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The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

History from the Mouths of Immigrants and Their Kin

By Shaun Illingworth

In 1903, muckraking journalist Broughton Brandenburg and his wife went undercover as Italian immigrants to expose the hardships of the immigration process (with a healthy dose of American-centric bias). In *Imported Americans: The Story of the Experiences of a Disguised American and His Wife Studying the Immigration Question* (1904), Brandenburg explained that he did so because in the newspapers of Europe, "there was but the barest trifle printed that was *from the point of view of the immigrant himself*. (author's emphasis) In the American papers there was absolutely nothing."

"In my teenager years, I wrestled with the bizarre concept of being an American, just not legally," wrote Jean-Claude Velasquez, who immigrated to the US at age four from Columbia, "... We spoke and wrote English fluently, and we were willing to defend this country in a time of crisis, yet our status made us voiceless." This reflection comes from his essay, "The Invisible & Voiceless: The Plight of the Undocumented Immigrant in America," for which the Stony Brook University senior won a prize in the 2014 Elie Wiesel Foundation Ethics Essay Contest.

The reality of the "invisible" immigrant, deprived of a political, social, economic and historical voice, has been observed for well over a century. Both Brandenburg and Velasquez wrote in periods of heated debate over immigration policy and amid waves of new immigrants arriving in the country. Yet, the need to offer these immigrants--and the members of the ethnic communities they helped to create and invigorate--an opportunity to add their voice to the American chorus remains a pressing problem. Oral history has long been seen as a remedy for this dilemma.

"The collective voice of the people, once silenced, has a right to be heard," Gary Y. Okihiro, a professor of ethnic studies, notes ("Oral History and the Writing

of Ethnic History," eds. David K. Dunaway and Willa K. Baum, *Oral History: An Interdisciplinary Anthology*, 1996). "Oral history is not only a tool or a method for recovering history; it also is a theory of history which maintains that the common folk and the disposed have a history and that this history must be written." Okihiro also points out that oral history creates a bridge between academia's "ivory tower" and these ethnic communities through its ethnographic methods.

In the mid-1930s, the Federal Writer's Project, a subdivision of the Works Progress Administration, put thousands of journalists, writers and historians to work conducting interviews. The project most famously produced the Slave Narrative Project, focused on former slaves then in their eighties and nineties, but it also conducted significant work in other areas, including its Social-Ethnic Studies track. Like the Slave Narratives, these interviews sat in archives for decades until later generations uncovered their value and potential. In 1990, David Steven Cohen edited *America, the Dream of My Life: Selections from the Federal Writers' Project's New Jersey Ethnic Survey*, a collection of excerpts from interviews unearthed in the New Jersey State Archives in the mid-1980s. In *From the Old Country: An Oral History of the European Migration to America* (1999), Bruce M. Stave and John F. Sutherland, with Aldo Salerno, combined Ethnic Survey interviews with more recent oral histories.

The social and cultural movements of the 1960s and 1970s stimulated the documentation of life stories of newly arrived immigrants, as well as members of established ethnic enclaves. During the American Bicentennial, many programs emerged that put forth the narrative of many peoples coming together to form a culturally uniform society. Those who dissented from this conformist view of the "Spirit of '76" regarded the

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Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

The **Immigration and Ethnic History Society** and the **Immigration History Research Center** are sponsoring *Immigrant America: New Immigration and Immigration Histories from 1965 to 2015*, an interdisciplinary conference marking the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act. The conference will be held on **October 23 to October 24, 2015** at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Both organizations will be celebrating their 50th anniversaries in 2015. This conference uses the anniversary of the 1965 Immigration Act to explore the connections between contemporary and historical migrations and communities in the U.S. The organizers invite faculty, graduate students, independent scholars, artists, community advocates, and public history professionals from a wide range of disciplines to join us in examining all aspects of post-1965 immigration, including the ways in which it has affected the study of immigration before 1965. In examining how immigration has transformed the United States in the past fifty years, the organizers hope to contribute to the development of migration studies across disciplines and to identify key directions for future scholarship. For complete information, conference themes, and submission guidelines, please email ihrc@umn.edu.

