Rethinking the Teaching of Immigration History:
We’ve Been Here Before

By Carol Lynn McKibben

The impact of 9/11 and the economic challenges of the new millennium are reshaping debates over immigration policy in profound ways, and presenting new challenges to the way we understand and teach immigration history. Most importantly, the new millennium has been associated with the crisis and trauma of terrorism, and also with a mass immigration that appears overpowering to many Americans, just as large-scale immigration overwhelmed Americans at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Americans today frequently react to both the terrorist threat and this contemporary demographic transition as one and the same. Thus, all kinds of immigrants (asylees and refugees, legal migrants and undocumented arrivals) are lumped together in the popular mind as aberrant and dangerous threats that require desperate and immediate action and new policy initiatives, rather than being seen as the normal part of American life.

We are barely into the new millennium, but are already confronted with a narrative of U.S. immigration that appears to be nothing like what we might have predicted in the last years of the twentieth century. In spite of anti-immigration initiatives such as California’s Proposition 187 in 1994 (declared unconstitutional in 1999), the North American Free Trade Act (NAFTA) seemed to promise a 21st century opening of borders and a looser policy towards workers. In spite of the usual nativism that has always been part of American history, we also might have anticipated in the new millennium a rash of legislation protecting the rights of minorities, homosexuals, asylees and refugees, and victims of domestic violence and trafficking, for which the feminist, gay rights, and human rights movements fought so hard, and with much success, at the end of the 1990s.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the trauma of an unstable economy as a result of rapid and mass industrialization, together with political turmoil internationally and nationally, and the crisis of World War I, led to vicious policies and practices, culminating in the 1924 Johnson-Reed Act that signified a wholesale acceptance of scientific racism, excluding people from the entire continent of Asia and most of Southern and Eastern Europe. In the decades after the Second World War, however, we retreated from the view that all immigrants were an alien horde, a menacing presence in the country, and one that needed to be controlled or excluded altogether based on perceptions of ethno-racial difference, even as we held fast to a quota system based on nation-states and racist ideologies. By the end of the decade of the 1970s, the national mood and official policies shifted, as Presidents Johnson, Carter, Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Clinton, and George W. Bush (at least before 9/11) and Congress broadened definitions of refugees and asylum seekers and opened immigration to formerly excluded groups. Instead of overt exclusion based on national origin (read: race), the presidents and Congress generally responded to demands for civil and human rights, and to the efforts by feminists, gay rights activists and minority groups. These policy-makers expanded definitions of “refugee” to include victims of domestic violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. They moved beyond a notion of refugee and asylum that had been limited to anti-Communists only. Although quotas remained firmly in place, there were efforts to bring equity to migration, and to get rid of obviously biased policies such as refusing entry to homosexuals.

The situation we are faced with today feels more like the early twentieth century environment, with its violent racism, nativism, and harsh policy initiatives that denied human rights (and entry to the U.S.), to millions of people already in this country and throughout the world. Instead, we see a flurry of local and state legislation related to immigration, most of it nativist, brought on by perceptions that the federal government is not doing its job of controlling migration flows, especially in the context of recent economic downturns and worldwide terrorism. The challenge of making sense of it all is formidable. Students arrive in the U.S. immigration course that I teach both confused and troubled by a discourse on immigration that has grown ever more polarized and nativist in recent years.

The first step is to bring historical context into debates about citizenship rights, legislation regarding borders and security, and of course labor issues, among other topics that we explore in immigration courses.

It helps to begin in the beginning. Channeling my late and wonderful mentor, Jim Kettner, our class considered the meaning of citizenship in the earliest days of the American republic and the idea of integration of diverse peoples into the body politic that the founders conceptualized. Students are amazed to read anti-German rants from Benjamin Franklin (who looks like such a kind person otherwise), and Jefferson’s worried writings on black people, both free and slave, as both a threatening population and impossible ever to integrate as American citizens. Students are often surprised that Native Americans were considered to be outside the pale of citizenship from the seventeenth century colonization until the 1930s, and that Chinese and all Asian immigrants were banned from citizenship from the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act until well into the twentieth century.

