

Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Newsletter

Editors: Thomas D. Boswell (University of Miami)

and Alan Marcus (Towson University)

Fall 2009/Spring 2010

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Fifth Biennial "Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference" to Take Place in Binghamton, New York: October 6-8, 2010

The Race, Ethnicity, and Place (REP) Conference fosters dialogue on issues related to the racial and ethnic transformation of places around the globe. The overriding purpose of REP is to promote understanding among the myriad of groups in American and other societies, through research and discussion. REP encourages interdisciplinary perspectives and philosophical and methodological diversity. REP is open to participation by academicians, students, practitioners, lay persons and government, business, and nonprofit agency representatives. The Conference ideally rotates among U.S. regions, incorporating a regional focus while maintaining national and international perspectives.

The first REP Conference was hosted in 2002 by Binghamton University in Binghamton, New York and was the brainchild of that university's Department of Geography and the BU Administration. The 2004 Conference was hosted by Howard University in Washington, D.C. The 2006 conference took place in San Marcos, Texas and was hosted by Texas State University. The 2008 REP was held in Miami, and was coordinated by the University of Miami.

The REP Conference has become a major event, attracting experts from such diverse fields as anthropology, economics, foreign language, geography, history, law, literature, music, philosophy, political science, sociology, and other disciplines. Government officials, university administrators, and representatives from agencies providing services to minorities have also participated in the Conference.

Do You Have Anything to Contribute to the EGSG Newsletter?

Please Contact:

**Thomas D. Boswell,
Department of Geography
University of Miami
Coral Gables, Florida 33124
TBoswell@Miami.edu**

The 2010 REP Conference will be held at the conference center of the Ramada Hotel in downtown Binghamton. A special room rate has been negotiated at \$85 per night. Reservations can be made by phoning the hotel at (607) 722-7575. You must mention that you will be participating in the REP Conference to get the reduced room rate.

**Don't Forget to Attend the
Ethnic Geography Specialty Group Business
Meeting During the AAG Meetings
in Washington, D.C.
Saturday, April 17, 2010
11:50 AM - 12:30 PM
Hoover Room, Marriott Hotel
Mezzanine Level**

***EGSG's John Frazier to Receive the
"Enhancing Diversity Award" During the
AAG's Awards Luncheon***

John Frazier, Professor of Geography at Binghamton University, will receive the "Enhancing Diversity Award" during the Awards Luncheon held on Sunday during the AAG meetings in Washington, D.C. Dr. Frazier is also a member of EGSG's Board of Directors.

Dr. Frazier has worked tirelessly toward creating diversity on the faculty at the University of Binghamton. He also has attracted a diverse student body in his university's Geography Department. It was Dr. Frazier who organized the first REP Conference in Binghamton in 2002 and he worked hard at fundraising and organizing to support the REP conferences in Washington, D.C. (at Howard University), San Marcos, Texas (at Texas State University), and in Miami.

As a researcher, he has authored or co-edited important new publications, including *Race, Ethnicity, and Place in a Changing America* (2006) and *The African Diaspora in the U.S. and Canada at the Dawn of the 21st*

Century (2009). While teaching at Binghamton University he has spent great efforts in mentoring minority students and faculty.



John Frazier (Binghamton University)

***EGSG's Wei Li Comments on Her Census
Experiences in the United States***

I believe service should be an integral part of academic life, which includes being a good departmental citizen, contributing to the profession and community, and making societal impacts. My professional service activities reflect this philosophy of social and intellectual engagement through my public and community service. More recently I have tried to apply this philosophy to my work with the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

I have been through three censuses since arriving in the U.S. 22 years ago. During the 1990 Census I was a non-informed bystander. At the time, I was a junior exchange scholar at the University of Maryland in College Park. I was fully anticipating returning to China to teach that summer. My landlady just moved to a nursing home so I was home alone. When the census form arrived, I thought I'd keep it instead of filling it out, so that I can show my students back at Peking University how the U.S. conducts its decennial

census. I then received a non-response follow-up (NRFU to quote the Census Bureau) call by a census worker. Then I filled in and returned the questionnaire.

I was a passive participant in the 2000 Census. I was staying in California's Silicon Valley on a research leave studying changing suburbs as result of immigration. I recall reading ads in English and Chinese in San Jose area, then I filled in and mailed out my census form.

During the 2010 census I became an active volunteer: I have been appointed and reappointed by three consecutive U.S. Secretaries of Commerce, and currently serve as a third-term member of the Census Bureau's Asian Advisory Committee, one of the Bureau's five Race and Ethnic Advisory Committees (REAC) since 2003. I have been elected and reelected as Asian REAC's Vice Chair annually since 2004. I also served on the 14-member nationwide Joint Advertisement Advisory Review Panel for the Bureau. And I participated in two public service announcement videos, one in English (my adopted language) and the other in Mandarin (my mother tongue) to promote the 2010 Census. These were posted on-line next to those by US Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Congressman Mike Honda. (For more information see the following sources: <http://2010.census.gov/mediacenter/testimonials/testimonials-partner/arizona-state-university.php>; and <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=aapiaction#g/u>).

Through work in those capacities, we are able to help restore paid media funding for Asian Americans nationwide, while exerting quality control for the 2010 Census campaign. Volunteering at the local census events and interacting with people of different backgrounds has also been very gratifying.



Wei Li (Arizona State University)

Book Reviews

Wei Li. *Ethnoburb: The New Ethnic Community in Urban America*. Honolulu, University of Hawaii Press, 2009. xvii + 214 pp. \$56.00 (cloth), ISBN 978-0-8248-3065-6.

Classic American images of suburbia usually depict white, middle-class, native-born families living out the "American Dream." Immigrants, on the other hand, remained in urban ethnic neighborhoods, often cramped and crime-ridden, until they saved enough money to move to the suburbs and assimilate into mainstream white society.

However, beginning in the 1960s and continuing through the present, a number of political and economic conditions have led to the creation of what Wei Li calls "ethnoburbs"—suburban neighborhoods dominated residentially and commercially by non-white ethnic groups.

Focusing specifically on Chinese ethnoburbs in Los Angeles County, Li draws widely on U.S. Census data to argue that the global economy, geopolitics, and changes in U.S. immigration policies spurred the development of ethnoburbs in which immigrants of diverse income and educational levels create communities with class stratification and both international and local businesses.

Li opens her study by situating it within the theoretical literature on racial and spatial formation before developing her concept of the ethnoburb. Unlike urban immigrant "ethnic enclaves," in which the majority of residents are low-income and limited in employable skills, ethnoburbs draw a wide range of immigrants, from wealthy, highly educated entrepreneurs to poor, unskilled workers.

The globalized economy dominated by multinational corporations, Li explains, depends in large part on "highly-skilled and well-educated immigrant professionals" to work in financial, computer technology, biotech, and other high-tech globalized firms. Seeking living conditions better than those in urban ethnic neighborhoods, wealthy professionals immigrate to suburban clusters that tend to be ethnically or racially diverse, or otherwise tolerant of newcomers.

With the influx of middle-class and wealthy immigrants comes a need for an "ethnic economy"—services and businesses such as restaurants and grocery stores that cater to the immigrant population. The service industry then creates jobs for poor, unskilled immigrants of the same ethnic or language group, thus creating the immigrant class stratification characteristic of ethnoburbs.

Following the theoretical chapters of the book, Li delves into the case study of the Chinese ethnoburbs of Los Angeles County's San Gabriel Valley. Chinese immigrants had begun arriving on U.S. shores in large numbers in the mid-nineteenth century, driven from their homeland by Qing dynasty corruption and oppression. While American business owners initially welcomed Chinese immigrants as cheap labor, growing anti-Chinese sentiment led to a number of immigration restriction laws, culminating in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The law was repealed in 1943 as the United States sought to build ties with its war ally China. Legislation allowing American servicemen to bring their war brides to the

United States led to an increase in Chinese women immigrants after World War Two, and the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 increased immigration quotas, allowing for an explosion of Chinese immigration. Li notes that the Chinese population in the United States doubled each decade from 1960 through 1990 and was the fourth largest ethnic group by 1990.

Before the 1960s, Chinese immigrants to the Los Angeles area settled in the city's Chinatown, but by the mid-1960s, they had begun to follow the suburbanization trend. Additionally, deteriorating conditions in Chinatown and the 1965 Watts riot led Chinese immigrants to flee to the suburbs. The first San Gabriel Valley suburb to draw Chinese residents was Monterey Park, which was close to three major highways, already had a small Chinese population, and was ethnically diverse. Businesses and a Chinese-language newspaper followed, and soon Monterey Park was dubbed the "Chinese Beverly Hills" by Asian media. In the 1980s, immigrants from Southeast Asia began settling in the San Gabriel Valley ethnoburbs, filling the service jobs in the businesses that catered to the middle-class and wealthy Chinese.

In many ways, the settlement of the San Gabriel Valley ethnoburbs was not unlike the nationwide suburbanization of the post-World War Two period. Suburbs' appeal lay in their distance from blighted urban centers, well-kept homes, and easy access to goods and services, and ethnoburbs were no different. However, ethnoburbs did not demand assimilation into middle-class white America; indeed, the development of ethnoburbs was a direct form of resistance against assimilation. Immigrant communities like those of the San Gabriel Valley provided their residents with all of the perceived perks of suburbia without the requirement that immigrants discard or conceal their culture, language, and traditions. As Li's well-written and thoroughly researched study demonstrates, American social, economic, political, and living patterns, and maintenance of the nation's diversity rather than forced assimilation, will do

much to strengthen the United States in the increasingly globalized world.

(Reviewed by Heather M. Stur (University of Southern Mississippi) Published on H-Urban (August, 2009). Commissioned by Sharon L. Irish)

John W. Frazier, Joe T. Darden, and Norah F. Henry (eds.), *The African diaspora in the United States and Canada at the Dawn of the 21st Century*, Binghamton, New York, Global Academic Publishing, 2009, 373 pp. \$49, ISBN 978-1-58684-271-0.

It has been approximately four centuries since the first Africans set foot in North America. Yet, after four hundred years, the persistent legacy of Black inequality, when compared to Whites, continues to exist both in the United States and in Canada. It may surprise some people, including Canadians, that slavery existed not only in the United States, but also in Canada (to a much smaller degree). This book explores the geographical dimensions of this inequality and compares this inequality as it exists in these two highly developed and democratic countries.

Although the U.S. and Canada are both democratic and highly developed countries that exist geographically side-by-side, they have different governmental policies relating to their treatment of ethnic and racial minorities. Canada has an official policy of multiculturalism that was codified by its Parliament in 1971. This policy not only recognized the reality of ethnic and racial pluralism in Canada and it seemed to reverse earlier attempts to assimilate immigrants. It challenged all Canadians to accept cultural pluralism, while at the same time encouraging them to participate fully and equally in Canadian society.

In the United States, the policy toward ethnic and racial groups is more laissez-faire. Whereas in Canada, the government encourages ethnic and racial groups to express their cultural

differences. In the U.S., the government is more neutral when it comes to matters of culture. So, the question arises, have these two policies resulted in different levels of the equality and well-being of Blacks in Canada and the United States?

Another significant difference between Blacks living in Canada and the United States is that more than half of the Blacks in Canada are foreign born, whereas in the U.S. less than 10 percent are immigrants. If it is true that immigrant Blacks usually have higher socioeconomic status when compared to native born Blacks in Canada and the U.S., this might suggest that Blacks would be doing better economically and socially in Canada.

The book includes 20 chapters written by different authors (**most of whom are members of our Ethnic Geography Specialty Group**) from various disciplines. It is divided into four sections. The first includes one chapter, which serves as the introduction. The second section contains five chapters concentrating on the experiences of Blacks living in Canada. The third covers the experiences of Blacks living in the United States. The chapters in the third section are organized around two themes: five chapters concentrate on the persistence of inequalities in the United States and seven chapters provide perspectives on more recent Black immigrants living in the U.S. The final chapter (20th) contains the conclusions made by the three editors of this work.

The two major conclusions stated in this book's final chapter will surprise many people. They are as follows: (1) The relative position of Blacks in both Canadian and U.S. societies are very similar. In both cases there is a continuance of Blacks being disadvantage. This disadvantage exists despite differences in the official government policies and differences in the degree to which immigration has contributed to the growth and development Blacks in these two countries. The editors conclude, therefore, that racism continues as a factor in depressing the socioeconomic status of Blacks in both Canada and the U.S. because the levels of socioeconomic disadvantage for Blacks exist to a similar degree in both these countries.

The second main conclusion is less surprising, but it is nonetheless important. (2) Blacks in both countries are becoming ethnically more diverse, as immigration adds people originating from the non-Hispanic islands of the Caribbean and from Africa. This is especially important in Canada where immigrants account for somewhat more than 50 percent of the total Canadian population, compared with about seven percent in the United States.

Article Review:

Susan W. Hardwick and Ginger Mansfield, "Discourse, Identity, and "Homeland as Other" at the Borderlands," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Vol. 99, No. 2, April, 2009, pp. 383-405.

This is a story of American emigration to Canada. It stresses the identity formation of Americans as they metamorphose from thinking of themselves as being Americans into thinking of themselves more as Canadians. The authors call this a process of *Canadianization*.

Hardwick and Mansfield draw on the interdisciplinary field of social identity theory to help explain how this transformation in national allegiances takes place. The change is more of a process of "disidentification" from America, rather than the more common transnational formations that affect most immigrants to other countries. Instead of maintaining strong feelings of attachment to the U.S. while at that same time becoming Canadian, for many Americans there is a detachment from the feeling of belonging to the United States.

This detachment occurs because many of the Americans who left the United States for Canada did so as protestors of American wars or policy. The northward movement of war resisters, draft dodgers, and others from the United State to Canada during the Vietnam War years was the largest politically motivated out-migration of U.S. citizens in history. In more recent years, political and economic migrants (including soldiers avoiding the wars in Iraq and

Afghanistan) continue to leave the U.S. for permanent residency in Canada. They are attracted by their perceptions of Canada's more liberal political system, multicultural policies, support of gay and lesbian rights, prosperous real estate market, and universal health care.

The study uses multimodal discourse analysis to achieve its empirical findings. Narrative interviews, focus groups, and open-ended questionnaires were used to gather the data used in this analysis. Although there are almost one million American born residents in Canada, about 250,00 of them live in the province of British Columbia and this study used this province as a case study for its interviews conducted over a period of two-and-a-half years. 135 questionnaires were returned in a survey of six cities—Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna, Vernon, Nelson, and Castlegar.

At least 50,000 draft-age Americans applied to become landed immigrants in Canada during the Vietnam War years. Landed immigrant status made it possible for these political "refuges" from the United States to qualify for national health care, work permits, and other benefits. Thousands of other U.S. war exiles were undocumented because many were able to enter Canada legally as a visitor or tourist and then remain in Canada without legalization. As a result, Hardwick and Mansfield estimate that perhaps 100,000 documented and undocumented war resisters and other Americans were residing in Canada by the end of the Vietnam War.

