Historians Explore the Borderlands: A Rapidly-Developing Field

By Geraldo Cadava

Borderlands history is gaining an increasing amount of scholarly attention. Interest in the field stems from recent public debates about immigration and the border, as well as path-breaking research about North American empires (including Native American ones), transnationalism, cultural hybridity, and other themes related to movements within, between, and around nations, regions, and the world. Much new and exciting work on borderlands notwithstanding, borderlands historians are still seeking answers to several important questions. I'll address three of them in this short essay. First, what are the chronologies and turning points of borderlands history? Second, where do we find borders? And third, how does the U.S.-Mexico border compare with other American and world borders?

A number of recent works concentrate on U.S.-Mexico border affairs since World War II. Kelly Lytle Hernández reviews the development of border enforcement in Migrating a History of the US Border Patrol (2010). Deborah Cohen's Braceros: Migrant Citizens and Transnational Subjects in the Postwar United States and Mexico (2010) traces the cross-border movements of temporary agricultural laborers since World War II. To a great extent, however, U.S.-Mexico borderlands historians have focused on the period before World War II. Representative examples are Samuel Truett, in Fugitive Landscapes (2006); Katherine Benton-Cohen, in Borderline Americans (2009); and Rachel St. John, in Line in the Sand (2011). They have argued that the borderline itself, after its establishment in the mid-nineteenth century, remained infrequently policed and invisibly defined, at least in the eyes of everyday borderlands residents. The U.S. and Mexican governments sought to prevent Apache and Comanche raids across the border in both directions, but their efforts came in response to citizens' pleas on either side of the line to protect their communities, rather than to define the borderline itself. The border became more legible with the construction of customs houses, the placement of American troops along the border during the Mexican Revolution and World War I, the formation of the Border Patrol in the early 1920s, and the Great Depression, which made Mexicans, as a category of immigrants in the United States, undesirable illegal aliens. Many leading borderlands scholars describe this transformation as a hardening or closing of the border.

Those who do not use such stark terms nevertheless argue that sometime during the interwar period, the "modern" U.S.-Mexico border became fixed; focused on border policing and maintaining the revolving door character of Mexican immigration, which swung inward when the labor of Mexican immigrants was necessary, and then outward when they were no longer useful.

New scholarship is challenging this generally accepted chronology in several ways. Historians such as Allison Tierra of DePaul University argue that efforts to police the border during the nineteenth century were greater than we've assumed. They just took different forms, and occurred in different places, including the segregation of Mexicans and Mexican Americans within U.S. border cities. Others studying the deportation of Mexicans, including Adam Goodman, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, for example, have observed that 90 percent of all deportations have occurred after 1940, which reflects a hardening borderline less than it does shifting political contexts during the postwar era and the ever changing conception of the desirability of Mexican immigrants. Finally, others, such as the University of Chicago Ph.D. candidate, C.J. Alvarez, point to the unprecedented scale of Mexican immigration and border enforcement since the late twentieth century, which demonstrates how borderlands histories have changed many times over since the period of their supposed hardening.

Traditional chronologies and these important revisions lead to some very important questions about the nature of the border and immigration enforcement during the long twentieth century, roughly from 1880 to 2010. What are the important turning points? Did the border harden by the 1930s? Was the modern border set in place by that decade, and was it relatively open before then? Even if the answer to these questions is yes, or more yes than no, more detailed and nuanced studies are necessary, particularly of the post-World War II era, a period characterized by sweeping and dramatic changes. If border and immigration enforcement changed by the 1930s, what was the precise quality of that change? How do we connect the changes that occurred by the 1930s with immigration debates today, filtered through the lens of World War II, the Cold War, U.S. interventions in Latin America, economic stagnation during the 1970s, and the rise of nativism during the late twentieth and early twenty-first century? It simply isn't enough to say that the border hardened, or that the modern border was set in place by the 1930s, which could be read as an assertion that subsequent developments in the borderlands are permutations of things that happened before then. What do we believe as historians, if not the idea that histories are contingent, that the past is defined by change, and that things may very well—and hopefully will—change again in the future?

