table 1. EndNote software (v. 20) was used to compile results from all databases and to remove duplicate entries. Titles, abstracts, and full texts were then screened for adherence to inclusion and exclusion criteria by two reviewers using Rayyan (www.rayyan.ai). After the full-text review, an additional search, outlined in Table 2, was conducted with additional search terms identified during the first search. The first and second rounds of identified titles were screened through identical steps.

Following screening in Rayyan by two reviewers, reference lists of all included articles, as well as those of excluded literature reviews on adjacent topics, were screened by the first author for additional titles. Included publications were then entered into Google Scholar to screen their “cited by” articles. Lastly, included articles were entered into online literature-mapping tool Research Rabbit (www.researchrabbit.ai), and articles identified as thematically related to inclusions were also screened. Figure 1 is a PRISMA diagram of the steps taken in this review.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Concept and Context

Studies were included if the research question or study findings pertained to interview practices, interview responses, or interview experiences of asylum-seeking youth within immigration contexts. Interviews of interest included those conducted during border crossings, immigration hearings and tribunals, and other interviews intended to elicit migration and pre-migration narratives (e.g., with a lawyer or representative). Studies examining interviews within health, psychiatric, social work, and other contexts were excluded, as the setting, purpose, and content of such interviews differ significantly from interviews in immigration settings. Experimental studies examining asylum-seeking youths' interview responses were included. During screening, studies of young asylum-seekers' migration narratives, post-migration experiences and determinants of well-being were retained until the abstract or full-text stage, to account for the fact that immigration experiences, including interviews with officials, could contribute to youths' mental health and wellbeing. These articles were included if results pertained to immigration interviews.

Participants

Studies were included if participants were asylum-seekers under the age of 18 or stakeholders in the asylum process (i.e., legal representatives, border agents, immigration judges, NGO workers). Studies with a wide age range including youth and adults were included if the majority of participants were under the age of 18. Studies in which participants over 18 retrospectively discussed experiences when they were under 18 were included. Studies of archival materials documenting interviews with asylum-seeking youth, including notes, transcripts, and recordings, were included. Studies in which participants were young immigrants but not asylum-seekers were excluded.

Types of Evidence Sources

In keeping with the goal of identifying all relevant and current empirical research on interviewing asylum-seeking youth, qualitative and quantitative studies published in English in peer-reviewed academic journals from 2003 to 2023 were included. Conference proceedings, literature reviews, practice guides, grey literature, protocols, validation studies, interviews, legal commentaries, and methodological papers were excluded. Titles from unrelated subject areas (e.g., dentistry, accounting) were excluded during the search stage within the Scopus database.

Data Extraction and Reporting Results

The data from all included full text articles was extracted by the first author and tracked in a standardized spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel, refined into Table 2. Key findings of the included studies were extracted based on relevance to the research questions – namely, interview practices employed with asylum-seeking youth in immigration contexts, how youth respond during interviews, and how they describe their experiences of these interviews.

Results

The full scoping review yielded 28 articles that met inclusion criteria (see Table 2). The articles describe research conducted in Sweden ($n = 8$), Canada ($n = 3$), the United States ($n = 6$), the United Kingdom ($n = 6$), Mexico ($n = 2$), the Netherlands ($n = 3$), Slovenia ($n = 2$), Ireland ($n = 1$), and Austria ($n = 1$). Results included three quantitative and 25 qualitative studies. Of the qualitative studies, eight analysed archival materials and records (i.e., asylum decisions, interview notes, and transcripts of asylum interviews), 12 analysed individual and group interviews with young asylum seekers, 10 analysed interviews with stakeholders such as advocates, lawyers, and immigration officials, and seven analysed notes from ethnographic observations conducted in asylum care centers, migrant shelters, and legal support organizations. Several of the qualitative studies triangulated information from multiple sources, such as

ethnographic observations and interviews. Of the quantitative studies, one compared the susceptibility of unaccompanied asylum-seekers and age-matched peers to suggestive questioning (Childs et al., 2021), one examined use of different question types and accuracy of translations during asylum interviews (Keselman et al., 2008), and one measured the relationship between question types and youths' disclosures of information during asylum interviews (Keselman, Cederborg et al., 2010).

The phenomena of interest for this review included interview practices (i.e., questioning techniques used during interviews), interview experiences (i.e., how youth experienced, interpreted and felt about the interview), and interview responses (i.e., how youth responded to questions during interviews). Of the included studies, only two directly examined how youth respond during asylum interviews (Childs et al., 2021; Keselman, Cederborg et al., 2010). In contrast, almost all articles touched on interview practices. Of those examining interview practices, most were qualitative studies in which youth and stakeholders discussed practices they had witnessed or experienced. Thus, there was considerable overlap between articles examining interview practices and interview experiences, as youth reported both how interviews were conducted and how they reacted or felt (Bryan & Denov, 2011; Crawley, 2010; Dursun & Sauer, 2021; Gornik, 2022a, 2022b; Munro et al., 2013; Rap, 2022; Torres et al., 2022). Only seven studies examined interviews directly, rather than through the reports of youth or adult stakeholders. Of these, two authors used direct ethnographic observation in court rooms and lawyers' offices (Galli, 2018; Huyn, 2021) and five authors by analysed transcribed recordings of interviews (Ballucci & Ghebrai, 2021; Keselman et al., 2008; Keselman, Cederborg & Linell, 2010; Keselman, Cederborg et al., 2010; Linell & Keselman, 2012).

A source of bias in this review stems from the fact that four of the seven articles directly examining interview practices through observation and transcripts use the same dataset. The three articles for which Keselman is the first author and the article by Linell and Keselman examine question type, youth responses, and the role of translators in asylum interviews. Given that these articles represent multiple analyses of a single data set, findings pertaining to interview practices and translation should be interpreted with caution. In addition, the two studies authored by Gornik (2022a, 2022b) use the same data, same methodology, and have highly similar research questions. The above should be considered when interpreting the findings below.