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The Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia has received a bequest from the estate of the late John Haas to support the care and interpretation of ethnic and immigrant history. John Haas was a former chairman of the board of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, which merged with the HSP in 2001. According to HSP president Kim Sajet, “The funds are to go towards the Balch mission which includes the Balch Fellowships, the programming related to ethnic and immigrant history including educational programs, and the care of the collection.”

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota will host a research talk by Florence Vychytil-Baudoux, l’Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (Paris), Fulbright Researcher at the IHRC, “Citizenship and its Uses: Circulation of Ideas among Polonia in the Free World during the Cold War.” The presentation is at 12:00 noon on December 1, 2011. Information at http://ihrc.umn.edu/

The Immigration History Research Center at the University Of Minnesota (IHR) offers Grants In Aid awards of up to $500 to assist graduate students, independent and other scholars traveling to conduct research for at least one week (five research days) at the IHRC. The deadline for applications for 2012-2013 awards is June 1, 2012. Post-doctoral scholars are also eligible to apply for additional funding for a maximum award of $1,000. The post-doctoral Grant In Aid supports a two-week residency (ten research days) while conducting research in the Center's collections. Those applying for the post-doctoral Grant In Aid must clearly indicate their qualifications for the award in a letter of application. The deadline for post-doctoral Grants in Aid also is June 1, 2012. Further information at www.ihrc.umn.edu/educators/grantsinaid.php


The South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA) aims to document, preserve and make accessible the history of the South Asian American community. SAADA's digital collections reflect the vast range of experiences of the South Asian diaspora in the U.S., including those who trace their heritage to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the many South Asian diaspora communities across the globe. Digitized materials in SAADA's collections reflect the diversity of the community, including: the papers of the first Asian American Congressman, Dalip Singh Saund; historic articles about the early immigration of South Asians to the U.S. dating from 1910; pamphlets created by the Gadar Party in California in 1915; and photographs documenting the political activism of the South Asian American Voting Youth (SAAVY) in 2004. The collections are readily accessible at http://www.saadigitalarchive.org SAADA is currently looking to expand its collections by digitizing additional materials. The organization is particularly interested in archival records that document a range of political engagement and cultural expression among diverse South Asian American communities. Those interested in contributing are encouraged to contact the organization; e-mail Samip Mallick, samip@saadigitalarchive.org

The Texas Seaport Museum in Galveston, Texas has compiled the nation’s only computerized listing of immigrants to Galveston, Texas. The museum’s immigration exhibit features text and historic photographs illustrating Galveston’s role in immigration history and the major organized immigration movements of the 19th and 20th Centuries. Computer terminals in the exhibit area allow visitors to search for information taken from ships' passenger manifests pertaining to their ancestors’ arrival in Texas. The database is also available online. Information at http://www.galvestonhistory.org


The University of Washington Libraries have placed online many oral-history interviews from the South Asian Oral History Project. The interviews are with many individuals who immigrated from South Asia to the Pacific Northwest since the 1950s. Many are available in audio and video versions and in transcripts. Say the librarians: "Taken together, these interviews make up a unique record of the lives of South Asians who have contributed greatly to the fabric and texture of the region. These (continued on p. 10)
From the IEHS President...

Greetings, IEHS members!

Time slips away quite quickly—and at other moments moves at a turtle’s pace! As I write this, my sixth and final message to you as IEHS president, I am amazed at the speed with which my three years as president has passed, even though I can also recall moments when I thought the term would never end. All in all, my six years in a leadership role in IEHS, first as vice president/president-elect and then as president, have been happy and productive. During these years, I have worked with so many scholars for whom IEHS means so much. With their dogged devotion and expenditure of countless hours, Ron Bayor, Elliott Barkan, and John Bukowczyk enabled the Society to survive the challenge of moving the Journal of American Ethnic History from its previous publisher to the University of Illinois Press, a decision that has also allowed our organization to flourish financially—at least for the moment. During and since that trying episode, others have labored in the Society’s offices and on its Board of Directors to accomplish the work of organizing our IEHS-sponsored conference sessions, keeping our records and financial statements, deciding policy questions, awarding prizes, finding candidates for office, locating possible sites for our annual dinner, and creating new initiatives. I wish that I could name all of you, but you know who you are. My sincere thanks to each of you!