Secondly, borderlands historians are engaged in ongoing debates about where, exactly, borders are located. In his presidential address last month at the OAH meeting in San Francisco, Albert Camarillo talked about "Borderhoods," his conception of the borders within cities that, throughout the twentieth century, have divided their residents along lines of race. Others have applied

(Continued on p. 8)
Ellis Island Hard-hit by Hurricane Sandy

The Ellis Island immigration site and historical museum remain closed and face a slow recovery from the damages wrought by Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012. The storm also affected the nearby Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island. Both have been closed to visitors since the hurricane. While the National Park Service, which administers both sites, has scheduled the reopening of the Statue of Liberty for July 4, 2013, they promise only “limited access” to Ellis Island. That island will be used for security screening of visitors going to Liberty Island. The museum will remain closed for at least the rest of 2013.

The hurricane flood raised the water levels on Ellis island by about eight feet. The building structures withstood the flood waters well, but the below-ground infrastructure was severely damaged. Heating and electrical systems and utilities were essentially wiped out. The museum, housed in the main building, suffered less damage, but since the climate-control systems were not working, the staff had to remove all artifacts and archives. About a million items were removed; the museum area now stands empty.

The museum contents are now housed in the National Park Service’s Museum Resource Center in Landover, Maryland. Some records and artifacts affected by dampness and mold are undergoing treatment.

The restoration of the buildings and museum have been hampered by the lack of funding for the traditionally lean NPS. In January President Obama signed the Sandy Recovery Act, which provided $234 million for national parks affected by the storm.

The Ellis Island Foundation, a non-profit entity separate from the Park Service, continues to offer free on-line searches into the museum’s immigration records. These are housed in a server away from the island itself. The foundation is also soliciting donations to preserve and restore both the immigration museum and the Statue of Liberty. For information about both, go to www.ellisisland.org. For updates on the status of the park, go to www.nps.gov/elis


The German Historical Institute in Washington DC reports that its project on “Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present” has been progressing nicely, with more than 80 biographies now on the web at www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org.

Authors are currently being sought for the project’s volume V (1945 to the present). The editors are looking for contributions of 3000-8000 words, and offer a modest honorarium of $400. Authors have six months to write the article.

Specific subjects for whom authors are needed: Walter Annenberg, Paul Blum, Otto Eckstein, Roland Emmerich, Bernard Hausen, Helmut Jahn, John Kluge, Max Oppenheimer, Eckhard Pfeiffer, Carl Rosner, Peter Thiel, Kurt Waldthausen, and Eric Warburg.

Contact: Jessica Csoma, project manager, at the GHI, e-mail csoma@ghi-dc.org

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has issued a memorandum for those researching historical deportation or exclusion records. The document deals with different records for different eras of immigration history. To reach the document, go to the USCIS web page at www.uscis.gov and enter in the search-box the words “Researching Deportation Records.”

The Pew Research Center has published an update to its June 2012 report on Asian Americans. The updated package includes data on the 1.9 million adults in the United States belonging to smaller Asian groups. See the web page report at http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/

The Pew report also dealt with second-generation Americans—the 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants. See the web at http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/02/07/second-generation-americans/


The exhibit explores “resonances between the experience of homelessness and the historic disruptions and traumas Asian immigrants have survived in the U.S.” Information on the web at www.wingluke.org

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IEHS SEEKS NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Bergquist, editor of the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter since 1995, has announced his intention to retire. The IEHS is now seeking a new editor for its newsletter, which is circulated to all members twice a year. Duties of the editor include collecting news items, soliciting articles, reporting IEHS activities, gathering information, and arranging for printing and mailing. The newsletter editor is ex officio a member of the IEHS executive board.