Summary of Key Findings

Rapport, Information, and Interview Setting

Youth reported high anxiety and stress before and during asylum hearings, highlighting the need for child-friendly practices to build rapport and trust (Gornik, 2022a; Rap, 2022). One qualitative study detailed strategies used by immigration officials to introduce the interview procedure to refugee minors, such as explaining the interview purpose, establishing rapport, adapting language, taking frequent breaks, and explaining the purpose of questions (Rap, 2023). Contrarily, qualitative studies with youth and stakeholders discussed several ways in which child-friendly principles were not employed during asylum interviews. Namely, interviewers did not adequately explain the interview's purpose (Crawley, 2010), trust was not established prior to the interview, and youth were provided insufficient time, legal advice and information before interviews (Gornik, 2022b; Huyhn, 2022). As a result, youth reported not understanding the interview process, which in turn resulted in feelings of powerlessness (Gornik, 2022b). Analyses of case files and notes from border screenings indicated interviewers neglected to give a child-friendly opening statement and provide an informal interview setting (Ballucci &

Ghebrai, 2021; Jain & Lee, 2018). Two articles noted long duration of hearing, limiting both children's comfort and their meaningful participation (Gornik, 2022a; Huyhn, 2022). One study discussed that interviews were not recorded, limiting accountability (Jain & Lee, 2018).

Ethnographic observation of lawyers representing young asylum seekers, on the other hand, found that representatives did provide information to prepare youth to testify at asylum hearings. Lawyers were found to use strategies to support their clients, including emphasizing the need to provide true and detailed accounts and using visual supports to help youth understand the asylum process and timeline (Rap, 2023).

Table 2*Results of the Scoping Review*

Article	Sample	Study design/ methodology	Interview context	Key Findings
Balucci & Ghebrai (2021) <i>Canada</i>	<i>N</i> = 4 case files Unaccompanied minors' asylum decisions (ages 15 – 17, 2 female)	Qualitative Critical discourse analysis of asylum files (transcripts, statements, and decisions)	Asylum hearing	Children were seen as untrustworthy, were not interviewed in a sensitive manner, and were not interviewed in an informal setting. Interviewers challenged children's honesty. Impacts of trauma on testimony were not considered. Officials saw less "child-like" youth as less credible.
Bryan & Denov (2011) <i>Canada</i>	<i>N</i> = 34 Unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth (<i>n</i> = 17, ages 17 – 30, 3 female), and stakeholders (<i>n</i> = 17, 12 female)	Qualitative Analysis of retrospective report interviews with youth and stakeholders	Border crossing and asylum hearing (judges, prosecutors)	Immigration officials and prosecutors questioned the truth of youths' statements and used argumentative questioning. Youth were seen as complicit in their smuggling. Some youth saw race and class as influencing their treatment by authorities. Youth experienced disrespectful comments regarding their physical appearance during the hearing.
Chase (2010) <i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>N</i> = 54 Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth (ages 9 – 18)	Qualitative Thematic analysis of retrospective report interviews	Not specified – migration experience	Barriers to youth sharing information included confusion and fear, as some had been warned in their homes or in transit not to be open and honest. Some youth were not provided translation for interviews. Youth reported fear and feeling dehumanized.
Childs et al. (2021) <i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>N</i> = 31 Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth (<i>m</i> _{age} = 18.15, <i>n</i> = 13) and age-matched peers (<i>m</i> _{age} = 17.53, <i>n</i> = 18)	Quantitative Experimental comparison of suggestibility of asylum-seeking youth vs. controls, and influence of past exposure to violence	Lab experiment	Interview responses of separated youth were more susceptible to change due to interviewer pressure. Experience of negative life events was associated with greater vulnerability to interrogative pressure across all participants.
Connolly (2015) <i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>N</i> = 29 Unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth	Qualitative Thematic analysis of retrospective report interviews	Police stations, border crossings and immigration interviews	Interviews with police were described as hostile, but fear was lessened by interpreters. Interviews at the border were not conducted with youth independent of non-parent adults who accompanied them, thus facilitating

				trafficking of children. During Home Office interviews, youth reported being disbelieved and made fun of, and ignored when requesting rest and medical attention. Participants felt their expression of reasons for seeking asylum were restricted by standardized questions during the interview.
Crawley (2010) <i>United Kingdom</i>	$N = 27$ Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth	Qualitative Analysis of interviews about youth experiences of asylum interviews and ethnographic observation in an Asylum Screening Unit	Asylum interview	Youth reported that interviewers were suspicious, lacked empathy, and did not explain the interview's purpose. They described interview questions as close-ended, unclear, and that interviewers were uninformed about conditions in their country of origin.
Doering-White (2018) <i>Mexico</i>	$N = 23$ Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth ($n = 8$, ages 15 – 19, 4 female) and practitioners ($n = 15$)	Qualitative Ethnographic observation in migrant shelters and analysis of interviews with unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth and service providers.	Border crossing, screening interviews and interviews with support staff for asylum applications	Association with gangs or smugglers disqualified youth from asylum as they were not considered vulnerable. Immigration agents pressured youths to sign voluntary removal documents resulting in deportation. Support staff who interviewed youth focused on providing care and asking youths' reasons for migrating. Youth were mistrustful of support staff, even those helping with asylum applications.
Dursun & Sauer (2021) <i>Austria</i>	$N = 12$ Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth ($n = 12$, ages 14 – 23, 1 female) and stakeholders	Qualitative Analysis of retrospective report interviews with youth and stakeholders	Entire migration experience	Participants expressed fear of police during migration. They reported being treated with suspicion by authorities, which made them hesitant to provide information. Youth experiences were deemed irrelevant and not solicited/permited during asylum hearings.
Galli (2018) <i>United States</i>	$N = 30$ Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth ($n = 22$, ages 12 – 18) and asylum seeking adults ($n = 8$) from Mexico and Central America	Qualitative Ethnographic observation of youth interviews with legal representatives	Interview with legal representatives	Youth had difficulty recounting past events and explaining political context in their country of origin. Including other adults in interviews can provide information but can also silence youth. Representatives used suggestive questioning to probe fears of return, and coached youths' stories, vocabulary, self-presentation (ie., dress, eye contact) and emotional expression (ie., crying) before asylum interviews. Youth were advised