And let us all prepare to welcome Hasia Diner into the IEHS presidency! The handoff of the “gavel” will take place immediately after the Society’s annual business meeting on Friday, April 20, 2012, during the OAH in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At that meeting, the names of the Society’s incoming vice president/president-elect and three new Executive Board members will be announced (see the “Call for Nominations” elsewhere in the Newsletter). In the evening, IEHS will hold its annual dinner at Broca Irish Pub (www.broca.com/milwaukee), at 1850 North Water Street, about two miles from the conference headquarters at the Hilton Milwaukee. Irish specialties will be served, and Guinness will be on tap!

Even earlier, in January 2012 at the AHA in Chicago, IEHS will have two sponsored sessions on the program: "Rethinking the Model Migrant: New Perspectives on Jewish Migration," on Thursday, January 5, at 3:00 p.m. at the Marriott and “To Resist or Embrace? Immigrant Perspectives on Public Schooling, 1870-1940,” on Sunday, January 8, at 11:00 a.m. at the Sheraton.

Let me also call your attention to the Society’s enhanced electronic presence—our totally redesigned website, initiated and now supervised by Website Editor Rachel Kranson at www.iehs.org, and especially to the site’s new “Syllabus Exchange” under “Resources.” And my heartfelt thanks also go to Julio Capó, Jr., for creating our IEHS Facebook page. Check out the “Immigration and Ethnic History Society” and “Like” us!

As I totter into the sunset of my presidency and my coming three years as Immediate Past President, and get ready to pull two huge file boxes out from under my worktable and ship them to Hasia, I bid you a preliminary good-bye, but do hope to see many of you in Chicago and Milwaukee.

Best wishes,

Barbara M. Posadas
IEHS President

Necrology...

OSCAR HANDLIN, 1915-2011

Oscar Handlin, Carl M. Loeb University Professor Emeritus of History at Harvard University, died Sept. 20, 2011 at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was 95 years of age.

Handlin was the best-known historian of American immigration in the twentieth century. Born in Brooklyn in 1915, the son of a Jewish immigrant grocer, he graduated from Brooklyn College at the age of 19, and received his doctorate from Harvard University in 1940. His doctoral mentor was Arthur Schlesinger, Sr., then the preeminent scholar of American social history. Handlin taught at Brooklyn College from 1936 to 1938, then began a teaching career at Harvard in 1939 before completing his doctorate. He retired from the Harvard faculty in 1984 and became professor emeritus, but remained active in research and writing until his death.

Handlin’s doctoral dissertation was published in 1941 as Boston’s Immigrants, 1790-1880: a Study in Acculturation. The book, which was awarded the Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association, provided a model for later immigration historians in its detailed examination of the ethnic societies of a particular locality, and in its sociological perspective and emphasis on the life of the ordinary immigrant. The book which made him known to many as an outstanding immigration scholar, however, was The Uprooted: The Epic Story of the Great Migrations That Made the American People (1951). It was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1952. It presented a somewhat gloomy picture of the immigrants’ difficulties, caught as they were between the culture they left behind and the new unfamiliar culture of the American city. Other historians would in time criticize his interpretation as an over-generalization which did not recognize the differences among immigrant groups, and which did not recognize the durability of the immigrant traditional culture in the face of the dominant American society. Nevertheless, The Uprooted remained for many the first book to read on the subject of American immigration.

Handlin published many other books in social and economic history as well as ethnic history. He also had many other active roles: editing the Harvard Guide to American History; serving as head librarian at Harvard for five years; directing Harvard’s Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History; and advocating actively in the 1960s for the repeal of the immigration quota acts of the 1920s, goals which were achieved in the Immigration Act of 1965.

Handlin saw his own influence in the well-known first sentence of The Uprooted: “Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then, I discovered that the immigrants were American history.”

From the newsletter editor...

The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter welcomes proposals for the feature articles in each issue. These front-page articles are generally historiographical or pedagogical in nature. Reviews of the literature on a specific subject or ethnic group may be considered. We do not publish detailed research articles. These essays are usually about 1500-1800 words in length. Do not send a completed work; tell us your ideas first. E-mail: james.bergquist@villanova.edu.

