Reviving a Tradition: The “Minnesota School” of Immigration Studies

By Dona R. Gabbacia

This essay is adapted from an address prepared for the annual dinner of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in Minneapolis, March 31, 2007, but which could not be delivered because of conditions in the restaurant. Prof. Gabbacia wishes to thank her research assistant, Liaong Liu, who helped to explore the collections of George Malcolm Stephenson and Theodore Blegen in the University of Minnesota Archives in Andersen Library.

Use Google to search for information on the “Chicago School of Sociology” and you could scroll through 34,500 items, beginning with a Wikipedia article. The Chicago School is well known for its pioneering work on immigrant adaptation in American cities. But here in Minneapolis, only a handful of colleagues know of the “Minnesota School”—founded by the man he is honored mainly in the name of a large classroom building.

Is it Minnesota modesty that has obscured the existence of a distinctive Minnesota School begun by Theodore Blegen? When I arrived in Minneapolis in 2005, I recognized that 100 Minnesota faculty researched and taught about race, ethnicity, migration, or refugee life. They are not all in predictable departments such as History, American Studies, Ethnic Studies or Sociology, nor are they all Americanists. Some are in foreign language departments, some in professional schools, including Medicine, Public Health, Education and Public Affairs. Why so many? It’s not simply that the University of Minnesota is large (although it is). Nor is it a straightforward reflection of state demography.

I believe these 100 faculty members are the legacy of a persistent and robust if fragmented and unacknowledged Minnesota School of Immigration and Refugee Studies. The research of the Minnesota School has changed over three generations but some of its characteristics have persisted for nine decades. Historians have been the central builders of the Minnesota School, and they have emphasized both the importance of creating archives and of working as public intellectuals. Each generation of the Minnesota School has interpreted U.S. immigration within an international context, while collaborating in ways that have fostered interdisciplinarity. Persistently, Minnesotans have kept the everyday lives, experiences, and subjectivities of immigrants and refugees at the heart of their studies.

Jon Gjerde (Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1982) has already reminded specialist readers of the importance of Theodore Blegen and of Blegen’s colleague and contemporary George Stephenson (“New Growth on Old Vines—The State of the Field: The Social History of Immigration to and Ethnicity in the United States,” Journal of American Ethnic History 18:4, 40–65). Gjerde pointed to the Mississippi Valley origins of immigration history among a larger group of scholars he called the “Ethnic Turners,” correcting earlier historiographies that traced immigration studies to Harvard social historians Arthur Schlesinger, Sr. and Oscar Handlin, or to the Chicago School. Stephenson was also the subject of an article by Gjerde’s mentor, Rudolph J. Vecoli (“Over the years I have encountered the hazards and rewards that await the historian of immigration”: George Malcolm Stephenson and the Swedish-American Community,” Swedish American Historical Quarterly, 51[2000]: 130-149).

Allow a blunt easterner to cast modesty aside and to assert that Blegen and Stephenson were founders of a distinctive and long-lived school of their own. Blegen’s 1917 publication of an immigrant Norwegian’s narrative (Ole Rynning, True Account of America for the Information and Help of Peasant and Commoner) is arguably the first scholarly effort to give American readers access to an immigrant’s point of view in a translation from his native language, while Stephenson’s 1926 monograph (A History of American Immigration, 1820-1924) was the first professional effort to offer an interpretation broad enough to problematize the recent triumph of immigration restriction. Preparing to write it, Stephenson taught some of the first courses in immigration history offered anywhere in the United States. Stephenson and Blegen shared a life-long interest in making documentation on immigration accessible through publication and public archives. Blegen worked with both the Minnesota Historical Society and the Norwegian American Historical Association to build archival collections; in the 1950s he pursued his dream of a collaboration that would collect immigrant letters in Europe and America. Blegen and Stephenson both also taught in Europe, exploring what we would today call the transnational dimensions of migration. Their work with the public—and especially with ethnic history societies—was often contentious. But Blegen, at least, never abandoned his efforts to write for broad audiences—especially in his histories of Minnesota and in his Grass Roots History (1947).