The 129th annual meeting of the **American Historical Association** will be held on **January 2–5, 2015**, in New York City. The theme for the meeting is "History and the Other Disciplines," which will explore the "different issues that arise when public historians grapple with narratives that necessarily rely on engagements with other disciplines but aim at wider publics." The conference seeks to address the question, "Where does history stand today in its relationship with other disciplines—whether humanistic, social scientific, or scientific?" The 2015 annual meeting will continue the discussions, launched at the 2012 meeting in Chicago, of the ways that historical practice is changing as a result of the ongoing digital revolution. The **Immigration and Ethnic History Society** will be co-sponsoring three sessions at the upcoming AHA meeting, including, "Migration History: A Dialogue among the Disciplines," "The Atlantic, Pa-

cific, and In-Between: Bringing Transnational History to the United States Survey Course through the Study of Immigration," and "Negotiating Immigration Reform in an Age of Restriction." More substantial information regarding dates, times, and participants of the sponsored meetings will appear later in this issue. For the most up to date information, visit www.historians.org/annual-meeting.

The annual meeting of the **Organization of American Historians** will be held on **April 16–April 19, 2015**, in St. Louis, MO. The theme for the meeting is "Taboos," which will explore "what historians miss when we avoid topics that have come to be regarded as taboo." The conference seeks to address the question, "How are familiar histories complicated, enriched, or transformed when we address issues that have been silenced or avoided in the past?" The **Immigration and Ethnic History Society** will be co-sponsoring its annual "**Dessert Before Dinner**" reception at the upcoming OAH meeting. More substantial information regarding the exact date and time will appear on IEHS.org. For the most up to date information, visit www.oah.org/meetings-events/2015/.

The **Southern Jewish Historical Society** is holding its fortieth annual conference, "Jews in the Urban South," in Nashville, TN, on **October 30, 2015 to November 1, 2015**. Proposals outside of this theme will also be welcomed. Possible topics include Jews as mayors of southern cities; Jewish interaction with other immigrant/ethnic minorities in the cities including black-Jewish relations; ethnic politics and civic activities; Jews and urban education, arts and culture; Jews and urban business; Jews and mobility; and Jewish religion and religious practices. Proposals comparing and contrasting the Jewish experience in southern cities with those in cities elsewhere in the country or in other countries are also welcome. For complete information and submission guidelines, please email Mark K. Bauman, Chair, Program Committee at markkbau-man@aol.com or visit www.jewishsouth.org. Complete proposals are due by March 15, 2015.

From the IEHS President

This will be my penultimate presidential greeting in the *Newsletter* of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. I will be then pleased to pass the baton on to my successor Maria Cristina Garcia who I have no doubt will do a wonderful job in leading this now half-century old scholarly association.

I want to use my column to accomplish two goals. First I want to welcome Nicholas Trajano Molnar in his new role as editor of the *Newsletter*. A committee chose Nicholas out of a robust pool of candidates for a number of reasons. He has had newsletter experience and we were sure that he could, as they say, hit the ground running. He had a more than passing familiarity with the electronic technology which is now a necessary asset in all forms of communication and he articulated tremendous enthusiasm for IEHS and for the position. For all of those reasons we named him the new *Newsletter* editor. Nicholas, our new editor, is an Assistant Professor History at the Community College of Philadelphia.

This then brings me to the main business of my column in this number. Rather than run through the various new projects, new committee members, and officers and to thank the many people who need to be thanked, I wanted to limit myself to one matter alone because it is so important. I will save those details of the life of the Society for my next column. Rather, I want my words to you to be a tribute to Jim Bergquist who announced a year ago that he intended to step down from his position as editor of the *Newsletter*.

When I first became president of the IEHS my predecessor Barbara Posadas told me that the task would not be onerous, the work not overly burdensome but—and it was a major concern—it would be terrible if Jim Bergquist decided to end his almost twenty year editorship of the *Newsletter*. She warned me that replacing him would be nearly impossible. He had rendered such remarkable service to the Society and its members that was hard to imagine someone stepping into his shoes.

James Bergquist, Professor Emeritus of History at Villanova University took over as editor of this *Newsletter* in 1995. Every issue contained scintillating articles which he solicited, pieces that represented both the state-of-the field *vis-à-vis* emerging issues of concern for scholars of the history of immigration and ethnicity, but also articles which helped us learn about emerging methodologies and new sources of primary material. I marveled at the number of publications he uncovered for us and how many conferences he informed us about,

making the *Newsletter* an invaluable source as we went about our own scholarship and course planning. He is a master of detail, a careful chronicler of the activities and events of the profession of history in America, and we all benefitted from his meticulous culling of various sources which provided the copy matter for his *Newsletters*. It is particularly notable that he started doing this before the internet made access to information so much more effortless. But I hazard to say that even with today's greater access, our new editor will still find this a monumental chore.

