Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Asylum-Seekers: An Age-Old Story and a New Historiography

By Maria Cristina Garcia

Social scientists in the U.S. and Canada have long studied refugees and asylum-seekers, focusing in particular on their social, political, and economic integration in host societies. Historians of immigration have given refugees comparatively less attention. The United States has no institutional center specifically dedicated to the study of refugees as we see, for example, at York University and Oxford University; and it wasn’t until the 1990s that we saw a steady increase in the number of historical works on the refugee experience, most of them focusing on those displaced by the Cold War. If conference panels, dissertations, and articles are indicators of changing scholarly interests, we can expect to see refugee history become an even more robust field in the generation to come, particularly at the intersections of immigration history, diplomatic/foreign relations history, and the history of human rights. In this short essay I hope to offer a small sample of some of the historical scholarship on refugees of the past decade and a few reasons why refugees are attracting attention from historians at this particular juncture. The rise and development of Cold War studies in the United States over the past fifteen years has produced a corresponding interest by historians in the people uprooted by the Cold War. The end of the Cold War has also led to a reexamination of the political and analytical category of “refugee,” disassociated it somewhat from its Cold War connotations, and broadened its conceptual possibilities.

One of the most comprehensive historical works on refugees to be published in the last decade is Carl Bon Tempo’s Americans at the Gate: The United States and Refugees during the Cold War (Princeton University Press, 2008), which traces the evolution of U.S. refugee policy during this formative period in immigration history and introduces the various state and non-state actors that played roles in shaping policy at home and abroad. Drawing on the rich scholarship on Hungarians, Cubans, and Indo-Chinese, as well as his own significant original archival research, Bon Tempo has written a history of how refugee policy became a distinct subset of immigration policy, how refugees became identified with anti-communism, and how refugee policy became a tool of U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.

Stephen Ross Porter’s 2009 two-volume dissertation, “Defining Public Responsibility in a Global Age: Refugees, NGOs, and the American State” (Ph.D. diss., University of Chicago, 2009), is another must-read for those interested in refugee policy during the Second World War and the Cold War. Like Bon Tempo, Porter discusses the challenges posed by distinct groups of “displaced persons,” refugees, and “parolees” concentrating, in particular, on Jewish victims of Nazism, the post-war displaced persons of Central and Eastern Europe, the Hungarians, and the Cubans. These case studies offer a means to examine how humanitarian initiatives and resettlement programs served to extend U.S. sovereign authority in the global arena. Porter argues that the case workers from Catholic Relief Services, the Church World Service, the Lutheran Refugee Service, and other non-governmental aid organizations were the face of America that millions of victims of political persecution came to know, and they provided powerful messages about the United States, and ultimately served as instruments in a larger governmental agenda to assert influence abroad.

Other historical works of the past decade have focused more specifically on the experiences of particular groups of refugees and asylum-seekers in North America: Sucheng Chan’s Survivors: Cambodian Refugees in the United States (Univ. of Illinois Press, 2004) traces the Cambodians’ escape from the Khmer Rouge regime, through Thailand’s refugee camps, to the United States. Beth Cohen’s Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar America (Rutgers Univ. Press, 2007) reconstructs the experiences of the 140,000 Jewish displaced persons who immigrated from Europe to the United States between 1946 and 1954. Maria Cristina Garcia’s Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada (Univ. of California Press, 2006) discusses the individuals, groups, and organizations that responded to the Central American refugee crisis of the 1980s and 1990s, and helped shape refugee policies in Mexico, the United States, and Canada. Perla M. Guerrero’s “Impacting Arkansas: Vietnamese and Cuban Refugees and Latina/o Immigrants, 1975-2005” (Ph. D. diss., Univ. of Southern California, 2010; available online at http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/assetserver/controller/view/etd-Guerrero-4108) contributes to the literature on “new immigrant destinations” in her examination of refugee migrations to Arkansas. Lynne Taylor’s Polish Orphans of Tengor (Dundurn Press, 2002) offers one case study of how Canada responded to the European displaced persons crisis.

In recent years, our own Journal of American Ethnic History has included a number of articles on refugees that explore a wide range of issues in U.S. immigration history. Cartelle Charles’ article “Political Refugees or Economic Immigrants? A New ‘Old Debate’ within the Haitian Communities but with Contestations and Division” (JAEH 25:2-3 [2006], 190-208) on the Haitians'... (continued on p. 8)
News from Libraries, Museums and Research Institutes...