Blegen was the longer-lived and professionally savvier of the two. He was president of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association (forerunner of the OAH) in 1943-1944 and Dean of Minnesota’s Graduate School until 1960. His thoughts apparently impressed new University President O. Meredith Wilson (an historian born in Mexico), who arrived in Minnesota that year. Wilson found major funding for a second generation of immigration historians that Paul Spickard has recently termed the “Ellis Island historians.” They would interpret urban and proletarian immigrants, while working in interdisciplinary fashion, sometimes within Minnesota’s American Studies program. In 1961 Minnesota’s “Iron Range

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News from Libraries, Museums and Research Institutes...

Harvard Opens Digital Collection of Vast Resources on Immigration

The Harvard University Library has opened the second of its "open collections," an on-line web-based service, called "Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930." The collection includes approximately 1,800 books, 9,000 photographs, 200 maps, and 13,000 pages from manuscript and archival collections. The materials, drawn from several Harvard libraries, are freely accessible to researchers. A previous collection, "Women Working, 1800-1930," is also available. The Harvard library views these open collections as models for future digital collections. The project was supported by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Online access to the immigration collection's web page is at http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/

The Williams Research Center of The Historic New Orleans Collection has announced the addition of a research pathfinder of the collection's numerous holdings relating to the history of German and German culture in New Orleans and the surrounding region. The on-line guide includes catalogs and indexes of a wide variety of German-American materials: archives from ethnic institutions, family papers, business records, sheet music and images. The collection is one of the most complete local collections on German-American life. The guidebook may be viewed on-line at www.lnoc.org/collections/gerpath/gerpathindex.htm

The editorial board of Polish-American History and Culture: An Encyclopedia, to be published by McFarland Publishers, seeks contributors to author biographical (250-500 words) and topical entries (500-1,250 words). Interested persons should e-mail the editor, James S. Pula, with an expression of interest and an indication of the general fields of expertise or specific entries of interest. Contributors of acceptable entries will be compensated. Contact Prof. Pula at jpula@pnc.edu


The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History will continue its summer programs for college sophomores and juniors who are interested in pursuing a major in American history. The Institute offers a five-week program in New York City from June 29 to August 2, 2008. Fifteen scholars will work on one of several Gilder Lehrman research projects, and participate in weekly meetings with eminent historians. Students must be enrolled as sophomores or juniors in an accredited college in the U.S. or Canada. Scholars receive a $2200 stipend, along with room, board and travel expenses. Fifty other "finalists" will be invited to a one-week program (June 14-21, 2008), with a $1500 fellowship. Applications must be postmarked by March 3, 2008. Full information on the web at www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/student2.html

The Ballin-Stadt museum in Hamburg, Germany, a new museum devoted to emigration, opened to the public on July 5, 2007. The museum is located on a site once operated by the HAPAG steamship line as the departure station for five million emigrants in the early twentieth century. Buildings constructed as replicas of those at the emigration station house many exhibits and an archive. Information about the museum is at http://www.ballinstadt.de/en/index.php

The Library Company of Philadelphia and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania offer a variety of one-month research fellowships in U.S. History and Culture for the academic year 2008-2009. Among them are three Balch Institute Fellowships for research on the ethnic and immigrant experience in the United States, and two Barra Foundation International Fellowships for citizens of countries outside the United States. Also, the Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Dissertation Fellowship is available for dissertation research. Application deadline for these and other fellowships is March 1, 2008. Full information and application instructions are on the web: http://www.librarycompany.org/fellowships/american.htm