Let me therefore lay out some aspects of Jim's impressive career as way to show how lucky we were to have him among our members and our leaders. After all, Jim Bergquist, who received his doctorate from Northwestern University, not only served the IEHS but he was an active member of American Association of University Professors, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and in its day, the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies in Philadelphia. He chaired its Library Committee, sat on its Board of Trustees and actively participated in its many programs. In a way we competed with those other scholarly and civic bodies and I like to think he favored us.

Jim's scholarship focused heavily on German immigrants, the era surrounding the Civil War, and urban history. Seeing the list of his publications drives home how much more there still is to research about European immigration and the earlier part of the nineteenth century, proving in fact that scholarship should not be seen as a zero-sum game. Our Society should, and indeed is, a home for scholars of immigration and ethnicity that spans the entirety of American history. We learn much from each other regardless of time period or the place of origin of our subjects. Jim's work on the political behavior of German immigrants in the nineteenth century has much to teach someone studying the experiences the most recent immigrants, those learning to negotiate a very different American society in the twenty-first.

So I will draw this to a close by thanking Jim for his years of service. Throughout my years of membership in the IEHS I personally looked forward to my *Newsletter*, reading it cover to cover. In my brief tenure as President I relied on Jim and while I am sure Nicholas Molnar will ably rise to the occasion, he will always be measured in comparison to Jim Bergquist who deserves our accolades.

Hasia R. Diner

President, Immigration and Ethnic History Society

New Publications Noted

- Adams, Bluford.** *Old and New New Englanders: Immigration and Regional Identity in the Gilded Age.* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014.
- Alba, Richard, Tomás R. Jiménez, and Helen B. Marrow.** "Mexican Americans as a Paradigm for Contemporary Intra-group Heterogeneity." *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 37 (2014): 446-466.
- Aranda, Elizabeth M., Sallie Hughes, and Elena Sabogal.** *Making a Life in Multiethnic Miami: Immigration and the Rise of a Global City.* Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2014.
- Bayor, Ronald H.** *Encountering Ellis Island: How European Immigrants Entered America.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.
- Bernstein, Seth, and Robert Cherney.** "Searching for the Soviet Dream: Prosperity and Disillusionment on the Soviet Seattle Agricultural Commune, 1922-1927," *Agricultural History* 88 (2014): 24-44.
- Brooks, Charlotte.** "The Chinese Third Force in the U.S.: Political Alternatives in Cold War Chinese America" *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34 (2014): 53-85.
- Bruce, Erik.** "Dangerous World, Dangerous Liberties: Aspects of the Smith Act Prosecutions." *American Communist History* 13, 25-38.
- Carnevale, Nancy C.** "Italian American and African American Encounters in the City and in the Suburb." *Journal of Urban History* 40 (2014): 536-562.
- Cavioli, Frank J.** "ACIM, Italian Americans, and Immigration Reform." *Italian Americana* 32 (2014): 6-27.
- Chen, Michelle.** "A Cultural Crossroads at the 'Bloody Angle': The Chinatown Tongs and the Development of New York City's Chinese American Community." *Journal of Urban History* 40 (2014): 357-379.
- Cinotto, Simone.** *Making Italian America: Consumer Culture and the Production of Ethnic Identities.* Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2014.
- Claire, Seth.** "Marx Cohen and Clear Springs Plantation." *Southern Jewish History* 17 (2014): 1-43.
- Cossen, William S.** "Monk in the Middle: The Awful Disclosures of the Hotel Dieu Nunnery and the Making of Catholic Identity." *American Catholic Studies* 125 (2014): 25-45.
- Douma, Michael.** "Tulip Time and the Invention of a New Dutch American Ethnic Identity." *American Studies* 53 (2014): 149-167.
- Dowling, Julie A.** *Mexican Americans and the Question of Race.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014.
- Dublin, Thomas, ed.** *Immigrant Voices: New Lives in America, 1773-2000*, 2nd ed. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2014.
- Echeverria, Darius V.** *Aztlán Arizona: Mexican American Educational Empowerment, 1968-1978.* Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2014.
- Flores, Ruben.** *Backroads Pragmatists: Mexico's Melting Pot and Civil Rights in the United States.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.
- Foner, Nancy, et al., eds.** *New York and Amsterdam: Immigration and the New Urban Landscape.* New York: New York University Press, 2014.
- Francesco, Michael G.** "Peruvians in Paterson: The Growth and Establishment of a Peruvian American Community within the Multiethnic Immigrant History of Paterson, New Jersey." *Journal of Urban History* 40 (2014): 497-513.
- Gans, Herbert.** "The Coming Darkness of Late-Generation European American Ethnicity." *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 37 (2014): 757-765. With responses by Philip Kasinitz, Peter Kivisto, Richard Alba, Nancy Foner and John Mollenkopf.
- Garcia, Ignacio.** *When Mexicans Could Play Ball: Basketball, Race, and Identity in San Antonio, 1928-1945.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014.
- Garcia, Mario.** *The Latino Generation: Voices of the New America.* Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.
- Garland, Libby.** *After They Closed the Gates: Jewish Illegal Immigration in the United States, 1928-1965.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014.
- Grant, Julia.** *The Boy Problem: Educating Boys in Urban America, 1870-1970.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014.
- Grewal, Zareena.** *Islam is a Foreign Country: American Muslims and the Global Crisis of Authority.* New York: NYU Press, 2014.
- Grinberg, Ronnie A.** "Neither 'Sissy' Boy Nor Patriarchal Man: New York Intellectuals and the Construction of American Jewish Masculinity." *American Jewish History* 98, 127-51.
- Hieke, Anton.** "Rabbi Maurice Mayer: German Revo-

