Surveying the Backgrounds of Immigration Scholars: A Report

By Rubén G. Rumbaut

Who studies immigration in the United States? Where do they come from? In 1998 the International Migration Program of the Social Science Research Council sponsored the National Survey of Immigration Scholars, a project which I designed and carried out while at the Russell Sage Foundation. We mailed a survey in early 1998 to 1,189 scholars in immigration studies; the list was drawn from the lists of members of formal professional organizations in immigration within the disciplines of history, anthropology, political science and sociology. Recent applicants for fellowships in the SSRC’s International Migration Program were also queried. A total of 753 completed forms were returned (of 411 members of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society who were surveyed, 282 or 69% responded; 61% of 385 members of the American Sociological Association’s International Migration Section responded; and 64% of the 120 surveyed from the anthropologists’ Committee on Refugees and Immigrants responded). The resulting sample consisted of immigration scholars not only in a wide range of disciplines but at all stages in their careers. More scholars had earned their highest degree in sociology (33%) than in any other discipline; they were closely followed by history (28%), anthropology (12%), and political science and economics (9%). Other researchers had doctoral training in psychology, education, public health, urban planning, public policy, area studies, ethnic studies, and other disciplines. The survey offered some interesting answers.

Table 1 on this page provides a profile of the characteristics of these immigration scholars, cross-tabulated by when they earned their highest degree (a doctorate in 90% of the cases). By generations in the United States, almost half (48%) of the total are of immigrant stock themselves; that is, 30% are foreign-born (first-generation immigrants), and 18% are U.S.-born children of immigrants (second-generation). By comparison, 10% of the U.S. population generally are foreign-born, and 10% are second-generation. Of the immigration scholars, another 29% are third-generation, having one or more foreign-born grandparents, while less than a fourth (23%) reported no foreign-born grandparents (fourth generation or more).

There were more than 150 different responses to the question on ethno-national self-identity; Table 1 reports these only in aggregate form. About one-tenth (12%) reported an Asian ethnicity or national origin, mostly Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, and Indian. Another tenth (10%) were of Latin American or Caribbean origin, mainly Mexicans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, and Jamaicans, although 3% claimed a “Hispanic” or “Latino” pan-ethnic identity. More numerous (over 40%) were scholars of European origin, mainly Irish, German, Italian, and Polish; 100 (13%) reported they were Jewish (of varying origins). A fifth of the sample (21%) claimed a plain “American” or “white” identity; the remaining 8% indicated various kinds of mixed ethnicity or gave other responses.

This group of scholars is relatively young. A third (34%) had

Table 1.
Characteristics of Immigration Scholars, by Year They Received Their Ph.D. or Highest Degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Highest Degree</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Year of Highest Degree</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>92.3</td>
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<td>37.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Foreign-born)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>15.1</td>
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<td>Second</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>11.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>37.0</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>23.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity or national origin of researcher</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.7</td>
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<td>Latin Am., Caribbean</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<td>10.2</td>
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<td>Other European</td>
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<td>22.5</td>
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<td>19.0</td>
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<td>&quot;Retired&quot;</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student, other</td>
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<td>11.5</td>
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<td>4.9</td>
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Immunization-related data:

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44.6</td>
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NOTE: Figures are column percentages, i.e., within “year of Ph.D.,” for each variable, columns add up to 100%.
News from Libraries, Museums and Research Institutes...

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota has now taken up residence in its new home in the Elmer L. Andersen Library on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Minneapolis. Address: IHRC, Univ. of Minnesota, E. L. Andersen Library, Suite 311, 221 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis MN 55455. Telephone: (612) 625-4800. E-mail: ihrc@umn.edu Web address: http://www.umn.edu/ihrc

The Transnational Knowledge and Communications Centre in the Netherlands has compiled an extensive bibliography on immigrant/ethnic entrepreneurship, available on the web at http://www.emporium.nl

The State University of New York at Binghamton has a web site, "Women and Social Movements in the United States," edited by Professors Thomas Dublin and Kathryn Kish Sklar. The site contains over 600 primary documents concerning women and social reform, including materials touching upon ethnic and immigrant women. Address: http://womhist.binghamton.edu

Amsterdam University in the Netherlands has a program of historical research, led by Leo Lucassen, concerning the settlement process of immigrants in the Netherlands in the 19th and 20th centuries. Information about the program can be found on the web-page: http://www.hum.uva.nl/pion-imm

The Library of Congress has established a web site to collect materials on the exploration, development, and settlement of Siberia, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. The site, "Meeting of Frontiers," explores parallels between the two regions, and includes both Russian and English-language materials. Topics include exploration, development, national identity, and the mingling of peoples in the settlement process. Efforts are afoot to include more material from Russian libraries. Address of the site: http://frontiers.loc.gov