Desirable qualifications include basic internet and computer word-processing skills and experience in the field of immigration and ethnic history. It is desirable that the editor have access to institutional printing and mailing services. Production, mailing, and miscellaneous costs are paid by IEHS.

Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the IEHS president, Hasla Diner, New York University, Dept. of History, New York NY 10012. E-mail: hrd1@nyu.edu

Look at the new IEHS
Web Pages...
www.iehs.org
From the IEHS President...

First, I want to thank everyone who attended the IEHS membership meeting in San Francisco during the OAH. I was pleased to see a robust crowd at Harry’s Hunan for an excellent dinner, good company, and a chance to salute the winners of our various prizes. Likewise, it was wonderful to have so many sessions on the OAH program sponsored by the IEHS. Many attendees to the conference who came to our dessert before reception commented on the high visibility of the IEHS and, even if they did not belong, expressed real interest in what we do. I also want to thank everyone who participated in an IEHS session. In addition, on behalf of the Society, I want to acknowledge our outgoing board members and those who served on various committees. Your service makes the Society what it is.

This last phrase leads me to my next statement for this Newsletter: an attempt to encapsulate exactly what we do. As a scholarly organization the Immigration and Ethnic History Society seeks to further scholarship on the study of immigration and ethnicity in the United States. As we have evolved we have come to define that in increasingly broader terms. We are interested in and encourage new research to study immigration and ethnicity comparatively. We are interested in the global contexts of immigration to and ethnicity in the United States. We define both our zones of interest—immigration and ethnicity—in rich, deep, and complicated ways. In order to keep doing what we do we need to look both backward and forward. As befits historians, as we think about the past we are beginning to plan for our upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the IEHS, which we will mark in 2015. Not coincidentally, that year also marks the half-century since the passage of the Hart-Cellar Act, which transformed America and the world of scholarship. To that end, Professor Dorothee Schneider of the University of Illinois is chairing our committee on the history of the IEHS. Her committee is charged with developing projects to mark that anniversary and also with an undertaking which we historians surely see as important, creating an archive of the Society. The Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, directed by our member Erika Lee, has agreed to house the papers of the IEHS. Scholars in the future will be able to use that collection. Please volunteer to help Dorothee Schneider make this possible. We are looking for a few individuals who would like to participate on this committee, which takes as its charge creating a lasting legacy of the history of the IEHS.

As in so many other contexts, while the past speaks for itself, we also have to think about the future. The IEHS would like to do more than it has. At the Executive Board meeting we talked about trying to organize a scholarly conference, once every two or three years, to be in the field of immigration and ethnic history something like the Berkshire Conference on Women’s History. That undertaking, like so many other projects we discussed, unfortunately takes money. To that end I have also appointed a fundraising committee. At present one of our long-standing members, David Reimers, emeritus at New York University, is on that committee. Please consider participating on this fundraising committee. Without funds we can certainly not undertake new ventures and may find the ones we do in jeopardy.

In the months and years to come I hope that I—and my successors—will be able to report that these many plans came to fruition. That however will only happen if you can offer a bit of your time and help the IEHS fulfill its mission.

Hasia Diner
President, IEHS

PERSONALS

Donna Gabaccia, former director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota, received the 2013 University of Minnesota Outstanding Community Service Award. The award recognizes a faculty member for outstanding service to the community.

David A. Gerber (SUNY University at Buffalo), has been selected by the Organization of American Historians to receive a China Residency. He will lead the inaugural teaching seminar in the People’s Republic of China, sponsored by the American History Research Association of China. Northeast Normal University at Changchun will host the seminar.

Alan Kraut (American University), former IEHS president, assumed the presidency of the Organization of American Historians at its meeting in San Francisco in April 2013.

NEW IEHS BOARD MEMBERS

In April 2013 IEHS members elected three new members to its executive board. They are Michael Innis-Jiménez, University of Alabama; Carl Bon Tempo, SUNY at Albany; and Diane Vecchio, Furman University. Their term last until spring 2016.