The Program in Early American Economy and Society at the Library Company of Philadelphia invites applications for a dissertation-level fellowship, carrying a stipend of $20,000, tenable for nine consecutive months of residency from September 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009. PEAES also offers four one-month fellowships, carrying stipends of $2,000 each, tenable between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009. Deadline for receipt of one-month and dissertation fellowship applications is March 1, 2008. These fellowships are designed to promote scholarship in early American economy and society, broadly defined, from its colonial beginnings to roughly the 1850s. Further information on the web at www.librarycompany.org/economics/efellowships.htm

The Italian American Museum in New York City has announced the plans for a new home for the museum in what once was the city’s “Little Italy.” Three historic buildings have been purchased at the corner of Grand Street and Mulberry Street, and will be extensively renovated to house the museum, which is currently located on the 17th floor at 28 West 44th St. The campaign for the new museum is being led by the museum’s president, Joseph Scelsa, sociologist at Queens College of the City University.

The pictures collected for an exhibit on Italians in Chicago, part of the Italians in Chicago project sponsored by the University of Illinois-Chicago and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, are now available on-line. Web-site: http://picasaweb.google.com/DominicCandeloro/ItaliansInChicago/PhotoExhibit
The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission invites applications for its 2008-2009 Scholars in Residence Program. The program provides for up to eight weeks of full-time research and study of Pennsylvania history through use of manuscript and artifact collections at PHMC facilities, including the Pennsylvania State Archives. Residencies may be scheduled during the period May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Stipends are awarded at the rate of $375 per week. Deadline for application is January 11, 2008. For complete details and application materials, go to the PHMC website at www.phmc.state.pa.us Click on “Public History Programs,” then “Scholars in Residence.”

The Italian American Museum in New York City has a current on-line exhibit of photographs: “Not Paved with Gold: Toronto’s Italian-Canadian Community in the 1970s.” It may be seen at www.italianamericanmuseum.org/exhibitions/index.htm

The publisher Facts on File plans an encyclopedia of four volumes on immigration, to be called “On the Move: The Encyclopedia of Immigration, Migration, and Nativism in United States History.” About 1,500 entries are planned, ranging from 200 to 1000 words in length. Contributors are solicited. Contact James S. Olson at Sam Houston State University; e-mail immigrationbook@gmail.com

The German Information Center USA and the German National Tourist Office have established a website devoted to the German-American heritage and its origins in Germany. Its address: http://germanoriginality.com/

The Immigration Policy Center in Washington, DC, has published a report: “Wasted Talent and Broken Dreams: The Lost Potential of Undocumented Students,” by Roberto G. Gonzales. The study focuses upon the approximately 1.8 million children of undocumented immigrants who, “without a means to legalize their status...are seldom able to go on to college and cannot work legally in this country.” Read online at www.aiif.org/IPC/InFocus/WastedTalent.pdf

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History offers fellowships each year to enable scholars to research in the Gilder Lehrman Collection and other New York City archives. Fellowship stipends range from $1500 to $4000 and may be held for periods of one week up to two months. Next application deadline is May 1. Information on the web: http://www.gildert Lehrman.org/historians/fellowship1.html

The American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts has announced a variety of visiting fellowships, both short- and long-term, for research in its collections. Deadlines are generally Jan. 15, 2008. See the web page at http://www.americanantiquarian.org/fellowships.htm

FROM THE IEHS PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

As you may already know, the new publisher of the Journal of American Ethnic History is the University of Illinois Press which began publication with the summer 2007 issue. Our committee (Elliott Barkan, Ronald Bayor, John Bukowczyk, and Barbara Posadas) spent many hours discussing the assets and liabilities of each press that we contacted. UIP was the best choice in a number of ways. I want to thank my other committee members for their willingness to read through many contracts, hold numerous conference calls, and take time away from our own research projects in order to secure a new press. The committee has also been negotiating with JSTOR after an invitation to join that group which will provide archived JAEH issues back to volume 1, number 1.

As more libraries secure electronic access to the journal, I am trying to make membership mean more than just subscribing to the journal and receiving the Newsletter.