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia, has two current museum exhibits about Arab Americans: "A Community between Two Worlds: Arab Americans in Greater Detroit," on display until Aug. 12, 2000; and "Ahtan wa-Sahlan! Welcome to our Home! Philadelphia's Arab Americans," on display until Aug. 30, 2000. Various programs related to the Arab American exhibits are scheduled through the spring and summer. Planned exhibitions for fall 2000 include "Mabuhay, Filipinos! An Exhibit of Filipino and Filipino-American Culture," a photo exhibit from Eastern Washington University (Sept. 11-Dec. 22); and "Refuge: the Newest New Yorkers," from the New York State Museum (Oct. 4-Dec. 22). For information about Balch exhibits and programs, see the web-page: http://www.balachstitute.org

The Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center, located at the Balch Institute, has established its own web site. Included are summaries of current archival projects, descriptions of selected collections, information for genealogists, and links to other related sites. The web site also currently has an on-line exhibit, "The Fruits of Her Hands: Jewish Women and Social Welfare, 1819-1920." Address: http://www.libertynet.org/pjaec


At the University of Bristol in England, a new journal, Ethnicities: An International Journal, is being established, with the first issue planned to appear in April 2001. Editors are Stephen May and Tariq Modood of the University of Bristol. Articles are now being solicited for the early issues of the journal; for information, e-mail ethnicities-journal@bristol.ac.uk or consult the web-page:

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/Depts/Sociology

For subscription information, contact Bernie Folan, Sage publications, 6 Bonhill St., London EC2A 4PU, UK. Or e-mail bernie.folan@sagepub.co.uk

The Chicago Historical Society has launched an extensive documentation project, titled "Global Communities: Chicago's Immigrants and Refugees." Historians and archivists from the Society will focus on specific ethnic groups each year, collecting archival materials, oral interviews, visual materials and artifacts. Groups under study during the year 2000 are Mexicans, Southeast Asians, and Poles. A web page based on the project is being developed at http://www.chicagohistory.org/immigration.html

The Hamburg State Archive in Germany is making available on the Internet a searchable list of persons emigrating from the port of Hamburg between 1850 and 1934. Hamburg is the only German port possessing complete records of emigrants for that period. The records, covering about five million emigrants, include their hometowns, and include eastern Europeans as well as Germans. The initial portion of the list, covering the years 1890-1893, was placed on the Internet in April 2000. It is planned to display the entire list by the year 2003. The web site for the project is http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.html

The Immigration Museum of Australia in Melbourne, opened in 1998, has developed an extensive web page containing catalogs of holdings, visual materials and exhibits. These may be seen on the web at: http://www.mov.vic.gov.au/immigration/

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The new vice-president of the IEHS, Elliott Barkan, is now chair of the program committee, which seeks to propose sessions for major historical conferences. Members with ideas for papers or panels should contact him. For his address, see p. 12.
MINUTES OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD AND BUSINESS MEETING
THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, APRIL 1, 2000

In the absence of Ron Bayor, who was unable to attend, Elliott Barkan, JAEH Book Review Editor, distributed the editor’s annual report and conducted the Editorial Board meeting. This past year Transaction converted its software and had problems sending timely renewals and second notices to JAEH subscribers. As a result, figures on current subscriptions [IEHS membership] are too low. Having corrected the glitch, Transaction will soon be sending notices and reminders to members; the publisher insists that this will not create a long-term loss of IEHS members. Given various problems with Transaction over the past few years, it was suggested that the society might want to investigate other publishers. Barkan will convey this feeling to Ron Bayor.

Barkan submitted a detailed report on the book review section of the JAEH over the last three years. Reviews regularly comprise 33.9% of the journal; he plans to continue the same pace and scope of material in future issues. The meeting adjourned at 6:15.

Philip Gleason opened the regular business meeting. He reported that the IEHS Executive Board had approved a $1000.00 contribution to the Immigration History Research Center’s Endowment Fund. [The IHRC is the official headquarters of the society, which is incorporated in Minnesota. It is also the society’s designated repository.] He thanked all persons who served on IEHS committees during his tenure as president.

June Alexander reported that Elliott Robert Barkan had been elected as Vice-President-President Elect; Dirk Hoerder, Silvia Podraza, Barbara M. Posadas were elected to the Executive Board for the term 2000-2003.

Nora Fairless reported that currently the society has a closing balance of $9781.85 in its operating budget. This unusually low amount, however, will soon increase. Transaction’s problem with sending renewal notices caused a temporary decline in receipts from membership dues. She is currently waiting for the annual dues payment from Transaction. She submitted a corrected financial statement for 1998-99.