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lutionary, Charleston Reformer, and Anti-Abolitionist.” *Southern Jewish History* 17 (2014): 45-89.

Hollowak, Thomas L. “God Directs-We Follow Divine Guidance: The First Polish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Christ the Lord, Dundalk, Maryland,” *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 87, 21-61.

Huff, Stephen. “The Impresarios of Beale Street: African American and Italian American Theatre Managers in Memphis, 1900-1915.” *Theatre Survey* 55, 22-47.

Hum, Tarry. *Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn's Sunset Park*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.

Johnston, Andrew M. “The Disappearance of Emily G. Balch, Social Scientist.” *Journal of the Gilded Age & Progressive Era*. 13 (2014): 166-199.

Kargon, Jeremy. “A Symbolic Landscape for Suburbia: Baltimore Chizuk Amuno's `Hebrew Culture Garden.’” *Journal of Urban History* 40, 762-791.

Kelly, Mary C. *Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Enshrining a Fateful Memory*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014.

Lee, Sonia Song-Ha. *Building a Latino Civil Rights Movement: Puerto Ricans, African Americans, and the Pursuit of Racial Justice in New York City*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

Lew-Williams, Beth. “Before Restriction Became Exclusion: America's Experiment in Diplomatic Immigration Control.” *Pacific Historical Review* 83 (2014): 24-56.

Márquez, Benjamin. *Democratizing Texas Politics: Race, Identity, and Mexican American Empowerment, 1945–2002*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2014.

McCarthy, Tara. “Woman Suffrage and Irish Nationalism: ethnic appeals and alliances in America.” *Women's History Review* 23 (2014): 188-203.

Miggins, Edward M. “‘No Crystal Stair’: The Cleveland Public Schools and the Struggle for Equality, 1900-1930.” *Journal of Urban History* 40, 671-698.

Minoff, Elisa. “The Rise of the Toxic Politics of Migration: The United States at the Dawn of the 1960s.” *Bulletin of the German Historical Institute* 54, 91-108.

Molina, Natalia. *How Race is Made in America: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Historical Power of Racial Scripts*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014.

N., José Ángel. *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2014.

Noel, Linda C. *Debating American Identity: Southwestern Statehood and Mexican Immigration*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2014.

Nishime, Leilani. *Undercover Asian: Multiracial Asian Americans in Visual Culture*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2014.

Oda, Meredith. “Rebuilding Japantown: Japanese Americans in Transpacific San Francisco during the Cold War.” *Pacific Historical Review* 83 (2014): 57-91.

Olson, Daron W. “We Are All Scandinavians: Norwegian-American Press Reaction to the 1938 Swedish Tercentenary.” *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* 65 (2014): 3-30.

Poblete, Joanna. *Islanders in the Empire: Filipino and Puerto Rican Laborers in Hawai'i*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2014.

Reinhart, Joseph. *Yankee Dutchmen under Fire: Civil War Letters from the 82nd Illinois Infantry*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2014.