There are a number of upgrades on the IEHS website that are planned for next year. Some of these I mentioned in an earlier message, but I have since priced those changes and can see their implementation relatively soon. The upgrades include a curriculum exchange, a chat room for graduate students to discuss their research, and a listing of dissertation topics and completed dissertations. This list would enable graduate students to see what topics are being studied and to share research insights and sources. An active website, rather than one that is just viewed, would be useful to members.

On another issue, I would also like to encourage contributions to the George E. Pozzetta fund, which provides the money for our dissertation award. George was a good friend to many of us and an uniriting supporter of the IEHS. The fund needs more money in order to insure the continued awarding of the $750 prize. Contributions should be sent to the Immigration History Research Center, which administers the endowment, at Elmer L. Anderson Library, suite 311, 222 21st Avenue, South, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

Ronald H. Bayor
President, IEHS

Help! George Pozzetta
Fund Needs New Resources

The fund established by the IEHS as a memorial to the late George Pozzetta currently has insufficient money in its account to supply the needed $750 yearly—the amount awarded to a doctoral candidate for purposes of researching a dissertation. The account, which is held within the endowment funds of the University of Minnesota and administered by the Immigration History Research Center, currently has less than $14,000 and produces only $540 yearly in interest. No new contributions have been received within the last three years.

Donna Gabaccia, director of the IHR, is seeking new contributions for this fund. Members wishing to support the Pozzetta fund may send their contributions to IHR
Elmer L. Anderson Library, Suite 311
222 21st Ave. South
Minneapolis MN 55455
Make notation on the check that the contribution is for the Pozzetta fund.

Visit the IEHS Web Pages at www.iehs.com
Conferences and Meetings...

The Boston Seminar in Immigration and Urban History has begun its series of seven seminar meetings for the academic year 2007-2008. Meetings are held at the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston. Seminars held so far were: Sept. 20, Nazli Kibria (Boston Univ.), "Becoming Muslim American: Identity Struggles of Bangladeshis in the U.S."; Oct. 25, Paul Schmitz (Boston U.), "Only in New York": Italian Immigration, Urban Culture, and the Currency of the Ethnic Merchant"; Nov. 29, Mae Ngai (Columbia University), "He Talk Lie": Chinese Interpreters in Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth-Century America.”


Seminars meet at 5:15 Thursdays, and are followed by a light buffet supper (make supper reservations in advance). Seminar papers may be obtained in advance. Info: www.masshist.org/events/bshub.cfm or e-mail: seminars@masshist.org

The annual meeting of the American Historical Association will meet in conjunction with the AHA meeting in Washington, Jan. 3-6, 2008. A schedule of the PAHA activities is listed in the AHA program, p. 49.

The Seventh European Social Science History Conference will take place at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, Feb. 27-March 1, 2008. Information and registration materials are on the web at http://www.iisg.nl/esshc/2008.php


The annual meeting of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society will take place at the OAH meeting. The annual dinner of the IEHS will take place Saturday evening March 29, 2008. Speaker at the dinner will be Prof. Guillermina Jasso of the sociology department of New York University, who is conducting a pilot New Immigrant Survey. Time and place of the dinner will be announced later, in information distributed along with the annual ballot in February.

Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, will hold a symposium on April 1, 2008: "The Cold War Warriors: Political Activism of Ethnic Groups during the Cold War in the U.S." For information, contact Dr. Ileva Zake at zake@rowan.edu


The Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism (ASEN) is holding its 18th annual conference, entitled “Nationalism, East and West: Civic and Ethnic Conceptions of Nationhood,” April 15-17, 2008, at the London School of Economics. Proposals closed Nov. 1, 2007. For further information, see http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/ASEN/


The Society for German-American Studies will hold its 32nd annual symposium at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia, April 17-20, 2008. Proposals closed Nov. 15. Further information will be announced on the Society’s web-page at: http://www.ulbb.lupal.edu/kade/SGAS/sgasjin.html#meetings