James Bergquist reported that production costs have increased because Transaction’s European distributor no longer handles newsletters to overseas subscribers; the society must now directly mail newsletters to its overseas members. He plans to complete future issues of the newsletter so that they are mailed closer to the advertised schedule. Changes at the Balch Institute left the IEHS web page basically unattended for the past year; he fully expects, however, that future updates will occur regularly.

Alan Kraut, Program Committee Chair, indicated that, due to confusion about the OAH’s early deadline for the 2001 convention, the IEHS did not submit panels for that annual meeting. The committee is awaiting a decision on the four panels submitted for the 2001 AHA convention.

Rudy Vecoli reported that the Pozzetta Prize Fund has a balance

A Message from the President...

Congratulations and welcome to all the new officers recently elected. We have much work to do. Immigration and ethnic history is exploding with new ideas. New conceptualizations of movement embodied in such terms as migration, transnationalism, and diaspora as well as fresh approaches to race and class derived from whiteness studies challenge us to rethink our assumptions. Recasting post-migration experiences as incorporation or integration suggests that what happens after migration is as open to reinterpretation as what happens before and during the journey. A greater sensitivity to the role of gender in differentiating among migration experiences has encouraged us to reframe our questions about every aspect of the migration experience. Migrant groups that have received relatively little scholarly attention, especially Latinos, Asians, and Africans, are receiving more. And especially significant is the increasing interdisciplinary character of immigration and ethnic studies.

A new generation of scholars is emerging, as well. Today’s graduate students and young faculty are engaged in this process of reconceptualization and in studying groups that have not received adequate treatment, especially Latino, Caribbean, and Asian migrants. We must encourage them to join the IEHS and engage in a scholarly discourse that will enrich us all. Through conferences, convention panels, and publications we must also reach out beyond the historical profession to the sociologists, cultural anthropologist, economists, and political scientists who are exploring the experiences of people "on the move." Non-academics such as immigration lawyers, social workers, medical care providers, educators, as well as policy makers at all levels of government involved in contemporary migration policy can benefit greatly from insights derived from the past.

Several initiatives are already underway.

First, on November 16-18, 2000, the IEHS and the University of Minnesota Seminar on Race, Ethnicity, and Migration will co-sponsor a Conference, "Race, Ethnicity, and Migration: The United States in a Global Context." This interdisciplinary scholarly conference will feature cutting-edge research, especially the work of younger scholars. The conference offers IEHS members, and prospective members, an opportunity for scholarly exchange and interaction previously confined to co-sponsored sessions at professional meetings. I hope this conference will begin an effort to organize more such conferences in the future, including those that focus on specific topics and issues.

Second, the IEHS will initiate a first time discount for new members. Transaction Publishers has agreed in the past month to reduce the JAEH subscription/IEHS membership fee from $30 to $23 for first-time IEHS members.

The third initiative is a renewed membership drive. A revised membership brochure has been drafted and will soon be circulated to all members. I urge you to encourage your students and colleagues to join the IEHS. A fourth initiative concerns communication. Many of us are already enthusiastic users of H-ethnic

(Continued on p. 10)
Conferences and Meetings...

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, will hold a conference June 2-4, 2000 in Pomona: “Asia’s Economic Crisis and Beyond: The Impact on Diasporic Communities.” Contact: Mary Yu Danico, Dept. of Sociology, Cal. Poly. State U., Pomona, Pomona CA 91768. E-mail: mkydanico@csupomona.edu

The Pennsylvania German Society will hold its annual meeting June 2-3, 2000 at Sunbury, Pa. Information: Paula Fischer, e-mail pgf@fastnet

The Society for German-American Studies will hold its annual meeting and symposium June 11-17, 2000 in Bremerhaven, Germany. Information: Giles R. Hoyt, IUPUI Max Kade German American Center, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis IN 46228.

The Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies at the University of Amsterdam is planning a conference on “The Economic Embeddedness of Immigrant Enterprises,” to be held in Jerusalem, Israel, June 18-20, 2000. Information on the web at http://home.pscw.uva.nl/rath

A workshop is planned for Bergen, Norway on August 14-20, 2000: “Practices of Exclusion: Xenophobic Movements and the State.” The workshop is part of a conference sponsored by the International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI). For information about the workshop on xenophobia, contact Christhard Hoffmann, Dept. of History, University of Bergen, Sjølkesplaten 7, 5007 Bergen, Norway. E-mail: christhard.hoffman@hi.uib.no Information about the larger conference on the Web: http://www.uib.no/issei2000

