



Vol. 1, No. 2  
Winter 2018

# The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

## BEYOND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: HISTORIANS OF IMMIGRATION AND THE ARCHIVES

*Historians rely on archives. We recognize as much in our citations and acknowledgements, but many private and public repositories are currently in need of more tangible support. This issue showcases academics creatively meeting the demand at the same time they pursue other goals.*

### Building a Reciprocal Relationship at the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego

By Susan Hasegawa

In an earlier life, I worked at a non-profit social services agency serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in San Diego. A researcher once contacted the organization wanting access to client data and to interview staff and program participants, which elicited an interesting response from one manager in a meeting. The manager said something along the lines of: "Researchers come around, use our data and sources, and then they disappear. They write their articles, get published, and we never see them again." She was not interested in even talking to the researcher. The request faded away, but that incident stuck with me when I decided to enter the MA history program at San Diego State University.

As I embarked on my MA thesis, it was clear that I wanted to focus on San Diego history and, as a fourth generation Japanese-Filipino American, I wanted to explore some aspect of the Asian American experience. I met members of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), and that was the start of a long-term relationship, a love affair of sorts (my husband would call it an addiction), which has generated numerous benefits for both my research and the organization.

Over the past 22 years, I have seen the JAHSSD grow from an all-volunteer organization with only a PO box, to an organization with a professional archivist and on-going exhibits. The mission has always been to "recognize the contributions Japanese Americans have made to the San Diego region by preserving and making available artifacts, photographs, and other information chronicling their his-

**(JAHSSD continued on page 6)**

### German Iowa and the Global Midwest: Leveraging Interest in Community Roots to Support Local Archives and Teachers

By Glenn Ehrstine

Since 2015, "German Iowa and the Global Midwest" (GIGM), a public humanities project based at the University of Iowa (UI), has explored the impact of immigration to Iowa through a focus on the largest group of European origin to settle in the state. At the time of its founding, the 100th anniversary of the US entry into World War I was fast approaching, an event my co-organizers H. Glenn Penny, Elizabeth Heineman, and I knew would provide built-in media attention regarding the societal changes wrought by the war, particularly those experienced by the approximately 12 percent of Iowans who spoke German as their first or second language around 1915. We were also motivated by a more recent event: In May 2014, the Iowa City Community School District responded to state funding cuts

**(GIGM continued on page 7)**



Waukee High School students visiting the traveling German Iowa and the Global Midwest exhibit. Photo credit: Tammy Getting.

## From the IEHS President



Two years ago, my predecessor, Maria Cristina Garcia, revived the practice of recognizing our most influential senior colleagues with Lifetime Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards. These awards had been given out irregularly as early as 2002 and 1985, respectively, and conferred upon some of the most esteemed of

immigration and ethnic studies historians, whose names can be found on the IEHS website ([iehs.org/lifetime-distinguished-service/](https://iehs.org/lifetime-distinguished-service/)). After an interruption of about eight years, once again honoring our senior colleagues' accomplishments allowed us not only to acknowledge their foundational roles, but also to remember and record developments in the fields of immigration and ethnic history and the institutionalization of IEHS.

The careers of the two senior colleagues being honored at the OAH in 2019 have been intertwined with the growth of immigration history. Barbara Posadas and Judy Yung are pioneers in Asian American and women's history who laid the groundwork for research on Filipina and Chinese American historians who emerged out of the civil rights era's commitments to ethnic studies and helped to build intellectual and institutional bridges between the scholarships on many different ethnic groups. IEHS was one of the earliest "mainline" professional academic organizations to recognize and include Asian American studies scholars into its ranks and, importantly, peer-reviewed journal publication. Barbara was the first ethnically Asian American scholar to publish in the *JAEH*—"Unintentional Immigrants: Chicago's Filipino Foreign Students Become Settlers, 1900-1941"—which appeared in the spring 1990 issue. She served steadily on IEHS committees starting in 1995, culminating in her term as the first Asian American president (2013-2015). During her presidency, Barbara steered IEHS through challenging and complicated institutional negotiations that have resulted in a far greater financial stability and far better management of the many resources invested in the *JAEH*. Through Barbara's leadership IEHS ultimately became a much healthier and sustainable organization.