Rinaldetti, Thierry. “Italian Migrants in the Atlantic Economies: From the Circular Migrations of Birds of Passage to the Rise of a Dispersed Community.” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34 (2014): 5-30.

Rodriguez, Joseph. *Bootstrap New Urbanism: Design, Race, and Redevelopment in Milwaukee*. New York: Lexington Books, 2014.

Romero, Tom I. II. “Observations on History, Law, and the Rise of the New Jim Crow in State-Level Immigration Law and Policy for Latinos.” *American Quarterly* 66 (2014): 153-160.

Stolarik, Mark M. “Building Ethnic Archives in the United States and Canada since the 1960's,” in Daniel, Dominique and Amalia Levi, eds. *Identity Palimpsests: Archiving Ethnicity in the U.S. And Canada*. Sacramento, CA: Litwin Books, 2014: 59-68.

Vargas-Ramos, Carlos. “Migrating Race: Migration and Racial Identification among Puerto Ricans.” *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 37 (2014): 383-404.

Yousefian, Sevan N. “Picnics for Patriots: The Transnational Activism of an Armenian Hometown Association.” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 34 (2014): 31-52.

Weinfeld, Daniel R. “A Certain Ambivalence: Florida's Jews and the Civil War.” *Southern Jewish History* 17 (2014): 91-129.

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pursuit of oral histories that celebrated ethnic diversity as, in the words of Tamara Hareven ("The Search for Generational Memory," Dunaway, op. cit.), "a rebellion against the concept of the melting pot; it is an effort to salvage what has survived homogenization."

Today's ethnicity and immigration researchers have a wealth of oral history archives and printed works at their disposal. The most well-known of these enterprises is the National Park Service's Ellis Island Oral History Project. Since 1973, NPS personnel and volunteers have conducted over 1,700 oral histories with immigrants from across the globe and former workers at the Ellis Island Immigration Station. Several interviews can be accessed at the program's website

(www.nps.gov/elis/historyculture/oral-histories.htm); the rest can be found in the Oral History Library in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. This collection has formed the basis of several oral history works, including the *Voices from Ellis Island: An Oral History of American Immigration* (1988) microform collection and *Ellis Island and the Peopling of America: The Official Guide* by Virginia Yans (1997).

While much attention is focused on Ellis Island, the Angel Island Oral History Project at UC Davis' Humanities Institute documents the experiences of immigrants who made their way through the Angel Island Immigration Station from 1910 to 1940. California's institutions of higher learning have led the way in programs aimed at communities with large populations in the Golden State, including the Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, the Issei Oral History Project at California State University, Sacramento and the Korean American Oral History Collection at the University of Southern California. Erika Lee and Judy Yung made prodigious use of these collections in their *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* (2010).

Smaller but significant immigration and ethnic history collections and books include The Italians in Chicago Oral History Project at the University of Illinois at Chicago, which features 112 transcribed interviews, The Russian Emigres Oral History Collection at UC Berkeley and *Voices, A Filipino American Oral History* (1984), featuring recollections of 25 Filipino Americans. In *American Dreams: An Oral History of Mexican Immigration to the United States* (1990), Marilyn P. Davis offers the testimony of both documented and

undocumented immigrants, as well as those involved in transporting immigrants across the border. Alixa Naff conducted hundreds of life-course interviews with Arab-Americans from the 1960s to the 1980s for his 1985 book *Becoming American: The Early Arab Immigrant Experience*.

The Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA), founded in 1994, has sought to document the variety of immigrants and ethnic communities who have made their homes in New Jersey over the past century. The program seeks to record memories of life in the subject's home country, their motivation for immigration, their journey, their processing ordeal and the challenges faced and overcome in creating a new life in America. Moving forward through first and second-generation narrators, ROHA documents the degree to which traditions, language and customs are preserved against the effects of pressure, both internal and external, to Americanize. To date, the program has conducted 1,400 interviews and publishes the full-text final product to their website (oralhistory.rutgers.edu).