The Boston Seminar in Immigration and Urban History invites proposals for its monthly sessions during the academic year 2000-2001. The seminar usually meets on the third Thursday of the month, September through April, at the Massachusett's Historical Society. The programs are not confined to Massachusetts history, and papers outside the field of history are welcome. Those interested in taking part or in submitting a paper should contact Eric Pipkin, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston St., Boston MA 02215. E-mail: epipkin@masshist.org

The Economic History Association will meet in Los Angeles, Sept. 8-10, 2000. Theme for this year’s meeting: “The American Century.” For information consult the web page: http://www.ch.net/EHA/Meetings/information2000.html


Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut plans a conference Sept. 14-17, 2000: “Race, Ethnicity and Power in Maritime America. 2000–Maritime Communities of the Atlantic World and the Pacific Rim.” Information: Glenn S. Gordiner, Mystic Seaport, P.O. Box 6000, Mystic CT 06355-0990 E-mail: Glenn@mysticseaport.org

The University of Miami will sponsor a conference Sept. 29-30, 2000 at Coral Gables, Florida: “Contextualizing the Caribbean: New Approaches in an Era of Globalization.” Sessions include those on migrations, colonial transatlantic settlement, etc. Proposals closed May 15. Information: Sandra Paquet, Dept. of English, U. of Miami, PO Box 248145, Coral Gables FL 33142. Tel: (305) 284-2182. E-mail: spaquet@miami.edu

West Virginia University will hold the annual Senator Rush Holt History Conference in Morgantown, W. Va., Sept. 29-30, 2000. Theme: “Fitting In: Ethnic, Gender and Class Identities in History.” Panel suggestions and paper abstracts due June 1, 2000. Contact: James Jewell, (304) 293-2421 or jjewell4@wvu.edu

The University of Winnipeg and various Mennonite organizations plan a conference in October 2000 in Winnipeg: “Mennonites and Aboriginal Peoples.” To find out the date and other information, contact Royden Loewen, Mennonite Studies, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2E9, Canada.

The Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies in Maastricht, the Netherlands, plans a conference, “Transatlantic Studies: New Perspectives,” in Maastricht, Oct. 12-14, 2000. Proposals closed May 1, 2000. Information: Will Kaufman, Dept. of Cultural Studies, Univ. of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HB, England. E-mail: w.kaufman@ucln.ac.uk

Georgetown University and the Association of Muslim Social Scientists will hold a conference Oct. 13-15, 2000 on the Georgetown campus in Washington, D.C. Theme of the conference: “Islam and Society in the Twenty-First Century.” Information: Donna Kelli, P.O. Box 669, Herndon VA 20172. E-mail:dkelli@iit.edu

The annual meeting of the North American Labor History Conference will be held at Wayne State University in Detroit, Oct. 19-21, 2000. Information on the web: http://www.history.wayne.edu/lawcha

The Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict Research Group of the University of Western Ontario will host a conference Oct. 19-22, 2000: “Diapasons and Transnational Identities.” Paper submissions closed April 30, 2000. The conference will be held in the English language. For information: Mireya Polch-Serra, Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Western Ontario, London ON, Canada N6A 5C2. E-mail: dmtriv@julian.uwo.ca On the web: http://publish.uwo.ca/~dmtriv/center.html
The Center for Italian Studies at the State Univ. of New York at Stony Brook plans a symposium on October 21, 2000: "Imagining Immigration: Italy and the Americas." The conference is "especially interested in presentations that explore the art created by immigrants and the representation of immigration in the arts and communication media." Proposals closed May 1. Information: Fred Gardaphe, Center for Italian Studies, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3358. E-mail: fgardaphe@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

The Italian American Historical Association will hold its 33rd annual conference November 9-11, 2000 in Lowell, Massachusetts. The conference is co-sponsored by the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. Theme: "Greece and Italy: Ancient Roots and New Beginnings." Proposals closed May 1. For information: Mario Asti, Language Dept., Univ. of Massachusetts, Lowell MA 01854. Tel: (978) 934-4290.

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the Race, Ethnicity and Migration Seminar at the University of Minnesota plan a conference Nov. 16-18, 2000 in Minneapolis. Theme: "Race, Ethnicity and Migration: the USA in a Global Context." Submissions closed March 1, 2000. Information: call (612) 627-4208 or e-mail rem@tc.umn.edu. Or consult the webpage: http://www1.umn.edu/ihrc/remindex.htm

The International Association for the Study of Forced Migration will hold its Seventh International Research and Advisory Panel Jan. 8-11, 2001 at the Eskom Conference Centre, between Pretoria and Johannesburg, South Africa. Local host is the University of Witwatersrand. The theme of the conference is "The Refugee Convention at 50," commemorating the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugee protection. Proposals closed April 1, 2000. Information about the meeting is on the web at http://www.iarsfn.org

The Calandra Italian American Institute at Queens College is planning a symposium with concert for the spring of 2001. The symposium is tentatively titled: "Bleecker and Seventh Avenue South: The Accordion as an Icon of Italian American Culture." Presenters are sought to discuss the accordion in Italian American culture. Contact Joseph Sciorra, CUNY, 25 West 43rd St., Suite 1000, New York City, NY 10036. Telephone (212) 642-2035.