Marquette University plans a conference on May 2-3, 2008 in Milwaukee. Theme: "Who Claims the City?: Thinking Race, Class, and Urban Place." Proposals closed Dec. 1, 2008. For further information, contact Heather Hathaway at artsnsscience@marquette.edu

The International Network on Migration and Development, the Colegio de la Frontera Norte, and the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California-San Diego have announced the First Migration and Development Workshop for Young Researchers and Teachers, to be held in San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico, June 16-July 18, 2008. The
workshop is an accredited academic seminar geared toward young researchers and teachers: master’s programs graduates, PhD students, and academics who are beginning teaching or research careers and are interested in analyzing, discussing and critically evaluating issues pertaining to migration and development. The principal focus of the seminar is on the relation between migration and development. The workshop includes lectures, discussions, and the writing of a paper by participants. Some financial aid is available. Applications are due Jan. 31, 2008. Interested parties should read the very complicated information brochure which is available on-line at http://www.colef.mx/avisos/ingles.pdf

The Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh, Northern Ireland will host the Seventeenth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium, June 25-28, 2008, in partnership with the University of Ulster, Queen’s University, Belfast and the National Museums and Library Service of Northern Ireland. Theme of the Conference will be “Changing Perspectives, 1607-2007.” Further information at http://www.folkpark.com/newsroom/?article=550


The McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, in cooperation with the School of Arts and Sciences of the Catholic University of America, will hold a conference in Philadelphia, September 18-20, 2008. “Antipopery: The Transatlantic Experience, c. 1530-1850.” Proposals closed Sept. 15, 2007. For further information, e-mail mccas@ccat.sas.upenn.edu


The History of Education Society will hold its annual meeting on November 6-9, 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Program Committee welcomes proposals on ethnicity, race, and minority issues as they relate to educational history. Submission deadline: Feb. 15, 2008. Information at http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/ies/annualmtg.htm


NECROLOGY

Christiane Harzig, Associate Professor of History at Arizona State University, died November 6, 2007 at Tempe, Arizona, at the age of 55. She was a scholar who studied German immigration to the United States and Canada, the migration of women, and the immigration policies of various nations. She received the Ph. D. from the Technical University of Berlin in 1990. Her teaching career included appointments at the Free University of Berlin, the University of Bremen, York University (Canada), SUNY Buffalo, and the University of Erfurt. She was author or editor of a number of works in English and in German. In 2006 she published an essay in the special edition of the Journal of American Ethnic History (25:2-3, 48-73): “Domestic’s of the World (Unite?): Labor Migration Systems and Personal Trajectories of Household Workers in Historical and Global Perspective.”

Thomas D. Marzik, Professor of History at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia, died October 24, 2007 in Merion, Pa. at the age of 64. A specialist in Eastern European studies and in Eastern European migration to the United States, he received his doctorate from Columbia University in 1976. He had researched and published in the area of Czech nationalism. At his death he was completing a large book on Thomas Masaryk and the founding of Czechoslovakia, with special attention to Masaryk’s American connections.

Word has been received belatedly of the death of Julianna Puskás, a pioneering scholar of Hungarian migration to the United States. She died in 2005 in Hungary at the age of 76. Her works included From Hungary to the United States, 1880-1914 (1982) and Ties that Bind, Ties that Divide: 100 Years of Hungarian Experience in the United States (2000). She was affiliated with the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and lectured occasionally at the Institute of American Studies at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In 2008, the membership of the IEHS will elect three persons for three-year terms on the Executive Board. Suggestions for nominations may be made by Jan. 15, 2008, to any member of the nominating committee. Members of the nominating committee are: Hasia Diner (chair), New York University (hasia.diner@nyu.edu); June Alexander, Univ. of Cincinnati (june.alexander@uc.edu); David Mauk, Univ. of Oslo, Norway (d.mauk@ilos.uio.no); Maureen Nutting, North Seattle Community College (mnutting@scd.cctc.edu); Joe Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University, (trotter@andrew.cmu.edu).
New Publications Noted...


