

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Newsletter

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and Terry Ann Jones (Fairfield University)

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**Don't Forget to Attend the
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business
Meeting During the AAG Meetings
in Boston (Grand Ballroom - Salon K,M)
Thursday, 4/17/08
11:55 AM - 12:55 PM**

Fourth Biennial "Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference" to Be Held at the University of Miami November 5-8, 2008

The Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference fosters dialogue on a range of issues related to the racial and ethnic transformation of places. It encourages interdisciplinary perspectives, philosophical and methodological diversity, and professional and student perspectives on such issues. The Conference is committed to providing high quality programs and remaining open to broad participation by theoreticians, practitioners, and students. The Conferences makes an effort to rotate among U.S. regions, incorporating a regional focus when appropriate, while maintaining national and international perspectives on race, ethnicity, and place issues. The conference seeks partners and hosts institution for future conferences. The current partners are the Association of American Geographers, Binghamton University, Howard University, Texas State University, and the University of Miami.

The first REP Conference was held at SUNY Binghamton University in 2002. It was the brainchild of that university's Department of Geography and its University Administration. They still provide some of the leadership and financial assistance for the Conference as it is

Do You Have Anything to Contribute to the EGSG Newsletter?

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rotated around the country. The second conference was held at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 2004, and the third was held at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas in 2006.

In 2008 it will be held in Miami, the perfect venue for such a conference. This is because it is now in some ways the premier immigrant city in the United States. The 2000 U.S. Census showed that 51 percent of Miami-Dade County's population was comprised of immigrants, by far the highest of any major metropolitan area in the United States or in the world. It is a city that has gone through greater proportional change in its ethnic and racial composition than any other city in the United States during the past half century. In 1960, about 5 percent of Metropolitan Miami's population was comprised of Hispanics, 80 percent were Non-Hispanic White, and 15 percent were Black. By 2006 these figures changed to 62 percent Hispanic, 18 percent Non-Hispanic White, and 20 percent Black.

The REP Conference is a big attraction. The 2006 conference registered 1,300 participants and was directed and coordinated by Lawrence Estaville, Professor of Geography at Texas State University. It is an interdisciplinary conference, drawing experts from many fields, such as politics, geography, sociology, anthropology, law, economics, foreign languages, government officials, history, philosophy, university administrators, and agencies that provide services to minorities and the poor. The REP Conference draws participants from all over the world. The 2006 Conference attracted participants from 15 foreign countries and funding from 25 corporations and businesses. In addition to its paper and panel sessions on November 6th and 7th, it also includes a set of optional field trips to be held on Saturday, November 8th.

The University of Miami and members of the Miami Metropolitan Area will showcase the many benefits of this ethnically and racially diverse community. Representative Tom Tancredo of Colorado referred to Miami as

being a "Third World County" in a speech he delivered in Palm Beach, Florida. These words offended many who live in Miami, but unfortunately they reflect the perception that many people living elsewhere have of South Florida. For example, a Zogby Poll (www.Zogby.com) conducted this past January of more than 7,000 respondents nationwide found that fewer than 10 percent said that Miami would be a nice place to live. Only one-third rated the area's quality of life as good. These perceptions prevail despite the facts that crime rates are way down, cocaine cowboys are old hat, and the area's economy is generally performing well.

The REP Conference provides an opportunity to demonstrate to foreign and domestic visitors the way Miami has been transformed since 1960, from a city overwhelming dependent upon a single industry, tourism, to one that has a much more diversified and healthy economy. In 1960, New York City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Houston all had more trade with Latin America and the Caribbean than did Miami. Today, largely because of its large Hispanic population, Miami is now widely considered to be the 'Gateway City' between the United States and Latin America.

The 2008 REP Conference will be held at the well-equipped James L. Knight International Center in Downtown Miami (400 S.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131). The Gala Evening Dinner on Thursday night will be held on the main campus of the University of Miami in Coral Gables. The two meeting hotels are the Hyatt Regency Miami (305-358-1234) and Clarion River Park (305-374-5100), both of which are located immediately adjacent to the James L. Knight International Center. If you decide to stay in either of these two hotels, be certain to mention the Miami REP Conference, so you will receive a reduced room rate.

So far we have raised about \$100,000 in support of the Miami REP Conference from more than 10 sponsors and more contributors are

expected. The registration fee is \$135 and the first 200 to register will receive 3 free meals. Registration is online at the Conference Website: www.rep-conference.binghamton.edu. Alternatively, you can contact:

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MPI Estimates Average Annual Immigration to the U.S. Is More Than 1.8 Million

The Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. has provided some new estimates for annual immigration to the U.S. for the five-year period from 2002 through 2006. Their estimate for total annual immigration is 1,842,570. This includes 1,021,884 Lawful Permanent Residents, 320,686 temporary workers and dependents, and 500,000 unauthorized immigrants. The figure for temporary workers and dependents is based on the assumption that about 60 percent of all temporary workers stay instead of returning to their countries of origin. Although MPI did not estimate the number of immigrants who leave the U.S. to return to their home countries, others estimate this to be between 300,000 and 350,000 per year. Thus, the average net immigration to the U.S. was around 1.5 million per year. ("Annual Immigration to the United States: The Real Numbers," *Migration Policy Institute*, May, 2007 available on-line at www.migrationinformation.org.)

Immigration Could Add 105 Million to U.S. Population by 2060

A new report from the Center for Immigration Studies projects how different levels of immigration would impact the future size of America's population. The findings, modeled on earlier projections by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, show that the current level

of immigration could add 105 million to the U.S. population by 2060. This figure includes the children born to these immigrants while they are living in the United States. The estimate assumes an average net immigration of 1.25 million, which is less than the estimate of MPI mentioned in the immediately preceding article in this newsletter. It also assumes a total annual immigration of 1.6 million (more than 200,000 less than the MPI estimate) and a total annual return migration (emigration) of 350,000. The study also determined that this high level of immigration would have only a tiny effect on lowering the average age of the U.S. population. With this level of immigration the increase in the percent of persons of working age would be only from 60 percent to 61 percent (the latter percentage assumes a decline in net immigration to 300,000, not zero net migration because nobody thinks immigration will decline to zero). Net immigration would account for 63 percent of the total population increase between 2007 and 2060. The total population of the U.S. would reach 468 million in 2060, up from slightly more than 300 million today.

(Steven A. Camarota, "100 Million More: Projecting the Impact of Immigration on the U.S. Population, 2007 to 2060, Center for Migration Studies, Washington, D.C., 2007. Available on-line at:

www.cis.org/articles/2007/back707.html.)

The Washington Beat and Immigration Reform

This past June 2007 the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act failed to get passed in the U.S. Senate. Among other things this bill would have provided a path toward legalization for unauthorized immigrants living in the United States. Immediately after its failure, proponents of that failed legislation proposed two alternative bills, one called the DREAM Act and the other called AgJOBS. Both subsequently failed to be acted upon.

The **DREAM Act** (Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors Act) would have

provided the possibility of legal residence for young immigrants who graduated from high school in the U.S. but did not have legal status. To be eligible, the high school graduate would have to have entered the U.S. by age 16, have been in the U.S. at least five years, be under the age of 30 years, and have no criminal record. If it had been enacted, these high school graduates would have received conditional U.S. residency that could turn into a regular legal immigrant status during the next six years, provided the unauthorized youth attended at least two years of college in the U.S. or served in the U.S. military for at least two years. An estimated 65,000 unauthorized foreigners per year graduate from U.S. high schools, and 13,000 are believed to go to U.S. colleges. One estimate was that the DREAM Act would cover 279,000 high school graduates now under the age of 24 years, and another 715,000 now aged five to 17 years who would become eligible in the future. That is a total of 994,000, or almost one million illegal immigrants. Furthermore, once they became U.S. citizens, a process that could take a decade (or less), they could have sponsored their parents and relatives for immigration into the U.S. Included could be the very people who were responsible for bringing them (their children) to the U.S. illegally in the first place.

People who support the DREAM Act still hope that it will be reconsidered and passed in the near future in the U.S. They reason that children who are illegally in the U.S. should not be punished (by being sent home) for the sins of their parents because it was their parents who brought them illegally to this country. Many of these children have lived almost all of their lives in the United States and have had few associations with their countries of birth. It is argued that they would have major adjustments to make if they were sent home and that would be cruel treatment for them. Furthermore, they argue, this country will have to eventually have to come to terms with its undocumented residents and provide a path to legalization

simply because there are far too many (at least 12 million) of them to be eventually returned.

The opponents to the DREAM Act argue that legalizing illegal immigrants will only provide an incentive for more illegal immigrants to come to the U.S. This is what happened after the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act provided an amnesty for about 2.7 million illegal immigrants. They also suggest that the DREAM act will have a multiplier affect because the one million young people who could be legalized under it would have an opportunity to bring their parents and other relatives to the United States, as has happened with the family reunification policy of current immigration law. Finally, they say that the children who are illegally here in the U.S. have received many benefits already at American tax payer expense, such a receiving a free education and learning to speak English. These benefits will help them compete for good jobs in their countries of birth if they are sent home.

AgJOBS (the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act) would have allowed up to 1.5 million unauthorized farm workers to earn legal immigrant status by continuing to do farm labor over the next five years. There were some additional requirements such as not having a criminal record. Most of the Senators who opposed this bill favored a guest worker program as an alternative that would make it easier for U.S. farmers to hire legal workers, without encouraging further illegal immigration by providing an amnesty for those now here illegally.

Three other immigration issues that also are being hotly debated are: (1) the creation of sanctuary cities for illegal immigrants, (2) in-state tuition for illegal immigrants at state supported universities, and (3) the Real ID Act.

There are now **73 sanctuary cities** in the United States. These cities forbid their officials (including police) from inquiring about the legal status of their residents. Police are not allowed to report people they suspect of being unauthorized immigrants to federal immigration

officials. Officials in these cities say that immigration is the responsibility of the federal government and not their's. Furthermore, they have not been funded to take on this added responsibility. Opponents say that this violates federal law in the sense that all citizens and law enforcement agencies are morally obligated to obey the law and the federal constitution. They note that in any other type of criminal case the local police would support federal law enforcement officials. Furthermore, sanctuary cities serve as an incentive and as a magnet for more illegal immigration.

In-state tuition is now offered to illegal immigrants living in 10 states. In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that illegal immigrant children are entitled to free K-12 education, but in 1996 Congress banned states from offering in-state college tuition to unauthorized residents. The 10 states got around this restriction by basing in-state tuition on graduating from in-state high schools, not on residency. Thus, a legal foreign student in one of these states who is attending college on a student visa is required to pay out-of-state tuition. Furthermore, a U.S. citizen from another state also has to pay out-of-state tuition, while an illegal immigrant pays in-state fees. These 10 states are banking on the assumption that eventually most of these illegal students will be allowed to remain in the U.S. under some form of amnesty. If this assumption is correct, it is to the individual state's benefit that they be better educated so they can better assimilate into society and contribute more to their economies, by having better jobs and paying more taxes. However, if these illegal immigrants are not granted an amnesty, this would be an additional expense the tax payers will have to pay that will primarily benefit the country which sent the immigrants in the first place.

The Real ID Act was passed in 2005 as a security measure and as an attempt to provide identification for people in the United States that is hard to counterfeit. These ID's are to be produced by individual states, rather than the

federal government. However, they will be in the form of driver's licenses and are supposed to pass certain quality tests that make them more difficult to forge. This will give them greater authenticity. In addition, the U.S. government will establish a data base that can be used to determine the legal status of people in the U.S. Eventually, the Real ID, if widely used, will be used to check a person's legal residency status in the United States. All states are supposed to begin issuing Real ID driver's licenses by May 2011, and begin to replace current driver's licenses by December 2014. Right now the federal government is requesting states to participate in its new **E-Verify** program. It is a voluntary system that checks the data provided by newly hired employees against government databases. It aims to reduce the employment of unauthorized workers. Unfortunately, recent tests of this system have determined that the lists containing the legal status of names maintained by the federal government are in error about eight percent of the time. The legislatures of 17 states have passed legislation opposing the Real ID program, calling it an unfunded federal mandate that will become a national ID card at the expense of states and an invasion of the privacy of their residents.

(*Migration News*, January 2009, Vol. 15, No 1. <http://migration.ucdavis.edu>.)

Profile of Immigrants Living in the United States in 2007

The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) recently published a profile of America's foreign born population. Its findings came from the March 2007 *Current Population Survey* conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Among its more interesting findings are the following:

- The Nation's immigrant population (legal plus illegal) reached a record high of 37.9 million in March 2007. This compares to 10.3 million in 1900, 13.5 million in 1910 (when the percentage of immigrants was the

highest), 9.6 million in 1970, and 31.1 million in 2000.

- Immigrants account for one in eight (12.6 percent) of all U.S. residents, the highest level in 80 years. In 1970, the comparable percentage was 4.7 percent and in 1980 it was 6.2 percent. The highest it has been since 1900 in the U.S. was 14.7 percent in 1910.
- Nearly one in three immigrants is an illegal resident in the U.S. Half the Mexican and Central American immigrants and one-third of South American immigrants are illegal.
- Since 2000, nearly 10.3 million immigrants have arrived—the highest number in any seven-year period of the history of immigration to the U.S. More than half (54 percent) of these people were estimated by CIS to be illegal entrants. 57 percent of the illegal population comes from Mexico, 11 percent is from Central America, 9 percent is from East Asia, 8 percent is from South America, and Europe and the Caribbean each account for 4 percent.
- The largest number of immigrants to arrive between 2000 and 2007 arrived in California (2,022,000), Texas (1,071,000), Florida (1,068,000), New York (877,000), New Jersey (501,000), and Illinois (491,000). These figures are not for net immigration because they do not include the number who left these states to live elsewhere.
- Immigrants and their U.S. born children accounted for at least one-fifth of the populations of the following states: California (38 percent), New York (28 percent), Florida (24 percent), Texas (21 percent), New Jersey (27.5 percent), Nevada (25 percent), and Hawaii (22 percent).
- 29 percent of all immigrants 18 years and older in the labor force had less than a high school education in 2007, compared to less than 8 percent of the U.S. born population. Furthermore, 36 percent of the adult immigrants in the labor force who arrived between 2000 and 2007 had less than a high school education. Since 2000, immigration increased the number of workers without a high school diploma by 14 percent and all other workers by only 3 percent.
- The study found that immigrants with a college degree have incomes and use social services similar to natives. However, legal immigrants with very little education had poverty rates and welfare use rates that are as high as those for illegal immigrants. For example, 56 percent of the household headed by a legal immigrant who lacked a high school diploma used at least one major welfare program, triple the rate for the U.S. born population. This is important because an estimated 57 percent of the illegal immigrants have not completed high school. Therefore, their legalization is unlikely to solve the problem they have with low incomes and the heavy use of social services.
- The share of immigrants and natives in the U.S. who are college graduates is about the same. However, immigrants were once much more likely than natives to be college graduates.
- The proportion of immigrant-headed households using at least one major welfare program is 33 percent, compared to 19 percent for native households.
- The poverty rate for immigrants and their U.S. born children (under 18) is 17 percent, nearly 50 percent higher than the rate for natives and their children.
- Immigrants and their U.S. born children account for 71 percent of the increase in the uninsured since 1989.
- Immigrants make significant progress in their socioeconomic status over time spent in the United States. Still, even those who have been in the U.S. for 20 years are more likely to be living in poverty, lack health insurance, and use welfare services than the U.S. born population.
- The primary reason for the high rates of immigrant poverty, lack of health insurance, and welfare use is their low education level,

not their legal status or unwillingness to work.

- Immigration accounts for virtually all of the national increase in public school enrollment over the last two decades. In 2007, there were 10.8 million school age children from immigrant families in the United States.
- Recent immigration has had very little impact on the United States' age structure, even though immigrants who arrived in the U.S. since 2000 tend to be slightly younger (29.4 years of age) than the U.S. born population (35.9 years of age). If the 10.3 million post 2000 immigrants are removed from the U.S. population, the average age of the total U.S. population would decline from 36.7 years to 36.4 years. Clearly, immigration will not save the country's social security system by significantly lowering its average age, so there would be more adults to support the elderly.
- Immigration has a large effect on the low-skilled labor market in the U.S. Immigrants comprise between one-fourth and one-third of all workers in cleaning, construction, and the food service occupations. Roughly half of these immigrant workers are estimated to be illegal immigrants. In contrast, just 9 percent of journalists and 6 percent of lawyers are immigrants, and almost none are illegal immigrants. This partly explains why the argument that immigrants only do jobs American don't want is widely accepted in the media and among elites in general. But the fact is, the overwhelming majority of low wage jobs are done by less education native born Americans not immigrants.
- Unemployment and non-work has grown significantly among the less educated native born Americans. In 2007 there were more than 22 million adult natives of working age (18-64 years) with no education beyond high school who were either unemployed or not in the labor market. Wages and benefits for such workers have also generally stagnated or declined in recent years. Most Americans

do not face significant job competition from immigrants, but those who do are usually the poorest and most vulnerable.