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. Full fellowships carry a stipend of up to $30,400 for a period of one academic year. There are other fellowships as well. Fellows will have access to all collections housed at the Center for Jewish History. Applications for the 2013-2014 academic year are due Dec. 15, 2012. For complete information, see http://www.cjh.org/p/36


The Boston College program in African and African American studies offers a dissertation fellowship for scholars working in any discipline on projects relating to African Diaspora studies. The fellowship includes a $30,000 stipend, plus health insurance and a $1500 research budget. Deadline for application: Feb. 8, 2013. Full information on the web at www.bc.edu/schools/cas/aads


The American Immigrant Policy Portal is a collaborative project of Diversity Dynamics, LLC, and the Rutgers University School of Social Work. The Portal abstracts reports and studies that help to inform the discussion of policy issues involving immigration reform and immigrant integration. The Portal may be accessed at http://www.usdiversitydynamics.com/uj

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota offers grants-in-aid awards to assist graduate students, independent researchers and other scholars traveling to conduct research in the IHRC collections. An announcement for the 2013-2014 awards will be posted by February, 2013. Visit the IHRC website for more information: http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/educators/grantsinaid.php

Winterthur, a public museum, library, and garden supporting the advanced study of American art, culture, and history, announces its Research Fellowship Program for 2013-14. Winterthur offers an extensive program of short- and long-term fellowships open to academic, independent, and museum scholars, including advanced graduate students, to support research in material culture, architecture, decorative arts, design, consumer culture, garden and landscape studies, Shaker studies, travel and tourism, the Atlantic World, childhood, literary culture, and many other areas of social and cultural history. Fellowships include 4–9 month NEH fellowships, 1–2 semester dissertation fellowships, and 1–2 month short-term fellowships.

Fellowship applications are due January 15, 2013. For more details and to apply, visit winterthur.org/fellowship or e-mail Rosemary Krill at rkrill@winterthur.org.

The Library Company of Philadelphia and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania will jointly award approximately twenty-five one-month fellowships for research in residence in either or both collections during the academic year 2013-2014. These two independent research libraries, adjacent to each other in Center City Philadelphia, have complementary collections capable of supporting research in a variety of fields and disciplines relating to the history of America and the Atlantic world from the 17th through the 19th centuries, as well as Mid-Atlantic regional history to the present.

Included in the research fellowships are two Barra Foundation International Fellowships (which carry a special stipend of $2,500 plus travel expenses), reserved for citizens of other countries living outside the U.S.

Also available are two Batch Institute Fellowships which will support research in the HSP/Batch collections on the ethnic and immigrant experience in the United States and/or American cultural, social, political, or economic history post-1875.

Other specialized fellowships are also available. Applicants for any one category will be automatically considered for all available fellowships. Deadline for one-month fellowships is March 15, 2013. Information on the web at http://www.librarycompany.org/fellowships/

Mark your calendar...

IEHS Annual Meeting
San Francisco, California
April 11-14, 2013
From the IEHS President...

Since the publication of the last Newsletter I report no changes or developments other than that the committee charged with securing for us 501C-3 status is almost at the completion of its activities. I am confident that by the time the next Newsletter goes to print I will be able to report that this task has been completed. The committee, headed by past president, Ron Bayor, has worked steadily and thoroughly, and when their work is successfully finished the Society will be in a better place. One of the values of gaining this formal status as a non-profit is that we can then move on to fundraising as an activity. Many societies like ours have found ways to move on to a more secure financial footing by seeking contributions.

As matters in the works, as opposed to completed, the Program Committee under the guidance of Maria Cristina Garcia is in the process of conceptualizing some new kinds of programs and intellectual activities which will lead the IEHS in new directions.

I have also communicated with the Executive Committee about the unfortunate fact that we do not have a Society archive. Ironically for a group of scholars who work from documents, our papers are scattered in basements and attics of former offices. I am hoping that in the years to come those can be collected and donated to a scholarly repository which could then make them usable to future scholars. Our history, one of our fifty years we will mark in a few years, should be accessible as it reveals much about the changes in the academy in the 1960s and 1970s and beyond. It reflects the emergence of new ideas, new people coming into the profession, and so many other matters, that future researchers will identify. But such trends can only be studied if an archive exists. Fairly soon I will appoint a committee to take charge of this, although if anyone reading this wants to volunteer, please let me know. Your involvement will be highly appreciated.