The decades following the end of the Vietnam War saw a significant drop in the number of U.S. born residents in Canada after a peak in 1974, when 26,541 American became legal residents of Canada. From 1974 to 1998, the numbers held fairly steady. However, beginning in 1999 and continuing to the present, there has once again been an increase, not to the levels of the Vietnam War years, but nonetheless a steady rise has occurred up to almost 11,000 in 2006. This time the main motivation seems to have been the election and reelection of President George W. Bush in 2000 and 2004. The conservative policies of the Bush

Administration and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan seem to have been particularly related to this increase. Along with political dissatisfaction at home, many of the current American exiles in Canada arrive seeking gay and lesbian rights, universal health care, the values of a multicultural society, gun control, ban on capital punishment, and escape from a homeland that they perceive as being dangerously out of control.

The findings of this research suggest that Americans in Canada lay claim to their new national identity as “reimagined” Canadians extremely rapidly. This is a compelling finding because, for many other immigrant groups, feeling part of their new destination nation might take many years, or might fail to occur at all. The dissatisfaction with the politics of the United States certainly contributes to the rapid “disidentification” with their place of origin. Also, their knowledge of English, religious preferences, dominant whiteness, relative affluence, advanced educations, as well as other cultural and social similarities facilitate their rapid identification with Canada.

Today, American soldiers escaping the Iraq or Afghanistan Wars who are hoping to seek political asylum in Canada will be turned back to the United States by Canadian authorities. This policy is based on a federal court decision made in Ottawa in 2008. Until the courts declare that the United States is an unsafe place for asylum seekers, denial of American “refugees” from the wars will continue to be based on the *Safe Third Country* agreement passed in 2004. This legislation denies refugees who landed first in the United States the right to claims in Canada and vice versa—and requires that Canada and the United States recognize each other as safe places to seek protection. The Canadian courts argued that ending the 2004 agreement would lead to a flood of people claiming asylum from the United States, placing undue pressure on Canada’s social and refugee systems.

Hardwick and Mansfield suggest that their study has at least three useful findings. First, they predict that the 2008 Presidential election of a Democratic administration will slow the flow of exiles from the United States to Canada because of the more liberal tendencies of the Democratic Party and President Obama. Second, they say that this study shows that transnational identification is only one way of reacting to an immigrant experience. This is so because they found little evidence of transnational identities among the people who participated as respondents in their study. Third, almost all American immigrants in British Columbia who participated in their study perceive their American homeland as “other” in a myriad of ways. Although much of the earlier literature on the “us” and “them” feelings of immigrants emphasizes the ways that new immigrants might feel like outsiders in their new places of residence for many years of resettlement, the findings of this study seem to suggest a type of “reverse othering” process. Instead of feeling that they are “others” outside the Canadian mainstream, they view the United States as being the “other,” as they have become more comfortable in Canada. (Reviewed by Thomas D. Boswell, University of Miami.)

Abstracts of Articles in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers

The following three articles appeared in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, Volume 1, Issue 1, January 2010:

“The Measurement of Neighborhood Socioeconomic Characteristics and Black and White Residential Segregation in Metropolitan Detroit: Implications for the Study of Social Disparities in Health,” By Joe Darden, Mohammad Rahbar, Louise Jezierski, Min Li, and Ellen Velie, pp. 137-158.

Abstract: Research has suggested that the pattern of residence (integration or segregation) alone is insufficient to explain health disparities by race. Socioeconomic characteristics of neighborhoods

where blacks and whites reside must also be considered to explain health disparities. This article has three aims: (1) to describe the component socioeconomic characteristics of census tracts (neighborhoods) of residence in metropolitan Detroit in 2000 for three indexes of socioeconomic position (SEP); (2) to assess the concordance of the three indexes of SEP of census tracts (neighborhoods) categorized into quintiles based on metropolitan Detroit census data in 2000; and (3) to compare the extent to which black-white residential segregation is revealed by SEP of neighborhoods in metropolitan Detroit. Census data from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (SF3) were used to define three indexes of SEP of neighborhoods, the modified Darden/Kamel Composite Socioeconomic Index, the modified Krieger Composite Deprivation Index, and an index of percentage poverty. Residential segregation was measured using the index of dissimilarity. The three indexes similarly captured variability in neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics. Further, sharp geographic inequality was revealed by race and socioeconomic status in the Detroit metropolitan area. The social and spatial structure created by the indexes will help researchers and policymakers better understand the effects of racial and socioeconomic characteristics as well as racial residential segregation on the complex factors related to social disparities in health by race.

“How Does Geography Matter in the Ethnic Labor Market Segmentation Process? A Case Study of Chinese Immigrants in the San Francisco CMSA,” By Qingfang Wang, pp. 182-201.

Abstract: With the continuing influx of large numbers of immigrants to the United States, urban labor market segmentation along the lines of race, ethnicity, gender, and class has drawn considerable attention. Using a confidential data set extracted from the United States Decennial Long Form Data 2000 and a multilevel

regression modeling strategy, this article presents a case study of Chinese immigrants in the San Francisco metropolitan area. Correspondent with the highly segregated nature of the labor market between Chinese immigrant men and women, different socioeconomic characteristics at the census tract level are significantly related to their occupational segregation. The results of this study suggest that the social process of labor market segmentation is contingent on the immigrant geography of residence and workplace. Whereas the direction and magnitude of the spatial contingency are different between men and women, residency in Chinese immigrant-concentrated areas is perpetuating gender occupational segregation by skill level. Abundant ethnic resources might exist in ethnic neighborhoods and enclaves for certain types of employment opportunities; however, these resources do not necessarily help Chinese immigrant workers, especially women, to move upward in the labor market hierarchy.

“Racialization and “Southern” Identities of Resistance: A Psychogeography of Internal Orientalism in the United States,” By David Jansson

Abstract: This article examines the “voices of the Others” of internal orientalism in the United States. Internal orientalism creates a binary of the imagined spaces of “America” and “the South,” simultaneously racializing both spaces as white spaces. The article explores the extent to which this discourse informs a “Southern” resistance identity among members of the white “Southern” nationalist organization the League of the South, and African American residents of Lynchburg, Virginia. An analysis of interviews shows that for the League members, internal orientalism produces a psychogeography wherein “Southerners” feel that they are considered an inferior part of the “American” nation, which they might experience as hatred and demonization. To combat a colonial mentality, the League advances a positive notion of “Southern” identity that emphasizes the theme of resistance. The essentialist version of “Southern”

identity they espouse is ultimately a derivative discourse in that it does not unsettle the internal orientalist assumption that “the South” is fundamentally different from “the North” and “America.” Those African Americans in the study who embrace “Southern” identity resist the internal orientalist racialization of “Southern” as referring to white people, although to the extent they associate “Southern” identity with racism and segregation they partly reinforce the discourse. Some who do not embrace “Southern” identity cannot overcome its negative connotations. The study shows that articulations of “the South” and “Southern” identity are best understood from an interscalar perspective and not by considering “Southernness” as something produced solely in “the South.”

***Abstract of An Article in
The Professional Geographer***

The following article appeared in *The Professional Geographer*, Volume 62, Issue 1, February 2010, pages 103 – 118:

“Katrina and Migration: Evacuation and Return by African Americans and Vietnamese Americans in an Eastern New Orleans Suburb,”
By Wei Li, Christopher A. Airriess, Angela Chia-Chen Chen, Karen J. Leong, and Verna Keith

Abstract: Hurricane Katrina constitutes the most costly natural as well as technology-induced disaster, in terms of both human suffering and financial loss in the history of the United States. Even years later, it continues to profoundly impact the livelihoods and the mental and physical health of those who have experienced evacuation and return and those who have begun lives anew elsewhere. Our study focuses on these geographical processes associated with the Katrina disaster experiences of African Americans and Vietnamese Americans comprising an overwhelming majority (93.4 percent) of

residents in a racially mixed pre-Katrina eastern New Orleans neighborhood. We examine the spatial morphology of routes, volumes, and frequencies of evacuees; their return rates and experiences; and rationales and motivations to return or stay. The conceptual framework is based on the disaster migration, place attachment, and social network literature. Both quantitative and qualitative evidence indicates that the evacuation and return experiences of each minority group substantially differed, especially among African American women, and this was strongly influenced by existing social networks.

***Alan Marcus Elected Co-Editor of
the EGSG Newsletter***

During the 2009 Business Meeting of the Ethnic Geography Specialty Group in Las Vegas, Alan Marcus was elected to serve a 2-year term as co-editor (along with Tom Boswell) of the *EGSG Newsletter*. The following is a short biography of Alan to acquaint EGSG members with him, as we welcome him to his new position:

Alan P. Marcus is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Planning at Towson University in Baltimore, Maryland (amarcus@towson.edu). He was born and raised in Brazil, and received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he worked with his mentor, Richard Wilkie. He is a broadly-trained geographer, with a wide-ranging and inter-disciplinary academic background, with regional expertise in Brazil. Specialization areas include Brazilian transnational migration processes to the U.S., race and ethnicity, identity, Latin America, and the impact of immigration on global and urban landscapes (website: <http://www.towson.edu/geography/popup/amarcus.htm>)



Alan Marcus
(Towson University)

News from EGSG Members

James P. Allen, Emeritus Professor, Department of Geography, California State University, Northridge: In my retirement I've been fortunate to have been hired as an expert witness by attorneys in two rental housing discrimination cases. In both cases part of the work has involved describing the changing ethnic group distributions of small sections of Los Angeles, and in the present case I'm also identifying the ethnicity of tenants by means of a peer-reviewed list of Asian surnames that predict county of birth. It is all both interesting and lucrative.

Stephen C. Jett, Prof. Emeritus of Geography and of Textiles and Clothing, Univ. of California, Davis: As for field work, I have been conducting fieldwork toward a guidebook to the Indian Country of the American Southwest's Four Corners region. In 2006, I spent two weeks traveling with the Tuareg of Algeria. In 2006, I guest-curated a major exhibition of Baluchi and Aimaq weavings at the Georgia Museum of Art. I attend academic meetings

regularly. In 2006, I was the only American presenter at the Festival Internationale de Géographie. I also edit *Pre-Columbiana: A Journal of Long-Distance Contacts*.

John and Beverly Pessarelo, Passerello Thoroughbreds, Pensacola, Florida and Association of Pacific Coast Geographers (APCG): Three years ago we established a travel fund for Mexican American Geography students to attend and present papers at APCG meetings. So far we've sponsored six students and the fund has \$5,000. This year we established two more travel funds: one for Indigenous students and one for Geography students of African Descent. We sponsored three students to present papers at the meetings. In addition, we have requested and the AAG has approved a travel fund for Indigenous peoples to attend the AAG meetings. One of our goals is to increase diversity in the Geography teaching profession.

Wei Li, Arizona State University: 2009 – 2013 received a Research Grant, “Financial Institution and Immigrant Integration in the U.S. and Canada” (Wei Li, P.I.) National Science Foundation (NSF), \$224,272; with fieldwork in SF bay area and Vancouver area.

Alan P. Marcus, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Planning, Towson University, Towson, MD. I joined the department last year in August 2008, and since then have been busy publishing, teaching, and working with a few committees including one for a future conference here at Towson: “Nation-states and Linguistic Identities”. I'm also working as co-editor (together with Tom Boswell) of the EGSG newsletter, and am a recent member of the board of directors of the same group.

Whose Teaching Ethnic Geography?

Ezra Zeitler is teaching *Geographies of Race and Ethnicity* (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire).

Susan E. Hume has developed GEOG450 *Ethnic Geography* for the Department of Geography at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, taught every other spring semester.

Eva Janská, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Czech Republic, 2008- present is teaching *Geographical Aspects of International Migration and Integration of Foreigners*.

Kate Berry, University of Nevada, Reno, is teaching *Ethnic Geography*. Course description: In this course we examine issues confronting ethnic and racial groups and their members in the contemporary United States, with a particular focus on African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos. Throughout the semester we will study how space and place influence the experiences of individuals and identity of ethnic and racial groups. We will also explore how ethnicity and race can influence landscapes and the nature of places. This course fulfills the University's Core Curriculum diversity requirement.

Wei Li, Arizona State University, is teaching a graduate seminar (not on ethnic geography *per se*) on migration – human migration.

Tom Boswell, University of Miami, is teaching a course entitled *Immigration to the United States* and another titled *Debating the Benefits and Problems of Immigration*.

**Recent Publications by Ethnic Geographers
2006-2009
(Compiled by Alan P. Marcus,
November 2009)**

Allen, James. "Ethnic Residential Concentrations With Above-Average Incomes"

(co-authored with Eugene Turner), *Urban Geography* 30 (3) (2009): 209-238.

_____. "Migrants Between California and Other States" (co-authored with Eugene Turner), *The California Geographer* 47 (2007): 1-26.

_____. "New Patterns in Boston's Ethnic Quilt" (co-authored with Eugene Turner), *AAG Newsletter* 42 (November 2007): 1, 8-9.

_____. "How Successful Are Recent Immigrants to the United States and Their Children?" APCG Presidential Address, *Yearbook of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers* 68 (2006): 9-32.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/yearbook_of_the_association_of_pacific_coast_geographers/toc/pcg68.1.html

Bass, Joby. 2009. Posted: the campaign sign landscape, race, and political participation in Mississippi. *Journal of Cultural Geography* 26(2): 223-241.

_____. 2008. Ethnic Landscapes, Ethnic Ecology: place attachment and ethnic identity following a Caribbean hurricane. In Herlihy, Peter, Kent Mathewson, and Craig Revels, eds. *Ethno- and Historical Geographic Studies in Latin America: essays honoring W.V. Davidson, Geoscience and Man* vol. 40. Baton Rouge, La; Geoscience Publications.

Boswell, Thomas. D. and Terry. A. Jones 2006. "The Distribution and Socioeconomic Status of West Indians Living in the United States." In *Race, Ethnicity, and Place in a Changing America*, eds. J. W. Frazier and E. L. Tetley-Fio, 155-180. Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton, NY: Global Academic Publishing.

_____. and **Ira Sheskin** 2009, "Deconstructing the Black Populations of New York City and Miami-Dade County." In *The African Diaspora in the United States and Canada at the Dawn of the 21st*

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Editor's Note

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The Recession's Impact On Immigrants

The recession that began in the United States in 2008 and spread to most other parts of the world has had a deeper and more global effect on migration than any other economic downturn in the post-World War II era. And while flows of temporary migrants and the unauthorized have declined, few countries have seen signs of a return to mass migration.

For some countries, as unemployment rates have risen significantly, the recession has spurred initiatives to persuade unemployed immigrants to go home and to restrict flows of new immigrants, as well as to raise the bar for the highly skilled. Among the immigrants most affected are those in North America, Asia, and Europe. Across the world's largest economies, immigrants during this recession generally have higher unemployment rates than the native born. In the United Kingdom and Ireland, tens of thousands of Eastern Europeans who lost their jobs have chosen to leave, in part because their status as European Union citizens means they can easily return.