- Immigrants themselves clearly benefit by coming to the United States. This fact can be used to justify continuing the current policies of immigration in this country on humanitarian grounds. But it is important to know that there are costs involved because the latest data clearly show that poorly educated U.S. born workers, public schools, health care providers, and taxpayers will continue to increasingly feel the effects of these costs if we continue in this direction.

(Steven A. Camarota, "Immigrants in the United States, 2007: A Profile of America's Foreign-Born Population, *Backgrounders*, Center for Immigration Studies, November 2007. Available on line at: www.cis.org/articles/2007/back1007.html.)

New PRB Research on Black Immigration to U.S.

New research by the Population Reference Bureau staff shows that recent flows of immigrants from the Caribbean and Africa are a growing component of the U.S. population. They are part of the racial and ethnic transformation of the U.S. taking place in the 21st Century. Although far outnumbered by non-Black Hispanic and Asian immigrants, the number of Black immigrants is growing at a remarkable rate. More than one-fourth of the Black populations of New York, Miami, and Boston is foreign born. Immigration contributed at least one-fifth of the growth in the U.S. Black population between 2001 and 2006.

Several new developments sparked renewed immigration of Blacks from the Caribbean and Africa beginning in the 1970s. New laws (especially the Immigration Act of 1965) opened legal channels for people wanting to immigrate to the U.S. Cheaper and more frequent air travel reduced the physical and psychological distances to the U.S. Better telephone and new Internet communications connected immigrants to their families back home, and allowed them to send

news of job opportunities to potential immigrants back home. Poor economic prospects, political instability, and violence in some areas were powerful “push” factors. The strong U.S. economy and the United States long history as an immigrant country were among the factors attracting additional newcomers from these regions. Some analysts also point to a less welcoming atmosphere for Africans in Europe as encouraging potential immigrants to come to the U.S.

The foreign born Black population rose nearly seven fold between 1960 and 1980, and more than tripled between 1980 and 2005. The foreign share of all U.S. Blacks increased from less than one percent to eight percent during these years. This was a sizeable increase, even though the percent foreign born is much higher (12.5 percent) for the entire U.S. population. The number of Haitians—the second largest Caribbean group—nearly quadrupled between 1980 and 2005, and the number of Jamaicans—the largest Caribbean group—more than doubled. The increases were even more dramatic among African groups. For example, the number of Ethiopians in 2005 was 13 times what it was in 1960. Overall, the number of foreign born Blacks rose from 125,000 in 1980 to 2,815,000 in 2005, with a majority arriving since 1990. About two-thirds of Black foreign born is from the Caribbean and Latin America, and one-third is from Africa. Only a small fraction was born in Europe, Canada, or elsewhere. But the African share is growing. More African born Blacks arrived between 2000 and 2005 than in the previous decade.

Until recent years, new Black immigration was little noticed outside a few cities—especially New York and Miami—where communities of West Indians, Haitians, Nigerians, and other Black immigrants flourished. But that has changed in recent years as Somali communities have become noticeable in Columbus, Ohio, Lewiston, Maine, and Minneapolis. Immigrant Blacks and their children are gaining prominence in many fields, raising their visibility and

attracting attention among the general population.

Nearly two-thirds of Caribbean born Blacks live in the New York or Miami metropolitan areas. African born Blacks are more dispersed throughout the United States. Among the top cities for African born Blacks are New York, Washington, D.C., Minneapolis, and Atlanta. Still three-fifths live in other metropolitan areas, such as Philadelphia, Los Angeles, or Dallas. These immigrants have high educational attainment—38 percent of the adult African born and 20 percent of the adult Caribbean or Latin American born Blacks have college degrees. They tend to have low rates of unemployment and poverty, compared with the general population. But they often are underpaid and underemployed given their educational achievements and experience. Like most newcomers, immigrant Blacks face myriad challenges as they join the labor force and raise their families in the United States. As they adapt to life in their new country, they will also change the society around them, especially as their numbers grow and they expand to more corners of the country.

(Mary Mederios Kent, “Immigration and America’s Black Population,” *Population Bulletin*, Vol. 62, No. 4, December 2007.

Available on-line at:

www.prb.org/publications/populationbulletins/2007/blackimmigration.aspx?p=1.)

Managing Immigration Throughout the World

The number of international migrants in the world is at an all-time high. There were 191 million migrants in 2005, which means that 3 percent of the world’s population left their country of birth or citizenship for a year or more. The number of international migrants in industrialized countries more than doubled between 1985 and 2005, from almost 55 million to 120 million.

However, most of the world’s 6.6 billion people never cross a national border; most live and die near their place of birth. Those who

cross national borders usually move to nearby countries, for example, from Mexico to the U.S., or from Turkey to Germany. The largest flow of migrants is from less developed to more developed countries. In 2005, 62 million migrants from developing countries moved to more developed countries, but almost as many migrants (61 million) moved from one developing country to another, such as from Indonesia to Malaysia. Large flows of people also move from one industrialized country to another, such as from Canada to the United States, and much smaller flows move from more developed to less developed countries, such as people from Japan who work or retire in Thailand.

The international community believes that international migration should be voluntary, and has tried to minimize “forced migration,” whether motivated by persecution or economic deprivation at home. The United Nations 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that “Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.” However, the right to emigrate does not give migrants a right to immigrate, and most migrants are not welcomed unconditionally into the countries to which they move.

Most countries discourage immigration—they do not welcome the arrival of foreigners who wish to settle and become naturalized citizens. Some also discourage emigration. This was the situation in communist nations as symbolized by the Berlin Wall, which was used to deter crossing from East to West Germany between 1961 and 1989. Today, North Korea continues to prevent its citizens from leaving the country.

Five major countries plan for the arrival of immigrants: the United States, which accepted 1.2 million immigrants in 2006; Canada which accepted 250,000; Australia 125,000; New Zealand 50,000; and Israel 25,000. Industrialized countries planned to accept 1.5 million immigrants a year. However, the number of newcomers arriving in these countries each year exceeds the number planned, suggesting

that many are temporary visitors or illegal immigrants who find ways to settle rather than return home.

Perspectives on the rising number of migrants can be illustrated by two extreme positions. At one extreme, organizations ranging from the Catholic Church to the Wall Street Journal and the World Bank have called for more migration, arguing that people should not be confined to their countries of birth by national borders and that more migration would speed economic growth and development in both sending and receiving countries. They argue that people are both producers and consumers and both are good for economic growth. At the other extreme, in virtually every industrialized country, organizations are demanding sharp reductions in immigration. In the United States, the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and a number of others argue that unskilled newcomers hurt low-skilled U.S. workers, have negative environmental effects, and threaten established U.S. cultural values. Political parties in many European countries have called for reducing immigration at one time or another. For example, during the 1995 French presidential campaign, the National Front in France proposed removing up to three million non-Europeans from France in order to reduce the number of Muslim residents.

The first step toward making migration manageable is to understand why people migrate. Most people do not want to cross national borders, and even though the number of migrants is at an all-time high, international migration is still low relative to the 97 percent of the world’s residents who do not migrate. Furthermore, economic growth can turn former emigration nations into destinations for immigrants, as it did for Ireland, Italy, and South Korea. The challenge is to manage immigration by reducing the differences that encourage people to cross borders, while taking into consideration how investment, remittances, and aid can stimulate economic development and

reduce migration pressures in the countries that migrants leave.

(Philip Martin and Gottfried Zurcher, "Managing Migration: The Global Challenge," *Population Bulletin*, Vol 63, No. 1, march 2008. Available on-line at:

www.prb.org/publications/populationbulletins/2008/managingmigration.aspx.)

Tech Firms Make New Push for H-1B visas

Oracle, Microsoft and other tech companies, joined by business leaders in New York and Washington, are making a new push for an increase in visas for skilled workers. But they conceded Thursday they face difficult odds in Congress.

Robert Hoffman, an Oracle vice president, predicted that applications for the next H-1B visa lottery will quickly exceed the 65,000 available slots, with winners determined by a random process that ignores market needs and economic benefits. Last year, the 65,000 cap was reached on the first day of applications. Under this "surreal system," Hoffman said, a fashion model will have the same chance at a visa as a tech entrepreneur who generates jobs.

Hoffman said he hopes Congress will double the current cap. Barring that, he also proposed that legislators free up unused visas from previous years. For instance, during the 2001-02 recession, after the tech boom fizzled, the total of unused H-1B visas grew to about 300,000. But that's not likely this year, despite an impassioned plea from Bill Gates two weeks ago and persistent lobbying by many businesses. After the collapse of a comprehensive immigration bill last year, Congress has been reluctant to do anything on immigration except to tighten border and workplace enforcement.

While an increase in visas has support in Congress, some members, such as Sens. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., have focused on past abuses by job brokers who have misused the H-1B visa system to bypass U.S. workers and bring in foreign workers for lower wages. The Programmers Guild, an advocacy

group for U.S. computer programmers, has argued that the skilled-worker visa system has not protected the rights of U.S. workers. The group did agree with Hoffman and Gates that the lottery system should reward U.S. firms that create jobs in the United States.

Large tech employers contend that the low visa cap forces them to outsource some jobs and operations. Hoffman said about 75 percent of Oracle's H-1B visa applications were granted. Of the remaining applicants, about half were relocated overseas and half were let go.

A new study by the National Foundation for American Policy, a non-partisan group that conducts research on trade and immigration, found that H-1B visa holders are not displacing U.S. workers and those companies are growing overall. "For every H-1B position requested, U.S. tech companies increase their employment by five workers," the study found. The study cited the example of Sonnet Technologies, based in Irvine, which hired an H-1B applicant from Japan who helped develop the Japanese market for the company's products, resulting in the hiring of 10 more production personnel.

Thursday's briefing was designed to show that the skilled-visa issue is not just the concern of tech companies. Officials with the National Association of Manufacturers, a powerful lobbying force in Washington, and the Partnership for New York City - a group of corporate and investment leaders - said the limits on visas were hampering business growth. California ranks first among H-1B visas, with 18.2 percent of the total in 2006, and the New York tri-state area accounted for 21 percent of the visas, with many going to small employers needing foreign talent to connect with global markets, said Diana Torres, a vice president of the partnership. (Frank Davies, "Tech Firms Make New Push for H-1B Visas," *Mercury News*, March 28, 2008)

Wall Street Journal Weighs In On the Debate About H1B Visas

April 1 was a critical day for immigration policy. On that day, U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services (USCIS) began accepting new H1-B visa petitions for the next fiscal year. Created in 1990, H1-B visas allow companies to sponsor highly educated foreigners -- architects, doctors, engineers, scientists among them -- to work in the United States for at least three years. The H1-B program, which accounts for nearly all skilled immigrants admitted to work here each year, is capped annually at 65,000 for people with a bachelor's degree or higher, plus an additional 20,000 for those with a master's degree or higher.

Is this enough supply to meet market demand? Not even close, say many U.S. companies. Last year, by the afternoon of the first day petitions were accepted, more than 150,000 had been filed. So USCIS rejected all petitions received after close of business the next day, and then allocated the 85,000 visas via random lottery. USCIS is forecasting a similar crush for 2009 petitions.

Skilled immigrants have long contributed to rising U.S. standards of living. They bring human capital, brimming with ideas for new technologies and new companies. They bring financial capital as well, with savings and resources to develop these new ideas. And they often bring connections to business opportunities abroad, stimulating exports for multinational companies.

One of the most innovative and productive sectors of the U.S. economy, which accounts for more than half of the economy-wide productivity acceleration since 1995, is information technology. At the end of the 1990s, 24% of all IT firms in Silicon Valley had been founded by immigrants from China or India. IT's gain from skilled immigrants has been mirrored throughout the economy. The number of foreign-born workers in the U.S. science and engineering workforce has nearly quintupled since 1980. Increases have been most pronounced among the most educated. The foreign-born share of doctorate-level workers rose to 42% today from 24% in 1990.

Higher education offers another prime example. America built the world's most dynamic university system largely by welcoming foreign scholars. At the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, 36% of tenured and tenure-track professors are foreign born. Nonetheless, leading U.S. companies today are crying out for more immigrants to satisfy their talent needs. And they do so as globalization gives companies an ever-wider range of locations abroad in which to operate. Increasingly, talent needs that cannot be met in America can be met abroad -- much to the detriment of the U.S. economy. Bill Gates put this clearly in testimony to Congress last month: "many U.S. firms, including Microsoft, have been forced to locate staff in countries that welcome skilled foreign workers to do work that could otherwise have been done in the United States, if it were not for our counterproductive immigration policies."

Alarms are increasingly being sounded about America's waning competitiveness. In particular, American capital markets are losing out to financial centers like London. The independent, bipartisan Committee on Capital Markets Regulation opened its latest report with this line, "By any meaningful measure, the competitiveness of the U.S. public equity market has deteriorated significantly in recent years."

A recent McKinsey report surveyed hundreds of senior finance executives and found that their single most important concern was "availability of professional workers." One executive said, "It is much easier hiring talented people in the U.K. There are plenty of great people and I never have trouble getting them in because of immigration restrictions; I couldn't hire the team I need in the U.S. today."

And why is it easy to hire financial talent in London? Because the U.K. welcomes an unlimited supply of the world's best financial minds. Since 2004, the U.K. Highly Skilled Migrant Programme has maintained a list of the world's top 50 business schools. Anyone who earns an MBA from one of these schools is

automatically eligible to work in the U.K. for at least one year.

America is currently facing many economic challenges. In Washington and on the presidential campaign trail, however, we hear very little about immigration. And what we do hear is mainly about issues such as fences and drivers' licenses. This is unfortunate. To maintain high standards of living for Americans, the U.S. economy needs skilled workers. But our immigration policy keeps out many of the world's best, and as a result threatens America's competitiveness. The solution? Eliminate the cap on H1-B visas. What a wonderful April Fool's Day surprise that would be.

Mr. Slaughter (who wrote this article) is Associate Dean and Professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. From 2005 to 2007 he was a member on the Council of Economic Advisers. (Matthew J. Slaughter, "The Immigrant Gap," *The Wall Street Journal*, April 1, 2009.)

H-1B Visa Applicants Expected to Greatly Increase

H-1B visas enable U.S. companies to hire skilled foreign workers for certain jobs that are difficult to fill domestically. Attorneys who help employers file petitions say they haven't seen a decline in interest despite the economic downturn. Last year, the U.S. government received 124,000 applications for H-1B visas, nearly double the congressionally mandated cap of 65,000, so the visas were awarded by lottery. This year, visas were granted to 65,000 individuals randomly chosen from a pool of petitions filed in the first five business days in April, as stipulated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the federal agency that oversees the process. Selected foreign professionals can begin work at the employer that filed for them in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

Low unemployment in the high-tech sector coupled with the narrow window for petitioning

for H-1Bs "will offset any softness in the overall economy," predicts Steve S. Miller, a Seattle attorney whose clients include many companies that employ foreign professionals. Immigration proponents are making efforts in Congress to open the U.S. wider to foreign high-tech workers. However, calls to expand the program have failed.

Transpire, of Gig Harbor, Washington, relies on workers with expertise in nuclear physics and engineering coupled with applied programming. "Only a handful of graduates each year in the U.S. have the ideal skill set for what we need," says Mr. Failla, whose company's software helps doctors to target radiotherapy on tumors. Transpire's software is also used in homeland security, fusion-power research, spacecraft design and oil exploration. The company is submitting an H-1B application for a Serbian national with a background in physics-based numerical simulation software. "He has been working for us remotely for the past two years," Mr. Failla says. "But we can't put him on critical work until he is here in the U.S." Transpire also hopes to hire a Venezuelan national who is due to graduate within months from a Texas university with a doctorate in nuclear engineering.

The H-1B visa allows 65,000 foreigners with at least a bachelor's degree and specific skills to work for a U.S. company for a six-year period. The program allocates an additional 20,000 visas to foreign nationals with advanced degrees from U.S. universities.

U.S. high-tech companies for years have called on Congress to increase the cap on visas for skilled foreigners. In testimony to Congress earlier this month, Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates warned lawmakers that the U.S. risks losing its competitive edge in technology unless it can secure qualified workers. "Other nations are benefitting from our misguided policies," Mr. Gates said. "They are revising their immigration policies to attract highly talented students and professionals who would otherwise study, live

and work in the United States for at least part of their careers."

Changes to the H-1B visa program were included in the immigration-reform bill that failed in Congress last year. The visa stalemate has prompted some companies to expand overseas. In September, Microsoft opened its first software-development center in Canada, saying it enabled the company to recruit and retain highly skilled people "affected by immigration issues in the U.S." The week after Mr. Gates's testimony, two bills were introduced by legislators to raise the quota. A bill sponsored by Rep. Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican, would bring the number of H-1B visas to 195,000. A bill drafted by Democratic Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona would boost the cap and exempt foreigners educated at U.S. institutions from the quota.