Gleeson, David T. "Smaller Differences: 'Scottish Irish' and 'Real Irish' in the Nine-


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Reviving a Tradition:  

The "Minnesota School"  

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Project began, under the leadership of Hyman Berman, Clarke Chambers and Timothy Smith (specialists on immigration and labor, social welfare and education, respectively). From their research on the multi-lingual, multi-ethnic, and radical immigrant miners and industrial workers of Minnesota emerged the Center for Immigration Studies and the Immigrant Archives Project, later merged as the Immigration History Research Center (IHRC). With the arrival in 1967 of Rudolph Vecoli, the second generation of the Minnesota School began a period of dynamic growth.

For readers who are members of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, I scarcely need describe this generation. Vecoli, assisted by long-time curator Joel Wurl, built the IHRC archives. Vecoli believed in bringing researchers and ethnic communities together. His research and graduate students helped to keep scholarship on older and newer European migrations in dialogue. It also guaranteed that the Minnesota School would maintain its international interests. Conference proceedings co-edited by Vecoli and his student Suzanne Sinke as A Century of European Migrations (1991) drew on Frank Thistlethwaite’s earlier call for Atlantic studies of migration (Thistlethwaite had studied in Minnesota with Stephenson on a Commonwealth Fellowship in the late 1930s). International as well as U.S.-based researchers flocked to the IHRC in the 1970s and 1980s. The IHRC publication Spectrum pointed community- and library-based researchers to large interdisciplinary themes—language, autobiography, refugees, the performing arts—to be explored in its collections.

Beginning in the 1980s, a new generation of colleagues and students of Vecoli extended the Minnesota School while consolidating familiar patterns. Beginning in 1980, the Southeast Asian Refugee Studies project—later transformed into the Center for Refugee Studies (under the successive leadership of a linguist, Bruce Downing; an anthropologist, Glenn Hendrickx; and an American Studies graduate, Dan Detzner)—began work with the newest arrivals to Minnesota. Until disbanded in 1998, it was one of a handful of university centers documenting the post-Vietnam refugee movements. Materials on forced movements and on refugee resettlement after 1945 soon constituted a third of IHRC holdings. Independently, in 1988, a Human Rights Center in Minnesota’s Law School began developing what has become a remarkable library of materials on refugees and asylum internationally. The Human Rights Center and the still-newer Human Rights Program in Minnesota’s Institute for Global Studies train students to work with community, advocacy, and immigrant groups within and across national borders.

Two new Minnesotans—Steven Ruggles and David Roediger—created other interdisciplinary initiatives that, while important for the development of immigration and refugee studies, were quite different from each other. Ruggles and his colleagues in demographic history obtained major funding to develop their Minnesota Population Center (MPC) into the largest digital archive of population records worldwide. Creating and making accessible population samples (the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series [IPUMS] and IPUMS International) from the U.S. and around the world, the MPC provided a new focus for immigration specialists in the social sciences while Roediger’s leadership of the Minnesota American Studies Department encouraged a network that kept humanities and cultural studies scholars within the Minnesota School’s orbit. Roediger’s studies of whiteness and of working-class immigrants, along with his encouragement of studies of racialized ethnicity, class and gender, resulted in a short lived but productive alliance with the IHRC that resulted in the REM (Race, Ethnicity, Migration) seminar and conference in 1999-2000. There, “Ellis Island” historians met younger scholars influenced by what I now think of as the “California School” of immigration history, with its focus on race and the exclusions of race as central themes in American immigration history.