E-mail: ad5247@wayne.edu

The International Economic History Association calls for papers on Diaspora Entrepreneurial Networks, c. 1000-2000, for the congress to be held at Buenos Aires in the summer of 2002. Send proposals (250-400 word abstracts) by June 15, 2000 via e-mail to iminoglou@aeub.gr

A pre-conference meeting for participants will be held in Corfu in summer 2001.

PERSONALS

Robert Shaffer (Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania) was awarded the Charles DeBenedetti Prize in Peace History by the Peace History Society for his article "Cracks in the Consensus: Defending the Rights of Japanese Americans during World War II," Radical History Review, Fall 1998.

In the summer of 2000 Leonard Dinnerstein (University of Arizona) will relinquish the post which he has held for the past six years as Director of Judaic Studies at the University of Arizona. He will return to teaching duties in the history department in the fall of 2000.

John J. Bukowczyk (Wayne State University) was awarded the Gold Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland at a ceremony in Detroit in January 2000. The award honors outstanding public and professional service to the Republic of Poland.

Mary Ann Coyle has been appointed Director of Research and Information at the Bahk Institute for Ethnic Studies, Philadelphia. Brian Johnstone has been appointed senior librarian.

Nora Fairies (Univ. of Michigan-Flint), who has completed her service as IEHS treasurer, has been appointed the Fullbright Chair of North American Studies at the University of Calgary in the fall term 2000. Beginning in January 2000 she will become Associate Professor of History at Western Michigan University.

Bruce Stave (University of Connecticut), director of the Center for Oral History at the University of Connecticut, has been named Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of History.

Craig A. Kaplowitz (Middle Tennessee State Univ.) has received a Horace Samuel and Marion Galbraith Merrill Travel Grant from the Organization of American Historians for his project, "The Paradox of Ethnic Identity: The League of United Latin American Citizens and U. S. Federal Policy, 1942-1975."

THEODORE SALOUTOS
BOOK AWARD, 1999

The annual Theodore Saloutos Award for the outstanding book of the year in American immigration and ethnic history was made to Alison Games, Georgetown University, for her book Migration and the Origins of the English Atlantic World (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1999). The award was made at the annual dinner of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in St. Louis, April 1, 2000. The citation follows:

Alison Games’s study significantly deepens historical knowledge about migration in the early seventeenth century from England to the margins of its developing Atlantic empire. She demonstrates the complexity of these geographic movements and their role as an integrative force in a trans-oceanic world of settlements. Utilizing the port registry of ships departing from London in 1635, Games extracts a large sample of emigrants whom she traces to New England, the Chesapeake, Bermuda, and Barbados. She exhaustively examines local records in these areas in order to trace the “careers” of these overseas migrants as they adapted to their new living and working conditions. By reconstructing the spatial and social mobility of these individuals, Games uncovers the streams of emigration, return migration, repeat migration, and intercolonial migration, and their impact on the evolution of empire.

These flows constituted a framework for linking together far-flung imperial communities with one another, defining a trans-Atlantic community, and shaping a popular consciousness of membership within its ambit. Games shows, furthermore, that the interregional patterns of human movement shaped a cultural horizon that was hybridic and shifting. Her book is a landmark study demonstrating that migration history—conceived in geographically broad and comparative terms—is a central component of the new social history of the origins of the English Atlantic world.

Other New Publications Noted...


Eula, Michael. “Failure of American Food Reformers among Italian Immigrants in New York City, 1891-1897.” Italian
Heinze, Andrew R. “The Americanization of Musso: Abraham Twerski’s Twelve Steps.” Judaism (Fall 1999), 450-469.

(Continued on p. 9)
Surveying Immigration Scholars...  
(continued from p. 1)

earned their highest degree in 1995 or after, and another 27% got their degree between 1985 and 1994. Over half got their doctorates in the 1990s. Only 7% had earned their degrees before 1965, with 17% in the 1965-74 decade, and 16% during 1975-84. By professional status, 21% were full professors. Substantial numbers were advanced graduate students or scholars employed in research, administrative, or other positions; 5% were retired.