Not surprisingly, remittances to immigrants' families in Latin America, the Middle East, and North Africa have decreased as well — although they have risen in Asia. As a rule, however, and despite higher unemployment rates, immigrants

are hunkering down and waiting for the economy to improve.

United States:

In the United States, the housing woes that started in late 2006 and the subsequent collapse of the construction sector disproportionately affected immigrants from Mexico, which is the dominant immigrant group in the United States, and Central America. As unemployment in the United States has kept climbing (it now stands at almost 10 percent), the rate for immigrants from Mexico and Central America increased sharply, reaching as high as 13.1 percent in January 2009. By October 2009, the unemployment rate for this group stood at 11.5 percent compared to 9.5 percent for those born in the United States — a reversal of patterns that have stood firm for two decades. Among the estimated 2.3 to 2.4 million unemployed immigrants in October 2009, nearly half were from Mexico and Central America. However, this situation has not caused a substantial wave of returns to Mexico. Over the past year, the Mexican immigrant population, about 55 percent of which resides in the United States illegally, has decreased only slightly, from an estimated 12.1 million in July 2008 to 11.9 million in August 2009.

Canada:

Although the recession in Canada has been less severe than in other Western countries, immigrants there have also experienced higher unemployment rates than natives, no matter how long they have lived in Canada. For immigrants in Canada five years or less, Statistics Canada reports that unemployment was 13.9 percent in October 2009, up from 10.7 percent a year earlier. Among immigrants living in Canada 10 years or more, unemployment stood at 4.8 percent in October 2008, comparable to the native-born unemployment rate of 4.5 percent at the time. Yet, by October 2009, long-term immigrants had an unemployment rate of 8.3 percent compared to 6.2 percent for natives.

Asia:

According to several surveys conducted in Japan, approximately 40 percent of Latin American

workers, most of them of Japanese origin, were unemployed by the end of 2008 and the beginning of 2009, compared to just 5 percent in 2005.

In January, Malaysia's government stopped the hiring of foreign workers in certain sectors and made it clear that companies should terminate foreign workers first. The government reported in August that the number of foreign workers had been reduced by 200,000 in two months, bringing the total down to 1.9 million.

In Taiwan, migrant layoffs were concentrated in electronics and garment manufacturing, affecting primarily Filipina and Thai women.

Singapore's prime minister noted in September that foreigners accounted for most of the job losses in the first half of 2009, and that 21,000 foreigners had left the city-state.

Europe:

Similar to the United States, Latin American immigrants in Spain were concentrated in the construction sector, and many have lost their jobs as the sector has shed over 560,000 jobs in the last year, more than in industry or services. In the third quarter of 2009, the unemployment rate for Spaniards was 17.9 percent but 27.5 percent for foreign nationals age 16 and older. According to Spain's National Institute for Statistics; about 1 million foreign nationals were unemployed.

Hundreds of thousands of Eastern Europeans (known as the Accession 8 or A8) entered Ireland and the United Kingdom after their countries joined the European Union in May 2004. They were able to come because the United Kingdom and Ireland, along with Sweden, immediately allowed citizens of the new Member States to work without restrictions.

In Ireland, nationals from the new EU Member States collectively make up the largest immigrant group in the country, with about 5 percent of the population age 15 and older in the second quarter of 2009, according to the Quarterly National Household Survey.

The foreign born from Poland were the second largest foreign-born group (after the Indian foreign born) in the United Kingdom in 2008. Many of these immigrants took lower-skilled jobs in manufacturing, construction, and the services industries. These industries are now among those shedding the most jobs in the recession.

Unlike labor migrants in most parts of the world, the A8 Europeans in Ireland and the United Kingdom have been going home in large numbers because they know they can easily return to Dublin or London when conditions improve because of the European Union status.

In Ireland, where the unemployment rate hit 12.0 percent in the second quarter (Q2) of 2009, there were 25 percent fewer nationals from new EU Member States employed in Q2 2009 compared to Q2 2008. At the same time, the number of Eastern Europeans in Ireland who were unemployed more than doubled, from 12,000 to 29,100. While non-Irish nationals made up 15.8 percent of Ireland's labor force in Q2 2008, a year later they accounted for only 14.2 percent.

Data on employment level by nationality show that the number of Eastern European nationals working in the United Kingdom dropped from 503,000 to 483,000 (or 4.0 percent) between July-September 2008 and July-September 2009. Over the same period, the employment level for UK citizens went down 1.6 percent and the level for all non-UK nationals decreased 2.0 percent. The total unemployment rate in the United Kingdom as of July-September 2009 was 7.8 percent.

According to provisional 2008 data from the UK International Passenger Survey, emigration among Eastern European citizens began rising in early 2008, from 32,000 for the year ended March 2008 to 66,000 for the year ended December 2008.

Immigration of A8 citizens reached an all-time high in the year ended December 2007, at 109,000. But immigration dropped to 79,000 for the year ended December 2008. For A8 nationals, net migration in December 2009 was at its lowest point since the A8 joined the European Union.

Remittances:

When migrants lose their jobs, they have less money to survive on and to send home. In terms of remittances, the \$338 billion total for 2008 came in above World Bank expectations, for the most part due to very large increases of remittances to India (\$14.4 billion more than in 2007) and China (+\$9.7 billion), as well as Bangladesh (+\$2.4 billion) and the Philippines (+\$2.3 billion). In the case of India, the increase was mostly due to currency exchange fluctuations and extremely favorable conditions for purchasing real estate.

The World Bank projected in November that remittances will drop 6 percent to \$317 billion for 2009, largely because of the recession.

According to Migration Policy Institute analysis of Central Bank data, the countries that have experienced the steepest declines between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 are Turkey, Moldova, Poland, Ecuador, Morocco, Mexico, and Kenya. In contrast, remittances to South Asia have risen, not surprising given India's substantial increase in 2008. Also, many South Asian migrants work in the gulf countries, where the recession has not been as severe.

With 31 percent of Moldova's GDP coming from remittances, the decrease there is far more significant than the one in Turkey, where remittances are just 0.2 percent of national income. Ecuador has suffered because its migrants are concentrated in recession-battered Spain and the United States.

The World Bank reported that remittances to Mexico declined 13.4 percent for the first nine months of 2009 compared to a year earlier but noted that the downward trend for all of Latin America appears to be bottoming out.

Since many economists are predicting a jobless global recovery, immigrants will probably not be much better off in 2010 than they were in 2009.

(Source: "The Recessions Impact On Immigrants," *Migration Information Source*,

Migration Policy Institute, December 2009.
www.migration
information.org)

What the Impact of the Recession Did Not Do to World-Wide Immigration Patterns

As the severity of the recession became apparent in 2008, some prognosticators began to speculate that increasing unemployment could prompt thousands of immigrants to head home and citizens of hard-hit countries to assault immigrants for taking "their" jobs and causing other problems.

Contrary to that prediction, no country in 2009 has seen a mass exodus of immigrants due to the recession. Instead, most immigrants have stayed put. And while politicians have said native workers need to have the first shot at jobs and nationalist parties gained more seats in European Parliament elections, immigrants have not been systematically attacked. Italy remains notable, however, for politically capitalizing on anti-immigrant sentiment.

As noted in the article immediately before this one, the recession's Impact on Immigrants, the United Kingdom and Ireland have seen fewer Eastern Europeans arrive in the last year and a noteworthy increase in the number of Eastern Europeans going home. However, large Eastern European populations remain in both countries.

In the United States, the size of the Mexican immigrant population decreased by about 200,000 between mid-2008 and mid-2009, but nearly 12 million Mexicans have not gone home. Unlike Eastern Europeans, many Mexican immigrants came illegally and cannot easily return when economic conditions improve. In addition, Mexicans know that the recession and swine flu fears from last spring have decimated the Mexican economy and that the country's war against drug gangs has made numerous areas unsafe.

More evidence comes from countries with pay-to-go programs that provide plane tickets and additional financial incentives to immigrants who participate. Spain and the Czech Republic have instituted such programs, but neither has reached its expected goal thus far.

Even as tensions between natives and immigrants rose in some places, there were no xenophobic attacks in 2009 that came close to the deadly ones in South Africa in May 2008 that displaced thousands. Tensions in South Africa remain, however. In November, 3,000 foreigners, including refugees and asylum seekers from Zimbabwe, were driven from their shacks in a farming community northeast of Cape Town.

One of the worst incidents this year took place in June in Belfast, Northern Ireland, when over 100 Romanian immigrants fled their homes after a number of men broke in and threatened to kill them. Nearly all the Romanians fled home at the expense of the government of Northern Ireland, although some eventually returned to Belfast.

In Switzerland, where the nationalist Swiss People's Party has gained popularity in recent years, few expected a referendum banning the construction of minarets to pass in late November. But voters turned out in larger-than-usual numbers and overwhelmingly supported it, disappointing the Swiss government and European leaders and stunning Switzerland's Muslim community, which says the decision will undermine fragile relations.

With Italy's nationalist Northern League part of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition government, Italy has steadily pursued anti-immigrant policies over the last 18 months. In July, the Italian legislature passed a sweeping law that makes illegal immigration a crime, with a fine of between 5,000 euros and 10,000 euros (US\$7,250 to US\$14,500), and housing an unauthorized immigrant punishable with jail time. Under the law, the government can detain unauthorized immigrants for up to six months, up from the previous two months. A controversial provision that the Northern League championed allows small citizen groups to patrol for public order offenses. Also, parents seeking to register a baby's birth in Italy must show they are legal residents, which some

critics have said could lead to an "invisible generation."

(Source: "What the Recession Wasn't," *Migration Information Source*, Migration Policy Institute, December 2009. www.migrationinformation.org)

McCain Continues to Criticize President Obama's Immigration Policy

The battle on the U.S.-Mexico border has spread to the halls of Congress. In the wake of a southern Arizona rancher's murder and continuing violence in the border drug war from California to Texas, politicians are debating what action is needed.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., says President Barack Obama has failed to come up with a plan and that border violence has moved security ahead of immigration reform as the top priority.

"These are bad, cruel, incredibly murderous people," McCain said of the quarreling drug cartels. "They cut off people's heads and hang their bodies from the overpass. This is a struggle of monumental proportions and it threatens the very existence of the government of Mexico."

McCain, who three years ago pressed for immigration reform, says, "We must get our border secure first. That has to be done and it can be done. If you look at Israel, you see that they built a fence and they surveill it." Obama, McCain said, "has yet to come forward with his proposal. Isn't that interesting? There has not been a proposal from the president of the United States. Why is that? Because the unions are in charge and they do not want a legal temporary worker program. And that has to be part of any addressing of the issue of immigration in this country."

Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, a Democrat who represents southeastern Arizona where rancher Robert Krentz was shot to death on March 27, said a border tour convinced her that more manpower and supplies are needed. As for McCain's call for National Guard troops along the border, Kirkpatrick said, "If it becomes apparent that the use of the National Guard will help prevent attacks like this, then I will work hard to move very quickly to make

that possible... I haven't called for the National Guard, but I think every option is on the table."

Comprehensive immigration reform is much needed in her rural district, Kirkpatrick said, adding that a temporary worker program is also important. "We've got a lot of farmers in the southern part of the state. Talking with them, they tell me they need to have these workers come in when their harvest is ready, so I think that has to be part of it."

(Source: "Immigration Issue Heats Up in Congress," Kevin Tripp, The KTAR News (Phoenix), April 7, 2010, <http://ktar.com/?nid=6&sid=1281557>)

Study Finds that Immigration Reform Will Not Have A Major Impact On Nation's Economy

Legalizing millions of immigrants would have little impact on the economy, according to a new report, neither vastly improving the financial prospects of illegal immigrants nor curtailing the opportunities of everyone else. The study by the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California deflates arguments from both sides of the immigration divide. As lawmakers and the Obama administration contemplate overhauling the immigration system, the report released this week counters those who promote immigrant legalization as a financial boon to California and the country.

Unauthorized workers make gains over time in the United States, but those gains, by and large, are not attributed to getting a green card,' said lead researcher Laura Hill. The report also rejects claims by legalization detractors who argue that amnesty for up to 12 million illegal immigrants would ruin the economy, lessen job opportunities and drain government resources.

Getting undocumented immigrants on a path to legal residency and citizenship, Hill said, is likely to be neither as economically devastating nor as promising as partisans of the issue have suggested.

'We're finding there's not this really large gain in wages among those who are becoming

green-card holders,' Hill said. 'These people are already here working these jobs. Giving them a green card doesn't change, at least in the short term, their trajectories, so it's not going to impact natives.'

The findings rely on established research by demographers and labor economists, as well as a study called the New Immigrant Survey that gathered information from a sample of new immigrants in 2003. Economists disagree on the degrees to which new immigration impacts the wages of native-born workers, but there is less disagreement on the impact of legalizing immigrant workers who are already here.

'What the change of status will do is probably, over a little bit of time, increase their bargaining power with their employer, and increase, a little bit, their wage,' said Giovanni Peri, an economist at the University of California, Davis. For the majority of illegal immigrant workers with lower skills, immigration paperwork was far less important than years spent working in the United States as a measurement of how they get ahead financially, according to the report.

'Some people do change jobs (after getting a green card), but when they do, they're not getting better jobs,' Hill said. 'Dishwashers become cooks. Grounds maintenance workers become something else that is not highly remunerative. They are not starting to threaten natives.'

Most illegal immigrants pay taxes, the survey found, so adding them to the official rolls would not significantly boost the state and national economy. The report estimates that 87 percent of those who illegally crossed the border and 91 percent of those who overstayed visas filed tax returns in 2002. Legalization also, however, would not be expected to drain state and federal social service programs, at least not in the short term, the report said, since it takes years before new legal immigrants can qualify for most programs. An exception, Hill said, would be the Earned Income Tax Credit for people with low wages. Illegal immigrants are disqualified from obtaining the credit, but would be able to tap into it if they had legal status.

Dividing unauthorized immigrants between those who illegally crossed the border and those who overstayed a tourist, student, or other kind of visa, the report finds that the 'overstayers' are likely to face the most immediate benefits from moving to a legal immigration status. Those immigrants are more likely to have higher skills and education and their career paths are more likely to be blocked by their illegal status. 'When they get the green card, they catch up,' Hill said. 'What we think is driving this difference is the way employer sanctions might differ for employers at low skill levels than employers at high skill levels.'

(Source: Matt O'Brien, "Economy Won't Falter or Flourish Because of Immigration Reform, Study Finds," *The Contra Costa Times*, Walnut Creek, CA, April 6, 2010. www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=869)

Immigrants No Longer Dominate California's Population

Driven by recession and demographic trends, immigration in California has peaked, and native-born Californians now outnumber people from other U.S. states and around the world for the first time in centuries, according to a study this month. Transplants have outnumbered native Californians ever since the 1849 gold rush. Until now.