Will there be a fourth generation of the Minnesota School? It seems likely. Minnesota has three immigration historians working on international themes: Erika Lee, writing on law and Chinese exclusion; Mai Na Lee, a specialist on the Hmong and Hmong diaspora; and myself. The IHRC and MPC have begun a research project linking demographers, historians, and anthropologists to use IPUMS data to explore “Gender Ratios and Global Migrations.” The IHRC also collaborates with the Institute for Global Studies in offering seminars and conferences focused on “Global REM.” Half a dozen younger scholars, many in the professional schools, research newer refugee populations. The IHRC could potentially play a special role in reviving Refugee Studies at Minnesota by connecting specialists on human rights and human services to existing clusters of scholars in the humanities and social sciences.

The Minnesota School developed into something different from the Chicago School. Historians were key players in its construction. Perhaps that is why the Minnesota School has so often emphasized the documentation of the experiences of ordinary people and their everyday lives, examined particular groups without ignoring the broader and analytical frames (settlement, labor migration, race, forced migration) that connect them, and communicated the results of highly specialized research to a wider public that includes immigrant communities. Its persistent analysis of migration as an international movement surprises only those who think of the Midwest as provincial or culturally white. Working with a new generation of students who are children of refugees from Africa or Southeast Asia or labor migrants from Central America—a local population quite unlike that of New York, Miami, Phoenix, or L.A.—scholars can best continue the unique trajectory of the Minnesota School by recognizing and embracing the work of their predecessors.

Donna R. Gabaccia is Rudolph J. Vecoli Professor of Immigration History and Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Among her recent publications is American Dreaming, Global Realities: Rethinking U.S. Immigration History, co-edited with Vicki L. Ruiz (2006).

Mark your calendar...  

IEHS ANNUAL MEETING  
New York City  
March 28-31, 2008
New Publications Noted...
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PERSONALS

Among Fulbright award winners for 2008 are Nora Faires (Western Michigan University), who will lecture at York University, Canada; Cindy Habamovitch (College of William and Mary), who will lecture in Ireland at University College Cork; and William Roba (Scott Community College, Iowa), who will lecture at the Ivan Franko Drohobych State Pedagogical University in Ukraine.


Also at the OAH, the Hugins-Quarles awards for dissertation research by students of color were given to Geraldo Lujan Cadava (Yale University), for work on “Ethnic Histories of Tucson and the Arizona-Sonora Borderlands, 1941-1981”; and to Julian S. Lim (Cornell University), for work on “Race, Nations, Borders and Freedoms: Multiracial Societies in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands, 1880-1930.”

Angela Kelley has been appointed Director of the American Immigration Law Foundation’s (AILF’s) Immigration Policy Center (IPC). She will be responsible for all of IPC’s public policy efforts on immigration—including research and public affairs. She had previously been deputy director of the National Immigration Forum.

Odd Lovoll (St. Olaf’s College) was awarded the Caroline Bancroft Prize by the Denver Public Library for his book Norwegians on the Prairies: Ethnicity and the Development of the Country Town (Minn. Historical Society, 2006). It was regarded the best 2006 book on the westward movement in 2006.

Madeline Hiun (University of Texas at Austin), plans to leave her post as book review editor of the Journal of American Ethnic History, due to the pressure of other academic duties. The notice seeking her replacement appears in the next column.

WANTED:
BOOK REVIEW EDITOR
Journal of American Ethnic History

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society is now seeking a Book Review Editor (BRE) for its quarterly Journal of American Ethnic History (JAEH). The BRE is responsible for selecting, requesting, receiving, and distributing books for review; identifying and recruiting reviewers; and editing, proofreading, assembling, and arranging book reviews and review essays for each journal issue. The JAEH publishes about 30-100 book reviews and 5-10 review essays per year (for a total of about 100 - 120 double-spaced manuscript pages of review content per issue) and operates under quarterly deadlines (February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1).

The BRE should have good editorial, administrative, and organizational skills; broad knowledge of the immigration and ethnic history fields; and institutional support sufficient to perform the functions of the position and cover the costs of materials, postage, shipping, and telephone as well as a part-time student assistant.

