

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Newsletter

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Fourth Biennial "Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference"

A Great Success In Miami

November 5-8, 2008

The Fourth Annual Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference was held this past

November in Miami. The last EGSG Newsletter (2007-2008) provided a more detailed description of the goals of this conference.

The Miami meeting was the fourth in the series and began the evening of November 5th under a perfectly clear starlit sky on the 10th floor Terrace of the Bank of America Tower in downtown Miami. Music was provided by the Frost Jazz Sextet from the University of Miami's School of Music.

During the next two days (Thursday and Friday) 49 sessions were held dealing with such diverse topics as race in American cities, race and ethnicity in the Canadian labor market, ethnic identity and assimilation, human rights and well-being of unaccompanied immigrant children, the changing political values of Cuban Americans, Puerto Rican ethnic geography, multiracial and multi-ethnics in America, racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and racialized economies in the U.S.

The Executive Board of the Association of American Geographers organized a session explaining the efforts of the AAG in achieving a more diverse membership and its efforts to expand to Latin America as an international association. Four former and one current AAG Presidents were in attendance.

It was a multi-disciplinary conference including faculty from such departments and schools as geography, sociology, anthropology, economics, education, political science, foreign languages, law, and history. Also attending were government officials, university administrators and representatives from nonprofit agencies. About 350 people registered for the conference and more than 270 presented findings from their research or participated on a number of panel discussions.

Two luncheons and a gala dinner were included in the registration. The Association of American Geographers, Binghamton University, Howard University, the University of Miami, and Texas State University worked together as Partners in the conference's planning process. Tom Boswell and Ira Sheskin served as Local Conference Co-Directors and Peter Muller was the Program Chair (all from the University of Miami). John Frazier (Binghamton University) and Lawrence Estaville (Texas State University) both spearheaded and provided much motivation for the Conference's planning efforts. All five of these people served on the Executive Board for the Conference as did Eugene Tettey-Fio, Mark Reisinger (both of Binghamton University), and Angelika Wahl (Texas State University). John Frazier, Tom Boswell, Lawrence Estaville, and Ira Sheskin together raised more than \$135,000 to support the REP Conference.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the luncheon held on Friday that included a panel of distinguished immigration scholars discussing the contributions made by Alejandro Portes (Princeton University) to the knowledge of immigration to the United States. On Friday evening a gala dinner was held with a panel discussion of the importance of diversity on America's university campuses which included three university Presidents (Donna Shalala of the University of Miami, Lois DeFleur of Binghamton University and Denise Trauth of Texas State University). Before dinner music was provided by internationally acclaimed classical guitarist Jesse Hale. After dinner music was provided by the University of Miami School of Music's Salsa Band.

On Saturday (November 8th) Tom Boswell and Ira Sheskin directed a 4-hour field trip through various ethnic neighborhoods of Miami. By noon the Conference was over and many participants jetted back to the colder climates of the north.

The next (5th) REP Conference (2010) will be held where it all began 8 years earlier in 2002

at Binghamton University in New York State. Reserve a spot on your calendar soon (when the precise date is determined) for that event because it promises to keep alive the tradition of outstanding interdisciplinary conferences dealing with race, ethnicity, and place.

**Don't Forget to Attend the
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business
Meeting During the AAG Meetings
in Las Vegas
Tuesday, 3/24/09
11:55 AM - 12:55 PM
Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel**

Review of: Mark Krikorian, *The New Case Against Immigration: Both Legal and Illegal* (New York: Sentinel Press (the Penguin Group), 2008), 294 p.

Mark Krikorian, a grandson of Armenian immigrants, is the Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Georgetown University and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he has been a long-time critic of America's current immigration policy. He believes that both legal and illegal immigration to the U.S. are out of control and should be reduced from their current high numbers.

Krikorian says that today's immigrants are, in fact, very similar to those who arrived a 100 years ago. But today they are coming to a very different America—one where changes in the economy, society, and government create fundamentally different incentives for newcomers. In other words, the America that our grandparents came to no longer exists. He states that this fact must become the new starting point for the

explosive debate about America's immigration policy.

Before the upheavals of the 1960s, the United States expected immigrants from around the world to earn a living, learn English, and become patriotic Americans. But since the rise of identity politics, political correctness, and the Great Society programs, we no longer make these demands. Krikorian argues that even the positive changes of the last few decades, such as the Internet and cheap international phone service, hinder the assimilation of immigrants by making it easier for them to lead transnational lives.

Krikorian states that although mass immigration once served our national interests, in today's America it threatens to destroy our common national identity, limit opportunities for upward economic mobility, strain resources for social programs, and disrupt middle-class norms of behavior. So, as politicians debate various kinds of amnesty for undocumented immigrants, they are missing the bigger picture: the harmful impact of large-scale settlement of all kinds of immigrants, whether legal or illegal, skilled or unskilled, European or Latin American or Asian or African. Modern America, he says, has simply outgrown immigration, and we should limit it before it cripples us.

The book consists of seven chapters. The first involves a discussion of immigrant assimilation in which Krikorian argues that today's immigrants are not expected to assimilate like they were 100 years ago because of two factors. One is technological change that makes it easier for today's immigrants to maintain strong ties with their home countries through the process of transnationalism. The second is

multiculturalism and its associated social programs that induce immigrants to retain the cultural traits of their countries of origin.

The second chapter deals with what Krikorian sees as the conflict between American sovereignty and massive immigration from Mexico. He quotes a number of Mexican and Mexican-American leaders who claim that they are demographically taking back California and the Southwest (La Reconquista) for Mexicans, as the numbers of immigrants from Mexico overwhelm the states located in this area.

The third chapter discusses immigration and the need to protect America's borders for security against terrorists, drug traffickers, people trafficking, and other undesirables. It makes the point that if immigration is reduced, this also reduces the complexity of trying to keep undesirables out of this country.

The fourth chapter deals with the economic dilemma of cheap labor vs. the well-being of the American labor force. Low cost immigrant labor reduces the bargaining power of native workers and lessens the incentives for modernizing production by slowing both technology and mechanization.

The fifth chapter is concerned with the costs, through government spending, of social programs designed to help disadvantaged immigrants and their children.

Chapter six deals with the relationship between immigration and population growth in the United States. Krikorian says that almost two-thirds of the U.S. growth is caused by immigration and the children born to immigrants.

The final chapter deals with Krikorian's thoughts regarding a new American immigration policy.

My impression is that this is a very serious, but controversial, book that is certain to become influential and widely quoted among politicians and journalists. Whether or not you agree with Mr. Krikorian's thoughts about reducing immigration (both legal and illegal) to the United States you should clearly understand his arguments because they are likely to influence future discussions regarding this important topic.

(Reviewed by: Thomas D. Boswell, Department of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida 33124, Tboswell@Miami.edu.)

Canadian Immigrants, Poverty, and Disaffection

Canada is often thought of as having one of the more successful and humane programs for attracting immigrants and for helping them adjust to living in their new destination country. Canadian policies include multicultural programs, a points system for selecting immigrants, and a path toward citizenship status.

However, all is not well for immigrants in Canada because there have been some problems with the ways in which immigrants are integrated into the country's economy. Immigrants are more likely to live in poverty than the rest of the Canadian population; they are more likely to be concentrated in neighborhoods characterized by crime and disorder; a higher percentage of them are unemployed; and a large proportion feel that they have a second class status in the eyes of the native born Canadians.

Canada's points system is supposed to attract the kinds of immigrants who would most likely provide benefits to the larger Canadian society. Among other things, this

system gives preference to people who speak either English or French, and it favors people with better educations and work experience. Still, immigrants in Canada complain that once they arrive in Canada their experiences with the Canadian economy are far less desirable than they expected. Often prior training and experience in their home countries is discounted or not counted at all in Canada. Many immigrants also have problems getting hired with their accented English, although they may understand the language well. This creates consternation among the immigrants because they thought they were being selected for immigration because they had better chances of succeeding in Canada. However, in reality, many of them are struggling.

This study specifically investigates immigrants living in poor neighborhoods in Toronto and Vancouver. It turns out that almost three-quarters of all recent immigrants to Canada concentrated in these two cities or Montreal. Approximately 44 percent of Toronto's population is comprised of immigrants and the comparable figure for Vancouver is 38 percent. In both cities, immigrants are disproportionately associated with poverty. In Toronto 33 percent of the immigrants live below the poverty level and in Vancouver the proportion is 37 percent.

A series of nine focus group discussions with immigrants living in mostly poor neighborhoods were moderated by the authors of this article. This was an attempt to gain insights into the nuances of the life experiences of immigrants in these communities. The authors found that three different scales of inquiry informed them about the conditions in which these immigrants found themselves.

The national scale framed the immigrants as outsiders and limited appreciation of their education levels and experience gained in their home countries. The intrametropolitan scale distinguished between living in poor neighborhoods in the central city and in the suburbs. This is important because there has been a tendency in Canada, and other countries as well, to move some of their poor to housing located outside the central city in attempt to improve their living standards. But this policy has not been as successful as expected because often the suburban locations are disconnected from the services and other things that the immigrants need due to poor mass transportation facilities in the suburbs. In the central cities of Toronto and Vancouver, on the other hand, people have greater accessibility because they live closer to service-providing agencies and places that satisfy other needs, such as grocery stores, movie theaters, doctors, hospitals, etc. So, unexpectedly, many immigrants living in poor neighborhoods in the inner cities are more satisfied with their lot than those living in less dense suburban locations. Similar findings recently have been noted in the United States and several European countries.

The third scale investigated was at the neighborhood level. The focus group discussions clearly illustrated the additional package of problems brought by living in poor neighborhoods, not the least of which is the stigma attached to living in poor areas in the minds of people living in more affluent neighborhoods.

In addition to interesting findings, this article extensively surveys the extant literature dealing with immigrant housing and poverty in the United States and

Western Europe. This allows the authors to compare the context of Canadian immigrant experiences to the immigration experiences in other more developed areas with similar migration policy issues.

(Heather Smith and David Ley, "Even in Canada? The Multiscalar Construction and Experience of Concentrated Immigrant Poverty in Gateway Cities," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Volume 98, Number 3, September 2008, pp. 686-713.)

The Devolution of Immigration Powers from the U.S. Federal Government to States and Local Governments

During the mid-1990s the federal government of the United States began to devolve to state and local governments some of the powers it had previously held over immigration and welfare. This was part of the Republicans' (who controlled both houses in Congress at that time) so-called "Contract with America." This "Contract" was designed to limit the size and costs of the federal government and turn over more power to the individual states and municipalities—to return power to the people. More specifically, in 1996 three acts were passed that have impacted U.S. immigration policy: (1) PRWORA (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act), (2) AEDPA (the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, and (3) IIRIRA (Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act).

This article is about the results of the decisions to produce these changes in governance. In other words the shift in power that occurred can be seen as a change in scales of authority from the federal level to level of the states and cities. The author of this work views this change as occurring within the framework of neoliberalism, whereby individual people and local governments assume a greater responsibility for their own welfare, rather than relying solely on the protection of the federal government. She also uses the term "personhood"

to distinguish between the ways in which citizens and noncitizens are treated differently by government entities. Citizens have the advantage of membership in the controlling society, whereas noncitizens do not. Thus, the “personhood” of citizenship provides citizens with access to social services not available to noncitizen aliens.

This is a detailed study of law cases that were used as the antecedents or precedents for the current law. The author takes great pains to show how this situation of devolution evolved over time. She also explains how this devolution resulted in a confusing array of policies at the state and local levels with respect to immigration. Thus, some states recognized a responsibility to fill the void left by the devolution of federal authority by providing themselves for the welfare of their resident noncitizen immigrants, whereas other states did not. Some cities became sanctuaries for illegal immigrants, but others did not.

The author concludes that one result of these differences between state immigration policies was increased instabilities and tensions that emerged from the rescaling of some immigration policies from the federal government to the individual states. This confusion, she says, has led some scholars to question whether the federal government can authorize states to develop nonuniform, divergent policies that discriminate against noncitizens, given the constitution’s uniform rule of applications.

(Monica Varsanyi, “‘Alien,’ Rescaling Personhood: Neoliberalism, Immigration, and the State,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Volume 98, Number 4, December, 2008, pp. 877-896.)

Editor’s Note

The articles listed below come from a variety of sources that I have freely excerpted from and slightly edited. If you want to cite or otherwise reference these articles, please give credit to the original source, which is always cited at the end of each article in parentheses.

Building Border Fences to Control Immigration

The United States is not alone. A number of other countries have built or are building fences to protect their people and economies. Malaysia and Thailand have built fencing on either side of their border, Kuwait constructed fencing and trenches along the border with Iraq after the 1991 gulf war, and Spanish enclaves in Morocco are heavily secured. Although fences can be politically popular in the nations that build them, they are often viewed as a harsh (and expensive) symbol in neighboring countries. They are also far from foolproof in deterring would-be migrants.

Yet, in 2008, beefing up or constructing new fencing to keep out unauthorized migrants, cross-border terrorists and insurgents, and smugglers remained a priority in various parts of the world. The increase in border fencing signals a climate of fear and highlights the inability or unwillingness of neighboring states to cooperatively deal with what are really joint problems that trouble both sides of the border.

Vexed by rising illegal immigration rates, the United States has completed 216 miles of fencing and another 154 miles of vehicle barriers along the Southwest border, moving closer to achieving the Bush administration’s goal of erecting 370 miles of fencing and 300 miles of vehicle barriers by the end of 2008. Rising construction costs and legal battles over land acquisition have complicated the completion of Congress's mandate in the Secure Fence Act of 2006 to build 700 miles of

double-layered fencing along the US-Mexico border.