The historic turnaround reflects the fact that fewer people are moving to California because of the weak economy. At the same time, many of those who migrated in recent decades to America's Golden State in the past have now gone back to their native lands or moved elsewhere.

Increased immigration enforcement has also played an important role, said the report's author, Dowell Myers, professor of urban planning and demography at the University of Southern California. The report contradicts widely held perceptions of an unrelenting tide of immigrants making their way into California from across the border in Mexico.

It even surprised Myers. "We thought that the number of foreign-born residents in the state would rise to about 30 per cent before leveling off around 2020. Instead, we have reached the tipping point this year, with the percentage of foreign-born residents peaking at 26 per cent."

That contrasts dramatically with the situation in 1980 when not a single county in Southern California had a homegrown majority. Now, only the immigration mecca of Los Angeles County falls into that category, but it, too, is expected to become majority home grown when figures from the ongoing 2010 census are collated.

The USC study follows a report by the US Department of Homeland Security that said the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States had dropped from 11.6 million in 2008 to 10.8 million last year.

California has built itself into the world's sixth-largest economy largely by dint of the extraordinary successes forged by many of its newcomers. But Myers is convinced that the growing dominance of native-born Californians will be a boon to the state, quelling historic tensions over immigration and funding for government services like education. Because native-born Californians are three times more likely to stay in the state than their migrant counterparts, California's population will remain stable - giving the state ready-made replacements in the labor pool when the baby-boomers retire.

That population will be better educated, as history shows that children of Latino immigrants complete more years of schooling, speak better English, and earn more income than their parents. Myers sees California's population dynamics as an example of what is inexorably happening all over the first world.

"In terms of the central dynamic, it is the older generation versus the new generation," he explains. Old-timers generally frown on giving their tax dollars to newcomers, and believe they are taking jobs away from the native population. But Myers says his study should convince people that such positions are self-defeating.

“The growing California home-grown majority represents the future of the state, no matter what their parents' origins,” Myers says. “There's a partnership there, even though there is no ethnic or cultural ties.”

(Andy Goldberg, “In California, Immigrants Are Past Their Prime,” *Deutsche Presse Agentur*, April 7, 2010, <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/317416,in-california-immigrants-are-past-their-prime--feature.html>)

Buyer's Remorse on Immigration Continues

The global recession has caused countries that once welcomed foreign workers by the tens and hundreds of thousands — particularly Spain — to rethink generous immigration policies as unemployment rates have risen. Governments in Europe, Asia, and North America (but not Canada) have responded in three main ways: tightening criteria for skilled workers, reducing the number of temporary workers, and paying migrants to leave. They have also combated illegal migration. In some places, policymakers have used protectionist rhetoric in explaining the changes — though not in the extremes that some feared.

The United Kingdom was the first to announce changes to high-skilled migration criteria this year. British policymakers have stated that the points-based system, which it began rolling out in 2008, provides them with the flexibility to respond to economic changes and to ensure that companies can recruit abroad though not at the expense of British workers. Since April, highly skilled immigrants (Tier 1 of the points system) seeking to enter the United Kingdom need to have at least a master's degree and earn at least 20,000 pounds per year (US\$31,000) — rather than a bachelor's degree and 17,000 pounds (US\$26,400) — to qualify for entry.

Also, employers wishing to import skilled workers (Tier 2) must advertise jobs to resident workers through a government-run job Web site

for four weeks and they must use one other permitted method of advertising the position before they can bring in a non-European Union worker. In 2010, the annual minimum salary for skilled workers was raised from 17,000 pounds (US\$26,400) to 20,000 pounds (US\$31,000). In addition, the list of jobs on the skilled shortage occupation list has shrunk over the last year, from approximately 700,000 to about 500,000. Potential migrants score points if they are applying to work in one of these occupations.

While Eastern European migrants have left the United Kingdom in large numbers, the government decided in December 2008 not to open its labor market to nationals of Romania and Bulgaria in January 2009. Nationals of those two countries, which joined the European Union in 2007, can only fill low-skilled jobs through two specific programs, the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Scheme and the Sectors Based Scheme (limited to the food manufacturing sector), and only up to 21,250 places for the seasonal program and 3,500 for the other in 2009.

Neighboring Ireland also has seen a decrease in immigration from Eastern Europe this year. Nevertheless, it tightened its work permit system for non-EU workers in June 2009 due to the country's recession and high unemployment among Irish citizens. Among the changes: no new work permits for jobs with a salary of under 30,000 euros (US\$43,500), jobs must be advertised within the European Economic Area for a longer period, and spouses and dependents of work permit holders may not work unless they obtain their own work permits.

Rather than change its points system criteria due to the economy, Australia in mid-March announced a 14 percent reduction in the number of skilled migrants it would accept for permanent residence. The following month, Australia also announced higher admissions standards for the 457 visa, which allows skilled workers to stay in Australia for up to four years. These workers, as of mid-September, need to be paid at market rates so that employers cannot exploit them. The government also increased

the minimum English-language requirements for certain trade and hospitality occupations.

As the Australian government and observers expected, demand for 457 visas has dropped. The number of applications filed in October 2009 was 57 percent lower than in October 2008, and visa grants decreased 60 percent compared to a year earlier. Also, the 74,000 457 visa-holders in October was 9 percent off its February 2009 peak.

Export-dependent Malaysia, which had over 2 million temporary foreign workers at the beginning of the year, mainly from Indonesia and South Asia, in January banned the hiring of foreign workers in a number of industries. The Malaysian government also announced that existing permits for unskilled workers would not be renewed and that companies hit by the recession could apply to dismiss foreign workers before their contracts expired. By March, approvals for new work permits had been cut 70 percent. The government's message has not wavered: give priority to local workers and become less dependent on foreign workers in the future.

New Zealand, less affected by the recession than most other immigrant-receiving countries, purposely left permanent skilled migration untouched and chose instead to manage temporary worker flows by not renewing work permits in cases where New Zealanders are available to do the job. The government, noting the long-term importance of skilled migration, has called its response moderate compared to countries like Australia and Ireland.

Other changes in New Zealand include removing a small number of occupations from its shortage list and requiring skilled visa-holders to meet a minimum income threshold in order to bring over dependent children.

In the United States, Congress did take one noteworthy action early in 2009 by requiring banks receiving federal bailout money to give

priority to U.S. workers over those coming on H-1B temporary visas for highly skilled workers. Notably, Bank of America rescinded offers to foreign MBA students, citing the H-1B provision. Wells Fargo went even further and told some of its foreign workers in late March that it would not renew their H-1B visas.

The recession has also affected H-1B demand. The annual cap of 65,000 was reached within days of the start of the application period in previous years. As of November 20 — nearly eight months after they became available — approximately 8,000 petitions (12 percent of the cap) remained on hand.

Like the United States, Hong Kong has seen demand drop for its highly skilled migrant program that targets mainland Chinese. Applications were down 15 percent in the first six months of 2009 compared to the same period a year earlier.

Spain sparked a trend when it began its recession-inspired pay-to-go program in November 2008. Pay-to-go programs, also known as voluntary return programs, offer financial incentives in addition to a plane ticket to those who volunteer to leave and to accept certain restrictions on their ability to return to the program-sponsoring country.

In addition to 50 euros (US\$72.50) for travel expenses, Spain pays 40 percent of the migrant's unemployment benefits before departure and the remainder in the home country. On average, each migrant receives 9,148 euros (US\$13,260). As of November 2009, the Spanish government had 8,724 participants for its pay-to-go program, the overwhelming majority from Latin America. But with participation levels much lower than expected, the government anticipates 87,000 migrants will accept the offer, short of its original goal of 130,000. As of November, the program did not have any closing date.

Spain went further when in late November it passed a new law that requires foreigners with residence permits to live in Spain for five years (instead of the previous one year) before they can bring over immediate relatives. The new law also extends the maximum detention time for unauthorized immigrants from 40 to 60 days, giving

the government more time to identify and return them.

Following Spain's pay-to-go lead in 2009 were the Czech Republic and Japan, both targeting legal migrants. The Czech Republic's program, launched in February, paid 500 euros (US\$725) per adult and 250 euros (US\$363) per child during its first phase (through late July). The second phase pays 300 euros (US\$435) per adult and 150 euros (US\$218) per child.

The Czech Republic's program had just over 2,000 participants as of October, well below the government's goal of 4,000. Nearly two-thirds were from Mongolia although the majority of eligible individuals come from Ukraine and Vietnam. The Czech Republic is also running a smaller pay-to-go program for unauthorized migrants through December 15.

Japan started its pay-to-go program April 1, 2009 by targeting unemployed Nikkeijin — foreigners of Japanese descent — from Latin America. The government pays \$3,000 for airfare and \$2,000 for each dependent, plus a bonus of \$1,000 to \$2,000, depending on how much longer the person was to receive unemployment benefits. As of October 1, over 11,000 applications were approved.

The U.K. government put a spin on the pay-to-go concept in July when it agreed to pay would-be asylum seekers in Calais, France, 1,700 pounds (US\$2,635) to not enter the United Kingdom. And Denmark, which has had a voluntary repatriation program since 1997, increased its financial incentive tenfold to about US\$20,000 in November to encourage non-EU immigrants to return home forever.

The recession has also prompted countries to step up efforts to combat illegal migration. Last year, Italy and Libya reached an agreement that, among other things, allows Italy to return to Libya migrants who leave from Libyan coasts and are intercepted before reaching Italian shores, meaning the migrants cannot seek asylum. As part of the agreement, Italy has

provided Libya with patrol boats to stop migrants from leaving for Italy.

In May, Italy put the agreement into practice when it returned over 200 migrants rescued in the Mediterranean. While the Italian government has called the return policy successful, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, human rights groups, and the Vatican strongly oppose it.

This summer, Israel launched a task force that deported 700 unauthorized immigrants and arranged the voluntary exit of 2,400 others as of October. The government's goal is to expel 20,000 of the country's estimated 280,000 unauthorized immigrants by the end of the year. The hard line extends to about 1,200 Israel-born children of workers; the government has vowed to deport the children next year.

The United Kingdom put employers on notice in 2008, stating that it would "name and shame" those that hire people in the country illegally, in addition to hitting them with a fine of up to 10,000 pounds (US\$15,500) per unauthorized worker. This year, the UK Border Agency has arrested a number of unauthorized immigrants in work site raids across the country, including at many ethnic restaurants. (Source: "Buyer's Remorse on Immigration Continues," *Migration Information Source*, Migration Policy Institute, December 2009. www.migrationinformation.org)

Anti-Illegal Immigration Group Wants Census Used to Find Illegal Immigrants

An anti-illegal immigration group has launched a push for U.S. census data to be used to enforce immigration law. The North Carolina-based group Americans for Legal Immigration Political Action Committee (ALIPAC) called Monday for its supporters to flood congressional offices nationwide with calls to introduce legislation that would allow 2010 census data to be used to identify and deport illegal immigrants.

Immigration advocates and experts said the proposal would be unworkable and would run counter to the purpose of the census. ALIPAC President William Gheen called his proposal a response to widespread efforts by the census to

reach out to immigrant populations through measures such as Spanish-language ads.

"We can't allow illegal aliens to steal taxpayer allocations and taxpayer representation by being counted on the census," he said. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, a Republican who represents Frederick County, was among the congressional incumbents endorsed by ALIPAC in 2010. Bartlett's spokeswoman, Lisa Wright, said to her knowledge no one had contacted the Congressman's office about the group's proposal.

Census population figures are used, in part, to determine federal funding and congressional representation for each state.

Lisa Navarrete, vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a Hispanic advocacy organization, called ALIPAC an extremist group and equated taking their immigration policy proposals seriously with taking advice on affirmative action from a white supremacist group. Gheen "is trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist," she said. "On the contrary, what the problem has been for years with the census is a significant undercount of Latinos."

Census Bureau spokeswoman Samantha O'Neil had no specific comment on the ALIPAC proposal but said that the bureau is tasked with counting every resident, regardless of citizenship status. Federal law prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing personal information collected in the census with any other agency. "We take our orders from the Constitution, and we've been doing it the same way since 1790," O'Neil said.

The 2010 census did not include any questions about immigration status. ALIPAC is proposing that identifying information provided on census forms should be run against federal databases to flag potential illegal immigrants. Audrey Singer, a senior fellow in the metropolitan policy program of the Brookings Institution, said it would be impossible to verify

immigration status based on the information provided on the 2010 census.

"There's no magical database out there that could accurately and reliably inform us about a person's legal standing in the country," she said. " ... On the accuracy of doing that, it would be a surefire failure, not to mention all of the legal and ethical consequences."

(Source: Abby Sewell, "Anti-Illegal Immigration Group Wants Census Used to Find Illegal Immigrants," *The Medill Reports* (Northwestern University, Chicago), April 7, 2010, www.fredericknewspost.com/sections/news/display.htm?StoryID=103396.)

Group in California Wants to Cut Off Citizenship for Children Born to Illegal Parents

A ballot initiative targeting children born to people who are in the United States illegally is on hold after anti-illegal immigration activists failed to garner enough signatures to make June's California ballot. Anti-illegal immigration activists who are attempting to cut off automatic citizenship for children who were born on United States soil are now aiming to put their California Taxpayer Protection initiative on the ballot two years from now, said Ted Hilton, a San Diego resident who leads the effort.

"We're still working behind the scenes," Hilton said. First, he said, his group needs to look for donors with deep pockets. The money is needed to pay for professional signature gatherers instead of the volunteers they relied on last year, who fell short in gathering the more than 600,000 signatures by the November deadline to make June's ballot.

Evelyn Miller, whose Irvine home served as something of a clearinghouse last year for incoming petitions from surrounding counties, said she and others will not join the effort again unless there's enough money in the bank. "When you need 600,000 signatures you need a million dollars in the bank before you start, as far as I'm concerned," she said. Miller is a member of anti-illegal immigration group California Coalition for Immigration Reform, based in Huntington Beach.

Hilton said he is currently attempting to convince national anti-illegal immigration groups, such as NumberUSA, to help fund the effort. His initiative sought to impose new rules for birth certificates, essentially calling for the state to issue one type of birth certificate to children of U.S. citizens and green card holders and another to children of temporary residents and of those who are here illegally. Next time around, Hilton said the initiative will likely take a different incarnation but still target what he called "anchor babies."

While states cannot determine who gets to be a U.S. citizen, Hilton says the initiative would cut off benefits for the U.S.-born children of people who are in the country illegally. Many scholars argue that changing the definition of citizenship would require a constitutional amendment, which could only be done on the federal level.

Even if it were to pass, Hilton expects the initiative would be challenged in court. However, Hilton has said at least it would bring the issue of birthright citizenship to a national debate. He hopes any such challenge would eventually wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court, which might respond by issuing a ruling on the definition of citizenship.