A study released March 10 by the National Foundation for American Policy, an Arlington, Va., policy research group, found that on average every foreign national on an H-1B visa generates another five to 7.5 jobs, depending on the size of the technology company. But critics contend that the H-1B program takes jobs from U.S. citizens, lowers wages and is exploited by foreign companies, particularly from India, that send workers to the U.S. for training and then return them home. Some lawmakers, worker-advocacy groups and immigration restrictionists have voiced strong opposition to bringing more foreign workers to the U.S. (Miriam Jordan, "Skilled-Worker Visa Applicants Expected to Soar," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 31, 2008.)

Controversy Surrounds Rhode Island Governor's Immigration Order

Rhode Island Governor Carcieri's executive order cracking down on illegal immigration met with backlash yesterday from Rhode Island Democratic Party leaders who accused him of "mandating racial profiling" and from immigrant advocates who accused him of scapegoating and inflaming the immigration debate.

The executive order the governor recently signed will empower state police and correctional officers to enforce some immigration laws through an agreement with the federal Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). It will require electronic verification of the legal status of employees who work for the executive branch and employees of vendors who do business with the state.

Governor Carcieri said he decided to take action in the face of federal inaction on immigration reform — inaction he said has led to an "epidemic" flow of illegal immigrants, leaving taxpayers to bear "the consequential costs." A spokesman for the governor said Carcieri took action because many of the current bills aimed at illegal immigration were introduced but failed to pass the state's General Assembly last year, and "as a result, it is not clear that these bills will be approved this year." Carcieri reviewed similar policies, including executive orders, "in a number of different jurisdictions," including Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Missouri, Arizona, Florida, Oregon and Oklahoma, Neal said. He also consulted ICE and other governors.

The Governor said he was aware that the topic of illegal immigration "stirs great emotion" and "is a very sensitive issue." At several points he blamed the media for ratcheting up the rhetoric. However, critics say he is the one that's inflaming the debate. According to them, the governor has scapegoated the immigration population for political gain and along the way has undermined the safety of the residents of Rhode Island. They say that if you look or sound like an immigrant, there's no reason to trust Rhode Island state troopers for fear of being deported.

However, many Rhode Islanders called talk-radio shows yesterday to praise Carcieri. Most of the callers said they welcome the immigrants that will comply with our immigration laws and said they felt that the governor had to do something because the state

legislature and federal government had dropped the ball.

Carcieri's actions were also being noted outside Rhode Island. For example, Bob Dane, spokesman for the conservative national group Federation for American Immigration Reform, said Carcieri "will be in good company." He called the Governor's program that gives state police immigration powers "a kind of force-multiplier ... it's a good program. It's not cops working as immigration officers as much as it's cops working more closely with the immigration officers."

Dane added, "So much of the immigration fight is moving from inside the Beltway here in Washington to cities and states across the country. The local communities in the states are doing the work the federal government isn't doing and won't do."

Angela Kelley, director of the Immigration Policy Center, a research arm of the American Immigration Law Foundation, said that federal action — not executive orders by governors — is the most appropriate way to go. "I think [an executive order] is a good way to do business if you're trying to send a message, but it's not a terribly effective way to solve the problem," said Kelley. The majority of local initiatives try to send a tough message of cracking down on folks, perhaps naively hoping they'll leave. I do think it's naive. We're not talking about an insignificant number of people. There are 12 million undocumented people, 7 to 8 million of them are workers, and we have 3 to 5 million U.S. citizen kids where one or more parents are undocumented. That's why I think it's about sending a message," said Kelley. "I don't think anyone really believes they're going to go." (Karen Lee Ziner, "Immigration Order Draws Praise, Ire," *Rhode Island News*, March 29, 2008.)

Immigration Issue Fades, But It May Return

When Republican presidential candidates met for the YouTube/CNN debate in November, the first four questions were about illegal

immigration. The focus on that topic reflected its central role in their race, as they repeatedly challenged one another's credentials as defenders of the nation's border with Mexico. It was also a key topic for the Democrats, as Sen. Hillary Clinton first endorsed, then repudiated then-New York Gov. Elliot Spitzer's proposal to provide driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. What a difference a presumptive nominee makes. With immigration reform advocate Sen. John McCain's emergence as the presumptive Republican nominee, the issue has faded from the campaign.

Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a think tank that advocates lower levels of immigration, said the Arizona senator and his two Democratic rivals — Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Clinton of New York — have no reason to debate the issue. "All three candidates have identical positions," he said.

McCain angered many conservatives last year by supporting a bill that would have given illegal immigrants a path to citizenship and created a guest worker program. Both Clinton and Obama favor a similar approach. As the race heated up, McCain shifted his position, saying the defeat of that bill persuaded him that the border must be secured before there are any measures to accommodate the illegal immigrants already in the country. But in the YouTube debate and in other forums, he also made a point of distancing himself from GOP hard-liners who called for rounding up and expelling illegal immigrants.

"We need to sit down as Americans and recognize these are God's children as well. And they need some protection under the law; they need some of our love and compassion," he said.

Beyond the apparent victory of the moderates, the emergence of another issue has helped push illegal immigration out of the spotlight: the economy. Thomas Mann, a political analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said the three major presidential candidates have no incentive to focus on

immigration now that the public is consumed with recession worries. John J. Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in California, added that at times in American history, bad economic news has prompted citizens to see immigrants as unwanted competitors, but "this downturn is different" — lacking any obvious causal link with illegal immigration. "Few people claim that illegal immigration is the main cause of the mortgage meltdown or the collapse of Bear Stearns," he said.

The issue of illegal immigration, however, may soon see a revival effort. Senate Republicans plan to introduce several immigration-related amendments in the next few weeks, including measures that would make English the Nation's official language, require the deportation of illegal immigrants convicted of drunken driving and withhold federal money from cities that have so-called "sanctuary" policies that bar police and local officials from checking the immigration status of residents using city services. The measures also include one by Georgia GOP Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson that would clarify the authority of state and local police to enforce immigration laws and expand training in the area. Fifteen immigration measures were introduced together during March alone in an effort spearheaded by Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala). The plan is to offer them as amendments to larger bills.

The increasing vigor of immigration opponents could put McCain, both as a candidate and a member of the Senate, in a difficult position. He faces being forced to choose between possibly upsetting Hispanic voters or further alienating the Republican base, with which he has been working to build a relationship after years of bucking them as a party maverick.

The issue of immigration could also emerge in congressional races across the country — though its outlook is cloudy. Immigrant advocates point to the defeat earlier this month in Illinois of Republican Jim Oberweis in a

special election to replace Republican former House Speaker Dennis Hastert, who retired. Oberweis focused heavily on illegal immigration, saying in a television ad that "illegal aliens are coming here to take American workers' jobs, drive down wages and take advantage of government benefits such as free health care." He lost to Democrat Bill Foster in what had been thought to be a dependably GOP district.

Clarissa Martinez, director of immigration at the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic civil rights organization, said many Republicans are misreading the public on the issue, and "scapegoating" illegal immigrants is not a winning strategy. But Krikorian said most Republicans remain upset about illegal immigration and it will be a major factor in certain districts. For example, Lou Barletta, the mayor of Hazleton, Pa., who became famous for pushing through an ordinance cracking down on illegal immigrants, is running for Congress. Barletta's Web site says he "brought the city back from the brink" after "an influx of illegal immigration threatened its financial foundation and brought gang violence, drugs and crime to peaceful neighborhoods." Krikorian also predicted that illegal immigration will be a theme in races for some state offices because in the absence of federal action, many states are enacting their own laws regarding illegal immigration. "You are going to see state legislative races turn on the issue," he said. (Eunice Moscoso, "Immigration Issue Fades, But It May Return," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, March 30, 2008.)

Fears Grow for Recklessness of Coyotes

Human smugglers are employing increasingly risky and dangerous methods to transport illegal immigrants since security tightened along the U.S.-Mexico border. "They're getting less area they can successfully enter," said Oscar Saldaña, a U.S. Border Patrol spokesman. "That's why we're seeing more of these desperate acts. And unfortunately, we

anticipate there's going to be more of these types of events."

Within the past month a Ford F-150 carrying more than 20 illegal immigrants collided with another vehicle on Expressway 83 in Peñitas, Texas leaving three dead and another 14 injured. They were the latest victims of what appears to be a growing and often fatal trend in the Rio Grande Valley of human smugglers, or coyotes, filling cars and trucks with loads of immigrants far beyond the vehicles' capacity and then driving at high speeds to elude law enforcement. Law enforcement's presence here has increased significantly over the past six years, since President Bush ordered federal law enforcement agencies to tighten control of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The number of Border Patrol agents in the Valley has risen from about 1,200 in 2002 to more than 2,200 this year, Saldaña said. And local law enforcement agencies - from small-town police departments to the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office - have been awarded a series of state and federal grants to dedicate officers to border security details. "You're talking about human smuggling and drugs," Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Treviño said. "There's no doubt in the last five years the attitude of the human smuggler has taken a 180. They have transformed themselves into a commodity broker that has no limitations to getting their cargo to where they want to go."

Less publicized than their counterparts in the drug trafficking industry, human smuggling organizations tend to be highly structured, with resources and operatives spread across the globe, said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent Janice Ayala, who directs investigations between Laredo and Brownsville. Fees range anywhere from \$300 to \$50,000 per person, depending on where the immigrant is coming from and wants to go, as well as the difficulty of the route, she said. A person traveling from China might have one smuggler take them to Central America, another take them to Mexico, another to take them across the border and

another to move them through the United States. "These are organizations moving people from one country to another to another, so they need a very sophisticated network in order to do that," Ayala said. Most of these alien smuggling organizations are paying passage to a large (drug) cartel, because they have the routes to the U.S.

The Mexican government, at both the state and federal level, is in the midst of a public relations campaign to warn Mexican nationals of the growing danger of crossing the border illegally. Billboards in the United States and Mexico caution against traveling with coyotes, and government-written newspaper columns tell horror stories of immigrants drowning in the Rio Grande or being left to die in the desert heat.

In Washington, D.C., where Congress is expected to address immigration reform again next year, the recent worsening of the human smuggling problem has not as yet gained traction as a political issue, said Douglas Rivlin, a spokesman for the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigrant advocacy group.

In fact, despite heightened interest early in this presidential campaign, illegal immigration has fallen off as a talking point for the candidates over the last two months, he said.

(James Osborne, "Officials Fear Growing Recklessness of Coyotes," *The Monitor*, March 30, 2008.)

Arizona Considers Establishing A Guest Worker Program of its Own

Arizona already at the cutting edge of immigration reform seems poised to undertake yet another experiment: a guest worker program created and administered by a state rather than by the federal government. The Arizona legislature is expected very soon to fast track bills to create a temporary worker program in the state. Even with the backing of top lawmakers, the bills face big hurdles, including sign-off from the feds. But if approved, they would streamline the process for Arizona employers to hire temporary workers from Mexico – and would serve as a model for national reform, say

supporters. At the same time, Arizona is pursuing a separate path to try to ensure that employers here, mainly in agriculture, have enough workers to bring in the crops.

Gov. Janet Napolitano (D) is proposing that Arizona serve as a pilot for testing changes – some proposed by states bordering Mexico and others by US Labor Secretary Elaine Chao – to the existing federal program for granting visas to farm laborers from abroad. The state already has the toughest employer sanctions law on the books – a possible reason, some experts say, employers are finding it more difficult to find an adequate number of workers now. Others, though, say that worker shortages here are chronic and that the real problem is lack of comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level.

"We've heard from lawmakers around the country who are concerned" about flaws in the existing visa program for farm workers, says Sheri Steisel, an immigration policy expert at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington. "Other states are going to watch this Arizona effort."

It is well known that guest worker programs have a long history in the US. There was one during World War I and another, known as the *bracero* (strong arm) program, from World War II until 1964. The latter, critics say, led to massive immigration, both documented and undocumented. Currently, the Department of Labor oversees a program created in 1986, dispensing H-2A visas for farm workers and H-2B visas for those in other industries. Government officials and analysts alike say the former is a bureaucratic morass and is little used by employers. On Feb. 6, the Labor Department proposed changes – the first in 20 years – to make the H-2A program more efficient. In a statement announcing the changes, the department acknowledged that "only a little more than 75,000 workers participate in the H-2A program, while there are an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 illegal immigrant workers on America's farms."

Changes include a procedure to more fairly calculate wages for foreign workers and ways to cut red tape, making it easier and swifter to hire foreign workers, particularly at harvest time. To protect domestic workers, the proposed changes increase the time employers would be required to recruit American workers before resorting to hiring foreign labor. Arizona is home to a huge agricultural center at Yuma, where 80 to 90 percent of lettuce consumed in the US in the winter is grown.

Governor Napolitano backs in-state moves to create a guest worker program. Twin bills were first filed in February and have been gaining support. They are set to be reintroduced soon with the Senate and House leaders as cosponsors. With the leadership sponsoring them, the expectation is that the bills will be fast tracked through the legislature. The measures would spare agricultural employers the arduous US approval process. Instead, an employer would send only one application, laying out the need for foreign labor, to the Industrial Commission of Arizona. If the commission certifies that Arizona lacks enough workers to fill the need, the employer can recruit in Mexico. Prospective employees in Mexico go to the US consulate, undergo background checks, and, if certified to enter the US, receive employment cards to work in the US for two years, versus the 10 months now allowed under the federal program.

However, the program has its critics. "One argument made now about why we need a guest worker program is that it will end undocumented immigration," says Luis Plascencia, an expert on Mexican migration and guest worker programs at Arizona State University in Tempe. "It's the exact opposite. The *bracero* program and ensuing efforts stimulated illegal immigration.... Once migratory movements start, they become self-perpetuating." Other critics cite a lack of enforcement, either against employers who abuse workers or workers who overstay their visas. The US government doesn't have the manpower or resources to do it now, experts say, and neither does Arizona.

(Faye Bowers, "Arizona Considers A Guest Worker Program of its Own," *The Christian Science Monitor*, March 31, 2008.)

***Anti-Illegal Immigration Groups
Expand in Florida***

World War II veteran Enos Schera monitors "the invasion" from his Miami home in the predominantly Cuban-American suburb of Westchester. Information is the former Marine's weapon.

Surrounded by stacks of paper, old televisions, VCRs and radios, Florida's "grandfather of immigration reform" -- as other activists have dubbed him -- tracks crimes committed by immigrants, failing public schools and politicians' positions. Schera's Citizens of Dade United is among a growing cohort of anti-illegal immigration groups in Florida trying different tactics to drive out undocumented immigrants. They have turned to legislators in Tallahassee for help in the wake of Washington's inability to find a solution. "I feel like a little guy at the bottom of the dam with my finger plugged in the dike," said Schera, 80, vice-president of the group. "I know what's going to happen if I pull my finger out, only instead of a trillion tons of water it will be a trillion tons of people."

After mounting a somewhat solitary fight for three decades in Miami, the city with the nation's highest percentage of foreign-born residents, Schera now has company. In Haines City, the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps organizes teams of Floridians to help patrol the Arizona-Mexico border for immigrants trying to sneak in. In Jupiter, Floridians for Immigration Enforcement protest outside an "illegal immigrant hiring hall" and sometimes post videos on Youtube.com of those who come to hire workers. In Fort Myers, Citizens Against Illegal Immigration hold candlelight vigils to honor U.S. citizens killed by illegal immigrants.

Now, the groups are lobbying the Florida Legislature on illegal immigration. Among measures: Require state government contractors to participate in a federal program to verify new employees' immigration status and make it a

crime to harbor or transport an undocumented immigrant. "People call us hate-mongers and racists, but this isn't about racism at all; it's about the rule of law," said state Minuteman Civil Defense Corps director Bill Landes, 52, in Haines City.

Immigrant advocates, who call anti-illegal immigration groups "nativists," say the anti-immigrant rhetoric can have dangerous results, evidenced by a reported rise in hate crimes against Hispanics. FBI statistics indicate a spike of almost 35 percent from 2003 to 2006. The Southern Poverty Law Center recently released a report saying the number of "hate groups" grew by 48 percent since 2000, an increase it attributes to growing anti-immigrant sentiment. "I think what's happened in many cases is that some of the real vile . . . propaganda against Latinos and immigrants specifically, really begins in white supremacist hate groups," said the Center's Mark Potok. "But what we're seeing as a phenomenon is that those allegations make their way out of hate groups and then go into the anti-immigration movement."

The leaders of the nascent Florida groups are generally older men -- several of them veterans -- who often feel the country's soul is threatened by the influx of mostly Hispanic immigrants. They seethe every time they have to "press 1 for English" when they call a government office. They reel off figures about overpopulation and immigrants on welfare. Many believe that Mexican immigrants want to reclaim California and the Southwest.

With an estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, the frustration has been climbing steadily on both sides of the immigration debate. In the Minuteman group's early days in 2005, members considered regular boat patrols off the Florida coast to search for immigrants attempting to arrive by sea, but now the group's sights are set on Tallahassee.