ROHA's interviews document the struggle immigrants endured in coming to American soil and their efforts to maintain bonds with relatives in the "old country." Dr. Sam Agron (ROHA, 2005) was born in Lugansk, Ukraine, in 1920 as his family was planning to flee the *pogroms* of Czarist Russia:

When we arrived as refugees in Mogilev, on our way towards, eventually, America, we hoped, we had lost everything. There were four of us, and my brother to be born imminently. My mother's sister-in-law, although prosperous, didn't want to admit us into their large home. Years later, in the days that we were just talking about in Brooklyn...things had deteriorated greatly in the Soviet Union and the Communist government, of course, tried to destroy private businesses. ...He'd [his uncle] write to his relatives here, "Please, send me some money. We're going to lose our home. We're going to lose everything." My mother would go to other relatives, her sister, her brothers, "Please, let's put together a package." They needed food by that time, even clothing, shoes. "Send cash, whatever, send it over to them." My mother was asked, "Look, after how she treated you, why are you doing

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all this for her? Why are you chasing around [on their behalf]?" and my mother replied, "The unkindness that she displayed towards me, I will repay with kindness."

Brigid Brown (ROHA, 1998) was born in 1935 and came of age in Great Britain, Aden and India as her father, an enlisted man in the RAF, moved from post to post before and during World War II. She later worked for Shell in Nigeria and elsewhere before immigrating to the US in 1962 at age 27. Brown recalled how British attitudes towards unmarried women prompted her decision to immigrate:

I said, "To hell with this. I'm not mucking around this. If I'm not gonna get married, I might as well do some traveling." So I did, because I had been out of England for a couple of years and most of my contemporaries were married at that point. So I thought, "Why don't I do something different?" So I did, but then I got here and found a lot of people who were in my age group who weren't married either.

Tan Nguyen was born in Phan Thiet, South Vietnam in 1968. His family fled Vietnam in a small boat as the North Vietnamese Army advanced on Saigon in 1975 and met up with an American fleet at sea:

Again, I didn't know we were going to America. I just know they're picking us up to help us get out of the area where the enemy is coming and, if you can picture like the ship and around it was thousands of wooden boats surrounding it and abandoned too because obviously you're going there to get on board that ship. ...Keep in mind, we're going to do the same, abandon our boat; we have to get on the ship, but it wasn't like you pulled up [to] the ship and there's someone waiting there to take us on board; you had to make your way to the ladder. ...So picture a family of eight at the time trying to make their way, and again, someone's holding my hand, I remember that, and just pulling me over to the next boat and had to wait until that boat hits the next boat to get on. ...My experience I just remember someone helped me, dragged me and put me on the boat, and I guess it was my older brother or my father. ...I looked on the ship, and I see all these people. I mean, it was packed on the ship. ...

This is my mom telling the story of my dad, she said that one of the American soldiers helped her, saw how difficult it was for her to maneuver as she made her way down and grabbed my mom and my sisters and helped her get to the ladder.

Oral history has many flaws--issues of memory, bias, self-aggrandizement, etc.--that should be taken into account by all users, but it offers historians access to the thoughts, feelings and experiences of these overlooked populations. Oral history also allows the ethnic communities a measure of control over their story and identity and can provide a rallying point for issues of concern within the community. Each new wave of immigration in American history mandates a renewed effort to capture these newcomers' perspectives for the larger historical record.



Shaun Illingworth serves as Director of the Rutgers Oral History Archives. He recently produced The Voices of Camden County documentary film series, a media project which incorporates the oral histories of first-generation immigrants.

Back issues of the Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter are now available at www.iehs.org. For more information about the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, please visit www.iehs.org

IEHS Sponsored Sessions at the AHA Annual Meeting, January 2-5, 2015, New York City

AHA Session 52/IEHS Session 1

Friday, January 2, 2015: 3:30 PM-5:30 PM

Nassau Suite B (New York Hilton, Second Floor)

Chair:

Nancy L. Green, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

Topics:

Migration: An Interdisciplinary Natural?

Nancy L. Green, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

History and the Social Sciences: Interdisciplinary Exchange in Migration Studies

Donna R. Gabaccia, University of Toronto Scarborough

Historical Approach in Sociology of Immigration: Some Lessons Sinking In?

Ewa Morawska, University of Essex

Law and the Study of Migration

David Abraham, University of Miami

The Politics of International Migration: How Can We "Bring the State Back In"?

James F. Hollifield, Southern Methodist University

Session Abstract:

The field of migration studies has prospered over the last several decades within numerous departments. Sociologists, historians, anthropologists, political scientists, and lawyers have all brought their expertise and their questions to understanding the structures and agency of mobilities past and present, not to mention economists trying to quantify the push, the pull, and the transfer payments. While many scholars have often worked across disciplines and borrowed concepts from one another, this roundtable seeks to engage in a frank interdisciplinary discussion around a series of questions. How have migration studies developed within each discipline and what does each discipline do best? What are the methodological or epistemological problems or imperatives of engaging

in interdisciplinary research? What are the best (or worst) practices of interdisciplinary endeavors for migration studies?