Immigrant rights activists, attorneys and constitutional scholars have blasted the anti-birthright citizenship initiatives, saying it wouldn't discourage people from coming to the country illegally.

"I don't see how (the initiative) would deter illegal immigration at all. Most people coming here to the United States illegally are for the jobs and to reunite with their families," said Margaret Stock during a roundtable news conference last year on the issue. Stock is an attorney who's represented children of military families who were born outside the United States and are trying to fix their status.

Stock, a lieutenant colonel in the Military Police Corps and U.S. Army Reserve, said the "anchor baby" idea is a myth because a child

born on U.S. soil can't sponsor his or her parents for permanent residence until he or she becomes 21. And, the process is long, and requirements are strict and challenging to overcome, she said.

"Having a baby here doesn't mean you get to stay here legally," Stock had said. "It means that if you're deported, you have to decide to leave your baby behind or take them with you."

(Source: Cindy Carcamo, "Plan to Cut Off Citizenship for Children of Illegal Immigrants Stalls," *The Orange County Register*, April 7, 2010.)

Marchers Seek In-State Tuition for Illegal Immigrants

Sixteen-year-old Melina Renteria wants to open a dance studio when she grows up. Her friend, another high school sophomore in Durham, wants to work in medicine. Both think they need some higher education. Renteria, who attends Durham School of the Arts, has a good chance of getting it. Her friend at Riverside High School might not.

A biology degree at UNC-Chapel Hill would cost her friend about \$100,000. If Renteria studied dance at UNC-Greensboro, she'd pay about \$21,000 in tuition and fees. The difference: Renteria's friend came to Durham from southern Mexico without immigration papers at age 4. Renteria was born in Los Angeles and moved to North Carolina at age 9.

They both walked from Chapel Hill to Durham on Monday as part of the "Trail of Dreams," a 1,500-mile march to promote immigration reforms like allowing U.S. high school graduates to pay in-state tuition in their home states. "They want to study but they can't because they don't have papers," said Renteria, who spoke on behalf of others who won't be able to go to college unless laws change.

An estimated 12 million illegal immigrants live in the United States, and 65,000 graduate from U.S. high schools each year. Only 5 percent attend college, according to a report by the College Board.

Among those 5 percent are Felipe Matos, Juan Rodriguez, Gaby Pacheco and Carlos Roa, four students at Miami Dade College in south Florida. The quartet left Miami on foot New Year's Day, aiming to arrive in Washington D.C. on May 1. In

recent days, they have walked all over North Carolina, visiting the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro, where nonviolent sit-ins challenged Jim Crow in 1960.

"Change doesn't come from the president," said Matos, a 24-year-old native of Brazil and aspiring high school teacher. "It doesn't come from the Congress. It doesn't come from people up high. It comes from people like you and me." Matos said a man outside a Home Depot in Wilmington told him he wasn't "completely human," but he's still willing to go public with his identity. He knows he's risking physical abuse or even deportation in order to confront current state laws that prevent public universities from offering in-state tuition benefits to unauthorized immigrants. "The situation for undocumented people in this country is so unbearable that we knew we had to make a statement, even if we had to risk everything," he said.

About 50 demonstrators joined the students on their march Monday from Peace and Justice Plaza on Franklin Street to El Centro Hispano and a potluck dinner in downtown Durham. Renteria said even if North Carolina taxpayers have to foot some of the bill to send her undocumented friends to college, it's worth it. "If you study here, there's more of a better chance that you're going to help the economy," she said. "In the end, it will help the United States."

(Source: Jesse James Deconto, "'Trail of Dreams' Marchers Seek In-State Tuition for Illegal Immigrants," *The Durham News*, April 7, 2010.)

Hispanic Leaders Campaign to Help 2010 Census Coverage

The executive director of a Washington D.C. Latino community organization called on Hispanics, regardless of their immigration status, to participate in the 2010 Census, adding that doing so will expand their access to \$400 billion in government-funded "resources." "To

the Hispanic community, the reality is that participating in the Census is very important," said Rodrigo Leiva in Spanish while speaking at a rally focused on urging the American public to participate in the decennial tabulation by the Census Bureau.

Leiva is the executive director of the Latino Federation of Greater Washington, a non-profit membership organization that works to empower the Latino community through advocacy, research and capacity-building resources. "It's about resources. It's about a tremendous importance of billions of dollars. We have to participate. Please participate," continued Leiva. "There is no fear about immigration being an issue. This is a totally separate organization. The answers you provide are totally confidential. It's very critical for our future."

Before his remarks in Spanish, Leiva addressed the rally attendees in English without mentioning anything about the issue of immigration as he used "additional" government-funded resources as an incentive for Hispanics to fill out their Census forms. "Our growth and our flourishing will not equate to having additional resources if we don't participate in the Census," Leiva said. "So, it's so critical that we all participate and be counted.

"This is about an impact that it can have for the next 10 years," explained Leiva. "We're talking about resources. We're talking about political representation. We're talking about health care. We're talking about education. We're talking about things that are vital to the Latino community."

The Census rally took place on April 1, the National Census Day, which is the designated date for the American population to mail back their 10 question Census form. Leiva spoke along with a group of federal government officials.

Leiva said that because undocumented Hispanic immigrants pay taxes, they should be able to benefit from government-funded "resources" as other taxpayers do. "They do pay taxes," Leiva told CNSNews.com after the event. "Anytime they're buying something at the store they're paying taxes." He later added, "Even though they don't have an immigration status, they are filing for taxes."

Michael Brown, a D.C. councilman who spoke at the event, echoed Leiva's comments on encouraging the Latino community to get counted in the Census regardless of their immigration status. He referred to the notion that information gathered from the Census forms will be used to track down undocumented workers as a "myth." "No one will come after you for any immigration issues," said Brown. He further said rather than being about a respondent's immigration status, the count is conducted "to make sure we can count how many people we have using city services in this city."

All of the speakers emphasized that the amount of "federal resources" a district gets is calculated based on the number of inhabitants in that region. More people amounts to more money. Among other things Census data are used "to distribute more than \$400 billion federal dollars annually to state, local, and tribal governments," according to an April 1 press release that highlighted points made by the speakers during the rally.

"Every time one of us gets counted, more federal resources come into our city," said Brown.

However, it was pointed out that communities and jurisdictions will not be able to reap the full benefits that come with having a big population if their escalating Hispanic community continues to be ignored in the Census count. "The Hispanic population in America is blooming," said Norton, "and burgeoning and with all of those glorious numbers, it simply will not matter to that community and to the jurisdictions where they live if all that flowering of the wonderful diverse Hispanic community is still undercounted."

D.C. delegate Eleanor Norton highlighted the thought that everyone needs to be counted "regardless of race, background or anything else you adhere to." Such enumeration is mandated under Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution. She noted that failing to fill out

your form is a violation of law and could result in courts imposing a \$5,000 fine, something that the Census has said will be used as a desperate resort. In addition, "For every one percent increase in the mail back response rate, the Census Bureau saves \$85 million dollars in enumeration costs," the U.S. Census Bureau stated in an April 1 press release. "If everyone across the nation mailed back their form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of taking the census by \$1.5 billion," added the Census.

This year, for the first time, the Census will send a replacement form to those who do not mail in the questionnaire that was initially sent. A portion of the hard-to-count areas will automatically receive a second form, which critics say could result in double counting. If the respondent does not mail back either the initial form or the replacement, a person working for the Census' Non-Response Follow-Up program will physically go to the household.

The data that the U.S. Census gives birth to is used to appropriate seats in the House of Representatives and on a yearly basis disburse the \$400 billion in federal funds made available for the state, local, and tribe.

(Edwin Mora, "D.C. Leader Calls on Illegal Immigrants to Fill Out Census for Taxpayer-Funded Resources," *CNSNews.Com*, April 06, 2010.)

Migrant Workers Face Massive Deportations in Thailand

Over a million illegal migrant workers in Thailand are facing deportation. According to new regulations, any migrant worker who failed to apply for an official work permit before the March 2nd deadline could be sent home at any time. Migrant workers need to submit papers from their home country to become legal migrants and to get a work permit.

The government says the new regulations aim to improve the standard of the working environment for migrants and to provide them with health care. But critics accuse the process of being too complicated and costly, as the migrants need to return home to get the national certification from their own governments. Additionally, migrants have

to pay \$118 to apply for the work permit... but many of them have to pay double to brokers to get it faster and avoid any complications.

Thailand has more than two million migrant workers from Laos, Cambodia and Burma. Many say the deportation will affect Thailand's economy as the migrants make up about six percent of the workforce.

The nationality verification process doesn't apply to those ethnic minorities from Burma who fled their home due to human rights violations. Many agree with Thailand to formalize migrations but are against the deportations.

In 2009, police sent back almost 350-thousand workers to their countries but many of them returned to Thailand when they got a chance.

(Source: "Migrant Workers Face Deportation in Thailand," *New Tang Dynasty Television*, April 5, 2010.)

Industry Group Leader Says Australia Needs More Migrants, Not Fewer

Industry groups have urged against curbing population growth, some arguing that Australia needs more migrants to sustain a healthy economy. Business groups weighed into the population debate yesterday, at odds with the federal opposition, which is arguing that migration should be reduced because the population growth rate of 2.1 per cent is unsustainable.

The head of the Australian Industry Group, Heather Ridout, said it was ridiculous to suggest Australia's population growth was out of control.

"If we are going to make that choice to restrict migrants, over the years we are going to have to pay higher taxes to support an ageing population," she told ABC TV.

The Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry said curbing population growth would lead to a stagnant economy and could spark a rise in crime. A spokesman for the

Chamber, Chris James, said: "What happens when you don't have strong population growth is a situation like Japan where stagnation is the order of the day, or Detroit where depopulation causes urban degeneration and crime. 'When areas depopulate, the level of demand in the economy drops. That effects business, business stops investing, employment falls and people begin to leave, so it effectively feeds on itself."

The housing construction and retail sectors would suffer most without a healthy level of growth, Mr James said. On the other hand, governments must plan properly for growth and provide adequate infrastructure. Most chamber members supported the current population settings. "We're not quite sure what to make of the Coalition's comments."

Mr. James' sentiments were supported by the NSW Business Chamber, whose spokesman, Paul Ritchie, said: "Given the ageing of the population, just through demographic forces, there's going to be a need for an uptake in skilled migration. That will be essential to broaden the tax base and keep a strong workforce in place."

Contradicting these thoughts, the federal opposition immigration spokesman, Scott Morrison, said annual net overseas migration rates of 300,000 were unsustainable and should be returned to levels under the previous government, of between 125,600 and about 200,000 a year. Treasury forecasts suggest the population will rise from 22 million to almost 36 million by 2050.

(Kate Lahey, "Australia Need More Migrants, Not Fewer," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, April 7, 2010. <http://www.smh.com.au/business/we-need-more-migrants-not-fewer-20100406-rpi7.html>.)

Will Amnesty Be the Next Item of the Political Agenda for the U.S.?

Many on the left are demanding that president Obama take up amnesty for illegal immigrants as his next major goal. But it's just not going to happen. There has certainly been a lot of talk about moving on to immigration reform. Some 60,000 illegal aliens and their supporters staged a protest in

Washington last month demanding amnesty. Mr. Obama reiterated his “unwavering” commitment to legalizing the country’s 11 million illegal aliens. And a great fuss was made over a “blueprint” for an amnesty bill outlined in a *Washington Post* op-ed by Sens. Charles Schumer and Lindsey Graham.

But indicators suggesting that amnesty is a non-starter this year are far more numerous and relevant. First of all, the coalition that would be expected to support such a bill is deeply divided. In fact, the reason there isn’t an actual bill yet in the Senate (House speaker Nancy Pelosi has said she won’t move anything until the Senate acts) is that Big Business and Big Labor disagree fundamentally about how “future flows” of increased immigration should work.

Employer lobbyists insist on a “guest worker” period — essentially, a period of indentured servitude during which immigrants could not leave the employers who “sponsored” them — for those admitted under any expanded legal-immigration program. For these cheap-labor employers, it would defeat the whole purpose if workers were free to look for better jobs. The unions, on the other hand, have rejected the idea of importing captive labor, because of the resulting unfair competition with American workers and inevitable exploitation of the captive laborers.

At a recent panel I was on at Harvard Law School, business lobbyist Tamar Jacoby said the employer interests negotiating over the bill had gone all the way down to a mere one-year period of “provisional immigration” for new workers, while the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) representative said even one year of “indenture” (he used the word repeatedly) was too much. This is all the more interesting considering that the SEIU backed an indentured-labor program when it allied with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to push amnesty in 2007.

Perhaps related to this split is the fact that Senator Schumer, chairman of the Senate

immigration subcommittee, has not been able to find any Republican co-sponsors save Lindsey Graham. Not Susan Collins. Not Olympia Snowe. Not Richard Lugar. Not even John McCain, who was a leader in pushing amnesty last time — but who now is in a tough primary and is pretending to be a conservative again. And even Graham said, during the health-care debate, that amnesty would be dead if Senate Democrats used reconciliation to push through the recent health care legislation.

What’s more, trying to pass amnesty using the same tactics as were seen in the health care fight isn’t likely to be successful. Lots of Democrats cast hard votes for Obamacare, and the president wants to limit the electoral damage in November by pitching the supposed benefits of the new health-care law for the next six months. In that environment, why would anyone even think of piling on a new, even more controversial law?

And that’s just the politics of it. The policy argument for amnesty and increased immigration is pretty weak as well. When unemployment is near 10 percent, not much of the public is going to be enthusiastic about increased immigration and an amnesty that would let illegal aliens keep the jobs they now illegally occupy.

What’s more, claims that the government has the enforcement situation under control, which many Americans consider a precondition to amnesty, are nonsense. Schumer made such a claim last year; his approach, as described by the *Washington Times*: “Lawmakers have proved to the nation that they are serious about security. Now, he said, voters should be ready to accept a law that legalizes illegal immigrants and rewrites immigration rules.” Likewise, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chief Janet Napolitano’s November 2009 address to the liberal think tank Center for American Progress was summarized by a reporter this way: “The federal government has done its work and now it’s time for Congress to pass a broad bill to legalize illegal immigrants.”

“Done its work”? Tell that to Robert Krentz — or rather to his survivors, since the lifelong Arizona border rancher was murdered last month, likely by

an illegal alien using a smuggling route through Krentz's ranch. The border "fencing" near his land, touted in Department of Homeland Security publications, is no fence at all — it's a vehicle barrier, intended to slow vanloads of illegals and drug criminals, not to keep out people. And even this fencing may be too much for this administration. The "virtual fence" of cameras, sensors, etc., all integrated with Border Patrol agents in the field, was offered as an alternative to a real fence, which was required by Congress but which neither the last administration nor this one really wanted. Now that the virtual fence has been shelved as well, there are no plans to cover those areas with genuine fencing.