As with many other activists, Schera, whose son and a grandson followed him into the military, feels the world around him has changed in ways he cannot accept -- starting with the

Mariel boatlift when 125,000 Cubans arrived. Asked if he has Cuban friends, Schera points to Heberto Casares. Casares, 88, sold a short-wave radio to Schera, an amateur ham radio operator, and they became friends. Schera, an electrician, helped Casares build his first house. Casares disagrees with some of Schera's views -- for example, Casares thinks translating government documents into Spanish or other languages makes sense -- but he doesn't worry about his friend's more controversial views.

Schera claimed several political victories in early 1980s, including an ordinance that declared English the official language of Miami-Dade County. That measure was later repealed as Cuban Americans gained political power. "We have bigger issues now than the 'English-only' fight," said Dave Caulkett, 59, of Floridians for Immigration Enforcement or FLIMEN. Caulkett and other activists attended an October summit in Orlando organized by FAIR, an event that gave birth to the loose lobbying coalition now in Tallahassee.

With the failure of federal immigration reform, local and state governments have become the new battlefield. Oklahoma and Arizona have passed the most restrictive laws. An Arizona law yanks the business license of employers who hire illegal immigrants. Oklahoma's law, used as a model for a Florida bill, makes it a crime to hire or transport undocumented immigrants.

Caulkett also runs a website, www.reportillegals.com, where, for a \$10 fee, he will report a suspected "illegal alien" to immigration authorities. Caulkett's group spends most Saturday mornings protesting outside Jupiter's El Sol Neighborhood Resource Center, a non-profit that matches day laborers with employers looking for workers. "Shut down the Jupiter illegal alien hiring hall!" Caulkett yells with carnival barker's flair. Protesters hold signs that read "Mow your own damn grass!" and "Hiring an Illegal? Smile for the camera." One of the group's early attempts at taping would-be employers -- to post the video on Youtube -- ended in a December altercation. One employer,

now facing simple battery charges, allegedly tried to take away the camera and pushed Caulkett. Inside the center workers seem bemused by the weekly demonstration. "They accuse us of all sorts of terrible things, but we just want to work," said day laborer Jose Alvarez, 41, from Guatemala.

For every emotional story of an immigrant in need, activists counter with a tragedy. Russell Landry, head of the Fort Myers-based Citizens Against Illegal Aliens of Southwest Florida, has held candlelight vigils for Americans killed by undocumented immigrants. Landry, a disabled former Marine, was touched by a mother's telephone call. She recounted the story of her daughter, a 19-year-old honors student who was killed by a drunk driver, an undocumented immigrant who had been deported several times before. "It's very frustrating, because people don't seem to get involved because they haven't been directly affected," said Landry, 47, who's planning to move to New Hampshire. "I don't know what it's going to take for more people to stand up for our country."

(Casey Woods, "Anti-Illegal Immigration Groups Grow in Florida," *The Miami Herald*, March 31, 2008.)

Tall Border Fence Works Best Along U.S.-Mexico Border

U.S. border patrol agent Michael Bernacke guns his SUV down the wide desert-sand road that lines the U.S.-Mexican border through urban San Luis, Arizona. To his right stands a steel wall, 20 feet high and reinforced by cement-filled steel piping. To his left another tall fence of steel mesh. Ten yards beyond, a shorter cyclone fence is topped with jagged concertina wire. Visible to the north, through the gauze of fencing are the homes and businesses of this growing Southwest suburbia of 22,000 people. "This wall works," Bernacke said. "A lot of people have the misconception that it is a waste of time and money, but the numbers of apprehensions show that it works."

The triple-and double-layered fence here in Yuma is the kind of barrier that U.S. lawmakers - and most Americans - imagined when the

Secure Fence Act was enacted in 2006. The law instructed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to secure about one-third of the 1,950-mile border between U.S. and Mexico with 700 miles of double-layered fencing - and additionally through cameras, motion sensors, and other types of barriers - by the end of the year to stem illegal immigration.

Bankrolled by a separate \$1.2 billion homeland security bill, the Secure Fence Act would, it was hoped, make our borders more secure. By most recent estimates, nearly half a million unauthorized immigrants cross the border each year. On the ground, though, things have turned out differently. The DHS scaled back its ambitions early on, trimming its end-of-2008 target down to 300 miles of vehicle barrier and 370 miles of pedestrian barrier. As of February, 2008, only 302 miles of barrier have been constructed mostly on federal land in Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Just \$200 million will have been spent by June, according to Lloyd Easterling, the border patrol public information officer. Only a fraction of the new barriers resemble anything like the images of formidable fencing - the Berlin Wall or the bleak monolith that divides Israel and the West Bank - envisioned by the initial proposal. Most of the new fencing is not a double wall, but a combination of regular vehicle blocks and pedestrian barriers that range from metal mesh and chain link to traditional picket fences.

In Yuma, at least, the fence seems to be preventing illegal border-crossings. Since the triple fence was finished in October, there has been a 72 percent decline in illegal migrant apprehensions in the 120-mile swath of the U.S.-Mexican border known as the Yuma sector. Eight hundred people used to be apprehended trying to cross the border here every day. Now, agents catch 50 people or fewer daily. The 1.5-mile strip of triple fencing that cuts through suburban San Luis is the most impenetrable. That's because the three walls are separated here by a 75-yard "no man's land" - a flat, sandy corridor punctuated by pole-topped lighting, cameras, radio systems, and radar units, where

unauthorized migrants can be chased down by border agents.

The triple-layer fencing begins at the San Luis port of entry, one of a handful of formal checkpoints where cars and trucks from Mexico line up, waiting for the U.S. border patrol to inspect them for illegal contraband or migrants before they cross over. One-and-a-half miles east of San Luis, the triple fencing gives way to double fencing for about five miles, after which comes another 39 miles of so-called "primary fencing" - a combination of steel mesh and steel panels fitted over bollards, or small metal and cement pillars, that stick up from the ground. Most residents support the idea of a barrier, says Terry Ross, editor of the Yuma Daily Sun, a daily newspaper in Yuma, but also feel that "the wall is a temporary measure that won't solve the problem (of foreign workers) in the long run."

Border security has been beefed up considerably, reflecting heightened security and immigration concerns. The budget for border security has more than doubled in this time, as has the number of border patrol agents, which is anticipated to top out at 18,000 agents by the end of this year. But as with 1994's Operation Gatekeeper - when the Border Patrol's San Diego sector beefed up fencing, agents, and technology to keep out border-crossers from Mexico only to find they entered the country elsewhere - critics say Yuma's apparent success does not necessarily translate into a permanent solution. Strengthening border security in Yuma may be diverting illegal immigration to rural and desert areas.

Also of concern is the increase in border violence by drug and human smugglers, who seem to be more desperate now that one of their primary entry routes has been choked off. Two months ago, a border patrol agent was intentionally run over and killed in the Algodones Dunes area, in the Yuma sector, where thousands of off-road vehicles have provided cover for smugglers moving illegal migrants north in SUVs. Assaults on agents and rock-throwing at border patrol vehicles have gone up, says senior agent Derek Hernandez,

who has been patrolling the Yuma sector for the past three years. He points to his white SUV patrol car, which has been ribbed with a kind of metal exoskeleton that folds down to protect the windshield and windows. He then reaches into the car to demonstrate what is becoming more agents' weapon of choice - an air gun that fires tear-gas-filled pellets.

Yuma is the U.S. border patrol's success story of the moment. But a very small percentage of the fencing will look like Yuma's, Easterling said. Why can't the DHS extend triple-layer fencing the entire length of the U.S. border? The reasons include cost and the engineering problems associated with rocky, mountainous terrain, and other natural obstructions. The urban Yuma sector is perfectly flat, able to host a wide corridor of fences. The terrain along the southern border of the United States with Mexico is so diverse and mountainous, that we don't need to build the same kind of fences to halt migration there.

Such a wall is not necessary in rural areas, many claim. In border cities, illegal migrants are just a few hundred feet from transportation to take them farther north. But migrants who try to cross rural areas have miles and miles of open terrain to cross, not to mention rivers and gorges and other natural obstructions. Farther east of Yuma and San Luis, there are other issues that some say make triple-layer walls impractical. Environmentalists say that various types of fencing affect the migratory patterns of wildlife, including important endangered species. They can block river flow and lead to fragmentation of habitat. Some environmental groups have challenged in court the border fences being built in conservation areas.

Native American families on the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation - which now has 75 miles of pedestrian fencing - have complained that the vehicle barrier being built on their land desecrates an ancient burial site. And the extra patrols disrupt their daily life. "Getting back and forth to our own land on both sides of the border is now problematic," said Ophelia Rivas, a Tohono O'odham grandmother who has land on

both sides of the border. "They are always hassling U.S. for passports, which we have never had."

Near Brownsville, Texas, many ranchers own land on both sides of the border and have refused to allow government surveyors onto their property. The Texas border is scheduled to have about 130 miles of 18-ft.-high metal pedestrian fencing, much of it near urban areas and international bridges.

On March 7, a federal judge allowed access to one ranch owner's land but ordered the government to negotiate with the owners over the price of access and potential seizure. Even if surveyors get access, the U.S. government still needs to be purchase or seize the land through eminent domain, then establish locations and design before building the fence.

(Danial B. Wood, "Where U.S.-Mexico Border Fence Is Tall, It Works," *Christian Science Monitor*, March 31, 2008.)

Deported Mexicans Will Get Free Ride Home from U.S. Paid by the Mexican Government

Mexicans who are deported from the United States or leave voluntarily after being apprehended are being offered free trips back to their hometowns under a new pilot program. The program in Tijuana, dubbed Humanitarian Repatriation, will also ensure that returning Mexicans receive shelter, food, emergency medical care and temporary employment upon their return to Mexico. President Felipe Calderón announced the program in December, and federal officials hope to expand it to other communities along Mexico's northern border.

Ten Mexican federal immigration agents trained to work with returning migrants have been assigned to Tijuana under the program. The agents will assess the returnees' psychological health and help them contact family and obtain identification papers. Mexico's government has not allocated additional funds for the program, but by shifting around existing resources as well as coordinating efforts among government agencies, religious organizations and nonprofit

groups, officials say they hope to step up support for Mexicans who are forced to return. Until now, deportees and others forced to return have had half the cost of a trip to their home communities paid by the Mexican government. From now on, they will receive free bus transportation home. Mexican officials say close to a half-million Mexicans are sent back from the United States each year, and about 40 percent are sent through Baja California. (Sandra Dibble, "Mexicans Deported from U.S. Will Get Free Ride Home," *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 1, 2008.)

Italian Americans Are Increasingly Choosing Dual Citizenship

Joseph Jorgensen carries both his Italian and his U.S. passport when he travels. He decides which one to use once he arrives at customs and can choose "whichever line is shorter." Jessica Amato, a 30-year-old anthropology professor from San Francisco, has a name for born-and-bred Americans of Italian ancestry who apply for Italian citizenship. She calls them sleeper citizens. "With this Italian citizenship, you've had it your whole life," said Amato, who is eligible even though both her parents and her grandparents were born in the United States. "So you're just applying for activation."

Italian law allows foreigners of Italian descent to claim citizenship even if they have to go back four generations to link to an ancestor who was born in Italy. The concept of applying for citizenship that is technically already yours, called *jure sanguinis* (Latin for "by right of blood"), isn't unique to Italy, of course. But what distinguishes Italy from other European countries is that others don't recognize the so-called blood right in the progeny of émigrés more than two generations down the line. That means that if you're an American who wants Italian citizenship, you can reach back to your great-great grandfather Giuseppe and make it happen — at least in theory. The Italian government doesn't make it easy to apply (it takes an average of three years and costs about \$1,000), but thousands of Americans are doing it

despite the bureaucratic tangle involved. (If you have any doubts about just how tangled the process can be, consider the fact that the Italian embassy wouldn't even respond to requests for information on how many Americans have become dual Italian citizens, and calls to consulates around the country went unanswered.)

Dual Italian citizenship connects Americans to more than their heritage. They can freely work, retire, invest, or get health care in any of the 27 member states of the European Union. The appeal of Italian citizenship comes "from the economic standpoint of somebody that is doing well," said Giuseppina Spillane, who fields citizenship queries as a program director at the National Italian-American Foundation. Spillane compared the attitudes of North Americans with that of South Americans of Italian descent who fled to Northern Italy following Argentina's economic meltdown in the early 2000s. "Argentineans were really in need of basic necessities and some sort of help by the government," she said. Americans, by contrast, have the attitude of "I can invest by buying property over there, retire over there. I can go to school there, get a master's degree." She said she's seen many more applications during the last five years, saying Italian citizenship is now very much in demand and that consulates and the ministry of interior are being overwhelmed with applications. So overwhelmed, apparently, that the Chicago consulate has stopped accepting them until 2009, according to a recorded voice mail message.

If you don't enjoy the sound of recorded messages, there's help. Donald McLean, the owner of myitaliancitizenship.com, a six-year-old company based in Nova Scotia that helps citizens-to-be gather documents, said 100 new customers a month sign up for \$55 document searches. McLean said he didn't know why *jure sanguinis* citizenship has become so popular.

The Silvio Berlusconi government of Italy "fought hard for Italians living abroad to vote," at least in part, Tamburri said, because of the

perceived conservative leanings of the Italian-American population. The first-ever mail-in ballots in the country's history didn't win Berlusconi the election, however; because his party, the Forza Italia, narrowly lost to the Romano Prodi party.

The uptick in applications matches a surge in Italian ethnic pride in the United States, said DeSanctis, the editor of Italian America Magazine. "Italians always aimed to blend in because they were a despised minority," she said. Yet between the 1990 and 2000 censuses, the number of people who identified as being from Italian descent increased by more than 4 million. "What that indicates is a greater ethnic awareness," said DeSanctis, pointing to the worldwide "balkanization of ethnicity" as a cause. Italian-Americans often "don't speak Italian. They've only been to Italy on vacation. But they want to identify with their Italian roots," DeSanctis said, adding that dual citizenship is one way to do that.

For Nick Iovacchini, the 28-year-old owner of a sports apparel company in Hoboken, N.J., becoming an Italian citizen gave him the chance to play baseball overseas. Iovacchini was a junior at Rice University, in Houston, Texas, playing shortstop and second base for the school team, the Owls, when an Italian team recruited him in 2002. The Bollate, from the province on the outskirts of Milan, were allowed only so many foreign players. Iovacchini, as an Italian citizen, wouldn't count. He and his father, Eric Iovacchini, an attorney who has since founded Bella Consultants, based in Asheville, N.C., to help people with their own applications, soon realized what dual citizenship could mean for their family beyond "the baseball side of things."

With global perceptions of U.S. hegemony at an all-time low, having European citizenship is a definite plus. "It's so practical," said McLean. "It opens up a whole section of the world." "You never know when you're going to want to pull out a European passport," said Iovacchini, who always travels with both passports. One time he landed at an airport in South America where there was a long customs line for

Americans, who had to pay \$90 to enter the country. But there was a second line for Europeans. And they got to walk through for free.

(Mary Cuddehe, "Dual Citizenship Gains Popularity with Americans of Italian Descent," *Columbia News Service*, April 1, 2008.)

Arizona's Virtual Border Experiencing Problems

At first glance, the surveillance tower in Aravaca, Arizona looks like an ordinary TV antenna tower. Thirty-five miles of dusty desert from the nearest highway, it telescopes almost a hundred feet up in the air, topped with cameras and radars. Nearby, a security man from Pinkerton National Detective Agency sits in a dark-colored SUV, watching movies on a laptop. Two giant tanks of water apparently for wandering migrants have been placed close at hand by the human rights group Derechos Humanos.

The tower is one of nine surveillance turrets strung across 28 miles of Arizona border north of Sasabe that are supposed to communicate coordinates and images of moving figures to remote centers and laptops in border patrol vehicles. They are part of "Project 28," a Department of Homeland Security initiative meant to test the viability of a "virtual fence" – a high-tech, possibly more effective alternative to the fencing the US is erecting across hundreds of miles of the southwestern border. The idea that radar towers could help fill in the current gaps in the physical wall, and the technology could even be transported to problem areas at will appealed to the DHS.

However, the excitement over the possibility of securing the border through all-seeing electronic eyes has ebbed recently. Technological snags in the project, which was contracted out to Boeing for \$20 million, have raised doubts among some congressional investigators about the workability of the entire venture. Nevertheless, Homeland Security officials say that despite the hiccups the project is on track.

At the top of the tower, a rotating radar dish detects moving figures on the border and radios the coordinates to an integrated camera. The camera then focuses in on the targets. Agents sitting at a remote command post look at these images on monitors to determine if the moving figures are human – as opposed to a roadrunner or other desert critter. They then radio the coordinates to laptop computers placed in the cabins of roving border patrol cruisers. Ostensibly, the agents then swoop into the designated area and catch the illegal border crosser.

Project 28 is an early test of various new ways to coordinate radar, cameras, and on-the-ground apprehension being developed under a broader umbrella known as SBInet – a DHS initiative launched in 2006 to examine technological alternatives to fencing along unspecified stretches of the border. In early trials from July to December 2007, technical problems and other snafus led to media reports that DHS and the Boeing company might mothball the project. Problems included software glitches, wind and rain that affected the camera image quality, and radar that had trouble distinguishing sage-brush from camping migrants or animals.