~JB
Conferences and Meetings...

The Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar, sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Association, has scheduled a series of seven meetings for the academic year 2011-2012. Meetings are held at the Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston on Tuesday evenings. Meetings held so far this autumn included:

Sept. 27: Robert W. Snyder, (Rutgers University, Newark), "Arrivals and Departures, Refrachnements and Revival: Washington Heights and New York City from the Fiscal Crisis to the Onset of the Crack Epidemic."

Oct. 25: Mary Anne A. Tracianni (Hofstra University), "Athens or Anarchy? Soapbox Oratory and the Early Twentieth-Century American City."

Nov. 15: Brian Gratton (Arizona State University), "Henry Cabot Lodge and the Rise of the Movement to Restrict Immigration."

Seminars scheduled for 2012 include: Jan. 31: Arissa Oh (Boston College): "Orphan Evacuation or Big Business?: The Institutionalization of Korean Adoption."

Feb. 28: Anne Marie Reardon (Brandeis University): The ‘Coddling Controversy’: Italian POWs on Boston’s World War II Homefront"

March 13: Kornel S. Chang (Rutgers University, Newark): "Policing Migrants and Militants: In Defense of Nation and Empire in the U.S.-Canadian Borderslands."


Seminar meetings start at 5:15 PM and are followed by a light buffet supper (make reservations for the supper). Full information is at http://www.masshist.org/events/bsiuh.cfm

The American Historical Association will hold its next meeting Jan. 5-8, 2012 in Chicago. Theme: "Frontiers of Capitalism and Democracy." Information on the web at http://www.historians.org/


The Organization of American Historians will hold its 2012 meeting in Milwaukee, April 19-22. Theme: "Frontiers of Capitalism and Democracy." Information on the web at http://www.oah.org/

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society will hold its next annual meeting in connection with the Organization of American Historians, April 19-22, 2012, in Milwaukee.


The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAHR) will hold its annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, June 28-30, 2012. Theme of the meeting: "Revolutionary Aftermaths." Aside from the general theme, the committee also welcomes proposals on other topics pertaining to U.S. relations with the wider world, including (but not limited to) state-to-state relations, global governance, transnational movements, and histories of mobility, borderlands, and empire. For information, see "Call for Papers" at www.shafr.org


The German Studies Association (GSA) will hold its Thirty-Sixth Annual Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 4-7, 2012. The Program Committee invites proposals on any aspect of German, Austrian, or Swiss studies, including (but not limited to) history, Germanistik, film, art history, political science, anthropology, musicology, religious studies, sociology, and cultural studies. The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2012. Information on the web at www.thegsa.org


The American Studies Association plans its 2012 annual meeting at the Caribe Hilton and Puerto Rico Convention Center, San Juan, November 15-18, 2012. For information, see the web at www.theasa.net

Future meetings of the IEHS and OAH will include: San Francisco, April 11-14, 2013; and Atlanta, April 10-13, 2014.
New Publications Noted...


(continued on p. 6)
New Publications...
(continued from p. 5)


Laucht, Christoph. “Los Alamos in a Way was a City of Foreigners”: German-Speaking Enigre Scientists and the Making of the Atom Bomb at Los Alamos, New Mexico, 1943-1946.” New Mexico Historical Review 86 (2011): 223-250.


Rethinking the Teaching of Immigration History...

(continued from p. 1)

In the post-Civil War era, Congressional debates surrounding the Fourteenth Amendment, and the Fourteenth Amendment itself, help students realize that Americans continued to work out concepts of citizenship, but that the notion of *jus solis* (birthright citizenship) prevailed, becoming sacrosanct in American thought and legislation. Americans held fast to this particular ideology of citizenship, even as they excluded Chinese, all other Asians, and a host of new immigrant populations from both citizenship and entry to the U.S. by legislation beginning with the 1924 Immigration Act that and ending with the aftermath of World War II and the Immigration Act of 1965. Thus, students began to appreciate more fully the real significance of current debates about citizenship that contest *jus solis* and the Fourteenth Amendment. These new arguments against citizenship by birthright challenge a concept that was carefully decided during the founding, and tested over time, in court and through legislation, in an always and ever-diverse demographic context that defined American life. Birth in the U.S. has historically been the one essential and indisputable determination of American citizenship. The new millennium's challenge to *jus solis* therefore represents a radical and fundamental change in American concepts of citizenship, and if successful, a significant break with everything Americans believed about birth as a determinant of citizenship in the United States.