Enroll your graduate students in IEHS!

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society encourages members to subscribe their graduate advisees to the Journal of American Ethnic History. Subscription brings automatic membership in the IEHS and a full range of benefits including:

- access to the ‘syllabi sharing’ feature of the IEHS website;
- IEHS sponsorship of panels at AHA and OAH conferences;
- Receipt of the newsletter, which is not available online;
- the opportunity to meet and collaborate with a network of scholars in the field of immigration and ethnic history.

The sponsored student subscriptions/memberships are only $25 ($35 Canada & Mexico). The enrollment form can be accessed at the IEHS website: http://www.iehs.org/membership_carroll_renew.php.

CARLTON C. QUALEY AWARD

The Carlton C. Qualey Award for the best article appearing in the Journal of American Ethnic History over the past two years was awarded to Nancy Green, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris. Her article was "Americans Abroad and the Uses of Citizenship: Paris, 1914-1940," JAEH 31:3 (Spring 2012).

IEHS plans new book award

At its April meeting, the IEHS executive board agreed to move forward toward establishing a second annual book prize. Action was delayed pending discussion of the subjects of funding for the prize and the question of the definition of the field for which the prize would be awarded. Suggestions included (among others) a “first book” prize, or one for a field such as international world migrations. Discussion is continuing.
Conferences and Meetings...

On April 5, 2013 at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, the National History Center held a seminar in its series of congressional briefings. In this seminar, Tyler Anbinder (George Washington University), Alan Kraut (American University), and Mae Ngai (Columbia University) discussed the historical role of the U.S. Congress in immigration reform. All are IEHS members. James Grossman (executive director, American Historical Association) moderated. The meeting can be viewed at: http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/311937-1

The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California, San Diego will sponsor a presentation on Monday, June 3, 2013 at noon. Vanessa Ribas, Assistant Professor of Sociology, will discuss "The Meanings of 'Moyo': Shop Floor Racial Talk as Symbolic Boundary-Making among Latino/o Migrant and African American Workers in the American South." Information available at: http://ccis.ucsd.edu/events/


The Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) will meet in St. Louis, July 18-21, 2013. Information on the web at www.shear.org

The American Conference for Irish Studies will hold a conference August 9-10, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Buffalo, New York: "Queering Ireland 2013: Queer Irish Diasporas." Information on the web at http://www.acisweb.com

The 2013 New England conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies will take place November 1-2 at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick, RI. The theme, "Irish Spirits, Irish Souls," will be the hybridity of Irish culture both abroad in diaspora and at home in Ireland. Further information at http://www.acisweb.com/index.php?cfp_id=299

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC will sponsor a seminar meeting weekly on Thursday afternoons, Oct. 3-Dec. 12, 2013. Subject: "Entangled Trajectories: Integrating European and Native American Histories." Information on the web at: www.folger.edu


The Program in Early American Economy and Society invites all interested individuals to its thirteenth annual conference, to be held at the Library Company of Philadelphia October 24-25, 2013. Theme: "Ligaments: Everyday Connections of Colonial Economies." Papers presented by fifteen scholars at this conference will explore how imperial subjects accomplished the daily buying and selling, producing and exchanging, that sustained their households, communities, and long-distance networks. Web information: http://www.librarycompany.org/economics/2013Conference/

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The American Studies Association will hold its annual meeting November 21-24, 2013 in Washington, DC. Theme: "Beyond the Logic of Debt, Toward an Ethics of Collective Dissent." Further information at www.theasa.net

The American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting in Washington, DC, January 2-5, 2014. Information on the web at www.historians.org

The Polish American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting in Washington D.C. January 2-4, 2014 as part of the American Historical Association's annual meeting. Proposals closed April 15, 2014. Information on line at www.polishamericanstudies.org


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 closed Feb. 15, 2013. Information at www.oah.org


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Annual Business Meeting
Immigration and Ethnic History Society
San Francisco, CA
April 12, 2013

President Hasia Diner called to order the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society at 3:08 p.m., Friday, April 12, 2013, at the Hilton Union Square. Seventeen Society members were present, including all the officers, and a majority of the Executive Board.