Boeing officials publicly admitted that the effort has been more challenging than they anticipated. The project, which was supposed to be handed over to border patrol in June 2007 was not accepted till December. At a recent congressional hearing, Richard Stana, Homeland Security and Justice Director for the General Accounting Office said that Project 28 "did not fully meet the user needs." But DHS officials have moved to dispel the notion that the project was stalled or scrapped. They say the technology is still in use, that it is being tested to improve various designs and capabilities. It has been responsible for catching more than 2,400 migrants in the desert testing areas, the DHS claims.

DHS withheld part of the \$20 million original funding until Boeing made the necessary corrections, according to DHS press secretary

Laura Keehner. "As good stewards of the taxpayers money, DHS delayed acceptance of P-28," says Ms. Keehner. "After a period of operational testing, additional deficiencies were identified and subsequently corrected to the department's satisfaction."

DHS has requested \$775 million next fiscal year to continue to develop and deploy such technology. "There are some things we want to improve and there are some things that probably it turns out we don't really need," DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a press conference in Washington Feb. 28. "But I envision we will use this design in other parts of the border."

Some congressional investigators have warned that if they judge the system to be underperforming, they may urge ending the project. Many were not impressed with the shadowy footage taken in late February in which Project 28 cameras tracked three large groups of immigrants crossing the border before relaying the images to a command post in Tucson 70 miles away. "Project 28 was supposed to be an example of how we could use technology to secure the border. The lesson is we can't secure 28 miles of our border for \$20 million," said Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr. (D) of New Jersey, House Homeland Security Committee member at a hearing Feb. 27. "After so many years of promises and tests and millions of dollars spent, we are no closer to a technological solution to securing the border. This is unacceptable."

Another possible problem, experts say, is that the radar is easily foiled by terrain that is not flat. And operator training appears to be important if the system is to be effective. "Parts of Project 28 hold much promise if you can nurture experienced operators who can detect migrants and then guide other agents to intercept them," says T.J. Bonner, president of the National Border Patrol Council, which represents more than 12,000 United States border patrol agents. "The radar doesn't give you depth perception, and the same can be said of the cameras especially at night. So it's easy for contract employees who are trying to sector in the precise locations to be way off."

Some investigators of the US Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, have said that the initial investment was too paltry to expect significant results and that Boeing was not given enough time to complete the fairly complex project. The company has also received \$64 million for a new contract, according to Keehner, to develop new command-and-control software, improved identification capability, and greater range. After testing, the new hardware and software are intended to be installed in two locations, one in Texas and one in Arizona.

(Daniel B. Wood, "Arizona's 'Virtual' Border Wall Gets A Reality Check," *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 2, 2008.)

U.S. Voters Don't Know Immigration Positions of Presidential Candidates

A poll commissioned by the D.C.-based Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) found that American primary and caucus voters generally know little of the major presidential candidates' immigration policies. In addition to lacking knowledge of their candidate's stances on immigration, many voters also registered personal views on immigration at variance with the candidate they supported. The surveys bespoke a public much more amenable to restricting immigration than any of its current presidential choices. "I think the main thing is," CIS research director Steven Camarota explained, "people just don't follow many issues very closely. People have a life to live and even [regarding] issues that are pretty salient, people just don't keep that close a track."

Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and John McCain (R-Ariz.) have all backed amnesties for millions of illegal aliens, yet only 42 percent of Clinton supporters, 52 percent of Obama supporters and 34 percent of McCain backers imputed that policy to their candidate. Dr. Camarota said the public's overwhelming failure to recognize Mr. McCain's position owes somewhat to his efforts to publicly distance himself from a bill he co-sponsored with Sen. Edward Kennedy

(D-Mass.) that would put many illegal immigrants on a path to legal residency. After the bill failed to pass Congress last summer, Mr. McCain professed to heed what he perceived as voters' strong sentiment that stepped-up enforcement should precede any mass legalization. Only 31 percent of Mr. McCain's supporters agreed with his support for new legalizations while 45 percent of Mrs. Clinton's voters did and 61 percent of Mr. Obama's did.

The poll determined that restrictionist voters outnumbered pro-amnesty voters and it also found that restrictionists tended to give the issue greater political weight. Nearly nine out of 10 Republican voters who wanted heightened enforcement against illegal entrants said they "strongly supported" it, compared to fewer than half of pro-amnesty GOP voters who strongly favored legalization. Among Democratic supporters of more enforcement, over 70 percent strongly supported it, whereas fewer than 60 percent of pro-legalization Democrats strongly approved of the policy.

Dr. Camarota said this apparent disconnect between the public and its presidential candidates on immigration reflects the comparatively copious time public officials spend speaking with prominent constituency heads (e.g. business leaders, religious leaders and nonprofit heads) rather than ordinary Americans.

(Bradley Vasoli, "Candidates' Immigration Stances Unknown to Voters," *The Bulletin*, April 2, 2008.)

States Slowing Down On Forming Their Own Immigration Policies

The headlong rush of states into immigration policy may be slowing. In legislative sessions this spring, ambitious proposals in state capitols have been watered down, delayed or outright defeated.

State legislators, many frustrated with federal inaction on immigration issues, continue to dive into the debate over whether undocumented immigrants are entitled to driver's licenses, in-state tuition at state universities, public

benefits, and business licenses. But this year, their actions have been measured or curtailed by their governors or special interest groups, especially compared to recent years, when state lawmakers presented a flurry of new ideas and passed an unprecedented number of immigration-related laws.

In Indiana, Kentucky and Nebraska, get-tough proposals died in key committees. Ideas on the table included measures to shutter businesses that hired undocumented immigrants, enlist state police in federal immigration enforcement efforts and cut off public benefits to illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, Utah lawmakers had to make several concessions to win Governor Jon Huntsman's (R) support of a new law to prevent companies from hiring unauthorized workers. As a result, the law won't even take effect until 2009, giving the state time to study its potential impact and Congress time to deal with immigration at the national level. Mississippi passed a tough hiring law that threatens businesses with loss of state contracts and their licenses for violation. But Gov. Haley Barbour (R) cited a long list of concerns with the measure and urged legislators to change the statute.

One area where states are taking a tougher stance is driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. This year, Oregon, Michigan and Maryland backed off previous policies that allowed undocumented immigrants to drive legally — a change prompted by concerns over fraud and compliance with the federal Real ID Act. The federal law aims at keeping driver's licenses from terrorists and illegal aliens. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security threatened to make Maine residents subject to additional screening at airports under Real ID, citing flaws in how the state issues driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Gov. John Baldacci (D) said he would try to limit licenses to people in the country legally, and, with that assurance, federal officials backed off the threat on Wednesday (April 2). North Carolina and Tennessee rescinded similar policies since 2006, and a public uproar, led by Republicans in the

New York Senate last fall, stopped then-New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer (D) from letting undocumented residents drive legally.

The year's legislative sessions are far from over, and immigration remains a hotly debated issue in numerous states where lawmakers are still meeting, including Alabama, Kansas, Missouri, Rhode Island and South Carolina. But even in those states, far-reaching proposals — from barring undocumented students from attending public universities in Missouri to mandatory identification cards for all Alabama workers — have run into trouble. The cautious approach is a marked change from the last three years, when states competed to pass the strictest anti-illegal immigration law in the country. Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and Oklahoma all approved groundbreaking measures that cracked down on the problem.

Last year, 46 states enacted 194 new immigration-related laws — triple the number from the previous year, according to a tally by the National Conference of State Legislatures. The group hasn't released numbers for 2008 yet. The issue had also been a hot topic on the campaign trail for states that had elections in 2007. It played an especially prominent role in elections in Mississippi and Virginia.

Now business groups, which are mounting strong opposition to many of the measures, say they're better organized to fight proposals that threaten to shut down companies that hire illegal immigrants, as laws passed last year in Arizona and Oklahoma do. State budget woes and pocketbook issues are also overshadowing concerns about immigration. For example, Kentucky state Rep. Kathy Stein (D) cited the potential cost to state and local governments of an immigration crackdown as one of the reasons that she, as the head of the judiciary committee, killed a bill there that included a wide range of measures to combat illegal immigration.

Shorter legislative sessions of election years and the increased time demands of campaigning may also be playing a role, observers say, by giving lawmakers less time to iron out disagreements.

Some observers have suggested that policymakers in other states may be waiting to see whether tough policies adopted by states such as Arizona and Oklahoma will survive court challenges. So far, legal challenges to those laws have been unsuccessful, but the fights continue. Business groups have taken the lead in trying to knock down the Arizona and Oklahoma measures, both of which punish businesses that don't use E-Verify, a controversial federal database to check the legal status of new hires.

One of the central arguments in all of the legal cases is whether states went too far and intruded on the federal government's turf in trying to regulate immigration. The Governor of Mississippi urged legislators to retool a law they sent him that requires companies to use E-Verify, or face being sued, losing state contracts or their business licenses. The system has faltered in 8 percent of queries when confirmation requires further efforts, which can last for weeks, often because of outdated information, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Illinois legislators are reworking a law they passed last year that prohibits companies from using the same federal database. They're trying to strike a deal that would convince the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to drop a lawsuit it brought trying to invalidate the Illinois law. Both Iowa and South Carolina lawmakers have also discussed other ways of verifying new hires' legal status, mainly by using other forms of identification. But South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford (R) has grown frustrated with those efforts, threatening to stall any law's enactment. He criticized separate measures that passed the state House and Senate as ineffective and too weak.

In other states, momentum for sweeping immigration legislation slowed for a variety of reasons.

In Utah, the governor opposed a proposal to cut off in-state tuition to undocumented college students and to forbid illegal immigrants from driving legally, and those provisions were dropped from legislation. Huntsman approved an

employee verification law, but it takes effect in 2009, after the next U.S. president has a chance to address immigration with Congress.

Tensions over immigration legislation ran high in Indiana, as Hispanic groups and the business community opposed a worker verification law. One Spanish-language newspaper even called the bill's sponsor, Sen. Mike Delph (R), "El Diablo" (the devil) in print. With Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) staying on the sidelines, the proposal languished at the end of session.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman (R) and Attorney General Jon Bruning suffered an embarrassing defeat when their joint effort to cut off benefits — including in-state tuition — to undocumented immigrants failed in a committee of the one-chamber, nonpartisan Legislature. When the two officials held a press conference to criticize the judiciary committee for bottling up the measure, one of the committee's members, Sen. Ernie Chambers, crashed the party. Chambers, who is black, grabbed the microphone and accused the governor of "riding a crest of racism" to win support for the crackdown on illegal immigration. (Daniel C. Vock, "States Think Smaller, Slower on Immigration," *Stateline.org*, April 03, 2008.)

San Francisco Promotes Services for Illegal Immigrants

A series of new television and radio commercials, billboards and bus shelter signs will soon go up around San Francisco advertising the fact that the city by the bay is also a sanctuary city for illegal immigrants. City officials on Wednesday unveiled the \$83,000 ad campaign, which features images of smiling residents and the iconic city skyline and spreads the message in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian. Brochures, which will be handed out in public buildings like police stations and hospitals, promise safe access to city services for the undocumented and a don't-ask-don't-tell policy when it comes residency status.

Officials said the public awareness campaign was prompted in part by a series of federal immigration raids around the region last year that left undocumented immigrants hesitant to come forward to seek medical treatment or report crimes, out of fear they might be deported. But the campaign precedes the city's plan in August to begin issuing municipal identification cards to city residents - regardless of whether they are in the country legally. Officials said they not only want immigrants to know about San Francisco's sanctuary city policy, they want city workers, business owners, and others to know the same. "We're taking a big bite of the reality sandwich in admitting that there are people who live here who may or may not have citizen status," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who helped spearhead the ad campaign and who represents the city's heavily Latino Mission District.

Police Chief Heather Fong said officers will report undocumented immigrants if they have a felony arrest, but otherwise, "we do not work on enforcing immigration laws." San Francisco became a sanctuary city in 1989 and since then it has barred city employees from helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents with immigration investigations or arrests, unless help is required by a federal or state law or a warrant. It is the city's formal policy to not report illegal immigrants to federal immigration agents when they visit public health clinics or hospitals, enroll their children in school, report a crime to the police or seek other city services or apply for benefits.

While a number of cities around the country also call themselves sanctuary cities, including San Jose, Oakland, Houston, Seattle, Chicago and Miami, few - if any - have embarked on a widespread campaign to advertise the fact. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani adamantly denied that New York is a sanctuary city after he came under fire over the issue last year during his bid for the Republican presidential nomination. "San Francisco clearly is going a step beyond most places in boasting (about) and advertising this. Most cities kind of

almost apologize to their voters when they complain about it," said Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington think tank that supports restrictions on immigration. He also said San Francisco and other sanctuary cities are "openly subverting the federal government's ability to protect the borders" by extending protections to undocumented immigrants. "They're making it as easy as they can for illegal immigrants to live in San Francisco," he said.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, a Democrat who is considering running for California governor in 2010, made headlines last year when he said he would not allow city department heads or "anyone associated with this city" to cooperate in federal immigration raids. Wednesday he said no other issue he has championed has received a more negative reaction from the public than his sanctuary city stance - "and that includes gay marriage." (Cecilia M. Vega, "S.F. Promotes Services for Illegal Immigrants," The San Francisco Chronicle, April 3, 2008.)

Mara Salvatrucha: The World's Most Dangerous Gang

MS-13 - or Mara Salvatrucha - is the biggest and fastest-growing of the Latin American street gangs. Favored tactics include decapitation by machete. MS-13 started life as a group of young immigrants on the streets of Los Angeles in the 1980s. After nearly a million Salvadorans fled their civil war for the US, many of them settled in Los Angeles where gang violence was rife. The origin of the name is in dispute. One version is that "Mara" is slang for gang and "Salvatrucha" refers to an army ant. Another version of "Salvatrucha" is that it refers to Salvadoran peasant guerrillas who fought in El Salvador during the 1980s.

In the 1990s, the "maras" spread to Central America after many of their leaders were deported from the United States. Those countries, struggling to get back on their feet after years of devastating civil conflict, were a perfect setting in which gangs could proliferate.

There is evidence that the model of the gang is rape, kill, control. They're really about gaining control over other immigrants from their community. Today, some estimates put up to 60,000 maras active in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and - according to the FBI - in more than 40 US states.

Rod J Rosenstein is Maryland's US Attorney. His office is currently prosecuting a series of cases against MS-13. Rosenstein's prosecutors have moved on from charging individual gang members with discrete crimes. Instead, they are now targeting MS-13 with federal racketeering laws - the same legislation used against the Mafia and other organized crime. For this tactic to be successful, they must prove that MS-13 is indeed an organized network.

Mindful of the trans-national links, the FBI last year made the decision to open an office in El Salvador. Aaron Escorza heads the FBI's National Gang Task Force. He told us the gangs move freely around the region. "They don't recognize borders. They commit crimes in El Salvador, flee El Salvador to come to the U.S. and you have MS-ers who are committing crimes in the U.S. and fleeing down to El Salvador to evade arrest." But once in El Salvador, the challenge to authorities is immense. Entire swathes of the capital are virtually under the control of MS-13 and its rival, Mara 18. Local police patrol warily, tending when possible to avoid those parts of the city. The region's homicide rates are among the highest in the world - 58 per 100,000 of population in El Salvador.

The past decade has seen politicians rise to power on the back of promises to declare war against the gangs. The "Mano Dura" - or Hard Fist - policy introduced by Honduras at the start of the decade was closely followed by "Super Mano Dura" in El Salvador. The legislation meant police could round up gang members at will, throwing young men in prison for any suspicious behavior, including associating with likely gang members or sporting tattoos. The result was thousands of gang members in prison.

But courts were not able to process such numbers and many lingered in prison without charge.

The prisons themselves have become strongholds of the gangs, many of them controlled by the Maras themselves, the authorities guard only from the outside. The "Mano Dura" policies are now largely discredited. On patrol in San Salvador, the police told us the laws had been counter-productive, driving the gangs underground and leading to more clever tactics from the likes of MS-13. They pointed out men who could be Maras, but who now wear long t-shirts to cover their tattoos.

The graffiti that used to be ubiquitous, identifying each gang's territory, is no longer so obvious.

Mano Dura made the prisons into virtual headquarters for the gangs. And the U.S. deportation policy added to the problem, with the result that the gangs have become ever more organized and powerful.

In the 1980s, when Ronald Reagan was fighting a proxy war against the Soviet Union in Central America, he promised to rebuild a new, better, El Salvador. But after spending so much on the war, there was little appetite in Washington for the reconstruction project. Two decades later, the US is reaping the consequences. And in Central America, a region still struggling with poverty and crime, MS-13 has thrived.

(Piers Scholfield, "The World's Most Dangerous Gang," *BBC News*, April 3, 2008.)

Minorities Rapidly Growing and Maintaining Their Culture in Canada

Visible minorities now number more than five million, growing at a rate five times that of the rest of the population. They make up a staggering 16.2 per cent of Canadians, and, if current trends continue, they could account for roughly one-fifth of the total population by 2017. And for the first time, South Asians slipped past Chinese to become the country's largest visible minority group, with a population of 1,262,900. By comparison, about 1,216,600 people

identified themselves as Chinese. Together, the two ethnic groups make up just under half of all visible minorities.