				to emphasize victimization, vulnerability, and downplay agency during hearings.
Gornik (2022a)	<i>N</i> = 19	Qualitative	Border crossing and asylum hearing	Youth noted insufficient time, support, and information prior to asylum hearings. Hearings were too long (up to 3-6 hours). Youth reported anxiety before and during hearings and wished for a supportive friend to accompany them. They noted lack of trust building prior to interview and poor translation services. Questions were not seen as age- or culture-appropriate. Youths' statements made during border crossing, without a translator, were used to challenge their credibility by finding inconsistencies in their accounts.
<i>Slovenia</i>	Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth	Ethnographic observation and analysis of individual and group interviews conducted in an asylum group home		
Gornik (2022b)	<i>N</i> = 19	Qualitative	Border crossing and asylum hearing	Participants lacked understanding of asylum interview procedures and expressed a sense of powerlessness. They reported insufficient information was provided about the hearing, and trust-building and translators were deemed lacking. Hearings were too long (3-6 hours) for youth to maintain attention. Interviews were not adapted to age, education or cultural background. Youth statements were scrutinized for inconsistencies, compared with their untranslated statements made at border entry, and focused on small, seemingly insignificant details.
<i>Slovenia</i>	Unaccompanied asylum seeking youth (ages 13 – 17, 0 female)	Ethnographic observation and analysis of individual and group interviews conducted in an asylum group home		
Hedlund (2017)	<i>N</i> = 916 cases	Qualitative	Asylum hearing	Case officers used argumentative questioning techniques and expected youths to provide coherent, rational and informed answers about events in their country of origin. Inability to provide information was interpreted as indicating lack of credibility.
<i>Sweden</i>	Anaccompanied minors' asylum decisions (84.72% male)	Thematic analysis of migration case officers' construction of credibility of youth applicants		
Huynh (2021)	<i>N</i> = 12 juvenile dockets	Qualitative	Asylum hearings	Judges allocated very little time per case, and heard multiple cases together. Hearings were long, seating was uncomfortable, and food or drink were not permitted. Children misunderstood the roles of various adults. Legal representatives met children only minutes before the hearing. Use of phone translators compromised translation quality, and portions of statements were
<i>United States</i>	<i>N</i> = 26 stakeholders	Grounded theory analysis of ethnographic observation of immigration court hearings and interviews with stakeholders		

				omitted in translation. Children were asked questions only about factual information (ie., age, name, country of origin). While lawyers would ideally substantiate children's fear of return with corroborating information from the sociopolitical context or other family members, this was not often possible.
Jain & Lee (2018)	<i>N</i> = 5 cases	Qualitative	Credible fear interview	Interviews lacked a child-friendly opening statement and rapport-building, used of adversarial questioning, failed to investigate children's expressions of fear of harm, and lacked sensitivity to trauma. Officials did not ask if children wanted to speak without a parent in the room. Interviews were not recorded.
<i>United States</i>	Notes from Credible Fear Interviews with asylum-seeking minors	Critical case sampling: analysis of five cases resulting in negative asylum decisions		
Keselman et al. (2008)	<i>N</i> = 26	Quantitative	Screening and asylum interview (immigration case workers and translators)	Interviewers used more close-ended (43%) than open-ended (37%) questions. Suggestive questions were infrequent (2%). Social pressure, ie. criticizing children's behaviour, was used during interviews (5%). Interviewer training was associated with greater use of open-ended questions. 33% of interviewer statements were modified during translation. Open-ended questions were translated correctly more often than close-ended questions.
<i>Sweden</i>	Russian asylum seeking minors (13 – 18 years, <i>m</i> _{age} = 16.1 years, 6 female)	Analysis of interview question type frequency and translation accuracy		

Article	Sample	Study design/ methodology	Interview context	Key findings
Keselman, Cederborg & Linell (2010)	<i>N</i> = 26 Russian asylum seeking minors (14 – 18 years, <i>m</i> _{age} = 16.0 years, 6 female)	Qualitative Discourse analysis of “side sequences” between translator and interviewer or translator and youth	Screening and asylum interview (immigration case workers and translators)	Six of eighteen interpreters used side-sequences, excluding children, distorted their voices, and influencing them through suggestive follow-up questions, prompts, and added information. Interpreters also violated principles of neutrality during interviews by trying to coach children and by challenging the truth of their statements.
	<i>N</i> = 26	Quantitative	Screening and asylum	Open-ended question type yielded relevant responses more often than