I am also beginning to think about the best ways to mark our golden anniversary which—depending on the event we decide constituted the founding of the society—should be an excellent moment in time to take stock of where we came from and what we have accomplished. I again hope to tap a number of individuals to shepherd this project through but do welcome any individuals reading this who would like to join with them, and me, to think this through.

Best wishes for the academic year,

Hosta Diner
IEHS President

From the Program Committee...

The IEHS program committee invites ideas for panels and roundtables for co-sponsorship at the 2014 meetings of the Organization of American Historians and the American Historical Association. Questions and submissions should be sent to Maria Cristina Garcia, IEHS Vice-President and Program chair, at mce20@cornell.edu

The deadline for proposals for both meetings is January 30, 2013.

Following are the programs sponsored by the IEHS at the annual meeting of the AHA in New Orleans, Jan. 3-6, 2013:

Organizer: Maddalena Marinari, St. Bonaventure University.
Chair: Barbara M. Posadas, Northern Illinois University.
Comment: Carl Bon Tempo, SUNY Albany.

Papers:
"The Power of Token Quotas: Cold War Chinese Refugees and the Liberalization of US Immigration Law." Madeline Y. Hsu, University of Texas at Austin.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 8:30 AM: "Urban Latinidad: New Directions in Latino History.

Organizer: Michael Innis-Jimenez, University of Alabama
Chair: Monica Perales, Univ. of Houston

Comment: Matthew Garcia, Arizona State University
Papers:
"White, Transnationally: Mexican Immigrants in New Orleans, 1910-1939." Julie Weise, California State University-Long Beach.
"Latino/a Immigrants to the American South and Midwest: Birmingham and Chicago in Comparison." Michael Innis-Jimenez, University of Alabama.
"The Historical Construction of Latinidad." Eduardo Contreras, University of Houston.

Following are other sessions at the AHA of possible interest to IEHS members:

Thursday, Jan. 3, 1:00 PM: "Writing and Rewriting a Past: Lost histories of Free People of Color in New Orleans." Chair: Francois Weil. Papers by Cecile Vidal, Emily Clark, and Mary Niall Mitchell. Comment: Martha S. Jones.


Friday, Jan. 4, 10:30 AM: "Immigrants and Food Culture in New York and New Orleans." Chair: Ryan Brassaeux. Papers by
The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter November 2012

Conferences and Meetings...

The Boston Immigration and Urban History Seminar, sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society, has scheduled a series of seven meetings for the academic year 2012-2013. Meetings are held at the Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, on Tuesday evenings. Meetings held so far this autumn include:

Sept. 18: Brooke L. Blower (Boston University), "Devil's Bargain: New York City's Premier Spanish Shipping Agents and Allied Strategy during World War II."

Oct. 23: John Ochsner (MIT) led a tour of the exhibit "Palaces for the People: Guastavino and America's Great Public Spaces." Held at the Boston Public Library.

Nov. 20: Ron Hayduk (City Univ. of NY), "Political Rights in the Age of Migration: The Case of Immigrant Voting in the U.S."

Seminars scheduled for the future include:

Jan. 29: Hidetaka Hirono (Boston College), "'Pretended love of personal liberty': Antishavery, Nativism, and Deportation Policy in Antebellum Massachusetts."

Feb. 26: David Jaffe (Bard Graduate Center), "Seeing in the City: Broadway and the Culture of Vision in 19th-Century New York."


April 30: Millington Bergson-Lockwood (George Mason University) and Mimi Cowan (Boston College), Panel Discussion: "19th-century Immigration, Nativism, and Politics."

Seminar meetings start at 5:15 PM and are followed by a light buffet supper (make reservations for the supper). Papers are available in advance. Full information is at http://www.masshist.org/research/seminars

The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota will present a lecture on December 3, 2012 at 12:00 noon in the Elmer L. Anderson Library. Jennifer Guglielmo (Smith College) will present "Living the Revolution: Italian Immigrant Women's Anarchist Feminism in Early Twentieth Century New York City."