But at the same time, Canadians reported ties to more than 200 ethnic origins - everything from aboriginal to Zulu - confirming the country's title as one of the most multicultural places in the world. The numbers tell a new, dual-identity story of Canada, one that shows visible minorities integrating more easily into the mainstream while also maintaining strong ties to their own culture and language.

Visible-minority parents are especially eager to emphasize cultural tradition to their children, who make up a much larger swath of the overall population.

The 2005 census shows that 96 per cent of visible minorities live in urban areas, compared with 69 per cent of the overall population. In Toronto and Vancouver, about half of visible minorities are under the age of 15; in Montreal, that figure is about a quarter. Nationally, 17.9 per cent of Canadians are in this age bracket. In Brampton, Ont., outside Toronto, where South Asians make up 31.7 per cent of the population (the most in any community across Canada), entire shopping malls and community centers resonate with Punjabi, Gujarati and Hindi. The city's newest hospital, the Brampton Civic Center, was opened as a result of millions of dollars in donations from the region's South Asian population.

Mr. Bhatia, who owns a Hyundai dealership, said the cultural landscape for immigrants was very different as little as a decade ago. "Ten, eleven years ago, the Indian movies only played at the third-grade theatres left behind by the mainstream. Now, we see women in shalwar-kameez and saris at AMC with everybody else. ... We might look different - I'm a turbaned Sikh - but we all like watching a quality movie in a quality theatre."

But in a delicate counterbalance to that very diversity, the census data also revealed a decrease in the number of individuals who self-identified as "Canadian." An explanation as to why is a little more nuanced than simply

attributing the downward trend to segregated communities or a lack of patriotism, said an analyst at Statistics Canada. "It means different things to different people," said Jane Badets, adding that those who typically identify themselves as Canadian are third- or fourth-generation. The majority of South Asians and Chinese are first- and second-generation. But some who drop the hyphenated Canadian label from their identities say they do it because the Canadian identity is implied. "If we're talking to someone in Canada, I just say I'm Punjabi," said Sharonveer Sandhu, a Grade 8 student at Dasmesh. "When you go to Germany, you add the 'Canadian.' "

(Unnati Gandhi, "Facing Up to A New Identity: At Five Million and Growing, Visible Minorities Are Maintaining Ever Stronger Ties to Their Own Culture," *Globe and Mail*, April 3, 2008.)

Hamilton, Canada Looks for Ways to Attract and Keep Immigrants

Local leaders are looking outside of Hamilton's borders for ways to attract visible minorities to the city. This city is taking its cue from Toronto with plans for a new website aimed at helping newcomers with settlement issues. The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is looking to diversify its membership and studying other models – like Brampton's Board of Trade, whose website offers information in Punjabi and Portuguese.

Citizens say innovation is necessary if Hamilton wants to compete for newly arrived visible minorities choosing to settle elsewhere. Statistics Canada (the Canadian census bureau) recently released numbers that show 12.3 per cent of people in Hamilton are visible minorities. The number represents an increase from just under 10 per cent five years earlier. But Hamilton still lags behind the national average of 16.2 per cent, driven largely by cities like Vancouver and Toronto where nearly half the population is made up of visible minorities.

Morteza Jafarpour, executive director of Settlement and Integration Services Organization, says two-thirds of newcomers are

visible minorities. He adds Hamilton has to do a better job of holding onto all newcomers who come to the city. Hamilton was only able to retain around 1,500 new immigrants in 2006, far below the 6,000 who stayed five years earlier. In addition to employment barriers and lingering discrimination, Jafarpour blames the city's ongoing failure to market itself effectively.

"Other cities in British Columbia and Alberta are coming here to recruit our immigrants," he said.

Ali Cheaib, a Mohawk College instructor and president of the Hamilton Council of Canadian Arabs, points to "reverse migration" among some newcomers whose expectations are not being met here.

He adds the city has still not fully regained its reputation after the Hindu Samaj Temple was burned to the ground in the wake of 9/11. "It's easy for a city to be labeled unfriendly to immigrants and visible minorities," he says.

Jo-Anne Priel, the city's general manager of community services, agrees that Hamilton has not done enough to market the city to newcomers, but adds that new projects are finally under way.

Among the initiatives is a new city website aimed at marketing Hamilton and its resources to potential and newly arrived skilled immigrants, as well as the development of a long-sought-after immigration strategy for the city.

(Dana Borcea, "City Looks for Ways to Attract, Keep Immigrants," *The Hamilton Spectator*, April 3, 2008.)

Passport-Free Travel Begins at Schengen Newcomers' Airports

Border checks at airports in nine Schengen area newcomers, mostly from the ex-communist bloc, vanished at midnight Sunday, allowing 400 million people passport-free travel in the 24-country zone.

Malta and eight fellow 2004 European Union entrants -- ex-communist Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia -- all dropped passport checks for air passengers who are Schengen state citizens.

The move puts the final touch to the expansion of the Schengen zone which first saw the end of border checks at land and maritime frontiers in newcomer states last December 20. Most have seized the opportunity created by Schengen entry to upgrade airports that have benefitted from a boom in passenger traffic since EU entry.

("Schengen Passport-Free Travel Arrives at Newcomers' Airports," *AFP News Briefs List*, March 30, 2008.)

New Report Cast Doubts on Immigration Benefits in Britain

Little evidence exists that immigration benefits Britain, according to a House of Lords committee on Tuesday that called for the government to review its policies. A report by the upper parliamentary house's Economic Affairs Committee rejected the government's argument that current record immigration levels provide economic advantages and said ministers have used "irrelevant and misleading criteria". "We have found no evidence for the argument, made by the government, business and many others, that net immigration -- immigration minus emigration -- generates significant economic benefits for the existing UK population," the report said.

The government says immigration contributes an estimated 6 billion pounds a year to Britain, but the committee said it was wrong to use the total size of the economy as a benchmark for judging its impact. Instead, the peers said immigration provided very little benefit on the income per head of the resident population while it had a social impact by affecting the demand for housing. Low-paid people were also worse off as they would not receive training as businesses sought cheaper skilled workers from abroad. Nor could immigration solve the "pensions time bomb" of an ageing population, the report said.

"Nothing in our report is saying we should stop immigration," committee member and former Conservative minister Lord Wakeham told BBC radio. "We believe immigration is good and emigration is good. What we want to

do is keep the balance between the two." The committee said the government needed to review its policies and clarify the objectives of the new points-based system which comes in later this year.

Immigration has been a long-running and heated political issue amid public fears that schools, hospitals and transport networks are being swamped by foreign nationals, especially since European Union enlargement. The Conservatives say the government has lost control of the issue with official projections showing that net immigration will increase by about 190,000 a year in future. They have called for a cap on numbers.

"What the report is saying is let's not just look at what's good for the economy, let's look at what's good for Britain, let's look at the wider impact of immigration when we set immigration policy," Immigration minister Liam Byrne told BBC radio. "That's something that I happen to absolutely agree with. I think we have got to look at the wider impact of migration when we decide in our new points system ... how many points a migrant needs in order to come to the UK."

Council leaders also called on the government to review its immigration policies, saying the money generated by immigration was not finding its way to local levels. "The speed and scale of migration combined with the shortcomings of official population figures is placing pressure on funding for services like housing and children's services," said Simon Milton, chairman of the Local Government Association.

(Michael Holden, "British peers cast doubt on immigration benefits," Reuters, April 1, 2008.)

Britain Debates Immigration from Developing Countries

Britain has long been a haven for immigrants, from highly skilled workers from Europe and the United States to those coming from developing countries to escape political persecution or find a better life. Many of those immigrants come from former British colonies in

Africa and Asia, and some find their welcome is not what they expected. In 2006 Britain had a net influx of close to 200,000 immigrants. Some found ready-made jobs in the financial sector, in hospitals, schools, on farms, or in construction. For other immigrants, however, the transition is not so easy. Some live in constant fear they'll be deported back to their home countries where they may face political persecution or, at the very least, the loss of the economic opportunities they had hoped to achieve for themselves and their families.

Recent news reports have highlighted the plight of those who have not been welcomed with open arms and who have instead ended up in detention camps set up around the UK to house immigration offenders and unsuccessful asylum seekers.

Angela, who will only give her first name, is one of those. She came to the UK from her native Uganda in 2001, at the age of 15. She says her father an opposition activist and the family was persecuted for his role. She says at one point she was even raped by unknown assailants in front of her father. After that, she says, she fled the country. On getting to the UK, she applied for asylum. "When I made the application I was given exceptional leave to remain, because I was a minor. My exceptional leave was to expire a day before my 18th birthday," she said. The Home Office turned down her request for refugee status to stay in Britain indefinitely. By this time she was a mother. She appealed the ruling and was told by an immigration officer that she would receive an invitation for an interview. "Three days after she told me she was going to write me a letter for an interview, she turned up on my door with about six other men with a big van and I was put in handcuffs," she said. "I was told because my medical report said I was suicidal, so they were putting handcuffs on me just in case I tried to kill myself." Angela was taken to Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Center. The bleak detention facility for failed asylum seekers and immigration offenders is surrounded by a heavy metal fence and under around-the-clock supervision by guards.

Voice Of America (VOA) talked to detainees, but was not allowed to record or film the interviews at the center, which holds 400 failed asylum seekers and immigration offenders. Angela spoke to VOA after her release. "Your rights as a mother are stripped away," she added. "You are told when to feed the child, you are told how to carry your child. A child cannot have a second helping if they ever ask for one, because you are following detention rules." Angela was released after eight days. She now has two children and is still fighting to remain in the United Kingdom.

Alistair Burt is the member of parliament for West Bedfordshire, where the detention center is located. He says centers are needed to deal with immigration. "Those who have tried to gain entry to the UK and take up residence here when they are told that they have to return may not want to, so they simply disappear," he said. "In a country like the UK, it is quite easy to disappear into immigrant communities in our major cities."

Amanda Shah is deputy director of Bail for Immigration Detainees, a non-governmental organization that works with asylum seekers and detained migrants. She says one of the disturbing features of detention is that it is open ended. "Immigration detention centers are not set out for people to be held for long periods of time, and we are seeing many, many people who are held for periods of over a year," she said. "They are held indefinitely and the conditions that they are held in are not appropriate for somebody to be held in for that period of time." Shah says by being held indefinitely, immigration detainees are worse off than terrorism suspects who, under British law, can only be held for 28 days.

Alistair Burt says while long detentions are unfortunate, it is not the government's fault. He says in some cases the detainee has appealed against removal or the government of the country where the person must be sent does not want to take her or him. Burt expressed concern about the treatment of families. "There are some cases where you do query the actions of the

Borders and Immigration Agency in arriving very early in the morning and collecting quite a number of children, with their parents, and taking them from where they have been living for some years to countries where they have not been to for a long time, if at all, and there are profound worries about that aspect of the policy," he explained.

Burt says the government has to be seen as acting against people who think they can just come to Britain to start new lives. He said it is difficult to separate genuine asylum seekers from economic migrants or those brought into the country by traffickers. "If the UK simply had a policy that, because there are human rights abuses in a whole variety of countries, nobody could ever be returned there, then frankly the UK would continue to be a magnet for everyone who wants to leave and come to start a different life somewhere else," he added. "You either have an open-border policy or you do not. The UK does not, and the UK should not have an open border policy. That means somebody has to take some difficult decisions. Occasionally, some people have to be returned."

The immigration debate shows no signs of abating. A committee in Britain's upper house of parliament, the House of Lords, has just released a report, saying that contrary to widespread assertions that immigration benefits Britain's economy, there is no firm proof that immigration contributes significantly to the economic wellbeing of the nation. This report was covered earlier in this EGSG Newsletter.

(Tendai Maphosa, "Britain Grapples with Migration from Developing Countries," Voice of America, April 4, 2008.)

Immigration Blamed for Housing Crisis in Australia

A massive, uncontrolled increase in immigration in the past three years has fueled the housing affordability crisis, home builders say. Housing Industry Association (HIA) managing director Ron Silberberg blamed the shortage of private rental accommodation on net immigration he estimated at 250,000 people a

year. "There has been an uncontrolled expansion of the immigration program," Dr Silberberg told a Senate committee in Canberra. "The pace in which it's increased has been massive over the last three years. "Do we need an explanation as to why there's pressure on private rental housing?"

He described the immigration program as a federal government lever which could be used to address the housing crisis.

More than one million Australians are considered to be in housing stress by paying at least 30 per cent of their income on their residences. The HIA chief also said the industry suffered from a skills shortage because only a tiny fraction of immigrants had training in residential construction. Only about 800 of the net figure of 250,000 arrivals had the necessary skills, he said.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) told the committee that the construction sector's ability to meet demand is just as important as releasing more land. "Addressing undersupply is a critical issue if we are to ensure that we are able to adequately and affordably house our communities as Australia continues to develop," PIA national president Neil Savery said. "We're not saying that addressing supply is the panacea to the problem and certainly that the equation in relation to supply isn't simply: 'Let's release as much land as we can possibly can on the urban fringe of the city'," he said.

Institute chief executive Diane Jay said releasing more land sounded simpler than it was. "There's some evidence that even if there were more land immediately available we really don't have the capacity within the construction and development sector to go a lot further in terms of meeting supply," she said.

The group welcomed the federal government's planned National Housing Supply Council but said it must produce nationally comparable data on land release as well as new housing statistics. ("Immigration Blamed for Housing Crisis," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, April 1, 2009.)

Conflict Over Rising Immigration to New Zealand

New Zealand's Asian population is growing faster than any other ethnic group and will outnumber indigenous Maori by 2026, government figures released Wednesday showed. The findings drew the ire of an anti-immigrant party that contends the door should be shut on Asian immigrants, claiming they do not integrate into mainstream society. "If we continue this open door policy there is real danger we will be inundated with people who have no intention of integrating into our society. The greater the number, the greater the risk," New Zealand First Party deputy leader Peter Brown said.

Ethnic Affairs Minister Chris Carter condemned the comments. "I think he's absolutely being racist," Carter said. "He shouldn't be condemning people because of their race or culture." The chief executive of the country's Employers and Manufacturers Association, Alasdair Thompson, said Brown's comments were "racial stereotyping of the worst sort." "We need our newer migrants. We don't need Mr. Brown's racism," he said.

United Asian Association spokesman Ken Yee welcomed the figures, saying the projected rise in Asian numbers would mean "more color and cultural diversity" that would only be a good thing, National Radio reported. New Zealand First currently has seven lawmakers in Parliament and is a support party in the governing coalition led by the center-left Labour Party. New Zealand First's leader, Winston Peters, holds the post of foreign minister.

A general election is due by late November and Brown's party, which has a long-standing policy against immigration, is garnering less than 5 percent of voter support nationwide in current polls. According to government statistics, the country's four main ethnic populations of Maori, Pacific Islanders, Asian and ethnic European peoples will all increase in the next 18 years, with those identifying as Asian set to grow the most. A projected increase of the Asian population by 3.4 percent a year, mainly by

migration, over the period to 2026 would see the Asian population double from 400,000 in 2006 to 790,000 by 2026, according to government statistician Geoff Bascand. Some 16 percent of New Zealand's total population was expected to identify with Asian ethnicity by 2026, Bascand said. By then, New Zealand's overall population was projected to be 5.5 million from the current 4.2 million.

(“Anger Over Rising NZealand Immigration,” *Yahoo News*, April 2, 2008.)

Vodka-Maker Absolut Apologizes, Ends Ad Showing California As part of Mexico

The Absolut vodka company apologized Saturday for an ad campaign depicting the southwestern U.S. as part of Mexico amid angry calls for a boycott by U.S. consumers. The campaign, which promotes ideal scenarios under the slogan "In an Absolut World," showed a 1830s-era map when Mexico included California, Texas and other southwestern states. Mexico still resents losing that territory in the 1848 Mexican-American War and the fight for Texas independence.

But the ads, which ran only in Mexico and have since ended, were less than ideal for Americans undergoing a border buildup and embroiled in an emotional debate over illegal immigration from their southern neighbor. More than a dozen calls to boycott Absolut were posted on www.michellemalkin.com, a Web site operated by conservative columnist Michelle Malkin. The ads sparked heated comment on a half-dozen other Internet sites and blogs.

"In no way was it meant to offend or disparage, nor does it advocate an altering of borders, nor does it lend support to any anti-American sentiment, nor does it reflect immigration issues," Absolut said in a statement left on its consumer inquiry phone line.

Some fringe U.S. groups also claim the land is rightfully part of Mexico, while extreme immigration foes argue parts of the U.S. already are being overtaken by Mexico. "In an Absolut world, a company that produces vodka fires its entire marketing department in a desperate

attempt to win back enraged North American customers after a disastrous ad campaign backfires," a person using the moniker "SalsaNChips" wrote on Malkin's Web site.