In her Presidential Report, Diner remarked that it has been a smooth start for her presidency, and she appreciates the support she has received from members of the Society. She discussed the successful negotiations to continue Wayne State’s financial support of John Bukowczyk’s editorship of the Journal, albeit with subsidization from the Society, the Board’s approval of a dissertation prize with the appointment of John Bodnar as chairperson; and plans for the evening’s Annual Dinner at Harry’s Lihan Restaurant.

Minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting were approved pending corrections.

Diner proceeded to thank all committee chairways for their hard work over the past year and recognized outgoing Executive Board members Maddalena Marinari, Raymond Mohr, and Anna Pegler Gordon for their service to the Society during the past three years.

President Diner then reviewed the following Society projects in progress. David Reimers has agreed to explore fundraising initiatives and is seeking volunteers to assist in this project. The Immigration History Research Center has accepted the Society’s archives, and Dorothée Schneider has accepted the chairpersonship of the archival committee, which will also consider fundraising to help enhance the collection and make it more accessible. John Bukowczyk, Erika Lee, and Hasia Diner have discussed the fifteenth anniversary of the Society, especially in relation to the same anniversary of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act and the 50th anniversary of the Immigration History Research Center, which might provide a good opportunity for a conference. Vice President/President-Elect María Cristina García mentioned that she is working with Michael Innis-Jiménez, Maddalena Marinari, and Lorin Thomas to plan an IEHS Symposium at the next OAH annual Meeting to mark the beginning of the 50th anniversary celebrations that would culminate in the 2015 joint conference with the IHRC. In addition, IEHS will sponsor five panels at the 2014 OAH meeting and two at the AHA meeting, pending acceptance by program committees. Diner noted that Society members should seek to network with non-IEHS panels on ethnicity and immigration. Board members recommended having IEHS membership forms and lists of recent publications available to hand out at these sessions.

During the Secretary’s Report, Timothy Draper stated that individual memberships were at 244 and student memberships at 37, which was a net increase in those categories from the previous year. He then revealed the results of this year’s Society election, which had Diane Vecchio, Michael Innis-Jiménez, and Carl Bon Tempo elected to three-year terms on the Executive Board.

Cheryl Greenberg presented the 2012-2013 Treasurer’s Report. The Society enjoyed another year in the black with revenue over $92,853.60 with expenses at $85,541.09. She noted that bank interest had plummeted and asked for input from members attuned to the nuances of capital investments. Greenberg discussed the Society’s pursuit of 501(c)3, including the assistance of Bukowczyk in obtaining an accountant who helped complete Society paperwork in this regard, which will be filed in May.

In her Program Committee Report, chair María Cristina García stated that IEHS has sponsored sessions at two conferences in 2013: two at the American Historical Association meeting and six at the Organization of American Historians meeting. Journal of American Ethnic History editor John Bukowczyk provided his annual business report, noting that the Journal continues to be printed on time. He reviewed changes in University of Illinois Press staffing, which has improved proofreading. He again recommended that members submit manuscripts and encourage colleagues to submit as well. The current editorial board will remain intact for the coming year. Bukowczyk then discussed dues rates. The Society has authorized the Executive Board to make dues increases, and Bukowczyk asked members to give some feedback, suggesting a 3% increase in the institutional level and a $3 increase for members. He noted that the Journal’s rate is among the lowest for scholarly journals of its stature. Following discussion, President Diner advised that only Board members could vote on dues.

Jim Bergquist provided a brief report for the Society’s newsletter, stating that the last issue included 820 copies. He mentioned that he would like to begin transitioning the editorship during the next year. Diner thanked Bergquist for his faithful service and discussed the need to find an eventual successor as editor.