The immigration field has been transformed in various ways over the past few decades. There has been a dramatic reversal in the proportion of male and female researchers. Among scholars who had earned their degrees before 1965, 92% were men and only 8% were women; but the proportion of women has grown consistently, so that among the youngest cohort of scholars, 62% are women and 38% are men. Generational changes also have taken place, roughly paralleling the larger national patterns of immigration to the United States in this century. There has been a sharp increase in the proportion of first-generation immigrants, basically doubling from the 18% or so who earned their degrees before 1975 to the 36% or so who have gotten their degrees since 1985. These generational patterns, in turn, are reflected in the changing ethnic composition of immigration researchers. Until the early 1980s, the percent of these scholars who were of Asian, African, Latin American or Caribbean origin was minuscule: virtually none among those who earned their doctorates before 1965, merely single-digit percentages among degree recipients in the 1975-84 decade. But those proportions have climbed along with immigration, especially among Asian-origin scholars, who collectively made up 17% of the most recent degree recipients, and Latin-origin scholars, who make up another 13%. By contrast, the proportion of Jewish scholars has dropped from 25% to 11% over time, as has that of scholars of other European ethnicities.

These changes by gender, generation, and ethnicity, in turn, have been accompanied by a notable shift in research foci. Particularly remarkable is the change in the proportion of scholars whose dissertation research was related to immigration. Among scholars who earned their highest degree before 1975—during an era when immigration had not re-emerged as a significant public issue—only about a fourth wrote immigration-related dissertations, especially in history; but among younger scholars who have earned their degrees since 1995, that proportion has tripled to 77%. The patterns point to a heightened degree of specialization in the immigration field in graduate school, in contrast to older scholars who appear to have switched to immigration research after having first focused on other topics.

Three out of four (77%) indicated that they specialized in a particular immigrant or ethnic group. By cross-tabulating their own ethnicity with that of the groups they study, it is possible to classify the scholars, at least preliminarily, as ethnic “insiders” vs. “outsiders,” that is, as members or non-members of the ethnic groups which they research (see Robert Merton’s classic discussion in “Insiders and Outsiders: A Chapter in the Sociology of Knowledge,” *American Journal of Sociology* 77 [1972]: 9-47; and Herbert Gans, “Toward a Reconciliation of ‘Assimilation’ and ‘Pluralism,’” *International Migration Review* 31 [1997]: 875-892). By this measure, 37% of the sample were classified as insiders, 39% as outsiders, and the remaining 23% of the cases did not focus on particular ethno-national groups (hence are also non-insiders).

There has clearly been a change in the ethnicity or national origin of the groups that are now the focus of research attention. Among scholars who earned their degrees before 1975, only about a fifth focus on immigrants from Asia, Latin America or the Caribbean, compared to 38% of those who got their doctorates during 1975-84, 48% of the 1985-94 cohort, and 57% of the most recent degree recipients. At the same time, the proportion focusing research attention on European-origin groups has declined over time. Not surprisingly, these changes have combined to increase the proportion of ethnic “insiders” among immigration scholars from 25% among the older cohort with pre-1965 doctorates to about 40% among younger cohorts with post-1985 degrees.

Table 2 provides a breakdown of key social and professional characteristics by the major disciplines surveyed: history, sociology, anthropology, and political science and economics (combined because of their smaller sample size and commonality of patterns).
and all other social sciences. First, there are significant disciplinary contrasts by gender. Males comprise almost two-thirds of the historians (65%) and the majority of the political scientists and economists (55%), while females are in the majority among the anthropologists (57%). The sociologists break down exactly even by gender. Generational differences by discipline are even more pronounced. There are more foreign-born (first-generation) scholars of immigration in sociology (42%) than in any other discipline, and fewest among the historians, only 14% of whom are immigrants themselves. By contrast, far more historians are third-generation scholars (45%) than is the case among any of the other disciplines, with sociologists having the fewest members of the third generation (18%). Perhaps, one might surmise, taking a page from Marcus Lee Hansen, the sociologists’ grandchildren will grow up to become historians!

As would be expected, there are significant differences among disciplines in ethnic composition as well. Among sociologists of immigration, 35% are of Asian, Latin American or Caribbean backgrounds, compared to only about a tenth of the historians and anthropologists, and a fourth of the political scientists and economists. Jewish scholars and others of European ancestry predominate among historians, while scholars who identify as plain “Americans” or “whites” prevail proportionately among the anthropologists, political scientists and economists. These patterns, in turn, are partially reflected in the ethnicity of the groups of these scholars’ current research interest. Thus, among the sociologists, 60% report that they focus on Asian, Latin American and Caribbean groups in their research, as do 66% of the anthropologists, whereas relatively few historians focus on any of these populations. Instead, historians of immigration look back to the earlier waves of mass immigration from Europe, with over 60% among them focusing on European-origin groups in their scholarship. That is a far greater proportion than is found among other social scientists, who pay very little attention to Europeans in the contemporary U.S. immigration context. Indeed, by far the highest proportion of ethnic “insiders” is found among the historians (55%), compared to 33% among the sociologists, and about 20% among the anthropologists, political scientists and economists.