The Business History Conference will hold its annual meeting March 21-23, 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme of the annual meeting is "The Customs and Institutions of Business." Organizers are interested in all topics embracing the culture of business and the business of culture. Papers may engage the ways in which cultural beliefs, values, practices, institutions, meanings, language, identities, habits and cognition shape business orientation, governance, behavior and performance in different geographical, historical, or social settings. Proposals closed Oct. 1, 2012. Information on the web at http://www.thebhc.org/annmeet/

The annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians will take place in San Francisco, April 11-14, 2013. Theme: "Entangled Histories: Connections, Crossings and Constraints in U.S. History." The Immigration and Ethnic History Society will hold its annual meeting concurrently with the OAH.

The 2013 international meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies will take place in Chicago, April 10-13, 2013. Theme: "Ireland Past and Present." Host institutions are DePaul University and Northern Illinois University. Proposals closed Nov. 1, 2012. Information at www.acisweb.com


The University of Versailles, St.-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France, will hold a conference on June 21-23, 2013: "Globalization and Minority Peoples: the role of so-called minority cultures in rethinking the future of modern societies." Proposals are due Feb. 28, 2013. For more information contact Sophie Croisy, e-mail sophie.croisy@univ.f

Brock University in Toronto will host a symposium in Toronto June 21-22, 2013: "Fighting Women: A Symposium on Women's Boxing." "This symposium seeks to explore the diverse ways women have (continued on p. 9)
New Publications Noted...


Buettmann, Tanja, David T. Gleeson, and Donald M. MacRae, eds. Locating the English Diaspora, 1500-2010. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2012.


Harris, Glen Anthony. The Ocean Hill-Brownsville Conflict: Intellectual Struggles between Blacks and Jews at (continued on p. 6)
New Publications...
(continued from p. 5)


Korte, Alvin O. Nosotros: a Study of Everyday Meanings in Hispanic New Mex-


Pérez, Antonio, et al. "Measuring Ethnic Clustering and Exposure with the Q Statist


*See the IEHS web page...*  
www.iehs.org
 Refugees... (continued from p. 1)

oppositional responses to the refugee migration of the 1980s and 1990s sheds light on how immigrant communities can become unintended participants in defining "categories of otherness." Julio Capo's article "Queering Mariel: Mediating Cold War Foreign Policy and U.S. Citizenship among Cuba's Homosexual Exile Community, 1978-1994" (JAEH 29:4 [2010], 78-105) explores how the persecution of homosexuals in the late Cold War period ultimately altered immigration policies in Cuba and the United States. The JAEH's recent two-part series on "Ethnic History and the Cold War" (Winter and Summer 2012) focuses on political exiles and their role in shaping immigration policy. Two articles in this series complicate the traditional historical narratives on Asian immigration: Madeleine Y. Hsu's article, "The Disappearance of America’s Cold War Chinese Refugees, 1948-1966" (JAEH 31:4 [2012], 12-33), discusses the Chinese professionals, students, and intellectuals who were allowed to immigrate (or were allowed to remain in the United States) despite the miniscule immigration quota for Chinese; Arissa H. Oh’s article, "From War Waif to Ideal Immigrant: The Cold War Transformation of the Korean Orphan" (JAEH 31:4 [2012], 34-55), discusses the Korean orphans adopted by American families during the Cold War. Guest editor Ellen D. Wu argues in her introduction to Part II, the refashioning of refugee intellectuals and war orphans as acceptable immigrants during the Cold War were "...critical steps toward Asian America's emergence as the so-called model minority in the mid-1960s..." (JAEH 31:4, 8).