US Customs and Border Protection has also confronted delays in building the "virtual" fence, part of the Secure Borders Initiative, which uses radars, cameras, and sensors to detect illegal crossings. Difficulties during the pilot testing of a 28-mile "virtual" fence segment in Arizona raised questions earlier this year about the government's ability to deploy such fencing across vast swaths of the southern and northern borders.

Israel planned to build a fence along its rugged desert border with Egypt back in 2005 when it decided to pull out of the Gaza strip. But the financial costs were deemed too high. It took a security crisis later in 2008—the temporary breach of the Gaza-Egypt border, when thousands left Gaza unchecked—before Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel would build an 85-kilometer fence within two years.

India also invested in its border security in 2008, announcing in September that it plans to add 509 border outposts on the borders with Bangladesh and Pakistan, most of them on the Bangladesh border, which already has 802 such outposts. Work on the India-Bangladesh border fence of multilayered barbed wire dates back to 1994 and was originally planned to be completed by 2007. A main reason for building it was keeping out migrants from Bangladesh. However, attacks this fall in Assam, an Indian province tucked between Bangladesh and Bhutan where ethnic tensions are high, and tribal insurgents in the Indian state of Tripura have given new urgency to the project. Thus far, the Indian government has built about 1,580 miles of fencing along the 2,500 mile border it maintains with Bangladesh. Bangladeshi border—mean that it is about 63 percent complete. ("Building Border Fences," *Migration Information Source*, December 4, 2008, www.migrationinformation.org/)

Do Declining Populations Portend More Immigration?

Many of the more developed countries are experiencing declining fertility and a population that is rapidly aging. In increasingly more cases the populations are now declining. Confronted with the inescapable reality that the workforce in much of the developed world is also declining rapidly, policymakers are beginning to take the increasingly stark demographic landscape more seriously. While these governments acknowledge immigration is not the sole answer and that other measures, such as raising the retirement age or enticing more women into the labor force, would help alleviate the strain, they are considering immigration as a means to inject much-needed youthful labor into their aging workforces.

One example of a greater openness to the thought of increasing immigration is Japan, which has long resisted opening its borders to immigrants despite its rapidly aging population. In June, members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) issued a bold report that calls for Japan to make foreign residents 10 percent of the country's population—meaning an additional 10 million-plus people—in the next half century, up from less than 2 percent currently. The politicians are taking this report seriously, but they realize the main challenge will be to establish a new immigration system and get the general population to accept a change in their thinking regarding the importation of people from decidedly different cultures. The report also recommends that Japan aim to have 1 million foreign students in the country by 2025, an acknowledgment that foreign students can be an important source of skilled workers.

In fact, Japan already is taking small steps toward increased immigration. After receiving parliamentary approval in May, the government admitted 200 health-care workers from Indonesia as part of an economic partnership agreement between the two countries that will eventually bring 1,000 such workers: 600 nurses and 400 caregivers for the elderly. Although the numbers are small, it is relevant to note that this is the first

time Japan has allowed a large number of foreigners to work in hospitals and nursing homes.

Aging populations have also factored into new labor migration policies in Norway and Sweden. Norway is considering a more user-friendly process for recruiting highly skilled immigrants, while Sweden has just launched a new, entirely employer-driven system for issuing needed work permits.

One of the provisions of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum also signals the first-ever intergovernmental political decision to address labor shortages partly through migration. The pact's introduction states, "[International migration] can contribute decisively to the economic growth of the European Union and of those member states which need migrants because of the state of their labor markets or of their demography." The pact, which seeks to harmonize several aspects of immigration policy across the European Union while maintaining member states' sovereignty, received the approval of the 27 E.U. countries this past fall. It encourages member countries to implement labor-migration policies, but many have yet to make substantial commitments to step up employment flows. Moldova and Cape Verde signed on as pilot countries for mobility partnerships with the rest of the E.U. to facilitate legal migration and control illegal migration.

The European Union also took a small step forward with Asia in April, when it convened a labor migration meeting in Brussels that included officials from 10 Asian countries, including India and the Philippines, and 16 E.U. countries. In contrast to Europe, South Asia and some parts of Southeast Asia are experiencing rapid population growth. Their governments believe that there are mutual benefits to strengthening cooperation on the issue of migration flows from Asia to Europe especially in light of the demographic and economic dynamics that characterize both regions," according to the meeting summary.

("Demography and Migration Flows: Do Shrinking Population Mean More Migrants?" *Migration Information Source*, December 4, 2008, [www.migrationinformation.org/.](http://www.migrationinformation.org/))

European Countries Rethinking Their Immigration Policies As Their Economies Sour

Booming economies in the last decade created plenty of opportunities for immigrant workers, millions of whom flocked to Spain, the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia, as well as to other destinations. The current economic downturn, however, has made many destination countries cautious about welcoming permanent migrants, with some expressing the policy equivalent of buyer's remorse: paying too high a price for something no longer desired. There are seeming exceptions, such as Sweden and Norway, each of which have experienced high immigration levels in the past three years but have not been overwhelmed.

Hungry for labor, Spain threw open its doors to legal migration in 2005 without giving much thought to how it would cope with migrants if economic circumstances changed. More than 800,000 foreigners moved to Spain in 2006 alone, with the foreign population standing at 4.5 million, or 10 percent of Spain's population, as of early 2007. Between 2005 and 2007, the proportion of foreign workers in the labor force rose from 8 percent to 12 percent.

The United Kingdom, by granting immediate labor-market access to nationals from the new European Union Member States in May 2004, effectively legalized hundreds of thousands Eastern Europeans already working there and allowed many more to follow. Polish nationals quickly became the largest immigrant group in the United Kingdom, growing over 700 percent from about 53,000 in early 2004 to 447,000 by the end of 2007, according to UK Labor Force Survey data.

The country with the most remorse, however, is Spain. It attracted migrants from Latin America and North Africa and legalized about 560,000 of

them in 2005, plus family members. Unemployment is at 11.3 percent (17.5 percent among foreigners), the construction industry is nearly at a stand-still, and the economy is shrinking. In June 2008 the Spanish government announced a voluntary return program that would give unemployed legally resident migrants from certain countries compensation for leaving Spain and agreeing not to return for three years. Not surprisingly, immigrant groups in Spain did not endorse the return program, which the government began implementing in September, and few migrants have taken the government up on its offer. Spain has warned that it will likely issue few new migrant visas in 2009.

Similarly, due to political pressure and the economic downturn, the United Kingdom in November cut back its originally planned number of "shortage occupation" visas, part of its new points system for bringing in skilled migrants, from 1 million to 800,000. The existence of such a list means that the United Kingdom will have greater ability to tailor immigration to its needs as those needs change. Although the flow of migrants from new EU Member States, particularly Poland, has slowed, with some returning home, British politicians face a public increasingly hostile toward immigrants and a system they perceive to be out of control.

Although Australia and New Zealand remain committed to attracting foreign students who can eventually become skilled migrants, leaders in both countries face pressure to cut immigration flows as well. Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has said that his government that Australian immigration targets have to be flexible, so they can be adjusted to consider the economic circumstances of the day. Former prime minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark, said this past November that the country's Department of Immigration has to remain vigilant in monitoring immigration increases by controlling immigration permits. However, she also said the country's seasonal

worker program, which brings workers from Pacific Island nations on a temporary basis, would not be stopped. This indicates that even as permanent migration channels are reconsidered, temporary migration channels for certain economic activities are likely to remain safe and could even be expanded.

Even Singapore, which has aggressively courted migrants and deems them essential to the country's prosperity, has seen tensions rise over foreign workers. So far, however, the government is not changing its rhetoric or its policy. (Excerpted from: "Buyer's Remorse on Immigration Policy," *Migration Information Source*, December 4, 2008, [www.migrationinformation.org/.](http://www.migrationinformation.org/))

Immigration Proves Not to Be An Important Issue During the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election

Although immigration figured as a prominent subject in the United States' 2008 presidential primaries, it was almost nonexistent in the general-election contest between Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain.

A polarizing issue during congressional debates in 2006 and 2007, immigration had been anticipated to be a wedge issue in the 2008 elections, in large measure because of its expected power to energize both the conservative base and the Hispanic vote. And, for a time, it surfaced during the Republican primaries as candidates Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, and Rudy Giuliani, in particular, vied to see who could sound toughest on illegal immigration. But the issue also proved its ability to sting, with Romney dogged by accusations that he employed unauthorized-immigrant landscapers at his house, and he and Giuliani accused of presiding over "sanctuary" cities.

In the Democratic primaries, the issues of immigration made its first noteworthy appearance when, during a debate in October 2007, Senator Hillary Clinton stumbled in her answer to a question about driver's licenses for unauthorized immigrants.

But the issue faded, swamped by greater public concern and candidate attention on the war in Iraq, rising energy prices, and health care. Its disappearance from the debate marked something of an unusual turn of events. After all, millions of immigrants and their supporters turned out in the streets in cities across America in 2006 demanding legalization and opposing a House bill that would have criminalized illegal immigration. Also, immigration figured prominently in many 2006 congressional races, with Democrats reaching out to Hispanic voters alienated by the law-and-order, no-amnesty wing of the Republican Party, which was struggling to reconcile that same wing with proimmigration business interests.

Furthermore, immigrant-advocacy groups capitalized on the energy from the 2006 demonstrations by launching naturalization and voter-registration initiatives to make immigrant voters a factor in the 2008 election. And in June 2007, for the second year in a row, the Senate failed to pass comprehensive immigration legislation amid sharp partisan divides and President Bush's inability to persuade members of his own party to back a major rewrite of immigration law.

John McCain, the Arizona Republican — who coauthored the 2006 comprehensive reform bill with Democrat Ted Kennedy and cosponsored a similar bill in 2007 — suffered the wrath of his party's conservative base as his primary campaign foundered badly over immigration before recovering. McCain recognized that anger and backed away from his support for the legislation, hammering instead on the importance of border enforcement.

McCain's nomination in early March arguably neutralized immigration as a campaign issue, and Obama's emergence as the Democratic nominee in June effectively put it to rest. Neither candidate had to use immigration as a differentiating point because they fundamentally agreed that comprehensive immigration reform was necessary. Press

coverage shifted to the nominees' courting of Latino voters.

By mid-September, the economic crisis trumped all other issues as Americans became increasingly concerned with keeping their homes, jobs, and retirement funds. Immigration was relegated to a bit role in the final months of the campaign, with McCain and Obama using the issue exclusively in Spanish-language media, running ads accusing the other of blocking comprehensive immigration reform. Obama handily won the Latino vote: 67 percent of Hispanic voters supported Obama while only 31 percent voted for McCain, according to an exit-poll analysis by the Pew Hispanic Center. McCain's poor showing among Hispanics was largely attributed to the fact that other Republican politicians were seen as promoting anti-immigrant sentiment.

(“Immigration Ultimately Not An Issue in the 2008 Election” *Migration Information Source*, Dec. 4, 2008. www.migrationinformation.org/)

Is Circular Migration Becoming An Answer To Labor Shortages in the More Developed Countries?

Long before modern nation states regulated migration, movement between two places, often for seasonal work, was an established human behavior. These continuing, long-term and fluid movements are known as circular migration.

Circular migration has become a standard policy tool for certain Persian Gulf countries and East Asian states that need low-skilled foreign labor but do not want workers to settle permanently. After working in Saudi Arabia on a two-year contract, for example, a construction worker from Pakistan must return home before he is allowed to return for another two-year contract. The worker cannot bring his family and stands little chance of becoming a Saudi citizen.

However, circular migration programs do not have to be so restrictive. The more developed countries struggling with labor shortages and aging societies are, in some cases, slowly warming up to the idea of circular migration programs that

go beyond the traditional temporary-worker programs of the mid-20th century. Those programs often led to permanent settlement. Newer circular migration programs, such as those in Spain's agricultural sector, protect migrants' rights while in the host country and also seek to ensure they build their skills while abroad. Skills that can be used when they return home. Spain has successfully encouraged circular migration by requiring returning temporary workers to register with the Spanish consulates or embassy in their home country. The reward for obeying this agreement is access to permanent residency after four years of compliance.

The European Union moved ahead with its first "mobility partnerships," announced last year, by setting up pilot programs in June with Moldova and Cape Verde mentioned earlier in this Newsletter. Mobility partnerships seek to discourage illegal immigration in exchange for legal migration opportunities and short-term visas. Both of these pilot programs seek to facilitate circular migration, though details have not yet been announced.

Three Canadian provinces — British Columbia, Manitoba, and Alberta — signed memoranda of understanding with the Philippines in 2008 to allow for temporary migration of overseas Filipino workers of varying skill levels. British Columbia, for instance, is eager to recruit workers who can staff the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The agreements are based on Canada's existing Temporary Foreign Worker program, which permits migrants to renew their work permits but does not automatically allow for back-and-forth movement. Still, the agreements include provisions important to circular migration: they protect Filipino workers' rights and welfare in Canada and encourage Canadian employers to support their reintegration in the Philippines. For the Philippine government, Canada is an attractive partner because it promises more protections for workers than gulf countries.

("Warming Up to Circular Migration," *Migration Information Source*, December 4, 2008, www.migrationinformation.org/)

Is Counter-Stream Return Migration Becoming More Significant During the Recession?

Immigration policymakers long accustomed to recruiting workers from abroad to fuel their economies suddenly faced a much different challenge in 2008. As the world's advanced industrial economies one by one slipped into recession, the prospect of return migration gained currency in immigrant-receiving states around the world.