AHA Session 145/IEHS Session 2

Saturday, January 3, 2015: 2:30 PM-4:30 PM

Concourse A (New York Hilton, Concourse Level)

Chair:

Hasia R. Diner, New York University

Topics:

Domesticating the International: Los Angeles as Case Study

Suzanne Borghei, Santa Monica College

Bringing Global History to the American History Survey: Rock Springs, 1885, the Meeting of Pacific and Atlantic Worlds in the Wyoming Desert

Timothy Dean Draper, Waubensee Community College

East Meets West and West Meets East: Immigrant and Ethnic History in the U.S. Survey

Lesley A. Kawaguchi, Santa Monica College

Session Abstract:

The United States survey course is the bread-and-butter of most community college history departments; however, due to heavy teaching loads, multiple course preparations, subject generalization over specialization, and institutional inflexibility in curriculum development, professors teaching these courses often are unable to incorporate readily new scholarship in the classroom. This proposed panel suggests that there may be traditional subjects already taught in the survey, which may be utilized to emphasize the increasingly transnational perspective of the American experience. One of these subjects is that of immigrant experience, which serves to connect the contemporary to the historic, the local to the global, and the national to the transnational. Originally conceived from the work of the American Historical Association's Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges project focusing on the Atlantic and Pacific Worlds (2012-2015), this pro-

posed project discusses how topics already covered in the U.S. history survey may be visualized differently by instructors to explain global processes to undergraduate students.

AHA Session 168/IEHS Session 3

**Sunday, January 4, 2015: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
Conference Room B (Sheraton New York, Lower Level)**

Chair:

Madeline Hsu, University of Texas at Austin

Topics:

The Ambivalent Geopolitics of Inclusion: The Case of Colonial Asian American Groups

Jane Hong, Occidental College

Immigration Reform Advocates and the Passage of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act

Maddalena Marinari, Saint Bonaventure University

Transnational Fight for the Rights of Undocumented Migrants, 1965–86

Ana Minian, Stanford University

Comment:

Lon Kurashige, University of Southern California

Session Abstract:

As political scientist Aristide Zolberg reminds us, the U.S. is “a nation of immigrants, to be sure, but not just any immigrants.” Since the foundation of the United States, Americans have carefully selected who might join them, and they remain selective to this day. Yet, while the history of American immigration laws and the motives underlying them has been richly documented, our knowledge of the impact and the responses of the restricted to these laws remains limited. This panel seeks to shift our lens on American immigration laws away from the restrictionists to the restricted to provide a more nuanced perspective on the passage of American immigration laws.

While WWII and the new geopolitical landscape that emerged at the end of the war provided restricted groups with an opportunity to challenge the existing immigration system, their mobilization did not always pay off. After the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion

laws in 1943, Indian and Korean Americans mobilized to win naturalization and immigration rights for their groups. Yet, as Hong’s presentation demonstrates, the success of an Indian immigration bill in 1946 and the failure of a concurrent Korean measure reflect how the intersection between Asian independence and American interests in Asia proved a tenuous basis for the repeal of Asian exclusion. More broadly, the Indian and Korean American campaigns suggest how repeal legislation for Asian colonial groups became embedded in longer-standing transnational anti-colonial struggles for homeland independence.

In 1952, when Congress embarked on an overhaul of the American immigration system for the first time since 1924, immigration reform advocates had a new opportunity to fight for less restrictive immigration laws. Concerned about the restrictionist tone of the omnibus bill, Senator Herbert Lehman of New York worked to create a broad coalition that included Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant agencies dealing with immigration as well as Asian American, Eastern European American, and Southern European American organizations. As Marinari’s paper shows, conflicts of interest, the tension between Truman’s internationalism and McCarran’s isolationism, and a smear campaign against critics of restriction divided the alliance and proved how difficult it was to create a united front for liberal immigration reform.

Focusing on Chicano and Mexican transnational mobilization for the rights of undocumented migrants starting in the 1970s, Minian’s presentation traces the history of their battle with nativists to guarantee basic rights to undocumented migrants. As her paper demonstrates, Chicano and Mexican organizations carried on their fight on both sides of the border, securing rights in court and raising awareness among migrants about their rights in both countries. While the Latino community and the nativists fought to a more or less even standoff for about a decade, the tide shifted in favor of restrictionists by 1986.