Keselman, Cederborg, et al. (2010) <i>Sweden</i>	Russian asylum seeking minors (14 – 18 years, $m_{age} = 16.0$ years, 6 female)	Analysis of impact of question type on disclosure, and frequency of mistranslation	interview (immigration case workers and translators)	suggestive or option-posing questions. 16% of interpreter renditions were inaccurate.
Linell & Keselman (2012) <i>Sweden</i>	$N = 26$ Russian asylum seeking minors (14 – 18 years, $m_{age} = 16.0$ years, 6 female)	Qualitative Analysis of indicators of distrust in asylum interview transcripts	Screening and asylum interview	Analyses indicate the structure and content of interviews contribute to mistrust. Mistrust escalates through sequences of mistrusting exchanges. Focus on discrepant details increases mistrust.
Lundberg (2011) <i>Sweden</i>	$n = 105$ case records of children's asylum decisions $n = 35$ handling officers interviewed	Qualitative Analysis of asylum files and interviews with handling officers	Asylum interview	Children were neither offered the opportunity to speak nor interviewed individually about their asylum claims. Children's statements were not weighed heavily in decisions. Best interest principles were mostly used to justify negative decisions. Youth participation was limited by officials' mistrust, fear of retraumatizing children, lack of officials' confidence in their own competency, and time constraints.
Mellinger (2022) <i>United States</i>	$N = 28$ Immigration lawyers	Qualitative Analysis of interviews with immigration lawyers	Asylum Office Interviews	At one asylum office, provision of a translator was inconsistent, dependent on which officer was assigned to the case. At another, youth were required to bring their own translator, who may be any individual (ie., not a professional translator). Unaccompanied youth are officially guaranteed a translator only if they do not have an attorney. Poor translation was perceived to anger Asylum Officers and to endanger clients' asylum claims.
Munro et al. (2013) <i>Canada</i>	$N = 40$ Newcoming LGBT youth ($n = 39$, ages 14 – 29) and service providers ($n = 1$)	Qualitative Thematic analysis of group interviews, individual interviews with youth ($n = 3$) and stakeholders ($n = 1$)	Not specified-migration experience	For refugee claims based on fear of persecution due to sexuality, youth felt they were expected to fit stereotypes of gay appearance, dress, and comport, and felt they had to "prove" their sexuality. Judges challenged individuals not fitting stereotypes. Black participants felt their sexuality was particularly doubted.
Article	Sample	Study design/ methodology	Interview context	Key findings
	$N = 9$	Qualitative		Representatives often did not include children in the asylum process,

Ottosson & Lundberg (2013)	Lawyers acting as children's advocates	Analysis of interviews with child advocates regarding interview strategies they used with asylum-seeking children and families	Interview with legal representative	particularly young children. They were not given the chance to speak, be heard, and their individual grounds for asylum were not considered separately from parents'. Representatives justified exclusion of children, describing children as vulnerable and unable to testify, stating that children did not have independent asylum claims, and that their offices were not child-friendly. However some responses suggested that children may not want to share information in front of parents that may contribute to their asylum claim, and that children's unique asylum claims may improve chances of a positive decision.
<i>Sweden</i>				
Pearce (2011)		Qualitative		Youth, and especially boys, were often hesitant to disclose trafficking experiences, while adults often disbelieved accounts when youth did disclose. Participants lacked clarity on the definition of trafficking, with some believing youth can consent to being trafficked. Some part of entry interviews disregarded youths' explicit reports of trafficking.
<i>United Kingdom</i>		Analysis of nine focus groups conducted with practitioners, including social workers, NGO workers, and border and police agents		
Rap (2022)	<i>N</i> = 21	Qualitative	Asylum interview and hearing	Children were stressed and unsure what to expect prior to interviews. Interviews were conducted at times without lawyers or representatives present. Interviews conducted in front of family members caused youth to feel discomfort sharing information. Youth reported inaccurate translation, the same question asked several times, not understanding the purpose of very detailed questions, and feeling stressed at not knowing answers to questions.
<i>Netherlands</i>	Asylum-seeking children, accompanied and unaccompanied (12 – 22 years old, 12 female)	Analysis of retrospective report of youth regarding their rights to be informed and participate in asylum hearings		
Rap (2023)	<i>N</i> = 42	Qualitative	Interviews with legal representative and asylum hearing	Lawyer strategies included emphasizing the need to tell detailed accounts, and using visual supports to present the asylum process and timeline. Immigration officials' strategies included explaining the interview purpose, establishing rapport, adapting language, taking frequent breaks, and explaining the purpose of questions. Children were often not accompanied by lawyers or representatives during interviews. Accompanied children under 15 were represented by parents, were not interviewed, and were not assigned a
<i>Netherlands</i>	Professionals working with refugee children	Analysis of professionals' views on how children's participation is implemented in asylum procedures.		

Schmidt (2022)	<i>N</i> = 77	Qualitative	Interviews with researchers about reasons for migration	representative. Lawyers believed that meaningful participation of children may be limited in asylum hearings.
<i>United States</i>	Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Mexico and Central America (12 – 17 years old, 35 female)	Secondary analysis of interviews with unaccompanied children		Female participants disclosed more incidents of maltreatment than male participants. Less than half of participants disclosed maltreatment in response to questions about reasons for migration. Other disclosures were in response to questions about living situations or school. Most youth did not see maltreatment as motivating their migration, however their experiences constitute protection issues which should inform asylum decisions.
Shamseldin (2012)	<i>N</i> = 59	Qualitative	Interviews with professionals in social services, immigration, and NGOs	While children's right to participate and have a voice in asylum proceedings was recognized, it was only considered to apply to older children while younger children were seen as unable to participate. Participants provided differing ideas about how the principle of the best interests of the child should be applied.
<i>England, Ireland, & Sweden</i>	Professionals working with unaccompanied youth	Analysis of professionals' views on implementation of CRC principles		
Article	Sample	Study design/ methodology	Interview context	Key findings
Torres et al. (2022)	<i>N</i> = 51	Qualitative	Border screening interviews	Youth reported lack of screening and due process - youth were not asked if they feared return prior to repatriation, and did not attend a hearing or see a representative. Mexican youth in particular reported verbal and physical abuse by border officials, being pressured to sign voluntary return papers in English, and being threatened with prolonged detention as coercion. Many youth were returned to unsafe circumstances in Mexico.
<i>United States & Mexico</i>	Unaccompanied Mexican and Central American youth (<i>n</i> = 25, ages 12 – 17, > 50% female), and service providers (<i>n</i> = 26)	Ethnographic observation, questionnaires, and interviews conducted at Mexican migrant youth shelters near the US border		