Absolut said the ad was designed for a Mexican audience and intended to recall "a time which the population of Mexico might feel was more ideal." "As a global company, we recognize that people in different parts of the world may lend different perspectives or interpret our ads in a different way than was intended in that market, and for that we apologize."

(“Vodka-Maker Absolut Apologizes, Ends Ad Showing California, Texas As Part of Mexico,” *The Associated Press*, April 6, 2008.)

***EGSG Sponsored Sessions for the
2008 AAG Meetings in Boston***

EGSG is sponsoring 28 sessions for the AAG meetings in Boston. The following is a list of those sessions:

1469 Exploding Homogeneity I

Tuesday, 4/15/08, from 12:00 PM - 1:40 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Priscilla McCutcheon - The University of Georgia

Brittany Davis - The University of Georgia

Chair(s):

Brittany Davis - The University of Georgia

Abstract(s):

12:00 PM Author(s): *Priscilla McCutcheon - The University of Georgia

Brittany Davis - University of Georgia

Abstract Title: Reflecting on Race: Looking Back at Undergraduate Experiences of Colorism

12:20 PM Author(s): *Christopher Riley - Ohio State University - Geography

Abstract Title: (De)Constructing Homogeneity in Refugee Resettlement: Somali and African American Blacknesses in Columbus, Ohio

12:40 PM Author(s): *Steven R. Holloway, PhD - University Of Georgia

Richard Wright, PhD - Dartmouth College

Mark Ellis, PhD - University of Washington

Margaret East, PhD - University of Texas - Arlington

Abstract Title: Mapping Mixed Cities

1:00 PM Author(s): *Karen D. Johnson-Webb, Ph.D. - Bowling Green State University

Abstract Title: Inefficient Use of the Land? Race & Ethnicity at Carthage, OH

Session Description: Many studies that look at race and ethnicity treat identities as monoliths rather than recognizing differences and variations that exist both within and between groups. More recent work has taken up the task of examining variations within an oft-perceived homogeneous racial or ethnic group. The papers

in this session address colorism and multiracialism among blacks along with mapping mixed-race couples in cities.

1638 Race, Ethnicity and Diversity: US perspectives

Tuesday, 4/15/08, from 4:20 PM - 6:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University

Abstract(s):

4:20 PM Author(s): *Ira M. Sheskin - University of Miami

Abstract Title: Geography and the Influence of the American Jewish Community on the American Political Process

4:40 PM Author(s): *Stavros T. Constantinou, Associate Professor - Ohio State University

Abstract Title: Dimensions of Contemporary Greek American Ethnicity

5:00 PM Author(s): *Michael Poulsen - Macquarie University

Abstract Title: Education Attainment and Labour and Housing Market Access in Boston

5:20 PM Author(s): *Edris J. Montalvo - Texas State University - San Marcos

Abstract Title: Recruiting, Retaining, and Graduating Latinos and African Americans in American Higher Education: A Geographical Analysis.

5:40 PM Author(s): *Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University

*Kristine Egan - Texas State University

Abstract Title: Visualizing Socioeconomic Comparisons the U.S.: Anglos, Hispanics, and African Americans

1669 Exploding Homogeneity II

Tuesday, 4/15/08, from 4:20 PM - 6:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Priscilla McCutcheon - The University of Georgia

Brittany Davis - The University of Georgia

Chair(s):

Brittany Davis - The University of Georgia

Abstract(s):

4:20 PM Author(s): *Jess Bier - CUNY - Graduate Center

Abstract Title: How Niqula Nasrallah Became John Jacob Astor: Arab Emigrants aboard the RMS Titanic and the Linguistic Un-Invention of Ancestry

4:40 PM Author(s): *Natalie R Koch - Harvard University

Abstract Title: Identity and Inter-Ethnic Marriage in Contemporary Kazakhstan

5:00 PM Author(s): *Richard A. Wright - Dartmouth College

Steven Holloway - U Georgia

Mark Ellis - University Of Washington

Margaret East - University of Texas at Arlington
Abstract Title: Do Mixed-Race Households Live in Diverse Neighborhoods? A Preliminary Analysis

5:20 PM Author(s): *Babette Audant - CUNY Graduate Center

Abstract Title: Creative Destructions: Tracing a genealogy of 'Latino' in New York City

5:40 PM Author(s): *R. Tina Catania - Dartmouth College

R. Tina Catania - Dartmouth College

Abstract Title: Latinos who Choose to be "Other" and the Races that Place Makes

Session Description: Many studies that look at race and ethnicity treat identities as monoliths rather than recognizing differences and variations that exist both within and between groups. More recent work has taken up the task of examining variations within an oft-perceived homogeneous racial or ethnic group. The papers in this session address racial and ethnic identity among immigrant and emigrant individuals and groups.

2163 **Immigration, integration and settlement: US and international perspectives**

Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

James Forrest - Macquarie University

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *Dorris Scott - Kent State University

Abstract Title: Made in Brazil, Consumed in Japan: A Look at the Consumption Places of Japanese-Brazilian Immigrants and how they Relate to Identity and Space

8:20 AM Author(s): *Lily Y Huang - Vassar College

Abstract Title: The Politics of an Urban Enclave: Gentrification and Activism in Boston's Chinatown

8:40 AM Author(s): *Peter Mandarino - University of Ottawa

Abstract Title: Experiences of 'work' among generations of Italian men in Toronto

9:00 AM Author(s): *Jennifer J. Helzer - California State University

Abstract Title: Italian Themes and Ethnic Branding: A Comparison of California and Australia

9:20 AM Author(s): *James Forrest, PhD - Macquarie University

Abstract Title: Enclaves and Ethnoburbs: New patterns of 'dispersed concentration' in Sydney, Australia's foremost immigrant-receiving city.

2263 **No place like home? Exploring and conceptualizing contemporary refugee experiences**

Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Ruth Healey - University of Sheffield

Chair(s):

Ruth Healey - University of Sheffield

Abstract(s):

10:10 AM Introduction: Ruth Healey - University of Sheffield

10:15 AM Author(s): *Ruth L Healey - University of Sheffield

Abstract Title: Tamil perceptions of success in employment: coping with the refugee experience

10:30 AM Author(s): *Will Poppe - University at Buffalo

Abstract Title: Place, Agency and Integration: The Process of Refugee Resettlement in the Buffalo Metro Area

10:45 AM Author(s): Gill Valentine - University of Leeds

*Deborah Sporton - University of Sheffield

Abstract Title: Dr Deborah Sporton

11:00 AM Author(s): *Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

Abstract Title: The contested bodies of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young people in Scotland

11:15 AM Discussant: Susan Hardwick - University of Oregon

Discussant(s):

Susan Hardwick - University of Oregon

Introducer(s):

Ruth Healey - University of Sheffield

Session Description: This session critically examines the experiences of contemporary asylum seekers and refugees within a global climate of increasing suspicion and governmental repression of the stateless individual, in doing so it therefore seeks to facilitate discussion over the diverse political and practical issues which arise from such multiple experiences. Both asylum seekers and refugees are all too often socially and politically marginalized within host communities as a combination of negative media attention and increasingly restrictive and hostile government policies coalesce to not only scapegoat the figure of the refugee, but also to question the very right

of the individual to refuge in the first place. Within such a contested political climate it becomes vital to examine the varying experiences of individual refugees and asylum seekers as a means to not only question the discursive claims made by those who seek to further marginalize new arrivals, but also to open spaces in which to consider the political and practical imperatives placed upon host communities by refugees and asylum seekers. To this end this session engages with a range of aspects of asylum and refugee studies, from what it may mean to be a refugee in varying international contexts and the elusive nature of integration, through to examinations of the prosaic means via which individuals cope with the uncertainty, pressure and the changeable nature of their experiences in their new countries.

2508 Refugee experiences: International perspectives

Wednesday, 4/16/08, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Canadian Studies Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Yu Zhou - Vassar College

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Thomas Sydney Carter

Abstract(s):

3:10 PM Author(s): *Priya N. Kissoon, PhD - University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: From Persecution to Destitution: An Examination of How Canada and the UK Meet the Housing Needs of Refugee Newcomers

3:30 PM Author(s): *Linda S. Fair, Ph.D. - Binghamton University

Abstract Title: Integration Paradigms in Denmark - The Refugee Challenge

3:50 PM Author(s): *Thomas Sydney Carter, Professor of Geography - University of Winnipeg

Abstract Title: The Housing Trajectories of Refugees in Winnipeg: Do They Lead to Successful Resettlement and Integration?

3126 Population Specialty Group and Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Joint Plenary Session: John Logan

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Population Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Thomas J. Cooke - University of Connecticut

Panelist(s):

John Logan - Brown University

Introducer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Session Description: Incorporating Immigrants and Minorities in Cities: New Findings from Old Data

3226 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in North American Cities I: racialization, discrimination, and identity

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group

Canadian Studies Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

Valerie A. Preston - York University

Abstract(s):

10:10 AM Author(s): *Frans Schrijver - University of Sheffield

Abstract Title: Immigration and Scales of Citizenship

10:30 AM Author(s): *Heike Alberts - University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

Abstract Title: Ethnic Solidarity in Latino Communities in Miami

10:50 AM Author(s): *Jacqueline A. Housel - Abstract Title: Beyond the Traffic Stop: The impact of policing on the everyday spaces of Latino/a immigrants

11:10 AM Author(s): *Heather Frost, PhD Candidate - University of British Columbia Abstract Title: "Getting By High:" The Untold Stories of Punjabi Youth In Surrey, B.C.

11:30 AM Author(s): *Valerie A. Preston - York University

Brian Ray - University of Ottawa

Abstract Title: Geographies of Discrimination: Inter-urban Variations in Canada

Session Description: This session series covers theoretical underpinning and/or empirical analyses surrounding immigrant and refugee experiences in North American cities.

Specifically, papers focus on the following issues.

- a) migration to North American Cities (push/pull forces, changing international migration dynamics, racialization process and identity);
- b) issues of settlement (from neighborhood formation and segregation...) and suburbanization; and
- c) economic integration

3326 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting

Boston AAG Meetings

April 17, 2008

11:55 AM - 12:55 PM

Grand Ballroom Salon K, M

3462 Geographies of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Hispanics in the US

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Latin America Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University
Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Chair(s):

Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Abstract(s):

1:00 PM Author(s): *Jose R. Diaz-Garayua -
Kent State University

Abstract Title: Minority Groups and Housing
Values: A Local Variation Approach

1:18 PM Author(s): *Carlos J. Guilbe -
University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: New York Yankees vs Boston
Red Sox Overseas; Identity and Nationality in
the Caribbean

1:36 PM Author(s): *Ramon Luis Concepcion
Torres - Binghamton University (SUNY)

Abstract Title: The Examination of the Puerto
Rican Enclaves and their Personal Responses
about their Migration, Settlement, and
Assimilation in the Orlando MSA

1:54 PM Author(s): *Luis D. Sanchez - Florida
State University

Abstract Title: Central Florida: the New Battle
Site for Puerto Rico's Political Status

2:12 PM Author(s): *Mark E Reisinger -
Binghamton University SUNY

Abstract Title: Valued Citizens or Post-Industrial
Underclass: The Incorporation of Latinos in U.S.
Cities

2:30 PM Discussant: Angel David Cruz Báez

Discussant(s):

Angel David Cruz Báez

Session Description: This session is directed to promote the discussion on current matters regarding Latin American and the Caribbean regions as well as the impact of their population in the U.S. Considering the increasing number of Latino population in the U.S. and the impact of Latin America in the hemisphere, our aim is to promote discussions that can provide a better understanding of Latin America and Caribbean geographies. -- For the benefit of a broader audience Presentations may be made in Spanish or English.

3426 **The Experiences of Immigrants and
Refugees in North American Cities II:
highly-skilled and low-skilled migrants**

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group

Canadian Studies Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Abstract(s):

1:00 PM Author(s): *Cheryl Sutherland -
Queen's University

Yang Cheng - Queen's University

Abstract Title: Mapping Vulnerability, Picturing
Place: The use of photovoice to explore place

1:20 PM Author(s): Cheryl Sutherland - Yang
Cheng

Abstract Title: Finding Their Place: International
Students in the City

1:40 PM Author(s): *Jonathan Clifton -
University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: Deserving citizenship? Canadian
immigration policy and the 'low skilled' worker

2:00 PM Author(s): *Susan Lucas, Ph.D. -
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

Bandana Purkayastha, Ph.D. - University of
Connecticut

Abstract Title: Experiencing a different
"difference." Canadian migrants in the US and
questions of integration.

2:20 PM Author(s): *John Frazier -
Binghamton University

Abstract Title: Select Experiences of the
Immigrant African Diaspora in Two Florida
Counties, 2007

Session Description: This session series covers theoretical underpinning and/or empirical analyses surrounding immigrant and refugee experiences in North American cities.

Specifically, papers focus on the following issues.

- a) migration to North American Cities (push/pull forces, changing international migration dynamics, racialization process and identity);
- b) issues of settlement (from neighborhood formation and segregation...) and suburbanization; and
- c) economic integration

3509 Ethnic Geography Researchers 'Giving Back'

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University
Chair(s):

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University

Panelist(s):

Ines M. Miyares - Hunter College
Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University
Ira M. Sheskin - University of Miami
John Frazier - Binghamton University
Stavros T. Constantinou - Ohio State University

Session Description: Ethnic Geography Researchers 'Giving Back'

3526 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in North American Cities IV: housing and economic incorporation

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Canadian Studies Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University
Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Chair(s):

Barry Halliday - Metropolis Project

Abstract(s):

3:10 PM Author(s): *Elizabeth Chacko - The George Washington University

*Marie D. Price - George Washington University
Abstract Title: Immigrants and Entrepreneurship: Ethiopian and Bolivian Diasporic Networks in Washington

3:30 PM Author(s): *Su-Yeul Chung - Western Illinois University

Seokhoi Yim - Daegu University
Abstract Title: Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Ethnic Entrepreneurship: A Case Study of Korean Immigrants in Chicago IL PMSA, 1990 and 2000

3:50 PM Author(s): *Wei Li, PhD - Arizona State University

Lcia L, - York University
Abstract Title: Immigrant Financial Integration in the U.S. and Canada

4:10 PM Author(s): *Carlos Teixeira, Associate Professor - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Abstract Title: Barriers and Outcomes in the Housing Searches of New Immigrants and Refugees: A Case Study of Black Africans in Toronto's Rental Market

4:30 PM Discussant: Barry Halliday - Metropolis Project

Discussant(s):

Barry Halliday - Metropolis Project

Session Description: This session series covers theoretical underpinning and/or empirical analyses surrounding immigrant and refugee experiences in North American cities.

Specifically, papers focus on the following issues.

- a) migration to North American Cities (push/pull forces, changing international migration dynamics, racialization process and identity);
- b) issues of settlement (from neighborhood formation and segregation...) and suburbanization; and
- c) economic integration

3562 Geographies of Puerto Rico

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Latin America Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University
Ramon Luis Concepcion Torres

Chair(s):

Ramon Luis Concepcion Torres

Abstract(s):

3:10 PM Author(s): *Eliezer Nieves-Rodriguez
- Departamento de Geografia, Universidad de
Puerto Rico y el Instituto de Ciencias para la
Conservacion de Puerto Rico (InCiCo)

Abstract Title: Building wetland conservation
awareness through environmental interpretation
in the southwest region of Puerto Rico: the case
of Patillas Community.

3:28 PM Author(s): *Evelio Valeiras-Mini -
Departmen of Natural and Environmetal
Resources, Coastal Zone Division

Abstract Title: Underwater corridors as an
option to the fragmentation of marine natural
spaces

3:46 PM Author(s): *Rogelio Gonzalez - The
University of Akron

Abstract Title: Site Suitability for the Puerto
Rican Fishing Industry

4:04 PM Author(s): *Kevin A. Butler, Ab.D. -
The University of Akron

Abstract Title: Quantifying the Informal
Economy of Puerto Rico

4:22 PM Author(s): *Angel David Cruz Báez,
Professor and Chairman - University of Puerto
Rico

Abstract Title: The Geography of Breast Cancer
and the Medical Reform in Puerto Rico

4:40 PM Discussant: Carlos J. Guilbe -
University of Puerto Rico

Discussant(s):

Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

Session Description: This session is directed to
promote the discussion on current matters
regarding the island of Puerto Rico. Considering
that Puerto Rico is a territory of the United
States, but most of the US citizens have a limited

knowledge about the island and its relation with
the United States, our aim is to promote
discussions that can provide us with a better
understanding of Puerto Rico's space, place, and
society. -- For the benefit of a broader
audience Presentations may be made in Spanish
or English.