Julio Capó, Jr., mentioned that Facebook has been a successful vehicle for advertising IEHS news, and the Society has achieved 50 “likes” in less than a year.

Rachel Krauson, IEHS.org editor, was not present and will later send a copy of her report.

Winners of the Society’s prizes were announced. These included Donna R. Gabaccia, Foreign Relations: Global Perspectives on American Immigration (Theodore Saloutos Book Award); Nancy Green, “Americans Abroad and the Uses of Citizenship: Paris, 1914-1940” (Carlton C. Quadey Memorial Article Award); Kristina Poznan, “Becoming Immigrant Nation-Builders: The Advancement of Austria-Hungary’s National Projects in the United States, 1880s-1920s,” and Mayra Avitia, “Political Comadrazgo: Chicana Networks, Gender Politics, and Ethnic Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles” (George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Award); and Sunita Agarwal, SUNY Buffalo, Granmei McEvoy, Boston College, and Adam Goodman, Penn State University (John Higham Travel Grants).

During New Business, discussion centered on the status of Ellis Island following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Sandy. Recommendations were that Julio Capó, Jr., should utilize the Society’s Facebook page to publicize the issue, and Jim Bergquist requested pertinent information for use in the newsletter. María Cristina García reminded Board members that we can expand graduate membership in the IEHS by encouraging colleagues to purchase a one-year gift membership for their graduate students. President Diner then reviewed the status of the Higham Travel Grants, noting her conversations with OAH in this regard, including future funds from a new donor.

Hasia Diner adjourned the annual meeting at 4:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Dean Draper,
Secretary, IEHS
THEODORE SALOUTOS BOOK AWARD, 2012

Winner of the 2012 Theodore Saloutos Book Award for the best book of the year in immigration and ethnic history is Donna R. Gabaccia’s Foreign Relations: American Immigration in Global Perspective (Princeton University Press). The committee consisted of Madeline Hsu (University of Texas), chair; Marilyn Halter (Boston University); and Cindy Hahamovitch (College of William and Mary). The award was made at the annual dinner of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society in San Francisco on April 12, 2013. The citation follows:

The 2012 Saloutos Award honors Donna Gabaccia for her incisive accounting of a long-neglected but critical aspect of immigration history. Foreign Relations: American Immigration in Global Perspective redresses our scholarly tendencies to treat immigration almost entirely as a domestic matter, with laws and conditions determined by Congress. In reality, legislative, ideological, and bureaucratic processes were significantly influenced and entwined with considerations of global relations, such as trade, commerce, and the transnational activities of migrants. Gabaccia provides compelling examples of how concerns for maintaining certain kinds of American relationships overseas shaped immigration laws and practices and moves us beyond seeing border keeping and immigration as merely security issues.

Our field has long lacked a sustained and systematic consideration of foreign policy and immigration history. Gabaccia is well-positioned to take a global approach in exploring the contradictions between top-down efforts to impose border controls upon migratory peoples in ways that contravene economic markets of trade and labor and the realities of fostering strong international relations with excluded areas of the world. A skilled social and cultural historian, Gabaccia incorporates poignant and telling details into a sweeping account of broader processes and transformations. This rich and innovative volume adds another milestone in Gabaccia’s already luminous career.

Other New Publications Noted...


Fuentesella, Jose V. Fighting from a Distance: How Filipino Exiles Toppled a Dictator. Champaign: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2013.


Exploring the Borderlands...
(continued from p. 1)

similar conceptions of borderlands to nineteenth-century cities. They argue that
the policing and management of Mexican communities became visible through the
increasing segregation of Mexicans in barrios, their decreasing representation on
school boards and city councils, and even in the architectural forms of American homes
and municipal buildings, made from brick rather than adobe. Such developments
demonstrated the drawing of borders within the cities of the Southwest, beyond the
borderline itself. Before the rise of nation states during the nineteenth century, bor-
ders existed somewhere on the frontier and in the contact zones between European and
Indian empires, or between competing European empires, or between competing
Indian empires. But after the removal of the British, French, and Spanish; the con-
centration of Native American peoples on reservations; and the consolidation of na-
tional borders between the United States and Canada, and the United States and
Mexico, do borderlands only exist in proximity to international boundaries?