That's not all. The fiscal-year 2011 budget request includes a cut in the number of Border Patrol agents. The number of deportations under Obama's policies had dropped so much during this fiscal year that the immigration service was compelled to institute quotas in an attempt to get the numbers back up to more politically defensible levels. Raids of worksites with lots of illegal workers have been replaced by audits of personnel records, carefully timed so agents won't run across an actual illegal alien they might want to arrest.

And the icing on the anti-amnesty cake is the chaos in Mexico, a low-level civil war, really, in which vicious drug cartels are taking time out from battling each other to launch military-style attacks on the army and police, and now even American government personnel. The lack of adequate border security makes a mass influx of refugees from Mexico more likely and dims the public's and lawmakers' appetite for providing amnesty for 11 million illegal aliens.

In fact, the talk of making a push for an immigration bill was intended at least partly, as *Politico* observed, "to keep Latino members from breaking out in full-scale revolt over the health care bill's treatment of undocumented workers." Now that the health care bill has been

signed, promises made to the Hispanic Caucus have passed their expiration date.

A fear expressed by some Republicans on the Hill is that if Democrats get shellacked in November, they'll come back for a lame-duck session and ram through amnesty on a party-line vote, with retiring or defeated members free to disregard public opinion. And the Democrats are clearly considering it. In that vein, Sen. Robert Menendez of New Jersey told a home state newspaper last week: "I think the time to get it done is in November, right after the elections. I'm being very pragmatic. I think there are a bunch of people who are retiring who would cast votes [because] their heart and their intellect tell them it is the right thing, but their politics might have told them no. They are free to cast votes that we might not normally get."

Eternal vigilance is, of course, required to prevent such an eventuality, but I'm not sure the threat is serious. Lawmakers have sense enough to know that a lame-duck amnesty bill, in the wake of big Republican gains in Congress, would be an even more ripe target for repeal, or at least de-funding, than Obamacare.

I have two final observations. The fact that amnesty is not going to pass this year just means that we're going to avoid a catastrophic mistake; it doesn't mean that Congress will act, as it should in such a slow job market, to reduce the level of immigration. Even in this environment, the immigration debate remains stuck in the "legal-good/illegal-bad" rut that has circumscribed public discussion of the issue for far too long. And secondly, Liberal Washington Post columnist Harold Meyerson asked some activists what they'd do if the president didn't follow through and make a big push for amnesty. Here's how they responded: "We will go into the field," says [Rep. Luis] Gutierrez, "like the civil rights movement and the suffragists did." "We will escalate," says Gustavo Torres of Casa de Maryland, "to civil disobedience." Civil disobedience — by illegal aliens. The chances of an amnesty passing may be slim, but the show sure should be entertaining.

(Mark Krikorian, "After Health Care, Amnesty?" National Review Online, April 8, 2010. <http://article.nationalreview.com/430663/after-health-care-amnesty/mark-krikorian>)

Would Amnesty for Illegal Immigrants Cause Delays in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services?

An interesting question has arisen as a result of a congressional hearing: would a massive legalization program, as many advocates want, slow the processing of applications filed routinely by citizens and legal aliens wanting immigration benefits? The numbers are daunting. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) currently faces six million applications a year according to one news story. The estimates of the number of illegal aliens in the nation runs to 11 or 12 million.

Could USCIS handle both these multi-million caseloads with its current paper-based systems? There are many complaints that the backlogs are currently too long on the normal collection of six million cases a year. The government's expert on such things, Frank W. Deffer, Assistant Inspector General for Information Technology in the Department of Homeland Security, told a congressional committee on March 23: "adding 12 million more people to the system would be the mother of all backlogs. Clearly to us the systems could not handle it now."

His testimony was before the immigration subcommittee of the House of Representatives' Committee on the Judiciary (formally, it's the "Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law"). Deffer said that the needed electronic systems would not be ready for a few years. He spoke in detail of what USCIS is doing, what it has accomplished, and what it has not accomplished in this field.

On the other hand the new director of USCIS, Alejandro Mayorkas, told reporter Stephen Dinan after the hearing that "We will be ready for comprehensive reform when it is enacted." He said his confidence stemmed in part from the agency's ability to respond to the earthquake in Haiti, the article continued, citing USCIS's handling of 1,000 Haitian orphans and some 33,000 applications for temporary legal status for Haitians who were illegally in the U.S. at the time of the earthquake.

How the prompt handling of documents dealing with 34,000 people related to the challenge of dealing with 12,000,000 people was not discussed. Nor was the inherent conflict between handling the millions of applications filed annually by legal residents, on one hand, and the pressure to process as many as 12 million additional applications from illegal aliens, on the other. That appears to be one immigration issue that the open borders advocates do not want to debate.

(David North, "Would Legalization Backlogs Delay Other USCIS Applications? Probably," *Center for Immigration Studies*, April 7, 2010.)

Can Mexican Drug Violence Be Used As A Means to Asylum in the U.S.?

Immigration attorneys have been pushing to expand the definition (and application) of asylum in order to create an asylum policy that welcomes many and denies entry to very few. For at least the past three decades, a number of activist-minded attorney groups have pushed for this expansion, even though it has meant advancing analysis that contradicts the original intent and traditional interpretation of the law.

The latest effort to expand asylum involves 30 Mexican nationals who entered the U.S. illegally and are seeking asylum from the ongoing drug cartel violence in their home country. I appeared on Fox News to debate the potential fallout with an immigration attorney.

In general, a person can seek asylum if he is facing persecution from his government or an entity operating on behalf of the government. This first requirement will not be met, however, because the

Mexican government is not persecuting these individuals, and the drug cartels are not operating with the Mexican government's consent. The asylum claim should fail on this ground without the need for any further inquiry.

If the 30 illegal immigrants somehow convince immigration officials that they do meet the first requirement, they still must prove that they face persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Although some of these categories are not clearly defined, and although immigration attorneys have become very creative in interpreting them as broadly as possible, it is unlikely that the 30 illegal aliens will be able to fit into any of these categories.

In the unlikely event that the illegal aliens meet the first two requirements, they will very likely fail in meeting the third requirement: Asylum is generally not granted if the individual can relocate within his home country in order to avoid the violence. The drug cartel violence that is the basis of the aliens' claim is not taking place throughout Mexico, and a court should find that they can simply relocate.

Despite the efforts of immigration attorneys, it should be obvious to any Immigration Judge that our nation's asylum laws are not applicable to the situation at hand. Nevertheless, if they are successful it would represent a massive expansion of asylum law and it would undoubtedly result in increased asylum claims by Mexicans living illegally in the United States. It would also encourage more Mexicans to cross the border illegally.

Giving shelter to those fleeing persecution abroad has always been part of America's welcoming immigration policy. Americans generally want to help people facing persecution overseas to the extent that they can, and our asylum system has been crafted to reflect this reality. But if Americans detect an effort to exploit their generosity, it may sour the nation's opinion of immigration generally. It is not in the

interest of immigration attorneys, nor their clients, to allow this to happen.

(Jon Feere, "Mexican Drug Violence As A Means to Asylum," *Center for Immigration Studies*, April 6, 2010. www.cis.org/Feere/Mexico-Violence-Asylum)

Canada Marches to A Different Drummer When It Comes to Immigration

While the recession prompted the United Kingdom and Australia to raise the admissions bar for skilled migrants this year, Canada chose to leave untouched its long-standing points system and the number of immigrants admitted for permanent residence despite the highest unemployment rate in nearly a decade. In February, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney made Canada's position clear. "Our government will not follow the advice of those who believe that Canada should take steps to reduce immigration levels," he said.

Canada admitted 247,202 permanent immigrants in 2008 and was aiming for between 240,000 and 265,000 new permanent residents in 2009 and 2010. "The focus of the 2010 plan is on economic immigration to support Canada's economy during and beyond the current economic recovery," Kenny stated in late October. As part of the plan, the government increased the admission ranges for immigrants nominated by provinces and territories.

This year was not the first time Canada stayed the immigration course in a recession. In the early 1990s, Canada kept permanent immigration levels at about 230,000 per year. Over 256,000 immigrants settled in Canada in 1993, when unemployment hit 11.4 percent. Studies have shown that immigrants who arrived in this period never fully recovered economically.

As University of Toronto sociologist Jeffrey Reitz told the *Toronto Star* in March, "Their professional careers got derailed. Their skills became stale. They were stuck even when the economy bounced back. These people are worse off for their entire life." While this recession has been less severe — Canada's unemployment rate in

October was 8.6 percent compared to 6.2 percent a year earlier — some question whether immigrants could face similar economic "scarring."

For immigrants in the country five years or less, the unemployment rate reached 13.9 percent in October. A new report from Statistics Canada revealed that in 2008, two-thirds of recently arrived university-educated immigrants worked in occupations that normally required at most a college education or apprenticeship.

The Canadian government, which recognizes that too many of its immigrants are underemployed, is taking some measures to tackle at least one facet of the problem. Earlier this year, the federal budget set aside CAN\$50 million (US\$40 million) over the next two years to make the process of assessing and recognizing educational and professional foreign credentials more efficient.

And in a just-unveiled agreement that will be implemented over the next three years, immigrants in certain occupations, including nurses and engineers, will have their credentials recognized within one year of submitting an application to the relevant authority. ("Canada Bucks the Trend and Keeps Immigration Targets Steady," *Migration Policy Institute*, December 2009. www.migrationinformation.org)

Is There A Relationship Between Climate Change and Immigration?

Floods and hurricanes, droughts and desertification, rising sea levels and salinization of groundwater — all can force people to leave their homes, either temporarily or permanently. Climate change, which most scientists agree is taking place, likely will exacerbate these environmental processes and events, possibly even causing violence as people fight over scarce resources. It also will lead to migration (some say contested water supplies have contributed to the ongoing violence in Sudan's Darfur region). Estimates of how many people

could be displaced vary from as little as 25 million to 1 billion by 2050, according to a recent policy brief on climate change from the International Organization for Migration.

Talk of climate change and migration ramped up in 2009, in large part due to a number of conferences and reports surrounding the highly anticipated United Nations (UN) Climate Change conference that begins next week in Copenhagen.

In June, a group including the UN University, CARE International, and Columbia University published a report intended to help policymakers and development specialists understand the links between environmental change, displacement, and migration. The organization In Search of Shelter noted that climate change already contributes to displacement and migration, that most movement is internal, and that the least developed countries and island states will be affected "first and worst."

When 182 countries gathered in Bonn in June to work on language for Copenhagen, they included text that calls for protecting people whom climate change displaces (the United States objected to the inclusion of "climate refugee," however, because refugees have specific rights under international law and climate migrants are not persecuted).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, speaking at the Global Forum on Migration and Development in November, said, "Negotiations have recognized that migration is a likely consequence of climate impacts." What does or does not happen in Copenhagen surely will not mean the end of the discussion. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees pointed out in an updated policy paper in August that it believes "the need for advocacy on climate change issues will remain in various fora into 2010 and beyond."

Some might credit Mohamed Nasheed, president of the Maldives, a nation of small islands in the Indian Ocean, with giving climate-induced migration new visibility. On the eve of his inauguration in November 2008, Nasheed declared that he would try to find a new homeland, as rising sea levels could eventually submerge the country.

In February, Anote Tang, the president of Kiribati, an archipelagic nation in the Pacific, made a similar statement about buying land for future relocation. Already, the Kiribati government is training its people so they can find jobs in countries like New Zealand, which allows a small number of working-age Pacific Islanders to settle permanently each year.

These leaders, as well as those in Bangladesh, Malawi, and other developing nations confronting climate change, all want the Copenhagen conference to result in major carbon emission cuts. Nasheed went so far as to hold an underwater cabinet meeting in October to draw attention to his country's situation and call for a deal in Copenhagen "that will ensure that everyone will survive."

Not surprisingly, Pacific Island countries would like to cooperate with Australia and New Zealand in making long-term plans. In November, Tang told an Australian newspaper that his larger neighbors had offered little response to his requests. He noted, though, that the president of East Timor said his country might be able to accommodate some of Kiribati's people.

Indeed, one member of Australia's parliament came out this fall in favor of admitting displaced people from the Pacific Islands through an expanded refugee program — but in the context of less migration to Australia overall.

Developing countries are pushing forward with their own plans. In October, the African Union adopted the Kampala Convention, which promises to protect millions of internally displaced persons in African countries. Notably, the Convention recognizes natural disasters as a factor in displacement. The chairperson of the Commission of the African Union said the decision to mention natural disasters was due to the global debate on climate-induced migration.

Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 states that climate change will most affect the country's coastal region. As

outlined in the plan, the government intends to collect data on the displaced and their numbers in cities and then ensure they have employment. ("The World Is Talking about Climate Change and Migration," *Migration Policy Institute*, December 2009. www.migrationinformation.org)

EGSG Sponsored Sessions for the 2010 AAG Meetings in Washington, D.C.

EGSG is sponsoring 25 sessions (including the Group's Business Meeting) for the AAG meetings this year in Washington, D.C. 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.)

Please Remember to Attend EGSG's
Distinguished Scholar Lecture
by Ron Johnston (4433)
Saturday, 4/17/10, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in
Wilson B, Marriott Mezzanine Level

1240 Increasing segregation or convivial multiculturalism? Old/new narratives in race and ethnicity debates. I

Wednesday, 4/14/10, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Truman, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

Allan Cochrane - Open University

Sarah Neal - Open University

Chair(s):

Allan Cochrane - Open University

Abstract(s):

10:00 AM Author(s): *Sarah Neal - Open University

Abstract Title: The spatialities of race and ethnicities: reviewing the evidence and arguments on the state of multiculturalism in England

10:20 AM Author(s): *James Rhodes, PhD - University of Manchester

Abstract Title: Geographies of 'Race' and Class in a De-industrialized Northern English Town

10:40 AM Author(s): *Jamie Kesten - Open University

Allan Cochrane, Professor - Open University
Abstract Title: Multiculture and community in new city spaces

11:00 AM Discussant: Nancy Ettliger - Ohio State University

11:10 AM Discussant: Michael Poulsen - Macquarie University

11:20 AM Discussant: Giles Mohan - The Open University, UK

Discussant(s):

Nancy Ettliger - Ohio State University

Michael Poulsen - Macquarie University

Giles Mohan - The Open University, UK

Session Description: The panel aims to explore the contemporary geographies of race and ethnicity by considering the tensions between those who stress the possibilities of convivial multiculturalism and those who emphasise the continued salience of forms of segregation. The papers draw largely on the UK experience, but the issues at stake are of much wider significance, and discussants will engage with them from a range of different national experiences. The aim is to encourage discussion that brings in different accounts and ways of thinking.