The Cold War essentially co-opted the term "refugee." The United States designed a distinct refugee policy in response to the humanitarian crises and the foreign policy imperatives of the Cold War; and in 1980, Congress officially incorporated into immigration law the definition of refugee outlined in the United Nations' 1951 Conven-
tion relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. In Canada, refugees were not recognized as an immigrant class until 1969, and the government did not institute procedures for evaluating claims until 1978. It is hard for North Americans to disassociate the term 'refugee' from this Cold War history. A cursory web search reveals how the term continues to be defined by institutions created during—and in response to—the Cold War. However, the term refugee antedates the Cold War and has been used to refer to a wide range of migratory experiences, from the displaced freedmen of the U.S. Civil War to the Chinese victims of the Mexican Revolution to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In her book, Sanctuary: African Americans and Empire (Oxford University Press, 2011), for example, Nicole Waligora-Davis has argued that the interstitial quality of blacks' legal and political relationship with the state—their forced dislocation within American society—has much in common with refugees and stateless persons, and she reclaims "refugee" and "refugees" as categories of analysis for domestic American history. Recent historical studies have also recast (im)migration history as refugee history, and migrants as refugees. These include such works as: Nathalie Dessens' From Sainte Domingue to New Orleans: Migrations and Influences (University Press of Florida, 2007); George Hendrick's Black Refugees in Canada: Accounts of Escape during the Era of Slavery (McFarland, 2010); Maya Jasanoff's Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World (Vintage Books, 2012); Margaret Mulrooney's Fleeing the Famine: North America and Irish Refugees, 1845-1851 (Prager, 2003); and Eric Sauer and Madeleine Velguth's Reborn in America: French Exiles and Refugees in the United States and the Vine and Olive Adventure, 1815-1865 (Univ. of Alabama Press, 2011). The lack of a standard historically derived definition of "refugee" has always posed challenges to historians and social scientists, but these six works suggest some conceptual possibilities.

In policy-related matters, the end of the Cold War has altered the ideological lens that for half a century shaped definitions of—and policies toward—"refugees," "displaced persons," and "asylum-seekers." In the United States, the courts are now playing a greater role in determining refugee status, granting asylum to people who would never have been considered for admission during the Cold War: gays and lesbians; girls and women who risk genital cutting, rape or honor killings; children fleeing gang violence; and even parents wishing to homeschool their children. The asylum cases that make their way through American courts are fraught with moral uncertainty, are highly politicized, and raise a number of troubling questions. Critics of the U.S. asylum system (and also the Canadian system) have long argued that the category of "refugee" has become increasingly meaningless, and the asylum system has become a "back door" for undocumented immigrants who do not have bona fide claims, and who create huge backlogs in our immigration bureaucracy. The 1993 World Trade Center bombings and the events of September 11, 2001 added another layer to these concerns. Political and popular culture now casts refugees—and immigrants, in general—as a security threat.

Historians are now examining these post-Cold War case studies. Unless the categories of "refugee" and "asylum-seeker" are clarified they will continue to serve as the basis for ambiguous policies that produce controversial results. One can only hope that historians will help ground these debates by adding nuances to definitions derived from the past.

Maria Cristina Garcia, Vice-President of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, is Howard A. Newman Professor of American Studies at Cornell University, and the author of Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada (University of California Press, 2006). She is currently at work on a study of refugee and asylum policy in the United States since the end of the Cold War.

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...
(continued from p. 4)

participated in amateur and professional boxing. The purpose will be to investigate women's involvement in boxing in its broadest sense, from historical, ethnographic, cultural, and artistic perspectives." Proposals due Jan. 31, 2013. Information on the web: www.fighting-women.com. Questions may be directed to Cathy van Ingen at Brock University, e-mail cathy.vaningan@brocku.ca


The Oral History Association plans its annual meeting Oct. 9-13, 2013 in Oklahoma City. Theme: "Hidden Stories, Contested Truths: The Craft of Oral History." Conference organizers invite proposals "for panels or individual papers exploring the ways in which oral history has recorded and presented critical counter narratives, bringing needed diversity and enhanced complexity to the study of events, ideas, or issues." Proposals due Jan. 18, 2013. Information at http://www.oralhistory.org/


The 128th annual meeting of the American Historical Association will be held January 2-5, 2014, in Washington, D.C. The theme for the meeting is "Disagree-

The annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians for 2014 will take place in Atlanta, April 10-13. The 2014 meeting of the IEHS will take place at the same time. The theme of the OAH meeting is of particular interest to IEHS members: "Crossing Borders." Proposals should be received after January 1, 2013 and will close Feb. 15, 2013. Read the call for papers from the OAH program committee at http://annualmeeting.oah.org/

AHA Programs...
(continued from p. 3)


Sunday, Jan. 6, 8:30 AM: "Peopling 'U.S. History: Migration and Demographics in the Revised Advanced Placement United States History Course." Chair: Lawrence G. Charap. Papers by Suzanne Sinke, Jason George and Lawrence G. Charap.