In June, the European Union Parliament approved a directive encouraging unauthorized immigrants to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. As mentioned in an earlier article in this Newsletter, in September, Spain's parliament authorized a program that effectively pays some unemployed immigrants to leave if they promise not to return to Spain for three years. The trend has even spread to traditional immigrant-receiving countries, such as the United States. In July, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency launched a pilot program called "Scheduled Departure" that allowed some unauthorized immigrants to work with ICE to schedule their journey home. The program, however, attracted only a handful of participants and was promptly suspended.

Some reports suggest that the global economic slowdown will encourage migrants to return home. Malaysia's Human Resources Ministry said in October it is prepared to help by providing repatriation assistance for all Malaysian workers in Singapore who lose their jobs there.

In the United States, press reports of immigrants from Mexico or Central America returning home due to lost jobs have become more common, but there is as yet no statistical evidence of return. Some highly skilled temporary migrants in the United States and Europe may also face the prospect of return if their employers in the

banking and finance sectors downsize or go bankrupt.

Flows to the United States appear to be slowing: the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) registered a net increase of just over 500,000 immigrants between 2006 and 2007 (from 37.5 to 38.1 million). That is significantly less than the estimated 1 million average net annual increase in the foreign-born population recorded between 2000 and 2006 by the ACS and other data sources.

Of course, a certain level of return migration occurs normally, even when there is not an economic downturn. A recent study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) found that (depending on the country of destination and the time frame considered) 20 to 50 percent of immigrants go home or move on to a third country within five years of their arrival. Geographer and demographer Graeme Hugo estimates that about a fifth of all postwar permanent immigrants to Australia subsequently emigrate from Australia and that most of them return to their home countries.

More recently, an April 2008 analysis by the United Kingdom's Institute for Public Policy Research estimated that about half of the 1 million workers from the eight Eastern European states that joined the European Union in 2004 have left the United Kingdom and returned home.

The academic literature suggests that return migration results from both failure and success. Some migrants may decide to return because they fail to integrate or advance in the host-country society or simply cannot find jobs. However, most research indicates that large-scale return migration corresponds more to political and economic conditions in the origin country. Migrants may be motivated to return by the prospect of new opportunities at home or because they have achieved their financial goals. However, they also may choose not to return home because of poor economic conditions there. Also, money earned in the destination

country — which those at home depend on — may give them reason to stay.

Overall, tracking return migration remains tricky from a technical standpoint. The United States officially stopped tracking the emigration rate of the foreign born in 1957. Few countries (with the notable exception of Australia) have invested in the longitudinal data systems necessary to distinguish short-term from long-term departure and to identify the destinations of emigrants.

In many established migration corridors between developed and developing countries — such as between Mexico and the United States, Europe and North Africa, and the Philippines and the Middle East — return often occurs at the end of the migrants' life cycle as they prepare to retire.

However, Hugo's recent research on migration flows between Australia and India and China suggests that return migrants are increasingly young and skilled individuals in their prime working years of age. It is not yet clear if this trend is applicable to other countries, but if it appears elsewhere, it could mean new competition from the countries of origin in the race for skilled workers.

(“Return Migration: Changing Directions?” *Migration Information Source*, December 4, 2008. www.migrationinformation.org/)

The Race for Highly Skilled Immigrants Seems to be Recession-Free

More developed countries often are unable to find within their own ranks all of the highly skilled workers essential to occupations ranging from mathematics to engineering and high-tech to the medical field. Although policymakers know that the long-term solution is to improve their educational and training systems, highly skilled immigrants present the best near-term solution to fill shortages and enhance competitiveness. That's why gloomy economic forecasts do not seem to have slowed the hunt for highly skilled migrants or foreign students, whose locally earned degrees

and language skills make them an obvious talent pool.

For example, the European Union's proposed Blue Card, intended to attract high-skilled workers from outside the European Union, moved forward this fall, and EU ministers are expected to formally adopt the proposal in early 2009 after the Czech Republic assumes the EU presidency.

The Blue Card system will be implemented in 2011, on a slower timetable than expected, because the Czech Republic and other newer Member States were concerned about the Blue Card going into effect before they gain full access to labor markets across the European Union.

The United Kingdom, Denmark, and Ireland have opted out of the Blue Card program, preferring instead to rely on their migration managing systems. The UK's points system gives preference to (1) highly skilled applicants for immigration and to (2) skilled workers who meet English language requirements and have job offers. In addition, the new system allows foreign graduates of UK universities to stay in the country, look for a job, rather than requiring them to leave. This approach is intended to make the United Kingdom as attractive as Australia, which implemented a student-to-skilled-worker scheme in 1999 that helped triple its number of foreign students. By 2002, former students constituted over 50 percent of Australia's skilled-migrant applications. Both the United Kingdom and Australia ranked highly in a recent review of 17 countries' university systems by the Lisbon Council, in part because of their ability to attract foreign students. (The United States still has the largest number of foreign students worldwide, but Australia is not far behind).

Facing labor shortages in certain sectors, Sweden decided to court highly skilled workers, particularly from India, by making its work-permit system more flexible starting in mid-December. No longer will government agencies decide if certain skills already exist in

Sweden. Instead, Sweden has decided that employers should drive the process of determining when a third-country national is necessary. Work permits will be valid for up to two years and renewable for up to four years, with the option of permanent residency at the four-year point. In addition, Sweden is allowing foreign students to apply for work permits while they are still in the country.

In an effort to make Canada more competitive in attracting and retaining skilled migrants, the Canadian government launched the Canadian Experience Class (CEC) in September. CEC grants permanent residence to certain temporary foreign workers and foreign graduates of Canadian universities who have Canadian work experience.

France has made increasing flows of highly skilled migrants a policy priority since revising its immigration laws in 2006. Its push continued this year, notably in Asia. France's ambassador to Singapore courted skilled workers there in a meeting with local journalists in October.

It is interesting to note that the idea that global powers are in a hotly contested race for highly skilled talent remains more anecdotal than evidence-based, since salaries for such workers have not increased dramatically. ("The Recession-Proof Race for Highly Skilled Migrants," *Migration Information Source*, Dec. 4, 2008, www.migrationinformation.org/)

Debate About U.S. Immigration Policy to Begin Again?

The 109th and 110th editions of the U.S. Congress debated and battled but never came up with a major immigration bill that its members could pass. Whether the 111th Congress will fare any better remains to be seen.

In the first of what is likely to be many more salvos, a Chicago-area congressman is touring the San Francisco Bay Area, issuing a call to make immigration reform a national priority — even as foreclosures, health care and urgent economic troubles vie for President Barack Obama's attention. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, an Illinois

Democrat, is scheduled to visit St. Anthony's Church in San Francisco as part of a 17-city tour of churches throughout the country.

The purpose of is to encourage a moratorium on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and deportations of illegal immigrants and promote a comprehensive immigration.

Supporters of competing visions of immigration reform have described the tour as a farcical attempt to halt successful enforcement measures and drum up support for amnesty measures that would allow a path to legal residence for the Nation's millions of undocumented immigrants.

Any bill to overhaul immigration policy that resembles the one that Gutierrez co-sponsored with Arizona Republican Jeff Flake in 2007 would not fly today anymore than it would have two years ago, said Ira Mehlman, director of the Washington, D.C.-based group. Mehlman believes a new round of immigration bills could be on lawmakers' tables again this autumn. "If they couldn't convince the American public this was a good idea in 2007, it is going to be an awfully hard sell in this economic climate," Mehlman said.

Immigration issues have not dominated national politics in the early days of the Obama administration. Most immigration issues attracting attention in that time have centered around policies from the George W. Bush era. But the future of a Bush-era strategy that led to heightened immigration raids remains uncertain now that new Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, an Obama appointee, has ordered a review of an ICE factory raid that happened last month in Washington state, reportedly without her knowledge.

Also this week, the Government Accountability Office, a nonpartisan research arm of Congress, released a report questioning ICE's controversial 287(g) program, which pairs up local law enforcement agencies with federal immigration enforcers. The researchers concluded the program needs better controls so

local officers don't hound foreign-looking people with minor offenses.

And among lawmakers, a quieter debate has centered around E-Verify, a federal database program implemented during the Bush administration to help businesses ensure that employees are authorized to work in the United States. More than 47,000 business sites in California have signed up for the federal program, according to a federal database. If the prospective employee is authorized to work, the E-Verify database is supposed to notify the employer in seconds. The program officially expired on March 6th. However, is expected to continue because it is funded through the end of September. Amid concerns about how the program might mismatch names, lawmakers have rejected calls to attach its extension to stimulus measures.

Bigger debates about how the country decides which and how many immigrants to accept each year, and whether to legalize the illegal, could come later. Gutierrez's rally tour is dubbed "Family Unity," hearkening to the family unification provisions that have been a key element of American immigration policy since the 1950s. Among other things, Gutierrez will listen to local teenagers who are American citizens but belong to families that have been split up by deportations.

(Matt O'Brien, "Immigration Policy Debate Set to Begin – Again," *Contra Costa Times*, March 6, 2009.)

Mexican Cartels Infiltrate Houston

Houston has long been a major staging ground for importing illegal drugs from Mexico and shipping them to the rest of the United States, but a recent Department of Justice report notes it is one of 230 cities where cartels maintain distribution networks and supply lines. Washington is taking notice, even if the toll on U.S. streets is nowhere near as pervasive as in Mexico, where cartels are locked in a war against one another and with the government.

"International drug trafficking organizations pose a sustained, serious threat to the safety and

security of our communities,” U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said. “We can provide our communities the safety and the security that they deserve only by confronting these dangerous cartels head-on without reservation,” he said. When it comes to tearing into the cartels in Houston, an investigation later code-named Operation Three Stars got quietly under way three years ago, as an undercover DEA agent stood in line at a McDonald’s in north Houston. He listened to a drug trafficker using a two-way radio to set up delivery of \$750,000; the man was with his wife and kids, ordering Happy Meals while making the deal.

Since then, more than 70 people in Houston have been prosecuted as a result of the ongoing operation and more than \$5 million has been seized, as well as about 3,000 pounds of cocaine, according to court documents and law enforcement officers. How many people are involved in cartel business is unknown, authorities said. Alliances shift quickly, as can the need to shut down to evade the law. Federal agents concede that numbers garnered by the operation pale compared to the cash and drugs pumped through Houston, but contend they’ve headed off countless crimes.

Authorities, saying it’s tough to spot cartel connections because the gangsters work in several jurisdictions, point to at least seven homicides in the Houston area since 2006, as well as nine home invasions and five kidnappings tied to cartels. They believe there are many more.

Among the unsolved local killings is the death of Pedro Cardenas Guillen, 36, whose last name is considered trafficking royalty. He was shot in the head and left in a ditch off Madden Road, near Fort Bend County. His uncle is Osiel Cardenas Guillen, reputed head of the powerful Gulf Cartel. He was extradited from Mexico and awaits trial in Houston on charges of drug trafficking, money laundering and threatening to kill federal agents. Other victims of what authorities believe are cartel-related murders include a husband and wife who were tortured

and shot in the head on Easingwold Drive, in northwest Houston. About 220 pounds of cocaine were later found in their attic.

Some victims were in the drug business and may have owed money; others could be relatives of criminals or innocent victims, authorities say. Santiago “Chago” Salinas, 28, the crime boss who escaped death at Chilos, was killed six months later. High on cocaine as he answered the door of a room at the Baymont Inn on the Gulf Freeway, he was shot three times in the head. It was the third and final attempt on the life of the man who’d once been shot in the neck and left for dead in Mexico. His killing may have been the latest payback between rivals slugging it out. Chago’s brother-in-law was killed in Mexico, as was Zamora’s younger brother, who was known as “Danny Boy” and who was a lieutenant in a trafficking organization, according to authorities. Danny Boy’s boss, a major player in the Sinaloa cartel, also was murdered in Mexico. (Diane Shiller, “Mexican Cartels Infiltrate Houston: Recent Arrests in A Mistaken Killing Point to the Perilous Presence of Gangs,” *Houston Chronicle*, March 7, 2009.)

Push for Immigration Reform in Oregon Begins Again

Though immigration has dwindled as an issue in Washington, D.C., overshadowed by the economic crisis, local groups in Oregon and other states are pushing for comprehensive immigration reform, hoping to jump-start the conversation. Despite historic differences, three unlikely bedfellows -- businesses, unions and faith leaders -- are teaming up to lobby legislators, raise awareness and add economic arguments to an often emotional debate.

The three groups are asking lawmakers to halt all immigration-related legislation on the state level and declare support for swift federal action. Along with their counterparts in other states, they are pushing Congress for a September vote on immigration, and they want local legislators to pass a nonbinding resolution supporting President Barack Obama's reform agenda. That agenda

includes securing borders, creating a system to regulate the flow of workers, and allowing undocumented immigrants in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line to become citizens.

The three groups come to reform with different perspectives. Employers want access to a reliable, legal work force. Union leaders want workers to have legal status, so that they don't have to hide in the shadows and are not taken advantage of. And faith leaders want to show how the immigration system affects individuals and their families. So far, the groups say their common goal is to keep people in the country working and living legally while their immigration status is resolved. An estimated 150,000 such immigrants live in Oregon, according to a 2005 Pew Hispanic Center study.