Translation

Several studies identified problematic translation practices. Poor quality translation was noted by youth participants (Gornik, 2022a; Rap, 2022), stakeholders (REF), and ethnographic

observation (Huyhn, 2022). Qualitative studies found that 33% of statements from either interviewer or interviewee were modified during translation, with 16% of children's statements inaccurately translated (Keselman, Cederborg, et al., 2010; Keselman et al., 2008). Side-sequences between translators and either party excluded children from interview participation, distorted children's statements, and influenced their responses through suggestive follow-up questions, prompts, and mistranslation (Keselman, Cederborg & Linell, 2010).

Question Type

Several studies identified inappropriate questioning techniques. Qualitatively, stakeholders described that questions during asylum interviews were not adapted to children's age, education or cultural background (Gornik, 2022b). Youth described interview questions during asylum interviews as close-ended and unclear, and said interviewers were uninformed about conditions in their country of origin (Crawley, 2010). Quantitative studies found that interviewers used more close-ended (43%) than open-ended (37%) questions during asylum interviews, but that suggestive questions were infrequent (2%). Interviewer training was associated with more frequent use of open-ended questions, which were translated correctly more often and yielded more relevant responses than close-ended questions (Keselman, Cederborg, et al., 2010; Keselman et al., 2008).

Legal representatives also used both close-ended and suggestive questions. Because youth often have difficulty recounting past events and explaining the political context of their country of origin, representatives used strategies such as including other adults in interviews, using suggestive questioning to establish a fear of returning to their home country, and coaching youths' stories, vocabulary, self-presentation (ie., dress, eye contact) and emotional expression

(ie., crying) prior to asylum interviews. Youth were advised to emphasize victimization and vulnerability, and to downplay their own agency in migration decisions (Galli, 2018).

Studies of case files, notes, and qualitative interviews with youth and stakeholders also found that immigration officials and prosecutors used argumentative questioning styles and challenged children's honesty during interviews (Ballucci & Ghebrai, 2021; Bryan & Denov, 2011; Hedlund, 2017; Jain & Lee, 2018). Young participants described officials as suspicious and lacking empathy, which in turn impacted their willingness to disclose information (Crawley, 2010; Dursun & Sauer, 2021; Linell & Keselman, 2012). Several studies found that inconsistencies in youths' statements were used by immigration officials to challenge their stories during interviews and to argue against their credibility in asylum decisions (Ballucci & Ghebrai, 2021). One study described that statements made during border crossing in the absence of a translator were used to invalidate youth's later testimonies (Gornik, 2022a).

Social pressure (i.e., criticizing children's behaviour) was also identified during interviews, comprising 5% of interviewer statements (Keselman et al., 2008). Similarly, youth reported that the same question was sometimes asked several times, causing distress as youth did not know why the question was being restated (Rap, 2022). A qualitative study of youths' responses to pressure during interviews found that separated asylum-seeking youth were more susceptible to change their interview responses under pressure than controls, a tendency that was further exacerbated by prior experience of violence (Childs et al., 2021).

Trauma-Informed Practice

Qualitatively, youth expressed distrust of police and other officials, including the border agents who interviewed them upon entry (Dursun & Sauer, 2021). Notably, children who have experienced violent or traumatic events often do not feel comfortable discussing these events, or

specific details of these events, in front of their parents or caregivers (UNHCR, 2008). However, two studies found that officials did not ask youth if they wanted to be interviewed separately from parents, which in one instance limited the child's ability to disclose information, and in another caused the child discomfort when sharing information in front of a parent (Jain & Lee, 2018; Rap, 2022). In addition, three studies found that children were not asked about their fear of return to their country of origin during border screenings and asylum hearings (Ballucci & Ghebrai, 2021; Jain & Lee, 2018; Torres et al., 2022).

Immigration officials further did not consider the impact of trauma on children's ability to provide a coherent, consistent account of past events, instead interpreting knowledge gaps and inconsistencies as indicating lack of credibility (Hedlund, 2017). Youth were expected to fit a child-like victim profile, and youth who appeared more mature, capable or agentic were seen as less credible (Ballucci & Ghebrai, 2021). Youth who had been involved with gangs or smugglers were interpreted as complicit in their smuggling and were disqualified from seeking asylum during border screenings, despite coercion and high possibility of trauma associated with their recruitment to gangs or smuggling networks as children (Bryan & Denov, 2011; Doering-White, 2018). Similarly, queer youth filing refugee claims based on fear of persecution due to sexuality felt pressure to fit stereotypes of gay appearance, dress, and comport in order to "prove" their sexuality; black participants felt their sexuality was particularly doubted (Munro et al., 2013).

Application of Best Interest Principles

Studies identified some interview practices which failed to consider children's best interests during border screening and asylum decisions. Lundberg (2011) found that best interest principles were mainly used to justify negative case decisions in the name of family reunification. Given parents' decision to send children alone on a perilous migration journey, this

interpretation of the child's best interests is misguided. Also, two studies of youth in Mexican migrant shelters found that young asylum-seekers were routinely pressured to sign voluntary removal documents consenting to their own deportation, often in English (when youths' first language was Spanish) and under circumstances of coercion when threatened with indefinite detention (Doering-White, 2018; Torres et al., 2022).