IEHS at the OAH Annual Meeting

April 11-14, 2013
San Francisco, CA

The following sessions proposed by the IEHS Program committee have been accepted for the OAH program:

Navigating Dual Identities: Transnationalism in Early Twentieth Century America

Chair: Madeline Hsu, University of Texas at Austin
Comment: Diane Vecchio, Furman University

Papers:
"'The Children of Israel Passing Through our Egypt': Mexican Immigrants and National Identities in Interwar Chicago." Michael Innis-Jimenez, University of Alabama.
"Imagining Italy: Italian Jewish Immigrants in the United States, 1938-50." Shira Klein, New York University

Race, Nation, and Citizenship in a Transnational World

Chair: Barbara M. Postadas, Northern Illinois University

Papers:

(continued on p. 10)
November 2012  The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter  10

OAH sessions... (continued from p. 9)

"Exit the Filipino": Migration, Marriage, and Transnational Filipino American Families during the 1935 Repatriation Act.” Maria Paz G. Esquia, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.


Faith, Family, and Immigration Reform, 1952-1965

Chair/Commentator: Timothy Meagher, Catholic University of America

Papers:

"A Thing of Shreds and Patches": Cold War, Faith, and Mobilization against Immigration Restriction.” Maddalena Marinar, St. Bonaventure University.


Remembering Immigration Historian Jon Gjerde

Panelists:

"Jon Gjerde and the Maturation of Immigration History.” Jon Butler, Yale University

"Jon Gjerde, the Ethnic Turnermians, and the Minnesota School of Immigration and Refugee Studies.” Donna Gabaccia, University of Minnesota

"Moving Forward and Looking Back: A Student's Perspective on the Legacies of Jon Gjerde.” S. Deborah Kang, California State University, San Marcos

"Jon Gjerde and the Berkeley Community.” David Hollinger, University of California, Berkeley

PERSONALS

Erika Lee became director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota in September 2012. She has been a professor of immigration history at Minnesota since 1998. Known for her work in Asian immigration and in immigration law, her most recent book (with Judy Yung) was Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America (Oxford University Press, 2010).

Erika Lee replaced Donna Gabaccia, who will return to the Minnesota history department as professor. She had been director of the IHRC since 2005.

Carlos E. Cortes, professor emeritus at the University of California, Riverside, is General Editor of the forthcoming four-volume Multicultural America: A Multimedia Encyclopedia (Sage, 2013).

A Research Query...

...from IEHS member Tyler Anbinder:

I am hoping members of IEHS can help me with a historiographic question. I am writing an article about the residence patterns of Irish immigrants in Savannah GA on the eve of the Civil War—specifically, how different parts of Savannah had concentrations of immigrants from different parts of Ireland, something it is possible to document because the census taker there in 1860 recorded the Irish county of birth for almost all of the 3,000 Irish immigrants living there.

In trying to describe the historiography on this subject, I am having trouble finding other studies of immigrants that consider this subject. It is easy to find works describing how one ethnic group settled in comparison to “other” ethnic groups, but I have not found other studies that look at intra-ethnic residential patterns. Can anyone suggest any, either historical or contemporary? The work can concern the Irish or other immigrant groups, and can cover the US or someplace else.

Also, I recall Jacob Riis making reference to such a phenomenon for Italians in New York—how one tenement house housed the immigrants from one Italian village, and the one next door would be full of immigrants from another town, etc., but have been unable to locate this reference. If anyone knows where I can find it and can let me know, I’d be most grateful.

Thanks very much,

Tyler Anbinder
Professor of History
George Washington University
E-mail: anbinder@GWU.EDU

News about Polish American Studies...

Polish American Studies, the peer-reviewed journal of the Polish American Historical Association, has made an agreement for its publication by the University of Illinois Press.

The editors welcome scholarship including articles, edited documents, bibliographies, reviews and related materials, dealing with all aspects of the history and culture of Poles in the Western Hemisphere. They especially welcome contributions that place the Polish American experience in historical and comparative perspective by examining its relationship to other ethnic groups. Contributions from any discipline in the humanities and social sciences are welcome. Further information: www.polishamericanstudies.org/publications.html
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, 2012. The 2012 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 2012, 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, Madeline Y. Hsu, History Department, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712 (myhsu@mail.utexas.edu). Copies of the book must be received by the three members of the committee by December 15, 2012. Send books to Prof. Hsu at the above address as well as to Marilyn Halter, Boston University, Institute for Culture, Religion and World Affairs, 10 Lenox Street, Brookline, Massachusetts 02446 (mhalter@bu.edu); and to Cindy Hahamovitch, History Department, College of William and Mary, PO Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187 (cxdha@wm.edu). The award for books published in 2012 will be presented at the annual dinner meeting of the Society in April 2013.