Not so much for the Patriot Act, however. Here we see evidence over and over again in American history of Congress and the President, under pressure from the populace at large, responding both to real and perceived threats and crises in a reactive manner that tramples on basic constitutional rights of American citizens, and the basic human rights of other individuals under conventions established by the United Nations. Examples in the media of American citizens jailed without access to counsel, taken off planes to be interrogated and even tortured in other countries, are not the anomaly they appear to be to students. The 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts were passed in the wake of the French Revolution out of fear of invasion by French anarchists and rebellion at the state level. This legislation (allowed to expire after the election of 1800) gave President John Adams power to stifle dissent (arresting critics of the administration including Benjamin Franklin's grandson), to deport and arrest suspicious persons (mostly Irish and French immigrant sympathizers with the French Revolution), and to ensure federal control over states. Likewise, the crisis and trauma brought on by anarchists and Bolsheviks at the turn of the last century stimulated reactive legislation in the 1910s and 1920s. Pearl Harbor and the consequent internment of Japanese Americans provide us with a similar example of how Americans have responded to crisis and trauma in extreme and reactive ways. It is useful for students to gain a deeper understanding of current debates and policies such as the Patriot Act that may on the surface appear to be something new, but in fact have precedents going back to the early years of the republic and occurring intermittently throughout American history.

The same can be said about our current national obsession with immigrant labor in the U.S. Recent local and state initiatives in California and Arizona, but also in places such as Hazelton, Pennsylvania have restricted people of Mexican origin from gathering on street corners to contract work and from renting homes, and have required local police to serve as enforcers of federal immigration policy. Such measures remind us of moments in the past such as the initiatives against Chinese contract laborers in the nineteenth century and the California Alien Land Laws in the twentieth targeting Japanese immigrants and other Asian people, and the forced deportations of Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants during the 1930s in the face of the Great Depression, when immigrant labor threatened Americans and led both to misunderstanding of economic reality and frantic legislative efforts at control. In the new millennium we have become obsessed with building walls to defend borders that historically never really existed in the first place as a boundary against labor migrations. The easy flow of people from Mexico to the U.S. and from the U.S. to Mexico was a normal part of the history of the American Southwest going back to the seventeenth century colonial period. Since NAFTA, it was also deemed a vital part of the economic health of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In the end NAFTA caused serious economic difficulties for Mexico, but it reflected a 1980s and 1990s vision of the continent of North America as an interconnected region, rather than the more recent Tea Party hysteria over boundaries and the fear that the numbers of Mexican and Asian people entering the United States speaking non-English languages are subverting the American economy.

The new millennium is, if nothing else, a global world where everyone is connected to everyone almost instantaneously. The interest in bilingual education that was growing in popularity and support in the late 20th century (not just for Spanish language but also French, German, Russian, Japanese, Chinese) is replaced in the 21st century with a demand for a monolingual society that can only be compared to the sometimes brutal Americanization campaigns of the early 20th century, in which Mexican, Italian, Jewish, and Polish children were shamed for speaking a language other than English, and lost vital connections to their respective cultural pasts as a consequence. A monolingual society in a multilingual world does not even make sense, but is nonetheless virulently defended by English-only proponents. Taken together, the events and challenges of the first years of the new millennium complicate America's continuing obsession with immigration, sometimes taking us in new directions, as in the case of the citizenship debates, but usually following a pattern of behavior, policy and practice that occurred, time and again, in our past.

Carol Lynn McKibben is a lecturer and coordinator for public history and public service in the History Department at Stanford University. She is the author of Beyond Cannery Row: Sicilian Women, Immigration, Community in Monterey, California, 1915-1999 (University of Illinois Press, 2006). Her most recent book is Racial Beachhead: Diversity and Democracy in a Military Town, Seaside, California (Stanford University Press, 2011). She teaches courses on public history and public service, U.S. Immigration, and urban California history at Stanford.