Businesses are the newest player in the battle for reform. Until recently, most employers kept quiet when the subject of employing illegal workers came up. But the federal "no-match" rule, which would require businesses to fire undocumented workers, galvanized them. The Coalition for a Working Oregon says employers can't afford to lose the workers -- there aren't enough native Oregonians to do the jobs -- and they need a better mechanism to get a legal work force. The coalition, which represents more than 300,000 workers in nurseries, construction, dairy farms and other top industries, has held a series of immigration debates in chambers of commerce around the state, lobbying state lawmakers, and building a base of supporters to blanket legislators with calls when the time is right.

The unions want unauthorized immigrant workers legalized so leaders can better advocate for employee rights in the workplace. The unions include PCUN, or Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United, with more than 5,000 registered members, and the Service Employees International Union, which represents 45,000 workers in Oregon. PCUN and CAUSA are holding leadership training and house meetings to mobilize supporters,

especially Latinos who are U.S. citizens. They are also lobbying state lawmakers and planning a march to bring several thousand Oregonians to Salem on May 1st.

Faith leaders in dozens of congregations across the state are putting a human face on the debate by holding presentations on immigration and planning legislative action to push for reform, including writing letters, phoning, holding rallies and visiting legislators.

Opponents of legal and illegal immigration advocate a different kind of overhaul. Enforcement and a severe reduction of current immigration levels should be its pillars, said Jim Ludwick, president of Oregonians for Immigration Reform. In the meantime, the state should help fix the system. A handful of Republican lawmakers in Salem have introduced a dozen immigration-related bills, ranging from requiring proof of legal presence to be hired by the state to requiring employers to verify employees' legal status through the federal E-Verify database.

But the political reality in Salem doesn't favor the Republican bills. Most of the bills will probably not even get a hearing. Republicans don't have the votes because of the Democratic supermajority in both houses. The economy has also eclipsed the conversation. Though the crisis and the plight of unemployed Americans may slow reform, proponents agree, it won't stop it. Because for the most part, it is believed that laid-off American workers don't want the jobs that immigrants held. Many believe that once the economy rebounds, the state will be faced with the same problem of not enough workers for the types of jobs that immigrants do, but most American will not do.

(Gosia Wozniacka, "Oregon Groups Unite on Immigration Reform," *The Oregonian* Saturday March 07, 2009.)

Arrests Drop to 1970 Levels Along U.S.-Mexico Border

Arrests of illegal immigrants on the U.S.-Mexico border have fallen to levels unseen since the 1970s as the ailing U.S. economy and

enhanced enforcement appear to be deterring people from trekking north. The trend is apparent from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas, but is most dramatically felt on the border's busiest illegal immigrant corridors, which extend through the Mexican state of Sonora to Arizona and California. In Yuma County, Ariz., there are days when U.S. Border Patrol agents don't arrest anyone, an almost unthinkable prospect three years ago when the area was the busiest illegal crossing point into the country, with thousands of immigrants flooding across on some days.

From October 2008 through February of this year, the Border Patrol arrested 195,399 illegal immigrants, a 24% decrease from the same period last year. The apprehension level is on track to dip to about 550,000 for this federal fiscal year, the lowest level since 1975, when 596,796 immigrants were caught, according to Border Patrol statistics. The downward trend in arrests -- considered one of the best indicators of illegal immigrant migration -- began a few years ago, about the same time the federal government started fortifying the border with more agents, fencing and infrastructure.

The border enhancements weren't enough on their own to stop immigrants from entering the country. But with the U.S. economy in a tailspin, few incentives remain for immigrants to endure the increasingly difficult crossings. Many immigrants still try. For them, America's economic troubles seem trifling compared with the meager salaries at home. But the current downward trend breaks with past immigration patterns, when federal crackdowns in one place only led immigration flows to shift to other areas.

Few places illustrate the dramatic turn of events as clearly as San Luis Rio Colorado and its sister communities across the border in Yuma County and the southeastern tip of California. The region's agricultural fields, lined with rows of lettuce, dates and orange trees, have long provided low-paying but steady work opportunities on both sides of the border. But in recent years the area became a major illegal

immigrant corridor for people heading to better-paying jobs in Southern California and beyond.

Immigrants in small Mexican border towns like San Luis Rio Colorado, weary from their border-bound journeys, would sleep in the small town plazas or cool down inside the local churches.

At night they would sweep across the decrepit border defenses, swarming the trailer parks and cookie-cutter developments of San Luis, Ariz. "They used to knock on my door and run through the yard. My kids were always scared," said Samuel Gonzalez, whose two-bedroom stucco house backs to the border.

In 2006, the area became a symbol of get-tough federal enforcement efforts when President Bush visited to view border improvements, including double-fencing, stadium lighting and enforcement roads. The sector now has one of the longest stretches of contiguous border fencing in the U.S., including a 13-mile, towering steel barrier that sits atop California's Imperial Sand Dunes. It's also one of the few areas of the border where immigrants caught by the Border Patrol face mandatory jail terms, usually 15 days.

In San Luis Rio Colorado, which has lived with the ebb and flow of immigration since the days of the bracero program decades ago, the situation has brought a sense of relief mixed with loss.

Nerida Rosas, the 74-year-old archivist at Immaculate Conception Church, remembers when the church had to build a soup kitchen for immigrants who would pray under the bell towers and offer to sweep the grounds. Later, floods of immigrants forced the city to open a shelter in a sprawling house seized from drug traffickers. It still wasn't enough; scores of immigrants took refuge in Benito Juarez Plaza, attracting smugglers who would accost anyone young and toting a backpack.

Hoping to restore order, the city last year opened an immigrant aid center, where people could call home, get one-way bus fares home, and earn a few pesos by obtaining work permits to

wipe down car windshields around town. But last month, only 45 immigrants visited the center. And many of those, city officials said, were people who had left the United States to return home. "There are hardly any immigrants left anymore. They're scared, and there's no work for them," said Carmen Rios, an assistant in the center.

(Richard Marosi, "Border arrests drop to 1970s levels," *Los Angeles Times*, March 8, 2009 .)

NYC Mayor Hones His Spanish Skills In Bid for Third Term

For a long time, it was hard to get New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to say more than a few words in Spanish. Today, as his bid for a third term as mayor gets off the ground, he can't seem to stop. With more and more Latino voters in New York City, along with more Spanish language news broadcasts, Bloomberg is looking for more ways to be heard despite his inelegant accent and clumsy verb conjugations.

He now concludes every news conference by summing up the main points and taking some questions in Spanish, and at two recent events — a snowstorm briefing and women's luncheon — he answered reporters' questions in Spanish without any help. The responses were sometimes filled with awkward phrases like "the streets have cleaned" and "it was a lot of windy," but he's willing to try.

At the beginning of 2007, about 676,000 of the city's 3.8 million registered voters were Latino. Now, that number has grown to more than 860,000 out of the total of more than 4.2 million, according to Voter Contact Services, which processes voter files.

Bloomberg isn't the only one working on a bilingual campaign. The two leading Democratic mayoral hopefuls, Comptroller William Thompson Jr. and Rep. Anthony Weiner, both speak conversational Spanish occasionally at public events and with Spanish-language media, and have taken lessons to keep up their skills. Bloomberg aides say his decision to summarize his public events in

Spanish, and to speak it more regularly, grew out of discussions last fall, with an eye to getting attention on the rapidly growing Spanish media in New York City.

The 6 p.m. newscast on WXTV, the Spanish-speaking Univision affiliate, eclipsed its English competitors on the ABC, CBS and NBC stations in popularity last year among viewers younger than 49, according to Nielsen Media Research.

The first time Bloomberg ran for City Hall, his campaign let it slip out that he had started learning Spanish, and his tutor sometimes accompanied him to campaign events. Bloomberg could manage only greetings and pleasantries, but it was enough to show he was making an effort. That year, he won roughly one-third of the Latino vote. For his re-election bid in 2005, Bloomberg's campaign made a big show of releasing its first television ad in Spanish. By then, he was also comfortable enough to occasionally speak a few words in public, despite his mispronunciations and awkward accent. He won less of the Latino vote that year — about one-fourth — but he was facing an opponent of Puerto Rican descent who had an established base of Latino support.

After winning re-election, Bloomberg kept up his lessons and occasional bilingual public displays, surprising many people during a trip to Mexico in 2007 when he conducted a news conference in both languages, without help from a translator. During the first week in March, for the first time, he began a local news conference in Spanish as he stood with the city's police commissioner to announce an arrest in an alleged hate crime killing of an Ecuadoran immigrant.

Yet with all his practice, including regular tutoring and lessons on an iPod, Bloomberg still demonstrates only a basic grasp of the language at best, as evidenced by his clumsy phrases during last Monday, March 2nd's snowstorm briefing. And his accent is still widely considered to be awful.

(Sara Kubler, "NYC Mayor Hones Spanish Skills As He Woos Growing Latino Voting Bloc in Bid for Third Term," *Los Angeles Times*, March 8, 2009.)

The Affluent Are Fleeing Mexico for Texas Because of Kidnappings

A growing number of affluent and middle-class Mexicans fleeing comfortable lives in Mexico for the comparative safety of Houston and other major Texas cities. They are desperate to escape an unprecedented wave of lawlessness in their home country where warring drug cartels — whose fighting claimed more than 6,000 victims last year — have also taken up kidnapping as a lucrative business.

Monterrey, the nation's third-largest city and Mexico's industrial powerhouse, had two kidnappings a day last year, according to the *El Manana* newspaper. Affluent immigrants have been joined by hundreds or perhaps thousands of middle-class Mexicans seeking asylum at U.S. ports of entry across from Mexican border towns where violent gunbattles have raged. Last year, 2,231 Mexican citizens sought asylum in the U.S., a significant increase from 1,366 in 2006.

Among the popular visas for these new arrivals is the L-1a, or inter-company transfer visa, used by businessmen whose firms have a U.S. presence. There's also the investor visa, which requires an applicant to invest \$1 million in a new enterprise that creates 10 full-time jobs for U.S. workers. The newcomers are also applying for the NAFTA TN visa — named after the North American Free Trade Agreement — which allows Mexicans and Canadians to work for U.S. companies in certain professions.

Most of these Mexican expatriates are business owners who can afford to commute to Mexico several days a week and can enroll their children in private schools and buy homes in Houston. Many Mexicans who qualify for work or investor visas have settled in neighborhoods near the Galleria and The Woodlands, officials said.

Meanwhile, many Mexicans in border towns wracked by violence are crossing international bridges and requesting asylum. "We have seen an increase in the number of asylum claims at our ports of entry, and this is one factor among a number that we are seeing as part of the

situation along the border," said Mike Friel, spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In El Paso, asylum claims by Mexican citizens have increased from 12 in fiscal year 2005 to 80 last year, according to CBP records.

Ricardo Ainslie, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, has produced a documentary on Mexico's kidnapping industry. He said the kidnappings have motivated many of the nation's leading professionals to leave. "In Mexico, there is a real anxiety about it because it's a huge brain drain. The money and talent is leaving Mexico in huge numbers to San Diego, San Antonio, and Austin," Ainslie said.

(James Pinkerton, "The Rich Flee Mexico Drug Violence: Fearing for their Lives, Affluent Seek Asylum in Houston, Other Texas Cities," *The Houston Chronicle*, March 9, 2009.)

More Young Adults Are Seeking Partners of Same Ethnicity

Sociologists and demographers are just beginning to study how the children of immigrants who have flowed into the country in recent years will date and marry. The generation that is coming of age is the most open-minded in history and living in the Obama era — where hues mingle in classrooms, nightclubs and the White House. Conventional wisdom has it that they will begin choosing spouses of other ethnicities as the number of interracial marriages rises. But scholars delving into the U.S. Census have found a surprising converse trend. Although interracial marriages overall have increased, the rate of Hispanics and Asians marrying partners of other races declined in the past two decades.

This suggests that the growing number of immigrants is having a profound effect on coupling, they say. The number of native- and foreign-born people marrying outside their race fell from 27 to 20 percent for Hispanics and 42 to 33 percent for Asians from 1990 to 2000, according to Ohio State University sociologist Zhenchao Qian, who co-authored a study on the subject. The downward trend continued through last year. "The immigrant population fundamentally changes the pool of potential

partners for Asians and Hispanics. It expands the number and reinforces the culture, which means the second generation . . . is more likely to marry people of their own ethnicity," said Daniel T. Lichter, a sociologist at Cornell University.

Increasingly, singles are turning to a growing number of niche dating sites on the Internet, such as <http://Shaadi.com> and <http://Persiansingles.com>. Locally, one of the largest social networking groups, Professionals in the City, has expanded its repertoire of lectures and wine-tastings over the past year to include "speed dating" nights for people of Asian, Latino or South Asian descent.

Michael Karlan, Professionals' president, said targeting ethnic groups makes sense in the Washington area, which has more than 1 million immigrants. He teamed with the local South Asian networking group NetSAP for a recent event at Gua-Rapo in Arlington that was a noisy sellout with more than 90 attendees. The 20- and 30-somethings drawn to these events say they have a deep yearning to connect with someone who shares their roots, yet they are conflicted about it. As children, they felt divided loyalties, growing up with one foot in their parents' home country, the other in the United States. Now, as adults, they wonder: Would I be happy with someone as American as I am, or a recent immigrant?

"People grow up the entire time rebelling to our parents, doing everything we could to fit in and spending the majority of our time running away from the traditions and our heritage," said Bhavna Pandit, a political consultant of Indian descent who lives in the District. "Now I'm 29 years old, and I actually care about this stuff." Like many women in the Washington area, she says it's difficult to find a nice guy. And because she's looking for an Indian man, it's harder -- they are in short supply in the Capitol Hill circles she runs in.