A wealth of recent scholarship seems to
answer "no." Camarillo and other scholars
argue that borders exist within U.S. cities.
Others demonstrate the existence of borders
within the United States by distinguishing
between external border controls—or the
policing of immigration at the borderline itself—and internal controls, or policing the
movements of Mexicans and others within the
United States more broadly. The immi-
gration check points now set up throughout the
United States are only a particularly poignant and recent example of a phe-
nomenon—internal control—that has a
much deeper history. Moreover, historians
such as Katherine Unterman at Texas A & M and Daniel Margolies at Virginia Wes-
leyan College have understood extradition law as a way for the United States to extend
its reach into and power within other coun-
tries. From the nineteenth century forward, the
U.S. government—mainly through treaties and
flat, but also, sometimes, by applying diplomatic pressure—claimed the
right to compel U.S. citizens and the citi-
zens of other countries to stand for trial in
the United States. Such abilities, these
historians have argued, represents an exten-
sion of U.S. borders around the world.
Modern day representatives of such powers
are the U.S. authorities in Mexico policing
Mexican migrants and smugglers.

In addition to Camarillo, other examples of
historians who have played with notions
of borderlands far removed from the border-
line itself include Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof,
in his book *Tale of Two Cities: Santo
Domingo and New York after 1950* (2010),
and Anthony Mora, in *Border Dilemmas:
Racial and National Uncertainties in New
Mexico, 1848–1912* (2011). Then, flattening
distinctions between border cities and
urban metropolises around the world, the
performance artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña, in
*The New World Border*, claimed that
borders are everywhere. Mexico City, To-
kyo, and Paris all look like "Tijuana on a
Saturday night," he claimed.

The question to ask about borders that
have moved from the borderline itself to
permeate every corner of American (and global) life, is: whether or when they lose
their analytical weight? But I’m less wor-
ried about this question now than I have
been in the past, because the growing num-
ber of scholars employing the concept, and
our ongoing debates about what borderlands history means, demonstrate the vitality
of the field.

Finally, in recent years historians have
tried to better understand the U.S.-Mexico border by comparing it with other borders of
the United States and the world. Benjamin
Johnson and Andrew Graybill edited a col-
collection of essays called *Branding Na-
tional Borders in North America* (2010),
which attempts to compare the U.S.-Can-
adian border with the U.S.-Mexican border.

These are some general thoughts about
the current state of borderlands history. It’s an
exciting field and its practitioners have
produced much excellent work since the early 1990s. Working through these issues of
borderlands chronologies, locations, and
comparisons will help the field maintain its
dynamism into the future.

Geraldo Cadava is assistant professor of
history at Northwestern University. His
Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Border-
land* will be published by Harvard Univer-
sity Press in September 2013.
New Publications Noted...

(continued from p. 7)


New Publications Noted...
(continued from p. 9)


Conferences and Meetings...
(continued from p. 4)

The Canadian Polish Research Institute and Cape Breton University will sponsor an interdisciplinary conference, “Between Past and Future: Culture, Heritage and Community Development of Poland in Towns and Small Cities.” The conference will take place July 25-28, 2013 in Sydney, NS, Canada. See the announcement on the web at http://www.canadianpolishinstitute.org/conference/

Cultural History, the official journal of the International Society of Cultural History, plans a special issue on “Cultural History in the United States: Past, Present, and Future Trajectories.” Say the editors, “This special edition of Cultural History calls for papers from practitioners of American cultural history.” Proposals and an abstract of 300 words should be received by the editor by Sept. 1, 2013. For further details, contact Gregory Smither, Department of History, Virginia Commonwealth University, PO Box 842001, Richmond, VA 23284-2001. Email: gdsmitther@vcu.edu

IEHS Announces New Dissertation Award

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces its first annual award for an outstanding dissertation in the field of immigration and ethnic history. The IEHS will confer the award at its annual meeting in the spring of 2014.