Youth Participation

Findings touched on youths' participation in asylum hearings and processes, both in cases where youth were accompanied by parents, and where they arrived unaccompanied. Several studies found that youths' experiences were deemed irrelevant, were not solicited during asylum hearings or separate interviews, and were not substantially weighted in asylum decisions (Dursun & Sauer, 2021; Lundberg, 2011). Legal representatives working with asylum-seeking families also excluded children from the asylum process, arguing that children were vulnerable, unable to testify, and their asylum claims would be identical to those of their parents. This practice may harm families' chances of a positive decision, as parents may not be fully aware of children's experiences that may contribute to unique asylum claims independent of the parents' claims (Ottoosson & Lundberg, 2013).

Implications

Articles identified in this review found that recommended practices from forensic psychology for interviewing children were frequently neglected in immigration contexts. For instance, rapport-building and explanations of the interview's purpose were described as inadequate in several studies. Results also pointed to the need for supportive practices such as a child-friendly opening statement and rapport-building to ameliorate confusion about the interview's purpose and difficulty trusting interviewers, in line with prior research (Majmuder,

2015; Ni Raghallaigh, 2014). It is therefore important that supportive practices from forensic psychology are incorporated into best practices guidelines and observed in asylum settings. Interview settings were also found to be sometimes unfriendly to children, including overly-formal lawyers' offices and very long asylum hearings, which limited children's participation.

Included articles also raised the issue of inadequate translation. Translations of both child and interviewer statements were frequently inaccurate. Importantly, translators added information to both child and interviewer statements. Translators appeared to be motivated by a desire to either share in the role of interrogator by challenging youths' statements, or to assist youth by prompting them and altering their statements. In both situations children's voices were distorted and their participation in the asylum process was compromised. These findings highlight that translators should receive training in child development, problematic interview practices (such as leading questions), and translator neutrality, and should be provided routine oversight with regards to technical accuracy and neutrality.

Some of the above concerns may be addressed by appointment of a child representative, as recommended by the UNHCR's guidance for determining the best interests of the child (2008). This guidance is followed in Canada, where unaccompanied asylum-seeking youth are assigned designated representatives, who are better able to spend time with a child and build trust prior to discussing their migration narratives and asylum claims. Assignment of a child representative also reduces the likelihood that children will be interviewed multiple times by different people, in line with UNHCR guidance (2008). However, such solutions do not absolve other officials, such as border officers and tribunal members, from the necessary training and diligence in employing best practices with young asylum-seekers. Further, additional issues are raised by use of representatives, including whether translators are routinely used for interviews,

how oversight is provided to ensure representatives follow best practices, and whether youths' participation in asylum hearings is compromised when representatives speak on their behalf.

Importantly, use of representatives to speak for children is often limited to unaccompanied minors, as is the case in Canada, where accompanied minors are de facto represented by their parents. Studies in this review found that both accompanied and unaccompanied youth frequently felt excluded from participation in asylum processes, in violation of the CRC article 12 ensuring children's participation and voice in asylum processes. Studies included in the review found that immigration officials felt unprepared to interview youth directly, and fears of inadvertently retraumatizing youth motivated their exclusion from asylum processes. As a result, youth felt excluded from asylum processes due to insufficient time and space for them to share their experiences and feelings. Accompanied youth were further excluded as they were not invited to meetings with representatives or lawyers, who assumed that children's claims were identical to their parents. In terms of best practices, it is often not appropriate for parents to represent their children in asylum processes without a neutral third party conducting a separate interview, because a) the asylum claims of youth may differ from their parents, and b) youth may not feel comfortable disclosing incidents of violence, threat or trauma directly to their parents (UNHCR, 2008). Practice guidelines should therefore recommend interviews be conducted with all children seeking asylum, including those accompanied by parents, and that appropriate supports be provided to all youth to facilitate their participation in asylum processes.

Concerningly, one study found that the CRC principle ensuring the protection of the best interests of the child was predominantly used to order children's deportation rather than their resettlement, making reference to CRC principles of family reunification. The CRC states that

protecting children from violence, neglect, exploitation, trafficking, child labour, armed conflict, and underage recruitment to conflict should be prioritised above other factors, such as family unification, in best interest determinations. This finding of the review suggests that CRC guidelines are being misinterpreted and misapplied in some national contexts, resulting in threats to children's rights.

Differing perspectives were also identified with regards to use of forced choice questions and suggestive questions during interviews. Specifically, lawyers and advocates supported use of suggestive questioning to fill in gaps in youths' stories and to help them articulate fears of returning to their country of origin. Given that a positive asylum decision requires a credible fear of return be articulated, suggestive interview techniques were considered necessary to ascertain specific information. This practice, however, conflicts with an extensive literature which finds that open-ended questions are most likely to yield accurate and detailed information from children. Other studies in this review similarly indicate that open-ended questions yield more relevant responses from asylum-seeking youth, contradicting the qualitative perspectives of legal representatives (Keselman, Cederborg & Linell, 2010). Whether there is any utility to probing for such fears, and how best to elicit fears from asylum-seeking youth without leading questions, are questions requiring further inquiry. No research has been conducted to date on the practices employed by designated representatives assigned to interview unaccompanied minors in Canada and represent these youth at Immigration Review Board hearings.

Finally, results of included studies point to issues in record-keeping. Specifically, Jain and Lee (2018) noted that border screenings are not routinely recorded. This limits accountability, as border agents' interviews are not subject to review even from other individuals within the immigration-regulating body. Given recommendations to limit re-interviewing

children (UNHCR, 2008) and the impact of suggestive questioning during early interviews on later interview responses (La Rooy et al., 2010), it is particularly important that border screening agents receive the same training, guidance, and oversight as other immigration officials. In Canada, no prior research has examined CBSA practices with regards to interviewing asylum-seeking youth.