Even minor issues can become a big deal, singles say, such as a boyfriend who was wearing a T-shirt with a risqué slogan on it when he went to meet a woman's conservative

Iranian parents. One 27-year-old woman is a successful energy financier who goes to clubs in Georgetown but believes an American man wouldn't understand her Indian values. She still lives with her parents in Tysons Corner, and they follow tradition by pooling their salaries as a family.

(Annie Gowen, "Immigrants' Children Look Closer for Love," *The Washington Post*, March 8, 2009.)

Border Fence Between Mexico and the U.S. Almost Complete

Teresa Castillo has a unique perspective on the \$2.6 billion fence being built between the United States and Mexico. For 20 years, people entering the United States illegally have used her home in El Paso County -- without her permission -- to hide from the Border Patrol. That is about to change, as the fence just 15 yards from her home nears completion. The uproar the fence has created nationally means little to Castillo. Her experience is personal. She says she hopes the fence means she will no longer have to go outside at 4 a.m. in freezing weather to give a family a blanket as the people hunker down between the walls in her backyard. "Those who are against the fence have not suffered what we have suffered," Castillo said. "What we've seen, what we've had to put up with, you wouldn't want to. Some of these people cross with babies, with little children."

Nearly all of the 89 miles of border fencing planned for the El Paso sector, which includes part of New Mexico, is built -- at a cost of more than \$228 million, U.S. Border Patrol administrators said. Left to be finished is about a two-mile section in San Elizario, a small town between Fabens and the Ysleta Port of Entry. It expected to be completed by the end of spring.

Since 2006, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has been building 670 miles of fencing on the U.S.-Mexico border at a cost of \$2.6 billion. Though the fence is not continuous, it will stretch from San Diego to Brownsville.

In Sunland Park, the fence is in the desert, a half-mile from the nearest homes. "It hasn't changed anything here and it never will," Sunland

Park resident Juan Martinez said. From his home near Posey and Hurd streets, he can see Anapra, Mexico, the border fence in the desert and dozens of Border Patrol agents. "The fence is a waste of money," he said. "You can build all the fences you want, and people will still get through them." Castillo, like most other residents of the San Elizario area, said she welcomed the government fence. For her and other homeowners on the border, it means their property will no longer be trampled on by undocumented immigrants.

Border Patrol officials say the new fence consisting of rust-colored wire mesh and heavy support beams, will allow the agency to better control illegal immigration. In Santa Teresa, where the fence is complete, the total cost of construction of the 4.5 miles of fencing is \$22.95 million -- more than \$5 million a mile, according to the agency. "To achieve the same level of effective control in that area using agents only, it would cost some \$94.5 million per year," the Border Patrol said in a statement.

Chris Simcox, president of the Minutemen Civil Defense Corps, which has sent members to monitor illegal immigration in the El Paso area, said the fence alone is not the answer. "We have always preferred to have the National Guard or the U.S. military patrolling along the border," Simcox said. "But the fence does work, and it does free up Border Patrol agents to do their work."

El Pasoan Ana Maupin has to live with the new fence and doesn't like it. The resident of the Cedar Grove neighborhood, which runs parallel to the fence in the Riverside High School area, said she was never bothered by the shorter chain-link fences. To her, this new fence is an eyesore. She has neighbors whose front doors face the fence. "They are not against the fence, but they are not for it either," she said. "Most people here have relatives over there (in Juárez), and they wish it wasn't there. They don't want to come out and say that, but they don't like it. They don't like the message it sends. "When I see the fence, it reminds me of the fence in Germany."

The fence is 18 feet high. It appears impossible to climb because a person's foot cannot fit in the fence. Even though the fence is almost complete, efforts to stop its construction or tear it down continue. A lawsuit challenging the federal government's power to waive environmental and state laws so it could be constructed is pending before the U.S. Supreme Court. The county, the city, the Tigua tribe, an irrigation district and several environmental groups filed a lawsuit in September alleging that laws were bypassed so the fence could be built.

(Ramon Bracamontes, "Border Fence Nearly Finished: After Millions Spent, Opinions on Barricade Remain Mixed," *El Paso Times*, March 8, 2009.)

Some of U.S. Economic Stimulus Jobs May Go to Illegal Immigrants

Tens of thousands of jobs created by the economic stimulus law could end up filled by illegal immigrants, particularly in big states such as California where undocumented workers are heavily represented in construction, experts on both sides of the issue say. Studies by two conservative think tanks estimate immigrants in the United States illegally could take 300,000 construction jobs, or 15% of the 2 million jobs that new taxpayer-financed projects are predicted to create.

They fault Congress for failing to require that employers certify legal immigration status of workers before hiring by using a Department of Homeland Security program called E-Verify. The program allows employers to check the validity of Social Security numbers provided by new hires. It is available to employers on a voluntary basis.

An advocacy group for immigrants, illegal and legal, did not disagree with the 300,000 estimate. The estimate is based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and other independent findings that 15% of all construction workers in the USA are either illegal immigrants or lack the status of legal immigrant authorized to work.

But Jorge-Mario Cabrera, director of education for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant

Rights of Los Angeles, said it is impossible to predict with certainty because it is unknown how many jobless immigrant construction workers may leave the U.S., frustrated by the economic recession, before the new spending produces jobs. He questioned the motives of the Center for Immigration Studies', who produced one of the studies. "Those are fear tactics. ... 'The immigrants are here to take your job,' " Cabrera said. "I think that we really should be focusing on economic progress for all."

The Center for Immigration Studies is a Washington policy organization whose website says, "seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted." Cabrera says his group believes unauthorized immigrants working in this country contribute to the economy.

A similar hiring estimate was produced in a report in February by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Senior research fellow Robert Rector wrote, "Without specific mechanisms to ensure that workers are U.S. citizens or legal immigrants authorized to work, it is likely that 15% of these workers, or 300,000, would be illegal immigrants."

The version of the stimulus bill passed by the House of Representatives included a provision requiring employers to check immigration status with the E-Verify system before hiring. The Senate did not include such a provision, and it was not in the version sent to President Obama. The Obama administration has delayed until at least May 21 a Bush administration executive order requiring federal contractors to use the E-Verify system in hiring. It had been scheduled to take effect in January. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce filed suit seeking to block the requirement, joined by the Associated Builders and Contractors and other business organizations. The business groups and immigrant advocacy groups argue that the E-Verify database is riddled with errors that could result in millions of workers being wrongly identified as not authorized for work. They say requiring its use before hiring would

impose a cost burden on employers and open them to lawsuits.

Steven Camarota, Director of Research for the Center for Immigration Studies, said illegal immigrants working in construction are concentrated in California, Arizona and Texas along the border with Mexico, as well as Florida, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina and Georgia.

(William M. Welch, "Illegal Immigrants Might Get Stimulus Jobs, Experts Say," *USA Today*, March 10, 2009.)

Foreign Athletes Will be Allowed to Stay Longer In the U.S.

U.S. immigration officials have agreed to let foreign athletes extend their careers in the United States beyond a 10-year limit, as long as the athletes leave the country first and apply for a new visa from their home countries. The change came in a new policy memo issued by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, following months of lobbying by sports leagues and lawyers for foreign athletes. The memo, obtained by The Associated Press, also came after the AP made inquiries to the agency about the limit.

The leagues and lawyers had complained that CIS recently began enforcing the 10-year limit, endangering the U.S. careers of foreign athletes. CIS officials countered that they've enforced the limit for years, which is based on a 1990 immigration law.

Foreign athletes participate in pro sports such as baseball, basketball, hockey and golf. They can come to the U.S. and play under what's known as a P-1 visa, which is for internationally recognized athletes or members of internationally recognized entertainment groups. Under the old CIS regulations, recipients could get five years on the visa, and extend it once for another five years, not to exceed a total of 10 years. The new policy will require foreign athletes, at the end of 10 years, to leave the country before applying for a new visa. That's not expected to be much of a burden for the athletes, many of whom return to their home country anyway in the offseason.

Major League Baseball and other pro sports were worried that the 10-year limit would put a dent in some of their players' careers, especially those who spend several seasons in the minor leagues. While the sports couldn't point to any athletes who have been kept out because of the policy, they expressed fears that could happen any time.

The new policy memo states that P-1 athletes "are not subject to a lifetime admission of 10 years in the United States." In the last session of Congress, MLB pushed legislation by Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif., that would have scrapped the 10-year limit. The bill made it through the House Judiciary Committee but never came up for a vote in the House. "It is difficult to imagine our sports leagues today without such names as Dirk Nowitzki, Dikembe Mutombo, Johan Santana, Alex Ovechkin and Vladimir Guerrero, all of whom are foreign citizens," Sanchez wrote in a "Dear Colleague" letter to lawmakers last session.

There were other options for players who had reached the cap, such as applying for a green card or trying for a different type of visa. For example, the AP learned that National Basketball Association star Nowitzki, a Dallas Mavericks forward now in his 11th season, switched to an O-1 visa last year. The O-1 visa is reserved for athletes and others of "extraordinary ability," and the German-born Nowitzki is one the leagues best players. But it is not an option for many foreign athletes who are good but would have difficulties qualifying under the "extraordinary ability" clause. (Frederic J. Frommer, "U.S. Extends Stay of Foreign Athletes to Stay, Play," *Associated Press*, March 9, 2009.)

Debate Continues Over E-Verify System

A voluntary electronic system to verify employees' immigration status, and thus their right to a job, expired Friday, March 6th, but is likely to be reauthorized by Congress as part of a budget bill due to come up for a vote this week. Even though President Obama has called for it to become the law of the land as part of a

comprehensive immigration overhaul, the system, known as E-Verify, has become the subject of heated debate.

In wrestling with ways to make immigration laws enforceable, many Democratic and Republican policymakers believe that an effective, mandatory system to check work authorization would deter illegal immigration by making it harder for undocumented immigrants to find jobs in the United States. Such a plan could be more effective than border enforcement and immigration raids at restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system, they say. Supporters of E-Verify say the Internet-based system, which checks a newly hired employee's identifying information against Social Security and Homeland Security databases, is quick and easy and has become increasingly accurate in recent years. "It's really doing a nice job," said Janice Kephart, national security policy director at the Center for Immigration Studies. "It's a win for employers, a win for the country, a win for our government."

But critics - including business and labor groups and civil libertarians - say that the system remains fraught with error and could lead to wrongful layoffs. They say it encourages discrimination against workers who appear foreign and promotes more under-the-table hiring. "We have not taken the effort to go through and fix the errors in people's files before we use this as an enforcement tool," said Timothy Sparapani, senior legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union. "Until we do, this system will be nothing more than a fanciful wish."

A government evaluation of E-Verify released last year found that in 96.1 percent of cases submitted to the E-Verify system resulted in work authorization, up from 94.2 percent in a previous study. Of the remaining cases, 0.4 percent of the initial mismatches were confirmed as being legal to work after further checking. The final 3.5 percent were never confirmed, either because the potential worker's was not authorized to work because of their illegal status (as Kephart believes) or because (as Sparapani fears) they were fired, or not hired, without being given a chance to remedy a problem. "You're talking

about taking away someone's livelihood and potentially imposing sanctions on an employer based on a database that's not accurate," said Caitlin Vega, a legislative advocate for the California Labor Federation. "It's our hope that it won't be expanded as a mandatory program."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce joined with the ACLU last month to help scuttle a plan that would have required employers who receive federal stimulus funds to use E-Verify. President Obama has put on hold a Bush-era regulation that would require federal contractors to use the system. Meanwhile, some Republicans, led by Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, are considering expanding the program's use as part of the omnibus spending bill.

Since 1986, employers have been required to confirm that a newly hired employee is authorized to work in the United States. Workers fill out an I-9 form and show identification to prove citizenship or legal immigration status. But employers say they can't always tell if an ID is fraudulent. And some look the other way.

The government began a pilot electronic system in 1997 that is now available in every state. As of January, 100,000 employers have signed up and 6.6 million queries were run in 2008, double the year before. Hundreds of businesses in California voluntarily use the program. In the San Francisco Bay Area, they include restaurants, nursing homes, investment houses, a medical device manufacturer in Redwood City and a software company in Pittsburg.

Fifteen states now require some or all employers to participate in the E-Verify program. But in Arizona, which began requiring E-Verify in January 2008, a recent study by the University of Arizona found that fewer than 6 percent of employers had signed up. Other research found that undocumented workers there were now more likely to use a stolen ID or to work off the books.

As conservatives like Sessions call for more widespread use of E-Verify, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, the former governor

of Arizona, has called for a review of the program. If the system became the law of the land, it would need to process 63 million queries a year. "We feel it would not be a problem to ramp up to mandatory," said Sharon Rummery, a spokeswoman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Our computer system could accommodate that."

But even Kephart, one of E-Verify's biggest boosters, was wary. "It's still a young program, and it's got to be able to build up over time," she said. "You need to get to point where the technology can handle that amount of data."

Here is how it works:

1. An employer registers to use E-Verify through U.S. Citizenship and Information Services at www.dhs.gov/e-verify.
2. After reading and signing a Memorandum of Understanding, the employer takes an online tutorial to use the Internet-based system.
3. The employer then enters information from a newly hired employee's I-9 form into E-Verify.
4. E-Verify checks the identifying information against the Social Security database and a number of Homeland Security databases.
5. If the employee is confirmed, he or she is authorized to work.
6. If the employee's information doesn't match, the employer notifies the person of the "tentative non-confirmation."
7. The employee has eight working days to contest the finding with the Social Security Administration and/or the Department of Homeland Security.
8. If the employee does not or cannot resolve the issue, he or she receives a "final non-confirmation," and the employer must terminate employment.