Panel Session:

1351 Plenary Session featuring Thomas Mesenbourg, Deputy Directory of the US Deputy Director of the Census Bureau

Wednesday, 4/14/10, from 11:40 AM - 12:30 PM in Washington Room 1, Marriott Exhibition Level

Organizer(s):

Douglas Richardson - Association of American Geographers

Chair(s):

John S. Adams - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Speaker(s):

Thomas Mesenbourg - U.S. Census Bureau
Introducer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Panel Session:

1419 Ethnic Diversity in Geography:

Departmental Champions

Wednesday, 4/14/10, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Thomas Paine, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Lawrence E. Estaville - Texas State University

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Chair(s):

Lawrence E. Estaville - Texas State University

Panelist(s):

Joe T. Darden - Michigan State University

Fenda A. Akiwumi - University of South Florida

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Session Description: A conversation about identifying departmental champions to lead in creating more ethnically diverse geography departments in the U.S.

1440 Increasing segregation or convivial multiculturalism? Old/new narratives in race and ethnicity debates. II

Wednesday, 4/14/10, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Truman, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

Allan Cochrane - Open University

Sarah Neal - Open University

Chair(s):

Sarah Neal - Open University

Abstract(s):

12:40 PM Author(s): *Lawrence A. Brown - Ohio State University

Michael Webb - Ohio State University

Abstract Title: Housing Policy and Neighborhoods: The American Dream Writ Local??

1:00 PM Author(s): *Benjamin Cheng - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Abstract Title: Questions of inclusion and exclusion in the new ethnic suburb: A study of local governance in Skokie, IL

1:20 PM Author(s): *Linda S. Fair, Ph.D. -

Binghamton University Department of Geography

Abstract Title: Who is a Dane? Race and ethnicity in Denmark

1:40 PM Author(s): *Jennifer Kopf - Friedrich Schiller Universitaet

Abstract Title: Berlin Celebrates Difference

2:00 PM Discussant: Allan Cochrane - Open University

Discussant(s):

Allan Cochrane - Open University

Session Description: The panel aims to explore the contemporary geographies of race and ethnicity by considering the tensions between those who stress the possibilities of convivial multiculturalism and those who emphasise the continued salience of forms of segregation. The papers in this session build on those of the previous one, discussing experiences in the US, Denmark and Germany (Berlin). The aim is to encourage discussion that brings in different accounts and ways of thinking.

Panel Session:

1646 Educating Ethnic Geographers

Wednesday, 4/14/10, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Lincoln Room 2, Marriott Exhibition Level

Organizer(s):

Lawrence E. Estaville - Texas State University

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Chair(s):

John Frazier - Binghamton University

Panelist(s):

Selima Sultana - University of North Carolina-Greensboro

Alan P. Marcus - Towson University

Edris Montalvo - Texas State University - San Marcos

Jayajit Chakraborty - University of South Florida

Heather Anne Smith - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Session Description: A conversation about ethnic geography curriculum, teaching, and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

2166 International Perspectives on Immigration and Housing

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Thomas Sydney Carter

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *Carlos Teixeira, Associate Professor - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Abstract Title: Immigrant Housing Experiences in Central Okanagan, British Columbia.

8:20 AM Author(s): *Michael Poulsen - Macquarie University

Abstract Title: Housing, Spatial Assimilation and Community in Sydney, Australia

8:40 AM Author(s): *Samuel M. Otterstrom - Brigham Young University

J. Matthew Shumway - Brigham Young University

Abstract Title: Income Migration and Housing Effects In US Immigrant Gateways during the 2000s

9:00 AM Author(s): *Thomas Sydney Carter, Professor - University of Winnipeg

Abstract Title: How Do Centre Size and Neighbourhood Characteristics Influence the Housing Trajectories of Newcomers? A Manitoba Study

Session Description: Securing housing 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.

2266 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Areas in Canada and the US

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Abstract(s):

10:00 AM Author(s): *Wan Yu - Arizona
State University

Abstract Title: Spatial Transformation among
Chinese Ethnourbs - A way to achieve Chinese
Immigrants' American Dream

10:20 AM Author(s): *Anna Joo Kim - UCLA

Abstract Title: Blended Labor Market
Geographies: Immigrants in a Multi-Ethnic
Enclave in Los Angeles

10:40 AM Author(s): *Qingfang Wang -
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Abstract Title: A Comparative Study of
Immigrant Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship in
the US Metropolitan areas

11:00 AM Author(s): *Wei Li - Arizona State
University

Abstract Title: Bank Branch Networks and
Service to Immigrants

11:20 AM Author(s): *Lucia Lo, Professor -
York University

Abstract Title: New Geographies of
Highly-skilled Chinese and Indian Migrations?

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

**2466 The Experiences of Immigrants and
Refugees in Urban Areas in International
Cities**

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in
Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia
Okanagan

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

James Forrest - Macquarie University

Abstract(s):

12:40 PM Author(s): *Daniela Temme -
Abstract Title: High-skilled migrants and their
integration in the urban society - the examples of
Aachen, Bonn and Cologne

12:55 PM Author(s): *James Forrest - Macquarie
University

Abstract Title: Attitude versus Behaviour: Attitudes
to and Experience of Racism in Sydney, Australia's
Largest Ethnicity.

1:10 PM Author(s): *Ranu Basu - York University

Abstract Title: Educational Infrastructure and
Suburban Realities - Rights and Access for
Immigrant Groups in York Region, Ontario

1:25 PM Author(s): *Alan P. Marcus - Towson
University

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

1:40 PM Author(s): *Günther Weiss -

Abstract Title: Working at a German University - a
Gateway to Success for Highly skilled Migrants ?

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

**2527 Experiencing Smaller Cities/Towns in
Canada: Immigrants finding their place I**

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in
Jefferson, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

Claire Major

Cheryl Sutherland - Queen's University

Chair(s):

Cheryl Sutherland - Queen's University

Abstract(s):

2:40 PM Author(s): *Sara Beth Keough, Ph.D. -
Saginaw Valley State University

Abstract Title: Keeping It Local: The Influence of
Newfoundlanders on the Ft. McMurray Radio
Market

3:00 PM Author(s): *Ian MacLachlan - University
Of Lethbridge

Ivan Townshend - University of Lethbridge

Wei XU - University of Lethbridge

Abstract Title: Immigration as a Component of Population Change in Alberta's Second and Third-Tier Cities

3:20 PM Author(s): *D. James McLean - York University

Abstract Title: Picturing/Placing Belonging: Perspectives from Muslims in Halifax

3:40 PM Author(s): *Shamarukh Bhuiyan - Memorial University of Newfoundland
Kelly Vodden, Dr. - Memorial University of Newfoundland

Abstract Title: Immigration to the City of St. John's: The Bangladeshi Experience

Session Description: Canadian immigration research historically focuses on the experience of immigrants in one of Canada's three gateway cities (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver), but recent migration patterns suggest the necessity to shift the focus onto smaller cities. In the last few years, larger Canadian cities have seen their number of immigrants decline (due to economic and employment considerations), whereas mid-sized and smaller cities experience an increase. This session is intended as a springboard for better understanding the realities facing both immigrants and smaller towns/cities.

2566 The Experiences of Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Areas in the United States

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Chair(s):

Ira M. Sheskin - University of Miami

Abstract(s):

2:40 PM Author(s): *Pablo S Bose -

University of Vermont

Abstract Title: Refugee Populations, Equity, and Transportation in Vermont

2:55 PM Author(s): *Adam Lake - University of Oregon

Abstract Title: Social Capital and Redevelopment of Habitus: Place and social network formation among Soviet Jewish refugees in Cleveland, Ohio

3:10 PM Author(s): *Ira M. Sheskin - University of Miami

Abstract Title: Assimilation of Jews from the Former Soviet Union

3:25 PM Author(s): *Stavros T. Constantinou - Ohio State University

Kevin Butler - University of Akron

Milton E. Harvey - Kent State University

Abstract Title: Spatial Manifestations of Ethnic Identity: Identity, Attitude, and Behaviors at the Individual Level.

3:40 PM Author(s): *Brendan McGovern, Graduate Student, Adjunct Professor - Binghamton University

John W Frazier, Professor of Geography - Binghamton University

Norah F. Henry, Chair/ Associate Professor of Geography - Binghamton University

Abstract Title: Increasing Asian Indian Influence in Queens, N. Y.: Changing Economic, Cultural and Political Landscapes

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

2627 Experiencing Smaller Cities/Towns in Canada: Immigrants finding their place II

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Jefferson, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

Claire Major

Cheryl Sutherland - Queen's University

Chair(s):

Claire Major

Abstract(s):

4:40 PM Author(s): Meghan Brooks, Queen's University -

*Cheryl Sutherland - Queen's University

Abstract Title: Reading Between the Headlines: The Impacts of Media Representations on Understandings of Ethnocultural Identity and Canadian Citizenship

5:00 PM Author(s): *Leela Viswanathan - Queen's University

Abstract Title: Examining the relationship among immigrant integration, community planning, and sustainability in a small Canadian city

5:20 PM Author(s): *Huyen Dam, M.A. - McMaster University

John Eyles, PH.D. - McMaster University

Abstract Title: Becoming Vietnamese-Canadian: the story of the Vietnamese Boat People in Hamilton

5:40 PM Author(s): *Catherine Nolin, Associate Professor - Univ Of Northern British Columbia

Anisa Zehtab-Martin, MRD & Research Associates - Univ of Northern British Columbia
Greg Halseth, Professor - Univ of Northern British Columbia

Abstract Title: Hidden Avenue(s) of (Im)migration: Transnational Experiences of Mail-Order Brides in Northern BC

6:00 PM Author(s): *Ryan F. Gibson - Department of Geography, Memorial University
Jill Bucklaschuk - Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

Robert C. Annis - Rural Development Institute, Brandon University

Abstract Title: Creating a Welcoming Prairie City through Community Partnerships: Brandon, Manitoba's Response to Temporary Foreign Workers

Session Description: Canadian immigration research historically focuses on the experience of immigrants in one of Canada's three gateway cities (Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver), but recent migration patterns suggest the necessity to shift the focus onto smaller cities. In the last few years, larger Canadian cities have seen their number of immigrants decline (due to economic and employment considerations), whereas

mid-sized and smaller cities experience an increase. This session is intended as a springboard for better understanding the realities facing both immigrants and smaller towns/cities.

Panel Session:

2666 Immigrants in American and Canadian Cities

Thursday, 4/15/10, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Chair(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Panelist(s):

Wei Li - Arizona State University

Lucia Lo - York University

Thomas D. Boswell - University of Miami

Luisa Veronis - University of Ottawa

Susan Hardwick - University of Oregon

Introducer(s):

Carlos Teixeira - University of British Columbia Okanagan

Session Description: The title of the panel comes from a current book project, comprised of a series of comparative analyses of U.S. and Canadian urban areas on a range of issues relating to immigration and immigrant groups. This text adopts an innovative approach in pairing an American and a Canadian scholar together in writing each chapter. The panelists, composed of the book's contributors, will discuss the content of their respective chapters while engaging the audience in discussion of their research and findings. The objective is to promote further comparative studies regarding these two neighbouring countries, whose immigration dynamics are not always well understood, particularly given that critical comparative examinations of these dynamics are scant.

3116 Racial Ontologies and Corporeal Feminism I

Friday, 4/16/10, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Park Tower 8216, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Shannon Hensley - University of Exeter
Rachel Slocum

Chair(s):

Shannon Hensley - University of Exeter

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *Rachel Slocum -
Abstract Title: Biopolitics, pleasure and racial becoming

8:20 AM Author(s): *Renisa Mawani -
Associate Professor, Sociology The University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: "Half-breeds," Racial Opacity, and Geographies of Crime: Law's Search for the Original Indian

8:40 AM Author(s): *Catherine Veninga -
College of Charleston

Abstract Title: Interracial Kinship and the Genealogical Imagination

9:00 AM Author(s): *Heidi J. Nast - DePaul University

Abstract Title: Slings and arrows: narcissism and the racialization of incest

9:20 AM Discussant: Claire Dwyer -
University College, London

Discussant(s):

Claire Dwyer - University College, London

Session Description: Recently, a number of geographers have used corporeal feminist theory to understand and re-think the relationship between social categories of difference and the body. Generally, this work argues that social constructionist theories of the body and 'race' reinscribe dualisms and reify the body and biology as static and ahistorical. Moreover, despite the ascription of 'race' to the social and cultural realm, ideas of racial, sexual and gender categories persist and remain salient in social, geographical, scientific and everyday knowledges. To address these shortcomings, recent work considers how the body and biology

contribute to the endurance of highly unnatural social categories such as 'race.' Scholars have considered the mutually constitutive relations between bodies and places, the development of bodily habits and styles, food practices, the role of phenotype, music and drugs, references to bodily 'natures' in racial discourses, as well as understandings of 'inheritance,' and genealogical identities. This paper session aims to bring together scholars working at the intersection of critical geographies of race and anti-racism, gender, and social theories of embodiment to further contemporary debates and set an original agenda for future research and activism.

3216 Racial Ontologies and Corporeal Feminism II

Friday, 4/16/10, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Park Tower 8216, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Shannon Hensley - University of Exeter
Rachel Slocum

Chair(s):

Rachel Slocum

Abstract(s):

10:00 AM Author(s): *Shannon Hensley -
University of Exeter

Abstract Title: Spoons, drums and a big heart: materializing race and class through bodies that feel

10:20 AM Author(s): *Anoop Nayak - Newcastle University

Abstract Title: Visceral Racism

10:40 AM Author(s): *Mary E. Thomas - Ohio State University

Abstract Title: The body as constraint: racial identification and recognition

11:00 AM Author(s): *Minelle K Mahtani, Dr. -
University of Toronto

Abstract Title: Seductive Illogics: Diversity, Neoliberalism and Race in the Newsroom

11:20 AM Discussant: Arun Saldanha - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Discussant(s):

Arun Saldanha - University of Minnesota - Minneapolis

Session Description: Recently, a number of geographers have used corporeal feminist theory to understand and re-think the relationship between social categories of difference and the body. Generally, this work argues that social constructionist theories of the body and 'race' reinscribe dualisms and reify the body and biology as static and ahistorical. Moreover, despite the ascription of 'race' to the social and cultural realm, ideas of racial, sexual and gender categories persist and remain salient in social, geographical, scientific and everyday knowledges. To address these shortcomings, recent work considers how the body and biology contribute to the endurance of highly unnatural social categories such as 'race.' Scholars have considered the mutually constitutive relations between bodies and places, the development of bodily habits and styles, food practices, the role of phenotype, music and drugs, references to bodily 'natures' in racial discourses, as well as understandings of 'inheritance,' and genealogical identities. This paper session aims to bring together scholars working at the intersection of critical geographies of race and anti-racism, gender, and social theories of embodiment to further contemporary debates and set an original agenda for future research and activism.

4113 Immigrant Incorporation in the U.S. and the Politics of Scale

Saturday, 4/17/10, from 8:00 AM - 9:40 AM in Park Tower 8209, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Marie D. Price - George Washington University

Chair(s):

Marie D. Price - George Washington University

Abstract(s):

8:00 AM Author(s): *Hiromi Ishizawa - George Washington University

Abstract Title: Civic Participation among Young Adults across Immigrant Generations

8:20 AM Author(s): *Patricia L. Price - Florida International Univ.