Notably, in October 2023 during the course of this review, Canada's Chairperson of the Immigration Review Board (IRB) published new guidelines for proceedings involving minors (Chairperson's Guideline 3). The Chairperson's Guideline 3 includes several recommendations for interview best practices, including consideration of trauma's impact on testimony, possibility of pre-recorded interviews, and child-friendly questioning. It remains unclear, however, to what extent the current or prior guidelines have been followed in everyday practice by those conducting interviews, including lawyers, designated representatives, and IRB officials. Importantly, ensuring best practices are followed by interviewers across different institutions throughout the immigration process requires a degree of transparency and oversight. Interviews must be recorded, and these records stored securely for later review. The research represented in some of these studies represents instances of such transparency, in which interview records are shared with researchers to examine the practices employed therein. For Canada to ensure adherence to the Chairperson's guidelines, similar partnerships with researchers are recommended.

Conclusions

This review is the first collection of empirical research on interviewing asylum-seeking youth. We identified 28 articles published during the last ten years describing i. interview practices used by immigration, border and support personnel, ii. how youth experience asylum

interviews, and iii. how asylum-seeking youth respond to interview questions. These findings provide important information about current practices and implications for best practice.

The present review identified only three quantitative studies, two of which use the same dataset. This limitation in the scope of research points to a need for increased quantitative research on this topic. Moreover, several of the qualitative studies emerged from research questions on adjacent phenomena, such as immigration and post-immigration experiences (Bryan & Denov, 2011; Doering-White, 2018; Dursun & Sauer, 2021; Munro et al., 2013; Torres et al., 2022). These articles were included in the present review because their qualitative findings pertained, in some part, to asylum interviews. However, the lack of studies specifically examining asylum interviews also underscores the need for more research in this area. Lastly, the majority of studies included in this review focused on the experiences of asylum-seeking children who were unaccompanied by parents or caregivers. This finding supports the calls from other scholars for increased research on asylum-seeking youth who are accompanied by their parents (Bhabha, 2014).

The literature on interviewing asylum-seeking youth appears especially paltry when compared to empirical research in forensic psychology examining interview practices in domestic cases of abuse and assault. This literature examines the effectiveness of interview practices such as rapport building, narrative practice, back-channelling, and open-ended questions, among others, measured based on actual child responses. The predominantly qualitative studies in this review are useful to form an overall picture of common issues in asylum interviews, but tell us little about the extent of poor practices, or about which interview practices are more or less effective in asylum contexts. Increased research in this field is needed

to clarify and substantiate general guidelines for best practices, and to identify local needs in terms of training and oversight of professionals conducting interviews.

The above research requires direct analysis of interviews via case files, recordings, transcripts, or direct observation. Access to such documents, however, may be limited by different national regimes governing access to data. UNHCR guidance ensures confidentiality of asylum interviews with youth, conflicting with the potential benefits of transparency and oversight provided by research. In order to facilitate the study of interview practices with asylum-seeking youth, government policies must reduce barriers to researchers accessing interview data, while ensuring protection of youths' anonymity and safety.

Interpretation and generalization of this review's findings should be tempered in consideration of several limitations. Firstly, included studies were limited to those published in English, thereby excluding perspectives and practices from outside of the English-language publishing sphere. Second, several studies were conducted by the same first author using the same dataset, as discussed in the results section above. Third, the included studies had different methodologies, research questions, and study protocols; results are therefore not comparable across studies and should not be taken to fully represent any individual country's asylum practices.

It is also important to note that the findings included in this review do not all emerge from neutral research questions. For instance, while some studies set out to examine value-neutral questions such as how youth experience asylum interviews or meetings with legal representatives, others investigated expressly negative phenomena such as homophobia or discrimination. As such, the overall results skew towards identifying the ways in which asylum

interviews cause harm or fail to meet established standards, although some studies did emphasize positive practices of professionals and officials.

This report presents the first review of empirical research on interviewing asylum-seeking youth. Distinct strengths of this review include preregistration of a review protocol to increase transparency, adherence to recommended practices for scoping reviews, adherence to systematic search and screening procedures, and assessment of bias in the overall review findings. This review also presents a novel synthesis and interpretation of the literature identified for inclusion, interpreting findings in light of best practices in the fields of forensic psychology and immigration law. While previous reviews have been conducted on barriers and facilitators of disclosure for refugee children (van Os et al., 2020), elements of the best interests of the child determination (van Os et al., 2016), and autobiographical memory in asylum-seeking adults (Herlihy et al., 2012), much of the research cited in these previous reviews was conducted in social work, psychotherapy and medical interviewing settings. It is important to study asylum interviews distinctly, as the goals and settings of asylum interviews are unique; while there is likely substantial overlap between recommended practices across fields, asylum interviews also present specific situational challenges. This review presents the first review of empirical research uniquely focused on children's asylum interviews.

The information presented in this review is also of interest and value to psychologists working in school settings. Cultural sensitivity and awareness can enrich psychologists' clinical skills through better awareness of factors impacting their trust and comfort with school personnel. Understanding the experiences asylum-seeking youth, including those during the asylum application process, may aid psychologists in school settings to better support asylum-seeking youth and their families.

Knowledge Mobilisation Activities

Following identification of research articles and extraction of all data relevant to the systematic review questions, the research team produced a scoping review paper that has been submitted for publication in an academic journal. The results will also be shared with research and advocacy groups focused on immigration and human rights in Canada (ie., Canadian Council for Refugees, McGill Refugee Research Group, and others). Recommendations for research emerging from this report, including examining the practices of designated representatives and CBSA agents in Canada, are further being discussed with academic and community partners and formulated into new research projects.