(Tyche Hendricks, "Cheers, Fears Over E-Verify Immigration Program," *The San Francisco Chronicle*, March 10, 2009.)

Advocates for Undocumented Immigrants Focus on Separation of Families

Two years after an overhaul of the Nation's immigration laws failed in Congress, Latino

leaders have revitalized the effort -- positioning children who were left behind when their parents were deported as the new face of the movement. The campaign is designed to pressure President Obama to make comprehensive immigration reform a priority.

Borrowing a page from the civil rights movement of the 1960s, supporters of immigration rights have taken their cause to churches, drawing upon the growing population of evangelical Latinos, who are strong advocates of family values. Nearly 1 in 6 Latinos in the U.S. identify themselves as evangelicals, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. Only Roman Catholics make up a larger group. "We want to make sure President Barack Obama understands that while [the economy] . . . needs his attention, we want him to keep his promise to address comprehensive immigration reform during the first year of his first term," said Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez (D-Ill.), who has organized rallies in 17 cities, as noted earlier in this Newsletter. "Our families are the cornerstone of our society, and we want to protect those families."

The mostly Latino audience that packed the large evangelical church in Norcross prayed, sang spirituals and heard from families that have been torn apart. Their stories are designed to focus attention on what community leaders said was the most tragic consequence of the crackdown on illegal immigration: the breakup of families. It is a problem that Latino leaders have said affects up to 5 million children, most of whom were born in the U.S. and therefore are citizens.

During tough economic times, it may be difficult to gain public support for legislation that could provide legal citizenship to millions of undocumented immigrants. Still, Gutierrez -- who shared the church stage with Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a civil rights icon -- brought the effort deep into conservative territory, where many support plans to secure the borders rather than grant widespread citizenship. Georgia has one of the fastest-growing illegal immigrant populations in the nation, rising to about

490,000 in 2008 from 228,000 in 2000, according to state estimates.

But Latino leaders are hoping that concern and empathy for broken families will galvanize their community and draw the support of others. Organizers are gathering thousands of petitions and plan a rally in Washington in July. Latinos turned out 2 to 1 for Obama over Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) in the 2008 presidential election, and helped him capture key battleground states such as New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado and Florida. Now they want him to honor his campaign promise. "We understand that Mr. Obama is in a difficult position," said the Rev. Miguel Rivera, president of the National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders, which represents 20,000 churches in 34 states. "Latinos supported him because they were extremely disappointed with Republicans and the ultra-conservative right wing evangelical movement. So it is important that he make immigration reform a priority."

Michael Franc, vice president for government relations for the conservative Heritage Foundation, said overhauling immigration laws was a divisive subject among Democrats as well as Republicans. "They hate it. It's radioactive on both sides of the aisle," Franc said. "There was a schism on the Democratic side during the last immigration debate, but because the Republicans were so vocal in their opposition, no one noticed the Democrats' reluctance." When people are out of work and struggling to keep their families together, there is less sympathy for illegal immigrants, he said. A tight job market and the competition for jobs provided in the federal stimulus package also could influence public perceptions about immigration. "If you are trying to reach out to newer audiences and expand the pro-immigration reform level of support, it is easier to feel sympathy for the horror stories coming into your living room on your TV screen when things are going well for everybody," Franc said. "If you have a job, the story of those kids pulls on your heartstrings, but it is perceived differently when you are wondering how you are

going to pay your bills because the economy is tanking."

(Dahleen Glanton, "Immigration Rights Advocates Focus on Families," *The Los Angeles Times*, March 10, 2009.)

EGSG Sponsored Sessions for the 2009 AAG Meetings in Las Vegas

EGSG is sponsoring 27 sessions for the AAG meetings this year in Las Vegas. The following is a list of those sessions: (**Please Note:** the descriptions of these sessions are as they are written in the preliminary on-line program. They have not been edited.)

1120 Negotiating Belonging: Integration, Separation, and Othering in Contemporary Europe – Paper Session:

Sunday, 3/22/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in Capri 107, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Political Geography Specialty Group
European Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Micheline Van Riemsdijk - University of Tennessee
David Jansson - Uppsala Universitet

Chair(s):

Micheline Van Riemsdijk - University of Tennessee

Papers:

1:00 PM Author(s): David Jansson - Uppsala Universitet

Abstract Title: The Future of Åland? Language, Culture and Secession in Swedish Finland

1:20 PM Author(s): Merje Kuus - University Of British Columbia

Abstract Title: How to Bound Open Spaces: European Commission and the 'Constructive Ambiguity' of Europe

1:40 PM Author(s): Michelle Brym - The University of Tennessee

Abstract Title: Placing the Polish-German Border within Europe

2:00 PM Author(s): Thomas Sullivan - Louisiana State University

Abstract Title: Romancing the Blarney Stone: constructing ethnicity among Irish language enthusiasts

Session Description: At a time when ever more countries from the East seek to join the EU, the unity of Europe as a whole and of individual member states is being challenged in a variety of ways. Some groups question whether they need their "host" states when they see the possibility of direct membership in the EU through secession. For instance, does Scotland belong more to (and in) the UK or the EU? Immigration from outside Europe challenges essentialist conceptualizations of national identity and reveals that racism still exists in European societies. Moreover, internal migration within the EU, largely from east to west, presents similar challenges to member states in terms of determining who belongs in a destination state. The issue of belonging will remain central at the local, national and European scales as EU expansion proceeds and migration streams intensify in response to economic needs.

1220 Negotiating Belonging: Integration, Separation, and Othering in Contemporary Europe – Paper Session:

Sunday, 3/22/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Capri 107, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Political Geography Specialty Group
European Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Micheline Van Riemsdijk - University of Tennessee
David Jansson - Uppsala Universitet

Chair(s):

David Jansson - Uppsala Universitet

Papers:

3:10 PM Author(s): Lindsay N. Turner - University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: European Commission and Migration Controls in Europe: toward a common policy?

3:30 PM Author(s): Micheline van Riemsdijk - University of Tennessee

Abstract Title: Managing Skilled Migration in the European Union: Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications

3:50 PM Author(s): Roza Tchoukaleyska - University of Sheffield

Abstract Title: Public spaces of consumption: The outdoor food market as a site of identity formation and ethnic belonging in Montpellier, France

Session Description: At a time when ever more countries from the East seek to join the EU, the unity of Europe as a whole and of individual member states is being challenged in a variety of ways. Some groups question whether they need their "host" states when they see the possibility of direct membership in the EU through secession. For instance, does Scotland belong more to (and in) the UK or the EU? Immigration from outside Europe challenges essentialist conceptualizations of national identity and reveals that racism still exists in European societies. Moreover, internal migration within the EU, largely from east to west, presents similar challenges to member states in terms of determining who belongs in a destination state. The issue of belonging will remain central at the local, national and European scales as EU expansion proceeds and migration streams intensify in response to economic needs.

2144 Learning Communities in Geography – Paper Session:

Monday, 3/23/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in North Hall N102, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Geography Education Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Brandon J. Vogt - University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

Chair(s):

Brandon J. Vogt - University of Colorado
Colorado Springs

Papers:

8:00 AM Author(s): Brandon J. Vogt,
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

Steven Jennings - University of Colorado at
Colorado Springs

Abstract Title: Measuring the Success of a New Physical Geography-Based Learning Community

8:20 AM Author(s): Tracy Edwards - Frostburg State University and Francis L. Precht, Frostburg State University

Abstract Title: The Environment and a Green Society

8:40 AM Author(s): Ibipo Johnston-Anumonwo - SUNY Cortland and Wendy E Miller - SUNY Cortland

Abstract Title: The TechFirst Learning Community: A Successful Recruitment Program at SUNY Cortland

9:00 AM Author(s): Emily Skop - The University Of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Abstract Title: Creating Fieldtrip-Based Learning Communities

Session Description: Learning communities (LCs) provide structure for first-year college students and have shown to both enhance overall quality of education and improve freshman retention. Geography, with its interdisciplinary spirit, diverse course offerings, and propensity for field work and adventure, is well positioned to host new and exciting learning communities. This call for papers seeks to assemble geographers with theoretical, empirical, or practical achievements in the following LC-related areas, including but not limited to:

1. LC development
2. LC goals
3. LC syllabus creation
4. stitching LC courses together
5. faculty involvement with LCs
6. collaborative education approaches for LCs
7. innovative learning activities for LCs
8. uses of technology in LCs
9. benefits of LCs
10. methods for measuring the success of LCs

2244 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Areas: Canada and Europe – Paper Session:

Monday, 3/23/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in North Hall N102, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

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

Chair(s):

Stavros T. Constantinou - Ohio State University

Papers:

10:10 AM Author(s): Justin Tse - University of British Columbia, Department of Geography
Abstract Title: Hongkonger Imagined Geographies in a Chinese Anglican Church in a Canadian Ethnoburb

10:30 AM Author(s): Adam Lake - University of Oregon

Abstract Title: Why Didn't Marseille Burn?: Segregation, Hegemony, and Identity in Marseille, France

10:50 AM Author(s): Stavros T. Constantinou - Ohio State University

Abstract Title: Ethnic Settlement Geography of Cyprus, 1878-1974.

Session Description: This paper session will cover both empirical and theoretical aspects of immigrants' and refugees' experiences in urban areas in Canada and Europe.

2444 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Areas: United States I – Paper Session:

Monday, 3/23/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in North Hall N102, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Thomas M. Kontuly - University of Utah

Papers:

1:00 PM Author(s): Thomas M. Kontuly - University of Utah, Thomas N. Maloney - University of Utah

Abstract Title: Undocumented Migrants and Immigrants in Salt Lake County 1999 to 2007: Demographics, Residence and Geographic Mobility

Session Description: This paper session will cover both empirical and theoretical aspects of immigrants and refugees' experiences in urban areas in the United States.

2544 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Areas: United States II – Paper Session:

Monday, 3/23/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in North Hall N102, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

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

Chair(s):

James P. Allen - California State University - Northridge

Papers:

3:10 PM Author(s): Alan P. Marcus, Dr. - Towson University

Abstract Title: (Re)Creating Places and Spaces in Two Countries: Brazilian Transnational Migration Processes

3:30 PM Author(s): Lei Xu - Indiana University at Bloomington

Dennis Conway - Indiana University at Bloomington

Abstract Title: Chinese 'Trailing Spouses' as Dependents of Chinese Graduate Students in the U.S.: Their Experiences - personal travails, successes, adaptation problems, family tensions and stresses

3:50 PM Author(s): Zhou Yu, PhD - University of Utah and Lanhong Nora Chiang, PhD - National Taiwan University

Abstract Title: Identity Formation among Taiwan immigrants in the U.S.: Assimilation vs. Rising Pengtu Identity

4:10 PM Author(s): James P. Allen - California State University - Northridge

Eugene Turner - California State University - Northridge

Abstract Title: Benefits of Mapping Detailed Ethnic Change in Urban Geography

4:30 PM Author(s): Jennifer Hinojosa - Binghamton University

Abstract Title: A Comparative Analysis of Vietnamese and Salvadoran Refugee Groups in Washington D.C. and Virginia, 1980-2000

Session Description: This paper session will cover both empirical and theoretical aspects of immigrants' and refugees' experiences in urban areas in the United States.

3111 Muslim Identity, Citizenship and Belonging in the 'Everyday' – Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Urban Geography Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

D. James McLean

Chair(s):

D. James McLean

Papers:

8:00 AM Author(s): Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

Abstract Title: The university campus, government policy and religious identities: the experiences of Muslim students

8:20 AM Author(s): Betty Lininger - University of Florida

Abstract Title: Post Migration Experience of Somali Female Refugees in the United States: A Case Study of Atlanta, Georgia

8:40 AM Author(s): D. James McLean - York University

Abstract Title: Second-generation Muslims in Canada: A Framework for Exploring Geographies of Being and Belonging in Halifax, Vancouver and Toronto

9:00 AM Author(s): Rhys Dafydd Jones - Abstract Title: 'Access, Ethics, and Method: methodological reflections of researching everyday Islamic practices in rural Wales'

9:20 AM Author(s): Banu Gokariksel - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Abstract Title: Topographies of Citizenship in Urban Turkey: Women's Struggle against the Headscarf Ban

Session Description: National issues of belonging and citizenship are positioned as always already a site of conflict Muslims living in Western cities/diasporic contexts. Yet citizenship and belonging are enacted, experienced, and expressed at a much more grounded scale embedded in the everyday where lived experience, negotiations of identity, claims on space, and the development of sense of place occurs. In these geographies of 'being' Muslim, we must take seriously the positions, locations, and movements of 'othered' citizens enmeshed in 'thick' power relations mediated through a variety of institutions: social, economic, cultural, religious, familial, political, etc. The everyday landscape is a patchwork of places - significant moments and spaces of identity and social relations; moments of conflict, disruption, and negotiation that figure prominently in the social production and reproduction of identity, community, and belonging. This lens places questions of equality and social justice exactly where inequality and injustice are experienced - in ordinary cities, on the ground, in the everyday, and in specific historical and geographical contexts. This session focuses on 'everyday' geographies of Muslims as they create, negotiate and, importantly, simply 'live' in and among a variety of places where identity and citizenship are claimed, voiced, and performed. The sites where Muslims live out difference and diversity become new reference points for a

potentially radical remapping that reveal critical cartographies of integration and social cohesion; ethnic, racial and religious marginalization and exclusion; and geographies of coping, negotiation, and resistance.