Save the dates...

IEHS Annual Meeting
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
April 18-22, 2012
New Publications Noted... (continued from p. 7)


On the IEHS Website...

SHARE YOUR COURSE SYLLABI

The newly redesigned IEHS website (www.iehs.org) includes a database for syllabi of courses on immigration and ethnic history. This offers a valuable resource for IEHS members. The database can only be accessed by IEHS members, who must log in. To view the list of syllabi after logging in, choose “resources,” then check on “syllabus sharing.”

The website also offers a collection of teaching materials of use to educators at all levels. These are listed under “resources” and are freely available to all visitors.

The web-pages are now edited by Rachel Kranson of the University of Pittsburgh. She invites all IEHS members to look through the pages for many new features.
News from Libraries and Museums... (continued from p. 2)

interviews reflect religious, linguistic, occupational and gender diversity and provide rich insight into changing experiences of South Asians in the Pacific Northwest." The interviews are available at: http://content.lib.washington.edu/saochweb/

The Center for Jewish History in New York City offers fellowships to senior scholars through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The award supports original research at the Center in the humanities, including but not limited to Jewish studies, Russian and East European studies, American studies, and Germanic studies, as well as by musicologists, linguists, anthropologists, sociologists, and historians. The Center welcomes applicants from any field whose research will benefit considerably from consultation with materials at the Center. Fellowships carry a stipend of up to $50,400 for a period of one academic year. Fellows will have access to all collections housed at the Center for Jewish History. Applications for the 2012-2013 academic year are due Dec. 15, 2011. For complete information, see http://www.cjh.org

At its annual meeting in Richmond, Virginia in September, the American Association for State and Local History presented its Awards of Merit to the following institutions:

- The Basque Museum and Cultural Center in Boise, Idaho, for its exhibit "Hidden in Plain Sight: the Basques."

- The Museum L-A in Lewiston, Maine, for its exhibit "Rivers of Immigration: Peoples of the Androscoggin."

- The Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at the University of North Dakota for "exceptional work in preserving and sharing the culture of Germans from Russia in the Northern Plains."

Have you seen the new IEHS web pages? Go to www.iehs.org

PERSONAL NOTES

Randall Miller (St. Joseph's University) was named the Jolynn P. Girard scholar in residence at Immaculata University. He delivered the annual Girard Lecture on religion and the Civil War.

Among the Organization of American Historians "distinguished lecturers" for the academic year 2011-2012 are Susan Glenn (University of Washington), Cheryl Greenberg (Trinity College, Connecticut), David Holinger (Univ. of California, Berkeley), Madeline Hsu (University of Texas, Austin), Kelly Lytle Hernandez (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), and Carmen Theresa Whalen (Williams College). Information about the lectureships can be found at http://lectures.oah.org/lecturers/

Rachel Kranson, IEHS web-page editor, has become an instructor in the Department of Religious Studies in the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.

FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the National Council on Public History would like to extend has invited IEHS members to submit session or single paper proposals for the 2013 OAH Annual Meeting, to be held in San Francisco, CA, Thursday, April 11 to Sunday, April 14, 2013. The deadline for proposals is Wednesday, February 15, 2012. The call for papers is available on the OAH website at http://annualmeeting.oah.org/call_for_proposals/2013_sanfrancisco.html

The American Historical Association has issued a call for proposals for its 2013 annual meeting in New Orleans, January 3-6, 2013. Theme of the meeting is "Lives, Places, Stories." Full information about submitting proposals is at http://www.historians.org/perspectives/issues/2011/1109/1109ann3.cfm

The IEHS program committee is willing to expedite proposals for these meetings. They can offer help putting together a panel or finding more participants. Contact the IEHS program chair, Hasia Diner, e-mail: hasia.diner@NYU.edu

Or contact other members of the committee:
Tyler Anbinder anbinder@gwu.edu
Madeline Hsu (mhsu@mail.utexas.edu)
Meaghan Dwyer (dwyermk@bu.edu)
Hallia Vibha (vibhab@bsu.edu)
Robert Parmet (parmet@york.cuny.edu)

IEHS-sponsored sessions at the AHA, 2012

Rethinking the Model Migrant: New Perspectives on Jewish Migration
Thursday, January 5, 2012: 3:00-5:00 PM, Chicago Marriott Ballroom H.