JOHN HIGHAM TRAVEL AWARD
Applications are now being received for the 2013 John Higham Travel Grants. These grants are awarded to three graduate students each year to be used toward costs of attending the OAH-IEHS Annual Meeting. The successful candidates will have a preferred area of concentration in American immigration and/or American Ethnic and/or American Intellectual history. The grants are given in memory of John Higham (1920-2003), past president of both organizations and a towering figure in immigration, ethnic, and intellectual history. Applications should be received by December 3, 2012. For full information and guidelines for application, see http://www.oah.org/awards/awards.higham

POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARDS, 2013
The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2013 George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Awards. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying exams by December 15, 2012, and whose thesis focuses on American immigration, emigration, or ethnic history. The award provides two grants of $1000 each 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 advisor. Submission deadline is December 15, 2012, with the winners to be notified by March 15, 2013. Send application materials by e-mail to all committee members, with an additional hard copy by surface mail to the committee chair, Walter Kamplohexer, Texas A&M University (walkamp@tamu.edu); and via e-mail to Tyler Anbinder, George Washington University (anbinder@gwu.edu); and to Torrie Hester, St. Louis University (theseter4@slu.edu). Inquiries may be sent to the committee chair, Professor Kamplohexer, History Dept., Texas A&M University, 4236 TAMU, College Station Texas 77843, or walkamp@tamu.edu

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The IEHS Nominating Committee invites IEHS members to recommend colleagues for leadership positions in the organization. In spring 2013, the IEHS will elect three Executive Board members, whose terms will extend to 2016. 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 Roland L. Guyott, committee chair (guyottl@morris.uma.edu); or to other members of the committee: Ray Mohl (rmohl@uab.edu), Lorrin Thomas (lthomas@camden.rutgers.edu), Deirdre Moloney (moloney@princeton.edu), and James Barrett (jbarrett@illinois.edu). The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 18, 2013.
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

Annual dues: Individual (print or electronic), $45, $55 (Canada & Mexico), $80 (other foreign addresses); Student (print or electronic), $25, $35 (Canada & Mexico), $60 (other foreign addresses); New member (print or electronic), first year $35, $45 (Canada & Mexico), $70 (other foreign addresses). Institutional members (print or electronic), $245, $255 (Canada & Mexico), $280 (other foreign addresses). For print and electronic delivery, add $10 to individual rate, $50 to institutional rate. New memberships and 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/jahc.html

OFFICERS OF THE IEHS

President: Hasia R. Diner, New York University, Dept. of History, New York NY 10012. Tel: 212-998-8988. E-mail: hrdl@nyu.edu

Vice-president: Maria Cristina Garcia, Cornell University, Dept. of History, Ithaca NY 14853. Tel.: (607) 255-6598. E-mail: mcg20@cornell.edu

Secretary: Timothy Draper, Waubonsee Community College, Division of Social Sciences and Education, Sugar Grove IL 60554. Tel. (630) 466-2566. FAX (630) 466-5795. E-mail: tdraper@waubonsee.edu

Treasurer: Cheryl Greenberg, Trinity College, Dept. of History, 300 Summit St., Hartford CT 06106. Tel. (860) 297-2371. E-mail: Cheryl.Greenberg@trincoll.edu

Editor, Journal of American Ethnic History: John Bukowczyk, Dept. of History, 3094 Faculty/Administration Building, Wayne State University, Detroit MI 48202. Tel. (313) 577-2799. FAX (313) 577-6937. E-mail: asn2922@wayne.edu

Editor, Immigration History Newsletter: James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699. Tel.: (610) 687-0838. FAX: (610) 519-4450. E-mail: James.Bergquist@villanova.edu

Editor, IEHS web pages (www.IEHS.org): Rachel Kronson, Dept. of Religious Studies, 2604 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, 4200 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Tel: (412) 624-2279. E-mail: rachel.kronson@gmail.com

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).

Subscriptions to the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter and the Journal of American Ethnic History are part of membership in the Society. E-mail change of address to Cheryl Jestsis, Subscription Manager, at jestis@uac.edu (be sure to specify JAEH); or when renewing, via the web at

http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jahc/renew.php