3211 Muslim Identity, Citizenship and Belonging: New Questions and Approaches for Geographers – Panel Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group
Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

D. James McLean

Chair(s):

D. James McLean

Panelist(s):

Anna J Secor - University of Kentucky
Banu Gokarikel - University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK
Betty Lininger
Rachel Pain - University of Durham
Catherine Alexander - Durham University
Robina Mohammad - University of Plymouth
Caroline Nagel - University of South Carolina
D. James McLean

Introducer(s):

D. James McLean

Session Description: This Special Session brings together a number of scholars who explore the geographical experience of Muslim identities and communities in a variety of contexts.

The goals of this gathering are:

- 1) to designate a space in which a critical mass of geographers can share theoretical, conceptual, and methodological perspectives and reflections on conducting geographical research with Muslim identities and communities;
- 2) to share findings and reflections of research, at various stages of completion, on the social,

cultural, and political geographies of Muslim people living in diasporic cities where 'newcomers' (migrants, immigrants, refugees) create and negotiate shifting and multiple boundaries of identity and citizenship (formal and substantive);

3) to advance a research agenda for exploring the unequal power relations (religious, racial, cultural, gendered, class-based, citizenship-status) that frame the experience of exclusion and marginalization, as well as the ways in which one enacts and engages in resistance and the politics of everyday life) for those whose race, ethnicity, or religion differs from the 'imagined' dominant culture in the 'host' city.

3230 Space and Identity: Speaking From and Across Categories I: Connecting through the Everyday – Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in Skybox 202, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Sexuality and Space Specialty Group
Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jen Giesecking - CUNY - Graduate Center

Chair(s):

Christian Anderson - The City University of New York

Papers:

10:10 AM Author(s): Lars Meier - Institute for Employment Research

Abstract Title: Performing privileged identities in interaction with urban places

10:30 AM Author(s): Jacqueline A. Housel - no affiliation provided

Abstract Title: Policing Racialized Identities: A Methodological Approach

10:50 AM Author(s): Petra L. Doan - Florida State University

Abstract Title: The Tyranny of Gendered Spaces - Reflections from Beyond the Gender Dichotomy

11:10 AM Author(s): Jen Giesecking - CUNY Graduate Center

Abstract Title: Combating an "Invisible" Framework of a Visible World: Lesbians' and Queer Women's Spaces and Economies in New York City (1983-2008)

Session Description: It has long been contended that identities are spatialized and that spaces and places are constitutive of identities. Such sociospatial relations have become increasingly complex through understandings of multiple and performed identities that render subject positions fluid and unstable. Scholarship on space and identity has often focused on singular or dual aspects of identity, often race and class, or gender and sexuality. Yet longstanding work by feminists and recent research by scholars across the disciplines has argued for a conceptualization of "differences" via the concept of intersectionality which bring multiple points of identities into contact and conflict. This call for papers asks for theoretical and/or empirical work that unpacks the spaces and places (de)linking multiple aspects of identities, or papers that seek to examine one category of identity and put it into conversation with research on other identity categories. This could include approaches using the concept of intersectionality, as well queer, feminist, racial, (dis)ability, ethnic, class, or otherwise challenging engagements. This CFP also welcomes papers that address the achievements and limitations of identity politics, the promises and possibilities of working between and across subject positioning, as well as issues of marginalization, exclusion, and othering. We welcome work that seeks to speak from and across various categories and performances of identity in order to understand the spatial structures, practices, emotions, communities, and solidarities that (re)produce and contest everyday lives. This session involves papers that are connected through processes from the mundane to the spectacle in their participants' everyday lives and subjectivities.

3311 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business Meeting

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 11:55 AM - 12:55 PM in Royale Pavilion 6
Riviera Hotel

3411 Young People, Racism and Place I – Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Qualitative Research Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK and Anoop Nayak

Chair(s):

Anoop Nayak

Papers:

1:00 PM Introduction: Anoop Nayak

1:10 PM Author(s): Tina G Patel - University of Salford

Abstract Title: Race, Crime and Criminality in the UK - Crime Science?

1:30 PM Author(s): *Nick Schuermans - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Abstract Title: Geography textbooks and the reproduction of a racist and ethnocentric world view among young people in Flanders

1:50 PM Author(s): *Jennifer Kopf - Friedrich Schiller Universitaet

Abstract Title: Racial identities of children in Jena, Germany

2:10 PM Discussant: Meghan Cope - University of Vermont

Discussant(s):

Meghan Cope - University of Vermont

Introducer(s):

Anoop Nayak

Session Description: Although concerns about the experiences, manifestations and consequences

of racism were once common-place within social and cultural geography, there is a sense that issues connected with race, racism and ethnicity have become marginalized within the discipline as the focus has diversified somewhat to explore new forms of social and spatial relations. This session returns to focusing upon issues of racism through exploring the intersection of racism and place in young people's lives. We are interested in discussing the ways in which race is materialized in young people's everyday lives and how this influences, shapes or is shaped by their experiences of place and other social identities.

3430 Space and Identity: Speaking From and Across Categories II: In/Through/Of Bodies

– Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 1:00 PM - 2:40 PM in Skybox 202, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group

Sexuality and Space Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jen Gieseeking - CUNY - Graduate Center

Chair(s):

Elizabeth Johnson - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Papers:

1:00 PM Author(s): Catherine Alexander - Durham University

Abstract Title: Deviant femininities: the everyday making and unmaking of 'criminal' youth

1:20 PM Author(s): Christina Marie Stoltz - Fulbright Scholar, Kyrgyz Republic

Abstract Title: "Fate for Sale": Mark(et)ing Domestic Violence in Central Asia

1:40 PM Author(s): Tiffany K. Muller Myrdahl - University of Lethbridge

Abstract Title: Reflections on normativity: Biopolitics and the spatial intersections of sexuality and whiteness

2:00 PM Author(s): Caroline Faria - University of Washington

Abstract Title: "Women Wa-yeel!": Sudanese Feminism and the Politics of 'Unity'

Session Description: It has long been contended that identities are spatialized and that spaces and places are constitutive of identities. Such sociospatial relations have become increasingly complex through understandings of multiple and performed identities that render subject positions fluid and unstable. Scholarship on space and identity has often focused on singular or dual aspects of identity, often race and class, or gender and sexuality. Yet longstanding work by feminists and recent research by scholars across the disciplines has argued for a conceptualization of "differences" via the concept of intersectionality which bring multiple points of identities into contact and conflict. This call for papers asks for theoretical and/or empirical work that unpacks the spaces and places (de)linking multiple aspects of identities, or papers that seek to examine one category of identity and put it into conversation with research on other identity categories. This could include approaches using the concept of intersectionality, as well queer, feminist, racial, (dis)ability, ethnic, class, or otherwise challenging engagements. This CFP also welcomes papers that address the achievements and limitations of identity politics, the promises and possibilities of working between and across subject positioning, as well as issues of marginalization, exclusion, and othering. We welcome work that seeks to speak from and across various categories and performances of identity in order to understand the spatial structures, practices, emotions, communities, and solidarities that (re)produce and contest everyday lives. This session involves papers that focus on the constitution and (re)production of bodies across and through subjectivities.

3511 Young People, Racism and Place II –

Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Qualitative Research Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK
Anoop Nayak

Chair(s):

Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

Papers:

3:10 PM Introduction: Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

3:20 PM Author(s): *Heather Frost, PhD Candidate - University of British Columbia
Abstract Title: Being Brown

3:40 PM Author(s): *Caitlin Cahill - University of Utah

Abstract Title: "Why do they hate us?" Young people raise critical questions about the politics of race and immigration

4:00 PM Author(s): *Anoop Nayak - Newcastle University

Abstract Title: Lines of Hate: Racist Graffiti, Skinhead Youth and Violence in the English Suburbs

4:20 PM Discussant: Robert M. Vanderbeck - University of Leeds

Discussant(s):

Robert M. Vanderbeck - University of Leeds
Introducer(s):

Peter E Hopkins - Newcastle University, UK

Session Description: Although concerns about the experiences, manifestations and consequences of racism were once common-place within social and cultural geography, there is a sense that issues connected with race, racism and ethnicity have become marginalised within the discipline as the focus has diversified somewhat to explore new forms of social and spatial relations. This session returns to focusing upon issues of racism through exploring the intersection of racism and place in young people's lives. We are interested in discussing the ways in which race is materialised in young people's everyday lives and how this influences, shapes or is shaped by their experiences of place and other social identities.

3512 Ethnic Diversity in Geography

Undergraduate Programs – Panel Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Royale Pavilion 7, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Geography Education Specialty Group
Cultural Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University
John Frazier - Binghamton University

Chair(s):

Lawrence Estaville - Texas State University

Panelist(s):

Edris Montalvo - Texas State University - San Marcos

Ray Sumner - Long Beach City College, California

Fenda A. Akiwumi - University of South Florida

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Eugene Tettey-Fio - SUNY-Binghamton

Session Description: Geography in the U.S. has not been successful in attracting people, other than Asians, from underrepresented ethnic groups into our discipline. This panel examines geography undergraduate programs in the United States to understand better the status of their ethnic diversity, particularly regarding Hispanics and African Americans, and to offer insights that may be constructive in creating more diverse academic environments.

3530 Space and Identity || Speaking From and Across Categories III: Mobilities in Space, Time, and Identity – Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Skybox 202, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Sexuality and Space Specialty Group
Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jen Giesecking - CUNY - Graduate Center

Chair:

Laura Pulido – University of Southern California

Papers:

3:10 PM Author(s): Jason Oliver Chang, MPPA - UCB - Ethnic Studies

Abstract Title: Race, Class, and Nation in the Global Production of Section 6 Exemptions to the Chinese Exclusion Acts: The Case of the Merchants of Mexicali, Baja California

3:30 PM Author(s): Melissa Fong - University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Interstitial conflict beguiling class consciousness: Making their fight, our fight

3:50 PM Author(s): Bradley S Gardener, Doctoral Student - CUNY - Graduate Center

Abstract Title: Creating a Context for White Flight: Whiteness, Jews, and the Bronx

4:10 PM Author(s): Chin-Yen Anne Wu - University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Spaces/Identities in the Making: The Case Study of Taiwanese Migrant Women in Toronto

4:30 PM Author(s): R. Tina Catania - Syracuse University

Abstract Title: Rethinking Generational Categories: The Locational Implications for Latino Immigrants/Identity

Session Description: It has long been contended that identities are spatialized and that spaces and places are constitutive of identities. Such sociospatial relations have become increasingly complex through understandings of multiple and performed identities that render subject positions fluid and unstable. Scholarship on space and identity has often focused on singular or dual aspects of identity, often race and class, or gender and sexuality. Yet longstanding work by feminists and recent research by scholars across the disciplines has argued for a conceptualization of "differences" via the concept of intersectionality which bring multiple points of identities into contact and conflict. This call for papers asks for theoretical and/or empirical work that unpacks the spaces

and places (de)linking multiple aspects of identities, or papers that seek to examine one category of identity and put it into conversation with research on other identity categories. This could include approaches using the concept of intersectionality, as well queer, feminist, racial, (dis)ability, ethnic, class, or otherwise challenging engagements. This CFP also welcomes papers that address the achievements and limitations of identity politics, the promises and possibilities of working between and across subject positioning, as well as issues of marginalization, exclusion, and othering. We welcome work that seeks to speak from and across various categories and performances of identity in order to understand the spatial structures, practices, emotions, communities, and solidarities that (re)produce and contest everyday lives. This session involves papers that derive their understandings of identity through participants' (im)mobilities in space, time, and identities.

3611 Mobility in a time of Madness: From housing boom through credit crunch – Paper Session:

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in Royale Pavilion 6, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Population Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Suzanne Davies Withers - University of Washington
Mark Ellis - University Of Washington

Chair(s):

Suzanne Davies Withers - University of Washington

Papers:

5:20 PM Author(s): Mark Ellis - University Of Washington

Abstract Title: US Immigration after the Credit Boom

5:40 PM Author(s): Carolina K. Reid - Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Abstract Title: The Untold Costs of Subprime Lending: The Impacts of Foreclosure on Communities of Color in California

6:00 PM Author(s): *Jonathan Glick - University Of Washington

Abstract Title: Affordability and the housing bust: recent evidence from 20 US metropolitan areas

6:20 PM Author(s): *Suzanne Davies Withers - University of Washington

Abstract Title: Anchors of homeownership and geographies of immobility

6:40 PM Discussant: Virginia L. Parks - University of Chicago

Discussant(s):

Virginia L. Parks - University of Chicago

Session Description: Papers collectively address the untold cost and impact of the current economic crisis on immigrant and family population movement and homeownership attainment. Particular emphasis is placed on the production of uneven geographies of development, differential access and opportunity, geographies of wealth accumulation, and population immobility in this period of tightened credit and housing foreclosures.

3630 Space and Identity: Speaking From and Across Categories IV:

(Re)(De)(Un)Constructing Place – Paper Session

Tuesday, 3/24/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in Skybox 202, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Sexuality and Space Specialty Group
Geographic Perspectives on Women Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jen Giesecking - CUNY - Graduate Center

Chair(s):

Matthew Mitchelson - University of Georgia

Papers:

5:20 PM Author(s): Mathias Detamore - University of Kentucky

Abstract Title: Queerbilly in the Hollow: Sexuality, Rurality and Place in Harlan County, Kentucky

5:40 PM Author(s): Gabrielle Bendiner-Viani - CUNY - Graduate Center

Abstract Title: Dialogues and Guided Tours

6:00 PM Author(s): Hulya Arik, PhD Candidate - York University

Abstract Title: Masculinities in Public Space: The Traditional Turkish Coffeehouse

6:20 PM Author(s): Robert Cochran - Georgia State University

Abstract Title: The Race and Class of Place: questioning capital and white privilege in the East Village, Buckhead.