Taken together, the three presenters examine the challenges that immigration reformers faced in challenging restriction, the compromises they reached, and the pragmatic decisions they made to achieve their goals. Like immigration reform advocates today, they took advantage of any opportunity for reform, but their accomplishments were often ambivalent and inconsistent.

Personals

Victor R. Greene, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Emeritus Professor of History, died on September 5, 2014 at the age of 80. One of the earliest members of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, Victor served terms as the organization's President and Executive Secretary. In 2009, he was a recipient of the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the formative role he played in the creation of the organization. Greene was a noted scholar and teacher in the fields of American immigration, labor, and popular culture. At UW-Milwaukee, Greene served on a number of important campus committees and was a generous donor to programs that benefit students. He established a fund in honor of his own hero, former Milwaukee mayor Frank P. Zeidler, which presents an annual award to a history master's student interested in American history. The UW-Milwaukee History Department recognized Professor Greene's long dedication to undergraduate learning, naming its award for the best paper written in a History capstone course in his honor. Victor was married to Laura Greene. They have two children, Geoff and Jessica, and three grandchildren.

Vicki Ruiz, Professor of History at the University of California-Irvine and a member of the Immigration and Ethnic History Society, has been elected president of the American Historical Association. Her one-year term is to begin January 2015.

Ellen Engseth is the new Curator of the Immigration History Research Center Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries. Her position also includes responsibilities for three additional archival units in the Department of Archives and Special Collections. Engseth will serve as Head of the newly created Migration and Social Services Collections, which includes the IHRC Archives, Social Welfare History Archives, Upper Midwest Jewish Archives, and the YMCA Archives. Ellen Engseth comes to Minnesota from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she was Senior Academic Librarian and Archivist in the UW-Milwaukee Libraries' Archives Department. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in History, and an Masters in Library and Information Science, all from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Announcements

The Program Committee for the 2016 **Organization of American Historians** Annual Meeting invites submitted proposals on the topic of leadership for its four-day 2016 program, which will be held April 7-10 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Proposals are welcome from all historians, including those who work in arts and cultural institutions, museums, nonprofit organizations, state and federal government, higher education, and other public-private settings. Proposals are due January 23, 2015. For more information, please visit <http://www.oah.org/meetings-events/meetings-events/call-for-proposals/>.

The **Southern Jewish Historical Society** announces a prize for the book that has made the most significant contribution to the field of southern Jewish history published during the last four years. This round of submissions is for books published between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2014. The winner will receive \$500. In case of a tie, the prize will be divided. Books must focus on Jewish history within the southern United States, defined for this competition as the former Confederate states as well as the border-states. Works examining the history of Southern Jews within the broader history of the South, or within American Jewish history in general will also be considered. All submissions must be non-fiction, standard monographs and biographies. All submissions must be received by **March 31, 2015**. The winner will be announced in advance of the SJHS's annual conference to be held in Nashville TN, November 2015. For more information, or to offer nominations, contact Dr. Ronald Bayor at ronald.bayor@hts.gatech.edu.

The **Missouri History Museum** in St. Louis is hosting "Utopia-Revisiting a German State in America," an exhibition that originally opened in Giessen, Germany to rave reviews. IEHS members attending the OAH Annual Meeting will have until **April 19, 2015** to visit. Many exciting programs, lectures, tours, films and books are planned as a wonderful addition to this exhibit by the Missouri History Museum and The Traveling Summer Republic.

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Activities Report Form

New Publications? Awards? Conferences Planned?
Research Projects? Give us full details in the space
below. Attach an additional sheet to provide more
information if necessary.

Please mail your information (or email your information to nmolnar@ccp.edu) by May 1, 2015 to ensure its inclusion in the next issue.

The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

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About the Immigration and Ethnic History Society

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 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

All rates include membership in the Immigration & Ethnic History Society, the quarterly *Journal of American Ethnic History*, and the biannual *Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter*.

Individuals (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$45; Both: \$55

Students (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$25; Both: \$35

Institutions (1 Year):

Print or Online: \$257; Both: \$310

Non-U.S. Postage (Canada/Mexico): + \$10

Other Non-U.S. Locations: + \$35

Single Issues of the JAEH:

Individuals: \$20; Institutions: \$50

Back Issues of the IEHS Newsletter:

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