To be considered, dissertations must focus on some aspect of North American immigration and/or ethnicity, be successfully defended between September 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013, and be submitted to the award committee by November 15, 2013. All submissions must be accompanied by a letter of support from the dissertation director. One copy of the dissertation—either electronic or hard copy—should be sent to each member of the award committee. The award carries a cash gift of $1,500.

Award committee members for 2014 are:
John Bodnar (chair), Dept. of History, 1026 E. Kirkwood, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47405. bodnar@indiana.edu (Address inquiries to the chair)

David Gutierrez, Humanities and Social Science Bldg., Rm. 5016, Univ. of California San Diego; La Jolla, CA 92093-0104. dgutierrez@ucsd.edu

Suzanne M. Sinke, 401 Bellamy Hall, Dept. of History, Florida State Univ., Tallahassee, FL 32306-2202. ssinke@fsu.edu
Activities Report for the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

Mail your information for the next Newsletter to:

James M. Bergquist, Department of History, Villanova University, Villanova PA 19085-1699
or FAX a copy to (610) 519-4450 or send information via E-Mail to: 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, 2013. The 2013 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 2013, 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, 2013. Send books to Prof. Hsu at the above address as well as to Marilyn Halter, Boston University, Institute on 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 (cynthia@williams.edu). The award for books published in 2013 will be presented at the annual dinner meeting of the Society in April 2014.

JOHN HIGHAM TRAVEL AWARD

Applications are now being received for the 2014 John Higham Travel Grants. These grants are awarded to three graduate students each year to be used toward costs of attending the OAH-IHES 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 2, 2013. For full information and guidelines for application, see www.oah.org/awards/awards.higham.index.html

POZZETTA DISSERTATION AWARDS, 2014

The Immigration and Ethnic History Society announces competition for the 2014 George E. Pozzetta Dissertation Awards. It invites applications from any Ph.D. candidate who will have completed qualifying exams by December 15, 2013, 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 and 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 is December 15, 2013, with the winners to be notified by March 15, 2014. Send application materials by e-mail to all committee members, with an additional hard copy by surface mail to the committee chair, Walter Kowalski, Texas A&M University (walter.kowalski@tamu.edu); and via e-mail to Tyler Anbinder, George Washington University (anbinder@gwu.edu); and Torrie Hester, St. Louis University (thesthe3@slu.edu). Inquiries may be sent to the committee chair, Professor Kowalski, History Dept., Texas A&M University, 213 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843, or walter.kowalski@tamu.edu

Persons receiving Pozzetta dissertation grants for 2013 were:
Kristina Poznan, College of William and Mary for her project, "Becoming Immigrant Nation-Builders: The Advancement of Austria-Hungary's National Projects in the United States, 1880s-1920s"; and Mayra Avitia, University of California, San Diego, whose project is entitled "Political Comadrazgo: Chicana Networks, Gender Politics, and Ethnic Identity in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for the IHES elections of 2014 consists of James R. Barrett (University of Illinois), chair; Lorina Thomas (Rutgers University); Diane Vecchio (Puritan University), Tyler Anbinder (George Washington University), and Carl Bon Tempo, (SUNY at Albany). They will seek recommendations for nominations for the three IEHS board seats to be elected in 2014.
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 or 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/jaeoh.html

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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).

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 Jestis, Subscription Manager, at jestis@uoregon.edu (be sure to specify JAEH), or when renewing, via the web at

http://www.press.uillinois.edu/journals/jaeoh/irenew.php