Session Description: It has long been contended that identities are spatialized and that spaces and places are constitutive of identities. Such sociospatial relations have become increasingly complex through understandings of multiple and performed identities that render subject positions fluid and unstable. Scholarship on space and identity has often focused on singular or dual aspects of identity, often race and class, or gender and sexuality. Yet longstanding work by feminists and recent research by scholars across the disciplines has argued for a conceptualization of "differences" via the concept of intersectionality which bring multiple points of identities into contact and conflict. This call for papers asks for theoretical and/or empirical work that unpacks the spaces and places (de)linking multiple aspects of identities, or papers that seek to examine one category of identity and put it into conversation with research on other identity categories. This could include approaches using the concept of intersectionality, as well queer, feminist, racial, (dis)ability, ethnic, class, or otherwise challenging engagements. This CFP also welcomes papers that address the achievements and limitations of identity politics, the promises and possibilities of working between and across subject positioning, as well as issues of marginalization, exclusion, and othering. We welcome work that seeks to speak from and across various categories and performances of identity in

order to understand the spatial structures, practices, emotions, communities, and solidarities that (re)produce and contest everyday lives. This session involves papers with a special interest in the role place plays in the (re)(de)(un)construction of subjectivities.

4255 Immigration, Integration, and Multiple Economies – Paper Session:

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in North Hall N116, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Economic Geography Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli - San Diego State University

Chair(s):

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli - San Diego State University

Papers:

10:10 AM Author(s): Pascale Joassart-Marcelli, Ph.D. - San Diego State University

Philip Stephens, B.A, M.S. - San Diego State University

Abstract Title: Immigrant Banking and Financial Exclusion in Greater Boston

10:25 AM Author(s): Lucia Lo, Dr. - York University

Abstract Title: The Challenge of Settlement

10:40 AM Author(s): Susan E Hobson, MPH - University of Illinois at Chicago

Abstract Title: Street Food Vending Ordinances: Informal Economic Practices in Public Space

10:55 AM Author(s): *Laura Reilly - Portland State University

Abstract Title: Ethnic Place Making: Thirty Years of Brazilian Immigration to South Framingham, Massachusetts

11:10 AM Discussant: Virginia L. Parks - University of Chicago

Session Description: Immigrants engage in diverse economic practices and develop various

strategies to organize their everyday life in urban environments and integrate into the economy. Economic integration is not a linear or uni-dimensional process. Immigrants develop various formal and informal strategies to cope with their new environments and earn a living. These experiences are influenced by gender, race, ethnicity, and other demographic characteristics. They are also linked to local places where immigrants reside and opportunities are defined. The economic activities in which immigrants engage to make ends meet, in turn, affect both place and belonging. In order to understand these processes, we need to rethink the economy to include formal and informal activities, as well as monetary and nonmonetary transactions, in both public and private spheres. While some transactions are market-based, a large share of daily economic activities undertaken by immigrants does not reflect market relations. This session investigates the multiple economies that immigrants to urban areas of North America and Europe navigate, and the role of institutions in shaping entry and access into these economic spaces.

4535 Migration and Mobility – Paper Session:

Wednesday, 3/25/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Skybox 207, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

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):

Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Papers:

3:10 PM Introduction: Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University

3:20 PM Author(s): Neiset Bayouth - Rutgers The State University of New Jersey

Abstract Title: Spaces of illegality: How the Media, Immigration Law and Market Forces Define Belonging or Exclusion for Latino undocumented migrants and Arab-Muslims.

3:40 PM Author(s): Ramon Luis Concepcion Torres - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Abstract Title: The Examination of Latinos Socioeconomic Status and Settlement Patterns in Charlotte

4:00 PM Author(s): Paul N. McDaniel - University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Heather A. Smith - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Thad Dixon - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Michael Dulin - Carolinas Medical Center, Eastland Family Practice Clinic

Abstract Title: Hispanic Hyper-Growth and Health Care Provision: Geographic Challenges and Opportunities in Charlotte, North Carolina

4:20 PM Author(s): Juan Carlos Garcia-Ellin - UCLA

Abstract Title: The housing market as factor in the selection of new destinies of the Hispanic domestic migration in the US

4:40 PM Discussant: Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Discussant(s):

Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Introducer(s):

Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University

Session Description: Latinos form the biggest minority in the United States (U.S. Census, 2000). However, many immigrants still living in an irregular migratory status while other groups continuously relocate. This session shows different study cases about the geographies of migration, settlement patterns, health care, and socioeconomic status in the United States of America.

5133 Defining Chinatown – Panel Session:

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Skybox 205, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Population Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Megan Dixon - University of Oregon

Pierpaolo Mudu - Universita Di Roma

Chair(s):

Megan Dixon - University of Oregon

Panelist(s):

Pierpaolo Mudu - Universita Di Roma

Deborah L. Che - Kansas State University

Giulio Lucchini - University of Paris 10

Lucia Lo - York University

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Lu Wang - Ryerson University

Shuguang Wang - Ryerson University

Session Description: With increased Chinese migration to many world regions since the 1980s, we must locate newly developing Chinatowns in a wider framework. From an epistemological point of view, we need a more careful discussion of the term, and we also need to raise new questions.

The roundtable will take up some of these questions and set an agenda for collaborative research on the epistemology of Chinatowns.

Some questions were formulated as a result of the 2008 roundtable. First, there is the question of whether "Chinatown" is a commodity that has become part of a cultural world city package; if a city wants to be global, must there be a Chinatown? Second, there is the possible tension between Chinatown as a "national" Chinese space through connections with Chinese government sponsorship or as a migrant landscape trying to be more independent (such as migrants in Italy seeking to avoid the one-child policy). Third, there is the question of how the term is constructed: outsiders sometimes perceive a simulacrum of a mythical China, yet for residents "Chinatown" is a real, inhabited, materialized space. What is the relationship between the materiality and the myth? Fourth, we might ask about vectors of cultural power: the history of "Chinatown" is closely associated with colonial patterns (which are of course different in, say, Indonesia and the western U.S.) but Chinese settlements could increasingly become associated with the growing cultural and geopolitical clout of modern China.

5505 Population Specialty Group and Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Joint Plenary**Session: Laura Pulido – Panel Session:**

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in Grande Ballroom H, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Population Specialty Group

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Suzanne Davies Withers - University of Washington

Chair(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Discussant(s):

Laura Pulido – University of Southern California

Suzanne Davies Withers - University of Washington

Introducer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Emily H. Skop - The University Of Colorado At Colorado Springs

Session Description: Professor Laura Pulido (American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California) gives the Plenary address titled "Latina/o Racial Subjectivity in Southern California" .

5550 Political Geographies of the Other South – Paper Session:

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 3:10 PM - 4:50 PM in North Hall N111, Las Vegas Convention Center

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):

Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

Papers:

3:10 PM Introduction: Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

3:15 PM Author(s): Ivelisse R. Torres, Undergraduate Student - University of Puerto Rico
Roberto E. Morales , Undergraduate Student - University of Puerto Rico

Mariolga Juliá, Undergraduate Student - University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: Piñones; Race, Culture and Resistance

3:35 PM Author(s): Luis D. Sanchez - Florida State University

Abstract Title: Nationalism without a Nation

3:55 PM Author(s): Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University

Abstract Title: The Struggle against Colonialism in Puerto Rico: Landscapes from "Plaza de Recreo" to "Plaza de la Revolución"

4:15 PM Author(s): Shawn M. Banasick - Kent State University

Abstract Title: U.S. Military Bases and the Politics of Place in Okinawa and Vieques

4:35 PM Discussant: Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

Discussant(s):

Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

Introducer(s):

Carlos J. Guilbe - University of Puerto Rico

Session Description: This session is directed to promote the discussion on current political geography matter in and on the other south, Latin America. For decades direct and indirect influences from the United States have shape political events in Latin America. However, currently Latin America is having an even bigger effect on the United States. Latin Americas are now the new largest minority in the United States. This reality makes Latin Americans both in Latin America and in the United States of great interest for geographers and other scholars. Our aim is to promote discussions that can provide us with a better understanding of the vast region of Latin America and the Latin Americans that have made the United States their home.

5650 Puerto Rico: Space, Place, and Society – Paper Session:

Thursday, 3/26/09, from 5:20 PM - 7:00 PM in North Hall N111, Las Vegas Convention Center

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Latin America Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University
Alejandro Melendez

Chair(s):

Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - Kent State University

Papers:

5:20 PM Author(s): Sarah Leticia Rodriguez -
University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: The geography of being thirsty;
An spatial analysis of the public and private
drinking water in the University of Puerto Rico.

5:36 PM Author(s): Rogelio Gonzalez - The
University of Akron

Abstract Title: Delineating Response Time
Zones for Emergency Services using a GIS
based Network Analysis: San Juan, Puerto Rico

5:52 PM Author(s): Carmen Lydia Silva
Romero - Grad Student, The University Of
Akron

Abstract Title: Spatial Exploration of the
Relationship between Church locations and
Housing value in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

6:08 PM Author(s): Zuleyka Juarbe -
University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: Infarctions in rural and urban
Puerto Rico; the cases of San Juan and Aguas
Buenas

6:24 PM Author(s): Alejandro Melendez -
Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto de Rio
Piedras

Abstract Title: The Monte Rey Project: The
Impact of a Large Scale Mixed Use
Development on the Land Use Pattern in
Northern 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.

**6129 Housing Barriers and Needs for New
Immigrants and Refugees: Australia and
US/Canada Perspectives – Paper Session:**

Friday, 3/27/09, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in
Skybox 201, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Population Specialty Group

Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Papers:

8:00 AM Author(s): Michael Poulsen, Macquarie
University

Abstract Title: Housing Affordability and
Ethnicity: An Australian and American
Comparative Perspective

8:20 AM Author(s): James Forrest, PhD -
Macquarie University

Abstract Title: Immigrants and Housing in
Australia

8:40 AM Author(s): Thomas Sydney Carter -
The University of Winnipeg

Abstract Title: The Housing Barriers and Needs of
Refugee Resettlement in Declining Inner City
Neighborhoods: A Winnipeg Case Study

9:00 AM Author(s): Kathy Sherrell - University
of British Columbia

Abstract Title: At home in Surrey? The housing
experiences of refugees in Surrey, BC

9:20 AM Author(s): Carlos Teixeira, Dr. -
University of British Columbia Okanagan

Abstract Title: The Housing Experiences of New
Immigrants in a Medium-sized City (Kelowna,
B.C., Canada)

Session Description: Securing housing in
Australia and in US/Canada is a key component of
settlement and integration for immigrants and
refugees. This paper session will discuss the
barriers/challenges that impede this important
component of integration, with reference to the
performance of different groups in different urban
contexts.

6218 Representations of Race, Ethnicity, Whiteness, and Marginality in Contemporary Asia – Paper Session:

Friday, 3/27/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in Capri 105, Riviera Hotel, 1st Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Asian Geography Specialty Group
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Todd Lindley - Indiana University

Chair(s):

Todd Lindley - Indiana University

Papers:

10:10 AM Author(s): Todd Lindley - Indiana University

Abstract Title: Contemporary Representations of Whiteness in the Manila Urban Landscape

10:30 AM Author(s): Daniel McGowin - The Florida State University

Abstract Title: Hibakusha, Hiroshima and Postwar Identity in Japan

10:50 AM Author(s): Raksha Pande - Newcastle University

Abstract Title: Deconstructing 'arranged marriage': The case of South Asians in Britain

11:10 AM Author(s): Hyunjoo Jung - Seoul National University, South Korea

Abstract Title: A Multi-Scaled Approach to Gender Politics: the Case of Marriage Migrant Women in South Korea

11:30 AM Author(s): Xin Fan - Indiana University, Bloomington

Abstract Title: Imagining the Manchu Empire: the Global Circulation of the Discourse of Ethnicity and Its Local Resistance

Session Description: Asia's assorted histories of race relations, colonialism, neo-colonialism, civil rights movements, nationalisms, and ethnic identities differ significantly from those of the West. In some cases, ethnic conflict is more deeply entrenched with temporal scales that predate Western imperial projects in the East. In other instances, race and/or ethnic based subordination emerged largely as a result of colonial and imperialist projections.

Historically, colonial powers from the Global

North have privileged, ignored, or failed to recognize pre-existing ethnic and racial divisions, instead grouping Asians collectively into one race. As many entities (States, City-States, Special Economic Zones, regions, and areas) across Asia seek to and become more urbanized, more mobile, more linked to global capital flows, and more connected to the West through communications technology and transnational livelihoods, questions about race, ethnicity, whiteness, nationalism, and otherness are renegotiated differently in different places.

6229 Metropolis – Panel Session:

Friday, 3/27/09, from 10:10 AM - 11:50 AM in Skybox 201, Riviera Hotel, 2nd Floor

Sponsorship(s):

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group
Population Specialty Group
Urban Geography Specialty Group

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Panelist(s):

Thomas Sydney Carter

Kathy Sherrell - University of British Columbia

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Dan Hiebert - University of British Columbia

Heather Anne Smith - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Session Description: Metropolis is an international network for comparative research and public policy development on migration, diversity and immigrant integration in cities in Canada and around the world. This panel will bring together key academics to discuss current research and potential policy issues related to the following main research domains; a) citizenship and social, cultural and civic integration; b) economic and labor market integration; c) housing and neighborhoods; d) justice, policing and security; and e) welcoming communities.