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Appendix 1: Search terms*Scoping Review Search Strategy: Search one*

Database	Search fields	Search terms
PsycINFO	Keyword search	<i>Search one:</i> (exp interviews/ OR exp interrogation/ OR exp questioning/ OR exp interviewing/ OR exp suggestibility/) AND (exp asylum seeking/ OR exp political asylum/ OR exp refugees)
	Title and abstract search	((asylum OR refugee OR unaccompanied) AND (youth OR child* OR kid* OR underage OR minor OR minors OR adolescent*)) AND (interview* OR interrogat* OR questioning).ti.ab.
Scopus	Title, abstract and keyword search	((asylum OR refugee OR unaccompanied) AND (youth OR child* OR minor OR minors) AND (interview* OR interrogat* OR questioning)).ti.ab.
Hein Online	Title search	(child* OR minor OR minors OR youth OR young OR adolescen* OR teen*) AND (refugee OR migrant* OR immigrant* OR asylum OR unaccompanied OR separated OR immigration) AND (interview* OR questioning OR hearing OR testimony OR determination)

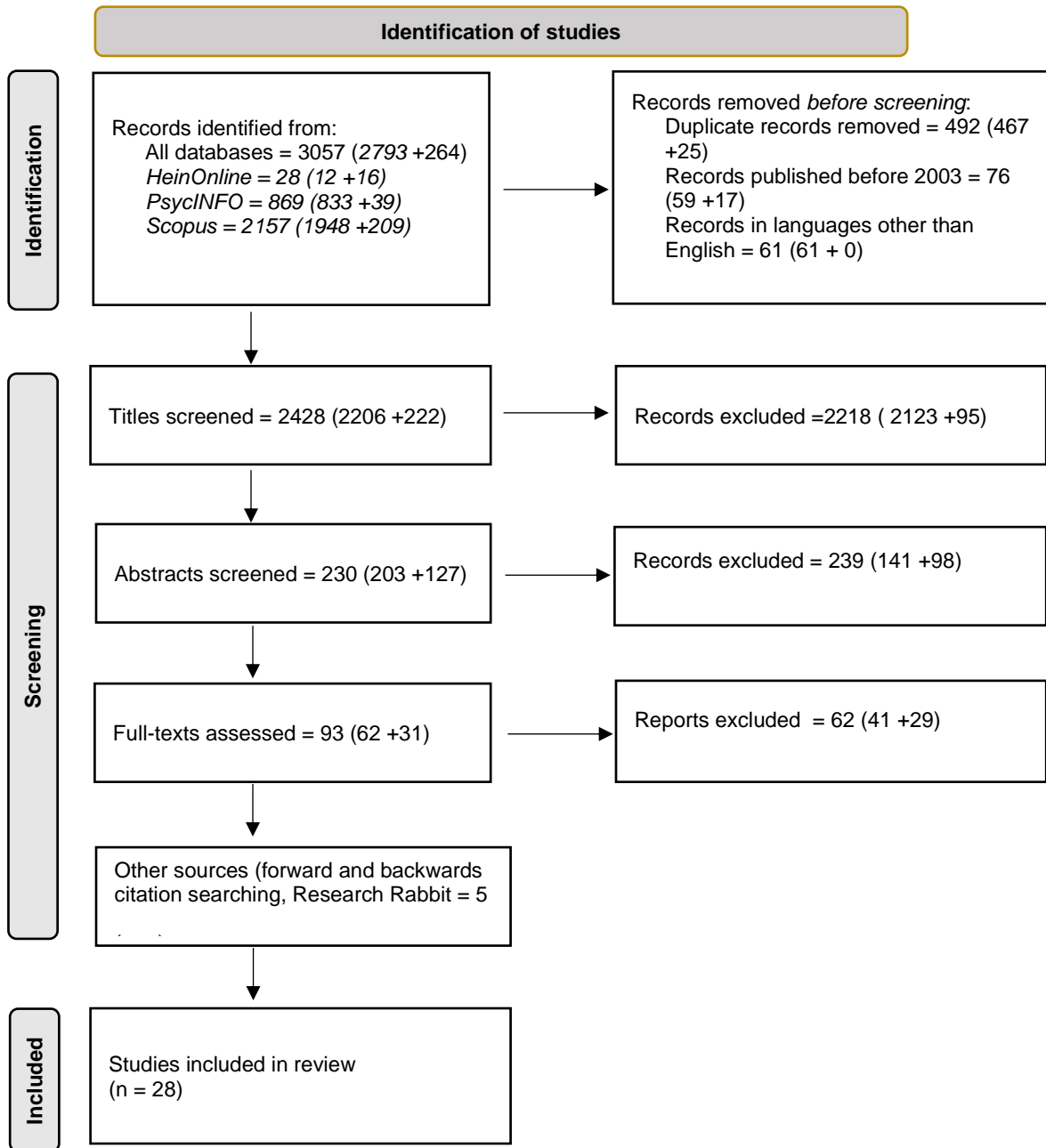
Scoping Review Search Strategy: Search two

Database	Search fields	Search terms
PsycINFO	Keyword search	(“best interests of the child” OR “Convention on the Rights of the Child” OR “child-centred”) AND (asylum OR “asylum seek*” OR refugee* OR unaccompanied)

Scopus	Title, abstract and keyword search	("best interests of the child" OR "Convention on the Rights of the Child" OR "child-centred") AND (asylum OR "asylum seek*" OR refugee* OR unaccompanied)
Hein Online	Title search	("best interests of the child" OR "Convention on the Rights of the Child" OR "child-centred") AND (asylum OR "asylum seek*" OR refugee* OR unaccompanied)

Appendix 2

PRISMA Flow Diagram for Search Strategy and Article Screening



**Numbers in brackets with “+” indicate titles found during the first and second second search, respectively, as described in Table 1.