**3618 Latinos in the American South: New
Southerners in a New South?**

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Study of the American South SG
Southeastern Geographer
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Derek H. Alderman - East Carolina University
Rebecca Torres - University of Texas at Austin

Chair(s):

Rebecca Torres - University of Texas at Austin

Panelist(s):

Sarah A. Blue - Northern Illinois University
Altha J. Cravey - University Of North Carolina
Anita Drever - University of Tennessee
E Jeffrey Popke - East Carolina University
Heather Anne Smith - University of North
Carolina at Charlotte

Jamie Winders - Syracuse University

Session Description: The panel brings together
scholars to talk about Latinos in the American
South and the challenges they face within the
region politically, culturally, and economically.
Given the reactionary tone of much of the
immigration debate and growing examples of
social injustices, participants comment on the
Latino experience in terms of the politics of
inclusion/exclusion and regional citizenship. To
what extent have Latinos been welcomed (or not
welcomed) into the American South? What
critique can be made of the notion of "southern
hospitality" and the reluctance of many people to
see Latinos as "new southerners"? To what
extent is the South really that "new" in terms of
public reaction to Latino migration? Or do we
see efforts to preserve an "Old" South and

perpetuate long-standing patterns of regional power and identity?

3626 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in North American Cities III: settlement experiences

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Canadian Studies Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University
Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Chair(s):

Shuguang Wang - Ryerson University

Abstract(s):

5:20 PM Author(s): *James W. Fonseca, Ph.D -
Ohio University-Zanesville

Abstract Title: Portuguese Immigration and
Settlement in New England

5:40 PM Author(s): *Alan P. Marcus, ABD -
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Abstract Title: Brazilian Transnational
Migration Processes and The Shaping of New
U.S. Ethnic Landscapes

6:00 PM Author(s): *Monika Stodolska -
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Kimberly J Shinew - University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
Juan Carlos Acevedo - University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign

Abstract Title: Factors Affecting the Quality of
Life of Latino Residents of Urban Immigrant
Gateway Communities

6:20 PM Author(s): *Shuguang Wang -
Ryerson University

Abstract Title: Delineating Ethnoburbs in
Metropolitan Toronto

Session Description: This session series covers
theoretical underpinning and/or empirical
analyses surrounding immigrant and refugee
experiences in North American cities.
Specifically, papers focus on the following
issues.

- a) migration to North American Cities
(push/pull forces, changing international
migration dynamics, racialization process
and identity);
- b) issues of settlement (from neighborhood
formation and segregation...) and
suburbanization; and
- c) economic integration

3631 Negotiating race at the borders of Europe

Thursday, 4/17/08, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

European Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Eileen Wood
Luna Vives

Chair(s):

Heather Merrill - Dickinson College

Abstract(s):

5:20 PM Author(s): *Eileen Wood - University
of Minnesota

Abstract Title: 'New' immigration and the
racialized space of the nation

5:40 PM Author(s): *Luna Vives - University
of British Columbia

Abstract Title: Ordering the "other": Spain's
ethno-racial hierarchy of third country
immigrants.

6:00 PM Author(s): *Elisabeth Hicks -
University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: The Ambassadors of the
Albayzin: Practical Orientalism and Immigration
in Spain

6:20 PM Author(s): *Jorge Malheiros - Centro
De Estudos Geograficos

Abstract Title: Second generation Luso-Africans
in Lisbon: negotiating local identities in a global
context

6:40 PM Discussant: Heather Merrill -
Dickinson College

Discussant(s):

Heather Merrill - Dickinson College

Session Description: In this session we will
explore the impact of contemporary

non-European migration on the emergence of racial(izing) discourses in the peripheries of Europe. Focusing on three border countries in Northern and Southern Europe (Norway, Spain, Portugal), we ask how the arrival of postcolonial immigrant populations has (re)activated a type of public discourse that establishes a close-knit relation between race and the national space, promoting an explicit racialization of the territory. While the selected countries are very disparately situated in relation to non-European migration, their public discourses around race share some striking similarities. Furthermore, these countries are not usually thought of as central to the European project, and as such the particular negotiations of race and whiteness that occur there have been given comparatively little attention in academic literature. In organizing a session on race and migration at Europe's southern and northern peripheries we seek to provincialize the European 'center' and to facilitate dialogue among researchers working in and on the European peripheries.

4131 **Human Geographies of Katrina**

Friday, 4/18/08, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Christopher A. Airriess - Ball State University

Chair(s):

Christopher A. Airriess - Ball State University

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *A. Case Watkins - Texas State University-San Marcos

Abstract Title: Through the Lens of Katrina: A Historical Geography of the Social Patterns of Flood Exposure in New Orleans, 1970-2005

8:20 AM Author(s): *Alyson L. Greiner -

Oklahoma State University

Thomas A. Wikle - Oklahoma State University

Abstract Title: A Geographical Appraisal of Volunteer Activity after Katrina: Insights from Pass Christian, Mississippi

8:40 AM Author(s): *Sarah A. Blue, Ph.D. -

Northern Illinois University

Anita I Drever, Ph.D. - University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Abstract Title: Arriving in New Orleans:

Post-Katrina Latino Labor Recruitment

9:00 AM Author(s): *Anita Drever - University of Tennessee

Sarah A. Blue, Ph.D. - University of Northern

Illinois

Abstract Title: Surviving sin papeles in post Katrina New Orleans: flexibility and vulnerability in the absence of immigration reform

9:20 AM Author(s): *Christopher A. Airriess -

Department of Geography, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 37306

Wei Li - Asian Pacific American Studies and School of Geographical Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Karen J. Leong - Asian Pacific American

Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Angela C Chen - College of Nursing and Healthcare Innovation, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

Verna M Keith - Sociology and Center for Demography and Population Health, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Abstract Title: Scaling Discourse and Contesting a Post-Katrina Landfill in a New Orleans

Vietnamese American Community

Session Description: The session addresses empirical and theoretical research concerning the various human impacts of Hurricane Katrina.

The human geographies of these impacts include race, ethnicity, migration, employment, health care, and politics.

4223 The African Diaspora in the U. S. and Canada I

Friday, 4/18/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Africa Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Chair(s):

Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University

Panelist(s):

Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University
Fenda A. Akiwumi - University of South Florida
Thomas D. Boswell - University of Miami
Eugene Tettey-Fio - SUNY-Binghamton
Terry-Ann Jones - Department of Sociology and Anthropology Fairfield University
Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Session Description: Panelists discuss the historical and geographical components of the Diaspora in both nations. Immigration and migration processes have been of recent importance to both. Particular places within each nation also are discussed, including Toronto and New York City.

4242 *Author Meets the Critics: Arun Saldanha's Psychedelic White: Goa Trance and the Viscosity of Race*

Friday, 4/18/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Social and Cultural Geography
Socialist and Critical Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Rachel Slocum
Susan Smith - Durham University

Chair(s):

Susan Smith - Durham University

Panelist(s):

David F. Ley - University of British Columbia

Bruce Braun - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Geraldine J. Pratt - University Of British Columbia

Audrey L. Kobayashi - Queen's University

Arun Saldanha - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Introducer(s):

Vincent J. Del Casino - California State University, Long Beach

Mary Gilmartin - NUI Maynooth

Session Description: Psychedelic White: Goa Trance and the Viscosity of Race, proposes a materialist theory of racial embodiment and white tourism in the third world. Arun Saldanha's materialism is derived mainly from Deleuze and Guattari, augmented with Goffman, Bourdieu, complexity theory and various feminists.

4323 The African Diaspora in the U. S. and Canada II

Friday, 4/18/08, from 12:20 PM - 2:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Africa Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Chair(s):

Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University

Panelist(s):

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University
Elizabeth Chacko - The George Washington University

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University

Ian Yeboah - Miami University

Session Description: This panel discussion follows the African Diaspora I session and focuses on expressions of the Diaspora in particular places. Included in the discussion are Toronto, Maine, New York City,

Washington, D. C., Florida, Charlotte, Detroit, and Cincinnati.

4333 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Distinguished Scholar Lecture: Ceri Peach

Friday, 4/18/08, from 12:20 PM - 2:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Guest Speaker: Ceri Peach

Discussant(s):

Ron Johnston - University of Bristol

David F. Ley - University of British Columbia

Introducer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

4440 Refuge in the City I: "Citizen-others" and Geographies of Citizenship

Friday, 4/18/08, from 2:30 PM - 4:10 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

D. James McLean

Julie Young - York University

Chair(s):

Julie Young - York University

Abstract(s):

2:30 PM Author(s): *Mike Bulthuis, PhD

Candidate - University of Ottawa

Abstract Title: Whose Refuge? Placing Youth in Narratives of Decline and Renewal

2:50 PM Author(s): *Robert Lidstone - York University

Abstract Title: 'Get Thee to a Global City?'

Sexual Citizenship, Migration and Refugees in Toronto

3:10 PM Author(s): *D. James McLean - York University

Abstract Title: City-Places and Muslim Identities: Second Generation Muslim Youth as 'Citizen-Other'

3:30 PM Author(s): *Tatiana Matejskova - University of Minnesota

Abstract Title: Becoming Citizens in Berlin-Marzahn: /Integration /and (In)Visibility of Migrant Subjects

Session Description: Our starting point is the notion of 'city as refuge'. We argue that citizenship must be understood as a social practice that is not limited to the formal status of "citizen." There is a pragmatic need for citizenship to be framed in and through all of the sites, places, and spaces through which 'citizens' and 'citizen-others' engage, enact, and experience identity-relations.

Guided by the work of Lefebvre (1991) and Bourdieu (1984) who describe the distinction and production of difference, Mitchell (2003) on social justice and claims of 'rights to the city,' and theories and methods attuned to the practice(s) of everyday life (de Certeau 1988), we seek to build directly on and contribute to innovative research in urban, identity, place, and citizenship studies that investigates the spatial practices and politics of citizenship. This session contributes to theoretical discussions of identity constitution, geographies of relational identities, and the "potential geographies of our social responsibility"(Massey 2005, 10). We seek papers that focus on groups that have been considered as "others" within cities; these 'citizen-others' have sought refuge in the city and thereby unsettle normative efforts to claim the city for 'mainstream' society (heteronormative, patriarchal, meritocratic, Christian, Anglo, white, European).

4508 How many Chinese in a Chinatown?: Reports from Empirical Research on Overseas Chinese Settlement

Friday, 4/18/08, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Cultural Geography Specialty Group
Asian Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Megan Dixon - University of Oregon

Chair(s):

Yu Zhou - Vassar College

Panelist(s):

Megan Dixon - University of Oregon
Sin Yih Teo - University of British Columbia
Serene Tan - York University
Deborah L. Che - Kansas State University
Pierpaolo Mudu - Universita Di Roma
Giulio Lucchini - Paris 10

Session Description: The issue of overseas Chinese migration is one that can intrigue geographers at many levels. This panel addresses comparative questions about the forms that Chinese overseas communities take in varied locations, including Rome, Italy; St. Petersburg, Russia; Detroit, U.S.A.; Vancouver, Canada; and others. The panel participants will discuss sources of migration streams and their return flow, questions of enclave formation, means of entry into local business and economic niches, and formation of "Chinatowns." A crucial point will be the interaction of community forms and practices with available resources and infrastructure at the host site.

As overseas Chinese migration increases, with the approval of the central government, questions of consistent patterns arise; further, the increasing influence of Chinese investment potential suggests specific trends in the built environment in prominent cities. The panel will invite comparison of participants' research projects and suggest some goals for future research.

4540 **Refuge in the City II: "Citizen-others" and Geographies of Citizenship**

Friday, 4/18/08, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

D. James McLean

Julie Young - York University

Chair(s):

D. James McLean

Abstract(s):

4:40 PM Author(s): *Mary Grace Betsayda, B.A. (Hons), M.A. (Candidate) - Ryerson University

Abstract Title: Negotiable Civitas: Brand, Clarke, and the Immigrant in the City

5:00 PM Author(s): *Robert Davidson, Asst. Professor of Spanish and Catalan Studies - University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Detention Hotels

5:20 PM Author(s): *Lisa M Freeman - University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Regulating the Liminal Citizenship of Toronto's Roomers

5:40 PM Author(s): *Jennifer Ridgley, PhD Candidate - University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Cities of Refuge and Regulation: The politics and practice of municipal sanctuary

Session Description: Our starting point is the notion of 'city as refuge'. We argue that citizenship must be understood as a social practice that is not limited to the formal status of "citizen." There is a pragmatic need for citizenship to be framed in and through all of the sites, places, and spaces through which 'citizens' and 'citizen-others' engage, enact, and experience identity-relations.

Guided by the work of Lefebvre (1991) and Bourdieu (1984) who describe the distinction and production of difference, Mitchell (2003) on social justice and claims of 'rights to the city,' and theories and methods attuned to the practice(s) of everyday life (de Certeau 1988), we seek to build directly on and contribute to innovative research in urban, identity, place, and citizenship studies that investigates the spatial practices and politics of citizenship. This session contributes to theoretical discussions of identity constitution, geographies of relational identities, and the "potential geographies of our social responsibility"(Massey 2005, 10). We seek papers that focus on groups that have been

considered as "others" within cities; these 'citizen-others' have sought refuge in the city and thereby unsettle normative efforts to claim the city for 'mainstream' society (heteronormative, patriarchal, meritocratic, Christian, Anglo, white, European).

5147 Geographies of International Adoption I

Saturday, 4/19/08, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

Chair(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *Todd Lindley - Indiana University

Abstract Title: Intercountry Adoption in the Philippines and the United States: Global Networks and Local Processes

8:20 AM Author(s): *Shelley Grant - Queen Mary College, University of London

Abstract Title: Savings or Sales? Analysing the Perceived Political-Economies of Transnational Child Adoption Between Families in the UK and US

8:40 AM Author(s): *Christina Low Von Mayrhauser, Ph.D. - California State University Northridge Department of Anthropology

Abstract Title: Agentic Forces Shaping The Rise of the International Adoption Industry in China and the United States

9:00 AM Author(s): *Andréa Cardarello - Chaire MCD

Abstract Title: Imposing family patterns: The "legal traffic" of children and international adoption in Brazil

9:20 AM Discussant: Steven Holloway - University Of Georgia

Discussant(s):

Steven Holloway - University Of Georgia

Session Description: International, or intercountry, adoption - that is the adoption of children from one nation by adopting parent(s)

of a different nation - is a phenomenon that is rapidly growing both in depth (i.e., the number of children adopted annually) and breadth (i.e., the number of nations involved on both sides of the process – sending and receiving). The movement of young children, often by the thousands annually, from – especially – the global south (e.g., Guatemala, Honduras, Ethiopia, Vietnam), newly industrialized countries (e.g., Central Asian states), and emerging economic powers (i.e., China and India) to – especially – the global north (i.e., western Europe and the United States) has received little geographic inquiry or theoretical framing. Nor has the recent and stellar growth of the 'international adoption industry' over the last decade and a half. The aim of this session is to begin to develop a conceptual framework through which to explore and better understand the international adoption phenomenon in all of its geographic complexity.

5247 Geographies of International Adoption II

Saturday, 4/19/08, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

Chair(s):

Todd Lindley

Abstract(s):

10:10 AM Author(s): *Elise Marie Prebin - Harvard Korea Institute

Abstract Title: Identity Inside Out: South Korea and Its Margins

10:30 AM Author(s): *Alix L Little, MA Candidate - University of Victoria

Abstract Title: Adoptive Parents and the Creation of Social Networks, Belonging, and Cultural Identity in British Columbia

10:50 AM Author(s): *Linda J Seligmann, Prof
- George Mason University

Abstract Title: Place-Making and Identity
Formation in Transnational and Transracial
Adoption

11:10 AM Author(s): *Lynn Horridge, PhD
Candidate, Anthropology - City University of
New York Graduate Center

Abstract Title: Family and Insecure Spaces:
Queer Parents and the Adoption of
Non-Biological Children from Guatemala and
the United States

11:30 AM Discussant: Caroline Nagel -
University of South Carolina

Discussant(s):

Caroline Nagel - University of South Carolina

Session Description: International, or
intercountry, adoption - that is the adoption of
children from one nation by adopting parent(s)
of a different nation - is a phenomenon that is
rapidly growing both in depth (i.e., the number
of children adopted annually) and breadth (i.e.,
the number of nations involved on both sides of
the process - sending and receiving). The
movement of young children, often by the
thousands annually, from – especially – the
global south (e.g., Guatemala, Honduras,
Ethiopia, Vietnam), newly industrialized
countries (e.g., Central Asian states), and
emerging economic powers (i.e., China and
India) to – especially – the global north (i.e.,
western Europe and the United States) has
received little geographic inquiry or theoretical
framing. Nor has the recent and stellar growth of
the 'international adoption industry' over the last
decade and a half. The aim of this session is to
begin to develop a conceptual framework
through which to explore and better understand
the international adoption phenomenon in all of
its geographic complexity.

5447 Geographies of International Adoption

Saturday, 4/19/08, from 2:20 PM - 4:00 PM

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

Chair(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

Panelist(s):

Lynn Horridge - City University of New York
Graduate Center

Todd Lindley

Linda J Seligmann - George Mason University

Christina Von Mayrhauser - California State
University Northridge Department of
Anthropology

Elise Prebin - Harvard Korea Institute

Andréa Cardarello - Chaire MCD

Shelley Grant - Queen Mary College,
University of London

Leslie Wang

Discussant(s):

Minelle Mahtani

Introducer(s):

Alec Brownlow - DePaul University

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