Still, a breakdown of “insiders” and “outsiders” among immigration researchers—as classified above in the context of individuals’ ethnic identity and research interest—shows a pattern of decreasing insiderness with successive generations. That is, among foreign-born scholars 50% were classified as insiders, as were 48% of the second generation, 31% of the third generation, and 19% of fourth or higher generations. In general, except for the historians, the more distant the scholars from the time of immigration, the greater the proportion of ethnic outsiders. The decisive break appears to occur at the third (and higher) generations; the difference between first- and second-generation scholars in the proportion of insiders is small and not significant.

The proportion of insiders and outsiders also varies with the main topics of current or planned immigration research. Low insiderness is seen in political and economic research, in the mostly anthropological subjects such as refugee issues, transnationalism and diasporas, and also in education, religion, and health. The highest proportion of co-ethnic insiders were found among those scholars whose research focuses on gender and immigrant women, identity, media and popular culture. Intermediate between these are research topics concerning generations, children of immigrants, family, social mobility and stratification, chosen mostly by sociologists and historians.

The field of immigration studies will be advanced, among other things, through our knowledge of its social bases. There is value in making immigration research itself the object of systematic and reflexive scrutiny, and analyzing it from the vantage point of the sociology of knowledge. Unlike the nascent scholarship on immigration at the turn of the past century, the present era has seen many immigrants themselves become leading scholars of immigration in certain disciplines, while children and especially grandchildren of immigrants are prominent immigration scholars in others. The finding that almost half of today’s immigration scholars are themselves of immigrant stock—including the majority of the sociologists, and over a third of the historians—underscores the profound impact of immigration on the field itself. Simply put, immigration is producing many of the scholars who study it and who will tell its story.


New Publications...

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President's Message...
(Continued from p. 3)

We are most grateful to the Batch Institute for including the IEHS in its website. Our goal must be to encourage our members to use it regularly to announce conferences and programs of concern to all our members. We must also find new and creative ways of expanding our membership’s use of the internet for their scholarship and teaching.

Finally, the IEHS has just been appointed to a three year term on the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History. We hope to work with our sister academic organizations to encourage and promote the interests of historians, generally, and especially those matters of concern to historians who work on issues of migration and ethnicity. Congratulations to Paige Putnam Miller, who will be retiring as director of the NCC this June, and welcome to Bruce Craig, the new director. We look forward to working with him.

I approach my presidency of the IEHS with a combination of humility and enthusiasm. I feel humble because I am very much aware of the distinguished immigration historians who have preceded me in this position. Past presidents such as Theodore Saloutos, Moses Rischin, Rudy Vecoli, Kathy Conzen, Victor Greene, John Bodnar, Roger Daniels, and Phil Gleason, among others, have shaped the field of immigration and ethnic history with their own scholarship even as they have steered our society into the twenty-first century with their enthusiasm and sound judgment. I hope that over the next three years I can contribute to the distinguished legacy they have left. My enthusiasm is fueled by the exciting developments in our field and about the opportunities that the IEHS has to shape the scholarly agendas even as it contributes to a broader understanding of immigration and ethnicity in our society.

I encourage you to send me your comments and suggestions. I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. Have a happy and productive summer.

Alan M. Kraut
President, IEHS

Minutes of the Annual Meeting...
(Continued from p. 3)

of $7915.25. The society is still seeking contributions to reach the necessary $10,000 goal. The Salutous Fund has a market value of $49,641.13, and a second fund derived from its interest is valued at $8,504.18.

Alan Kraut distributed a copy of the proposed program for the upcoming IEHS-IHRC co-sponsored conference in November 2000. It listed the panels accepted but not the final order of sessions; moreover, a few panels require additional participants. The committee is working to finalize the program and fill vacant slots. The IHRC has procured some funding, but the endeavor still requires additional financial support. Kraut requested an IEHS contribution of $3000.00. Maureen Nutting indicated that, once the program is finalized, Wal-Mart might possibly contribute financially. The meeting voted to approve the proposed program. It also approved a $3000.00 IEHS contribution to the conference.

Rudy Vecoli announced that the Immigration History Research Center has now relocated to its new facilities and thanked the IEHS for its contribution to the Endowment Fund.