Chair: Tobias Brinkmann, Pennsylvania State University.
Papers: Rebecca Kobrin, Columbia University; Magdalena M. Wrobel-Bloom, Munich University; Shira Klein, New York University; Ori Yehudai, University of Chicago.
Comment: Leah Platt Bostan, University of California, Los Angeles.

To Resist or Embrace? Immigrant Perspectives on Public Schooling, 1870–1940

Sunday, January 8, 2012: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, Sheraton Michigan Room B.

Chair: Carlos Kevin Blanton, Texas A&M University.
Papers: Mimi Cowan, Boston College; Kathryn Wegner, University of Cambridge; James Pula, Purdue University North Central
Comment: Daniel Greene, Newberry Library.

Multi-racial, Multi-ethnic Chicago: Social Relations in the Twentieth-Century City

Friday, January 6, 2012: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM, Sheraton Michigan Room B (Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers)

Chair: Dominic A. Pacyga, Columbia College
Panel: James R. Barrett, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Lilia Fernandez, Ohio State University; Michael D. Innis-Jiménez, University of Alabama; and Lionel Kimble, Chicago State University.
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:


THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD
Closing date for submissions for the annual Theodore Saloutos Book Award is December 31, 2011. The 2011 award will be presented for the book judged best on any aspect of the immigration history of the United States. “Immigration history” is defined as the history of the movement of peoples from other countries to the United States, of the repatriation movements of immigrants, and of the consequences of these migrations, both for the United States and the countries of origin. To be eligible for the award, a book must be copyrighted 2011, must be based on substantial primary research, and must present a major new scholarly interpretation. A book may be nominated by its author, the publisher, a member of the prize committee, or a member of the Society. Inquiries and nominations should be submitted to the chair of the Saloutos Prize Committee, Eichiro Azuma, Department of History, 208 Colgate Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6379 (eazuma@sas.upenn.edu). Copies of the book must be received by the three members of the committee by December 15, 2011. Send books to Prof. Azuma at the above address as well as to Alan Kraut, 6013 Sonoma Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 (akraut@american.edu) and Madeline Hsu, 2309 Kinney Road, Austin, TX 78704 (myhsu@austin.utexas.edu). The award for books published in 2011 will be presented at the annual dinner meeting of the Society in April 2012.

JOHN HICHAM TRAVEL GRANT
Applications are now being received for the 2012 John Higham travel grants, which provide three $500 grants for graduate students to attend the 2012 meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. OAH and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society will 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 should be received by December 1, 2011. For full information and guidelines for application, see www.oah.org/activities/awards/highham/

GEORGE POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARD
The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2012 George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying exams by December 15, 2011, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides $500 for expenses to be incurred in researching the dissertation. Applicants must submit a three-page to five-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 adviser. Submission deadline has been extended to December 15, 2011, with the winner to be notified by March 15, 2012. Send application materials by e-mail to all committee members, with an additional hard copy by surface mail to the committee chair, Nancy Carnevale, Department of History, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ 07043; and via e-mail to Tyler Anbinder, George Washington University (anbinder@gwu.edu); and to Walter Kamphoefer, Texas A&M University (waltkamp@tamu.edu). Inquiries may be sent to the committee chair, Professor Carnevale, at carnevalen@mail.montclair.edu.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The IEHS Nominating Committee invites IEHS members to recommend colleagues for leadership positions in the organization. In spring 2012, the IEHS will elect a Vice President/President-elect, who will succeed to the IEHS presidency in spring 2015, and three Executive Board members, whose terms will extend to 2015. The nominations committee will pair candidates for the different Executive Board positions as specified in the IEHS Bylaws.

Please forward your suggestions for nominees to Anna Pegler-Gordon, committee chair (gordonap@msu.edu), or to other members of the committee: Roland L. Guyotte (guyotttl@morris.umn.edu), Maddalena Marinari (mmarinari@gmail.com), Deirdre Moloney (moloney@princeton.edu), and Ray Mohl (rmohl@ubc.ca). The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 20, 2012.
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.

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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 newsletter 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).

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