The BRE works in cooperation with the journal editor, who oversees final submissions, scheduling, and production of the journal. Preferably, the term of appointment is five years. The BRE must also be, or be willing to become, a member of the IEHS. The start date for the job is May 1, 2008, or as soon thereafter as possible. The position is uncompensated except for what the BRE arranges with his or her department or dean. For further information about the IEHS and its publications, go to www.iehs.org. For more information about this position, or to apply for it, please contact: Prof. John J. Bukowczyk, Editor, JAEH, Dept. of History, 3094 Faculty/Administration Bldg., Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202, (313) 577-2799; e-mail: aa2092@wayne.edu.

New Publications Noted...
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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: James.Bergquist@villanova.edu

Your name and affiliation:


IHS News Notes...

THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD
Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 2007. To be eligible, a book must be copyrighted 2007. 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. Thomas Dublin, Department of History, SUNY-Binghamton, PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902.
Email: tdublin@binghamton.edu
Copies of the book must be received by all three members of the committee by December 31, 2007. Send books to Prof. Dublin at the address above and also to Prof. Robert Rockaway, Dept. of Jewish History, PO Box 30940, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv 69978 Israel; and to Prof. Diane Vecchio, Dept. of History, Furman University, Greenville, SC 29613-0444.
(This corrects information which appeared in the May Newsletter)

JOHN HIGHAM TRAVEL GRANT
Applications are now being received for the 2008 John Higham travel grants, which provide three $500 grants for graduate students to attend the 2008 meeting of the Organization of American Historians in New York. OAH and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society have created a fund to award these grants in memory of John Higham (1920-2003), past president of both organizations, and a towering figure in immigration, ethnic, and intellectual history. The successful candidates will have a preferred area of concentration in American Immigration and/or American Ethnic and/or American Intellectual history. Applications must be filed electronically, and should be received by December 1, 2007. For full information and guidelines for application, consult the OAH webpage: http://www.oah.org/pubs/cmtguide/highham/index.html

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD
The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2008 George E. Pozzetta Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying examinations by Dec. 1, 2007, 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. The application must also include a proposed budget, brief curriculum vitae, and a supporting letter from the major advisor. All materials must be received by each committee member by December 15, 2007, which is the submission deadline. Send materials in hard copy (no FAXes accepted) to Yong Chen (chair of the committee), Dept. of History, University of California, Irvine, CA 92697-3275; to Russell Kazal, Dept. of History, University of Toronto, Scarborough, 1265 Military Trail, Toronto ON Canada M1C 1A4; and to Mara Cristina Garcia, Department of History, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-4601. Inquiries may be sent to Prof. Chen at Y3Chen@henfranklin.hnet.ucl.edu.

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE
The IEHS Program Committee seeks to coordinate and sponsor programs at major conferences, including the AHA 2009, the OAH 2009, and the Southern Historical Association 2009. Suggestions for other conferences at which the IEHS might offer sessions are also welcome. Proposals for full sessions are best, but the committee will try to match any individual paper proposals. Please provide your name, affiliation, and a brief abstract of your paper. Send inquiries and proposals to the chair of the committee, Barbara Posadas (Northern Illinois University). E-mail: bposadas@niu.edu.

Visit the IEHS web page at www.iehs.org
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 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 semianual *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*. Annual dues for individuals, $45; for institutions, $200 (print AND electronic), $190 (print OR electronic). Students: 1 year, $25. For air-mail delivery of the *Journal outside the U.S.* add $15/year. Membership renewals should be sent to Journals, University of Illinois Press, 1325 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820. They may also be sent via the web-page:
http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jaeh.html

Send new memberships ($35 first-year introductory rate) to *Journal of American Ethnic History*, c/o Dept. of History, 3094 FAB, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202.

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Inquiries about the Society should be directed to the appropriate officer. Newsletter submissions and questions about editorial matters should be sent to the editor at the address above. Requests for back issues of the newsletter should be sent to the editor; 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 Journals, Univ. of Illinois Press, 1325 S. Oak St., Champaign IL 61820, or via the web at

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