Alan Kraut announced that Nora Faires has received a Fulbright and will be in Calgary, Canada next year. She, therefore, is giving up her position as IEHS Treasurer. He will appoint a successor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
June Granatir Alexander
IEHS Secretary

New Publications...
(Continued from p. 9)


IHS NEWS NOTES...

THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD

Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 2000. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 2000. A book may be nominated by the author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Prof. Ewa Morawska, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA 19104. E-mail: emorawsk@ssc.upen.edu

Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 2000. Send books to Prof. Morawska at the address above; and also to: Prof. John McClymer, History Department, Assumption College, Worcester MA 01615-0005; and Prof. Erika Lee, Dept. of History, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis MN 55455.

NEW IHS OFFICERS

In the annual IEHS election, Elliot Barkan (Calif. State Univ.-San Bernardino) was elected vice-president and president-elect of the IEHS. Previous vice-president Alan Kraut (American Univ.) succeeded to the presidency.

The following persons were elected to the Executive Board of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society for the term 2000-2003: Dirk Hoerder (University of Bremen); Silvia Pedraza (Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor); Barbara M. Possadas (Northern Illinois University).

Secretary June Alexander was honored at the annual meeting as she retired from her post. In her place the president and executive board have appointed Marian L. Smith, historian of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Diane Vecchio (Furman Univ.) has been appointed the new treasurer, replacing Nora Faires (Univ. of Mich.-Flint).

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD

At the annual dinner of the IEHS on April 1 in St. Louis, the Immigration and Ethnic History Society named Daniel A. Gebler, a graduate student at the University of Southern California, as the recipient of the fifth annual George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award. Mr. Gebler's proposed dissertation is "Redefining Jewish space in Los Angeles: Negotiating Identity in a Twentieth Century American Metropolis."

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2001 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 2000, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides $750 for expenses to be incurred in researching the dissertation. Applicants must submit a 3-5 page descriptive proposal in English, discussing the significance of the work, the methodology, sources, and collections to be consulted. Also included must be a proposed budget, a brief *curriculum vitae*, and a supporting letter from the major advisor. All materials must be received by each committee member by Dec. 15, 2000, which is the submission deadline. Send materials in hardcopy (no FAXes accepted) to: Diane Vecchio, History Dept., Furman U., Greenville SC 29613, chair of the committee; Thos. J. Curran, History Dept., St. John's Univ., Jamaica NY 11439; and David G. Gutierrez, Dept. of History, University of California-San Diego, 9500 Gilman Dr., La Jolla CA 92093. Inquiries to Prof. Vecchio at diane.vecchio@furman.edu

Activities Report for the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

Mail your information for the next Newsletter to:

James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699
or FAX a copy to (610) 519-4450 or send information via E-Mail to: JBERGQUI@email.villanova.edu
Your name and affiliation:

THE IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HISTORY SOCIETY

...was founded in 1965 as the Immigration History Group. It was chartered in 1972 as the Immigration History Society. In 1998 the Society, which had traditionally dealt with ethnicity as well as immigration, changed its name to the Immigration and Ethnic History Society.

The purpose of the Society is to promote the study of the history of immigration to the United States and Canada from all parts of the world, including studies of the background of emigration in the countries of origin; to promote the study of ethnic groups in the United States, including regional groups, native Americans and forced immigrants; to promote understanding of the processes of acculturation and of conflict; to furnish through the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter information as to research, organizations, meetings and publications in the field of immigrant history; to help organize sessions on immigration and ethnicity at meetings of learned societies; and generally to serve the field of immigration-ethnic history with special reference to professional scholarship.

MEMBERSHIP

...in the Society includes subscriptions to the quarterly Journal of American Ethnic History and the semiannual Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter. Dues for individuals: one year, $30; 2 years, $55; 3 years, $75. Dues for institutions: one year, $100; 2 years, $194; 3 years, $268. Students: 1 year, $15. For domestic first-class mail, add $32 per year. For all subscriptions outside U.S.A. and Canada, add $30. Membership dues should be sent to Journal of American Ethnic History, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Berrue Circle, Piscataway NJ 08854-8042.

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. This newsletter was edited with additional assistance and support from the staff of the Library, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Newsletter submissions and questions about editorial matters should be sent to the newsletter editor at the address above. Requests for back issues should be sent to the editor; to purchase back issues, send $2.00 per copy (by check made out to Villanova University).

Subscriptions to the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter are part of membership in the Society. Members' changes of address should be sent to Journal of American Ethnic History, Transaction Periodicals Consortium, Rutgers University, 35 Berrue Circle, Piscataway NJ 08854-8042.

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