Abstract Title: Comparative Latino American Civic and Place Engagement: Bringing the Barrio Back In

8:40 AM Author(s): *Sarah A. Blue - Northern Illinois University

Abstract Title: Place Matters!: Immigrant Recruitment to Post-Katrina New Orleans

9:00 AM Author(s): *Nicole Prchal Svajlenka - The George Washington University

Abstract Title: The Politics of Immigrant Integration and Local Enforcement Strategies in Metropolitan Washington DC

9:20 AM Author(s): *Marie D. Price - George Washington University

Elizabeth Chacko - George Washington University

Lindsey Withers - George Washington University

Abstract Title: Turning Immigrants into Entrepreneurs: An Analysis of Urban Policies that Promote Immigrant Entrepreneurship

Session Description: This session explores the importance of scale when assessing issues of immigration incorporation in the United States. The national immigration debate focuses on numbers, skill levels, the undocumented, and borders. The assumption is that immigrant integration happens over time regardless of where one settles in the U.S. The experience of immigrants, however, suggests that integration does not happen at the national scale but at a local one. In this session we are interested in how the context of immigrant reception and incorporation is directly influenced by the particular characteristics of neighborhoods, counties, towns, cities, or even states in which immigrants settle. Immigrant incorporation is directly impacted by the local conditions and policies that either encourage or discourage integration and civic participation. The papers in this session will explore the politics of scale in an analysis of contemporary immigrant integration in the United States.

4215 "Little Nowhere"?: Ethnic Enclaves, Identity and Transnationalism

Saturday, 4/17/10, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Park Tower 8212, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Luis D. Sanchez - University of Puerto Rico
 Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - University of Puerto Rico

Chair(s):

Neiset Bayouth - Rutgers University

Abstract(s):

10:00 AM Author(s): Jose R. Diaz-Garayua - University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: Exploring the Housing Market: In the search of a Conceptual Model

10:20 AM Author(s): Ramon Luis Concepcion Torres - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Heather A Smith - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Thad Dixon - University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Hazel Tapp - Carolinas Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine

Tom Ludden - Carolinas Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine

Lauren Mowrer - Diana Poulimenos -

Abstract Title: Best Practices in the Provision of Primary Health Care in a Transitioning Hispanic Community: The Case of Charlotte, North Carolina

10:40 AM Author(s): *Neiset Bayouth - Rutgers University

Abstract Title: In search of "Arabtown": ethnic enclave, identity, religion and transnationalism

11:00 AM Author(s): *Luis D. Sanchez, Ph.D. - University of Puerto Rico

Abstract Title: From Merengue to Tango: Landscapes of Change

11:20 AM Author(s): *Nicholas J Klein - Rutgers University

*Andrew Zitcer - Rutgers University

Abstract Title: "Everything but the Chickens": Cultural Authenticity Onboard the Chinatown
 Session Description: This session is directed to examine the spatial context of the concept of ethnicity. We give special attention to the various identities that "ethnicity" produces at

different socially constructed sites, taking into account the contextual meanings of those sites. Our aim is to promote discussions that can provide us with a better understanding of the spatiality of current ethnic/racial issues.

**4325 Ethnic Geography Specialty
 Group Business Meeting
 Saturday, April 17, 2010
 11:50 AM - 12:30 PM
 Hoover Room, Marriott Hotel
 (Messanine Level)
 Washington, D.C.**

Panel Session:**4443 Ethnic Geography Specialty Group****Distinguished Scholar Lecture: Ron Johnston**

Saturday, 4/17/10, from 12:40 PM - 2:20 PM in Wilson B, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

David H. Kaplan - Kent State University

Chair(s):

David H. Kaplan - Kent State University

Panelist(s):

Ron Johnston - University of Bristol

Frederick Douzet - University of Paris 8

Fred Boal - Queen's University Belfast

Session Description: This is a special session by the Ethnic Geographer Specialty Group that honors this year's recipient of the Distinguished Scholar award.

4512 Rethinking Islandness II: Discursive Spaces and Tidalectics in Island Worlds

Saturday, 4/17/10, from 2:40 PM - 4:20 PM in Park Tower 8206, Marriott Lobby Level

Organizer(s):

Joseph Palis - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Matthew J. Reilly - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Chair(s):

Susan P. Mains - University of the West Indies-Mona

Abstract(s):

2:40 PM Author(s): *Karen Elizabeth McNamara, PhD, BEnvSc (Hons) - James Cook University

Abstract Title: Assessing the visibility of the Torres Strait: Discourses of an Island region in Australia

3:00 PM Author(s): *Shiva Mohan - The University of the West Indies, Mona

Abstract Title: Negotiating Caribbean Diasporic Identities through Caribana Carnival

3:20 PM Author(s): *Stephen Arthur Royle, MA PhD MRIA - Queen's University Belfast

Abstract Title: Colonization of Vancouver Island under the Hudson's Bay Company

3:40 PM Discussant: Matthew J. Reilly - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Discussant(s):

Matthew J. Reilly - University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Session Description: The narrative and discourse surrounding islands and island worlds have always followed modernist trajectories that emphasize voyeuristic tourism, encoded postcolonial othering and environmentally determinist knowledge production. Employing Kamau Brathwaite's theory of tidal dialectics (or tidalectics) that emphasizes a circularity in movement and rhythm over a static framework, this session hopes to re-center and recuperate various alternative histories, submerged narratives and subjugated knowledges that have remained in the peripheral margins of knowledge production. Localized and highly individual (hi)stories from various island worlds will be truncated and repositioned. Normative histories will be challenged from various perspectives ranging from the presentation of fresh and new ethnographies to contestations of archive histories. This session asks for paper presentations of new and/or emerging research analysis that frames various and specific island worlds in alternative transoceanic processes that

veer away from the colonial and meta-national traditions.

Panel Session:

4631 Does the spatial concentration of immigrants matter? Comparing European, North American, and Australian experiences.

Saturday, 4/17/10, from 4:40 PM - 6:20 PM in Marriott Ballroom Balcony C, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

David H. Kaplan - Kent State University
Frederick Douzet - University of Paris 8

Chair(s):

Frederick Douzet - University of Paris 8

Panelist(s):

James Forrest - MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
Pablo Mateos

Fred Boal - Queen's University Belfast

David H. Kaplan - Kent State University

Sonia Lehman-Frisch - University of Cergy-Pontoise, France

Frederick Douzet - University of Paris 8

Session Description: Current treatments of ethnic concentration tend to be based on the singular experience of a particular group in a particular context. Ethnic segregation is a phenomenon experienced in most every society, so a comparative examination can be revealing. Despite differences across groups and countries, immigrant and ethnic groups inscribe similar spatial dynamics and often suffer social disadvantage as a result of their isolation.

This panel explores various issues related to urban ethnic segregation within several Western societies, particularly France, the UK, Australia, the United States and Canada. Special attention will be paid to how segregation occurs within these various societies, the role of government in facilitating or impeding segregation, the various consequences of segregation, and whether spatial concentration impedes the upward socio-economic and political mobility of immigrant and ethnic groups.

5266 Critical Geographies of Race and Critical Race Theory II: Race and Law

Sunday, 4/18/10, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Tricia Ruiz - University of Washington

Michael Babb - University of Washington

Chair(s):

Rebecca Burnett - University of Washington

Abstract(s):

10:00 AM Author(s): *Jacqueline A. Housel - Miami University, Hamilton

Abstract Title: the police stop: re-constructing identity in 'micro-geographic' place

10:20 AM Author(s): *Akinbola Akinwumi - The Open University, United Kingdom

Abstract Title: The Will to Transform?

Practices of Redress in Post-Apartheid South Africa

10:40 AM Author(s): *Jean Carmalt - University of Washington

Jean C Carmalt, JD, PhC - University of Washington

Abstract Title: Discrimination under International Human Rights Law

11:00 AM Author(s): *Tareq M. Amer - University of California, Davis

Abstract Title: California Dreams, California Nightmares: Gang Injunctions, Civil Rights, and the Spaces of People of Color

11:20 AM Author(s): *Michael James Thomason - University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: Locating The Refugee: The Biopolitics of Giving Account

Session Description: Nearly a decade after Peake and Schein's *Racing into the New Millennium*, Price (2009) argues that although critical human geographers' work on race continues to share and expand upon similar intellectual trajectories found within critical race theory, critical race feminism as well as Latino, Native American and Asian American studies, there remains still important work to be done on the spatiality of the social construction of race. This call for papers invites

scholars who cross both inter- and intra-disciplinary boundaries to more fully explore the potential for documenting, studying and re-theorizing critical geographies of race. This session is open to a variety of approaches in documenting and studying critical geographies of race, including the use of narrative, qualitative research, mixed methods and quantitative work such as mapping and statistics.

5466 Critical Geographies of Race and Critical Race Theory III: Environmental and Everyday Racisms

Sunday, 4/18/10, from 2:00 PM - 3:40 PM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Tricia Ruiz - University of Washington

Rebecca Burnett - University of Washington

Chair(s):

Michael Babb - University of Washington

Abstract(s):

2:00 PM Author(s): *Melissa Adams - University of Texas At Austin

Eliot Tretter, PhD - University of Texas at Austin

Abstract Title: The Privilege of Staying Dry: The Impact of Flooding and Racism on the Emergence of the "Mexican" Ghetto in Austin's Lower-Eastside, 1880-1935.

2:20 PM Author(s): *Raoul S. Lievanos, M.A. - University of California, Davis

Abstract Title: "A Minority Perspective is Limited": Environmental Privilege and Surface Water Hazards in an Impaired Estuary

2:40 PM Author(s): *Margaret Marietta Ramírez - University of Washington, Seattle

Abstract Title: Facing race: confronting colorblindness to build a more effective food justice movement

3:00 PM Author(s): *Tricia Ruiz, Ph.D. candidate - University of Washington

Abstract Title: Separate and unequal: theorizing the racial geographies of school quality

3:20 PM Author(s): *Amanda Huskinson - University of Nottingham

Abstract Title: Black, White and Blues: "Blues in the Schools" Programs in the United States

Session Description: Nearly a decade after Peake and Schein's *Racing into the New Millennium*, Price (2009) argues that although critical human geographers' work on race continues to share and expand upon similar intellectual trajectories found within critical race theory, critical race feminism as well as Latino, Native American and Asian American studies, there remains still important work to be done on the spatiality of the social construction of race. This call for papers invites scholars who cross both inter- and intra-disciplinary boundaries to more fully explore the potential for documenting, studying and re-theorizing critical geographies of race. This session is open to a variety of approaches in documenting and studying critical geographies of race, including the use of narrative, qualitative research, mixed methods and quantitative work such as mapping and statistics.

5543 Informal Housing in Built

Environments

Sunday, 4/18/10, from 4:00 PM - 5:40 PM in Wilson B, Marriott Mezzanine Level

Organizer(s):

Solange Isabel Munoz - University of Texas - Austin

Jan Dohnke - Freie Universität Berlin

Chair(s):

Jan Dohnke - Freie Universität Berlin

Abstract(s):

4:00 PM Author(s): *Jill Wigle - Carleton University

Abstract Title: The "graying" of "green" zones and the production of informality in Mexico City

4:20 PM Author(s): *Solange Isabel Munoz, Ph.D. Candidate - University of Texas - Austin
Abstract Title: Casas Tomadas in Buenos Aires: Waiting for eviction with no place to go

4:40 PM Author(s): *Melissa Malouf Belz -

Kansas State University

Abstract Title: The Ger Tradition: Understanding Urbanization in a Nomadic Society

5:00 PM Author(s): *Renata Cunha Borges Ralid, Architect and Urbanist IRD/Sorbonne -

Abstract Title: Policy Responses to Informal Housing in Brasilia Brazil

Session Description: Throughout the world the poorer inhabitants of cities struggle to satisfy their basic needs in an increasingly adverse urban environment. The problem of sheltering the urban poor is mostly met by the auto-construction of habitats in slums, favelas, chawls, or villas miserias. However there is also a significant part that turns to renting in informal housing options or squatting formerly vacant houses, factories or abandoned buildings in parts of the city that are in decline. With the return of investment to some of these areas, many of these people are threatened by expulsion and displacement while others remain unaffected or even profit from these developments.

5566 Critical Geographies of Race and Critical Race Theory IV: Multiculturalism and Identity

Sunday, 4/18/10, from 4:00 PM - 5:40 PM in Embassy, Omni Shoreham

Organizer(s):

Rebecca Burnett - University of Washington

Michael Babb - University of Washington

Chair(s):

Tricia Ruiz - University of Washington

Abstract(s):

4:00 PM Author(s): *John Finn - Arizona State University

Abstract Title: Advertising, Graffiti, and Representations of a Black City

4:20 PM Author(s): *Caitlin Cahill - University of Utah

Abstract Title: ""Theorizing from the flesh" : Borderlands scholarship, LatCrit, and the multicultural city

4:40 PM Author(s): *Cindy L Holmes, PhD Candidate - University of British Columbia

Abstract Title: Contested geographies of belonging: Examining discourses of tolerance, gay rights and whiteness in a Western Canadian city

5:00 PM Author(s): *Kevin Mark Dunn, Prof - University of Western Sydney

Jim Forrest, Prof - Macquarie University

Abstract Title: Everywhere Different:

Responding to the Experience of Everyday Racism

5:20 PM Discussant: Patricia L. Price - Florida International Univ.

Discussant(s):

Patricia L. Price - Florida International Univ.

Session Description: Nearly a decade after Peake and Schein's *Racing into the New Millennium*, Price (2009) argues that although critical human geographers' work on race continues to share and expand upon similar intellectual trajectories found within critical race theory, critical race feminism as well as Latino, Native American and Asian American studies, there remains still important work to be done on the spatiality of the social construction of race. This call for papers invites scholars who cross both inter- and intra-disciplinary boundaries to more fully explore the potential for documenting, studying and re-theorizing critical geographies of race. This session is open to a variety of approaches in documenting and studying critical geographies of race, including the use of narrative, qualitative research, mixed methods and quantitative work such as mapping and statistics.

Call for Papers

**Forging Linguistic Identities: Language in the Region, the Nation, and the World
Towson University
March 17-19, 2011**

The Department of Foreign Languages at Towson University announces a conference, "Forging Linguistic Identities: Language in the Region, the Nation, and the World" to be held on March 17-19, 2011, and invites proposals for papers. This conference seeks to examine language as socially embedded within historical and geographical contexts. Proposals are welcomed across disciplines, from scholars of languages and literatures, geography, history, psychology, and sociology. Please send an abstract of 250 words by e-mail to: Professor George McCool (gmccool@towson.edu). Please include a short CV, maximum 2 pages, with your name, full address, institution, day telephone, fax, and e-mail address. Travel costs will be assumed by the participants. Deadline for submissions is June, 2010.