Judy Yung exemplifies social history's commitments to representing the perspectives of ethnic communities, particularly through her scrupulous work in oral history and the

capturing of Chinese American women's stories. She has been so successful in recording, interpreting, and narrating these histories that her publications—including *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco* (University of California Press, 1995), *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* (Oxford University Press, 2010), and *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940* (Hoc Doi, 1980)—have been embraced by academic and general readers alike, and have even been sold in Costcos in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has mentored many in my generation of Asian American historians generously and wisely. It was Judy who shared with me the history of the *JAEH*'s early support for Asian American studies scholars when she nominated Ron Baylor, the founding editor, for a Lifetime Service Award from the Association for Asian American Studies, which he received in 2006. Judy has been a bulwark in the integration of Asian American studies into the larger communities of oral historians and scholars of gender.

Building on this legacy of adaptation and inclusion, IEHS continues to evolve. Some programs intended to expand IEHS membership and impact include the ongoing expansion of our social media platforms, under the resourceful management of Carly Goodman and Maria Cristina, the program committee's coordination and outreach for conference participation led by Kevin Kenny, Maddalena Marinari, and Ellen Wu, and efforts to build up the educational resources available on the IEHS website. In conjunction with IEHS members and a web design team from the University of Texas, I am spearheading a project to develop teaching modules in immigration history targeting high school teachers of U.S. history and civics courses. It is still a work in progress but can be viewed at <https://immigrationhistory.org/>. Andy Urban is helping to develop a roster of IEHS members who are interested in working with immigration attorneys as expert witnesses to provide information on country conditions, especially in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Andy is also exploring what other forms of expert and academic knowledge might benefit legal and community advocates for immigrants. If you are interested in this kind of work, please contact Andy at [aturban@rutgers.edu](mailto:aturban@rutgers.edu).

As this letter should make abundantly clear, IEHS is an organization that has succeeded largely through the vision, commitments, and hard work of many dedicated volunteers, in our present and for many decades in the past. I thank them all for their contributions and wish us all greater peace and brighter prospects in 2019.

Madeline Y. Hsu

## Join IEHS at the Organization for American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, April 4-6, 2019

<https://www.oah.org/meetings-events/oah19/>

### IEHS Dessert Before Dinner reception

Thursday, April 4, 6-7:30

Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, Salon H

### IEHS Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Friday, April 5, 6:30-9

Han Dynasty Old City Restaurant

Ticket details to follow by email

### Solicited Sessions

#### Friday

#### Freedom of Movement in the Slavery Era: Defining, Regulating, and Limiting the Movement of Migrants and Sailors in the 19th Century

**Chair and Commentator:** Lucy Salyer, University of New Hampshire

*The Business of Migration, 1830–1880*

Katherine Carper, Boston College

*The Problem of Immigration in a Slaveholding Republic*

Kevin Kenny, Boston College

*The Crew of the Higginson: Race, Rights, and Border Control in Antebellum South Carolina*

Michael Schoepfner, University of Maine — Farmington

*Inventing the Immigrant Welfare State in Nineteenth-Century New York*

Brendan O'Malley, Newbury College

#### Rethinking 1924–1965 in U.S. Immigration History for Today's World

**Chair:** Madeline Hsu, University of Texas-Austin

#### Panelists:

- Kathleen Lopez, Rutgers University
- Elliott Young, Lewis & Clark College
- Eiichiro Azuma, University of Pennsylvania
- Ruth Wasem, University of Texas at Austin

#### Saturday

#### Immigration Advocacy: Then and Now

**Chair:** Rachel Ida Buff, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

#### Panelists:

- Julia Rose Kraut, Historical Society of the New York Courts
- Katherine Benton-Cohen, Georgetown University
- Yael Schacher, University of Texas at Austin
- Jane Hong, Occidental College

#### Chat Room Seminar: What is Birthright Citizenship, What Threats Has it Faced in the United States, and Why is it Under Attack Today?

**Commentator:** Hidetaka Hirota, Waseda University

### Endorsed Sessions

- Inclusions and Exclusions: Race, Region, and Women's Enfranchisement
- Looking Outside the Nation: The Exercise of U.S. Migration Policy and Law Abroad
- Racial Politics in the Suburbs: Latinos and Asian Americans in Postwar Southern California
- Working for Freedom: The Often Ignored Labors of the Underground Railroad and New Directions for Understanding
- Twentieth Century Mexican American Activists: Political Biographies of Gender and Leadership
- Continuing the Work of Freedom: Understudied African American Migrations and the Search for Opportunities and Rights
- Immigration Activism and the Labors of Freedom
- Keywords of Post-Civil War Politics in the United States
- The Politics of Caring Labor: Histories of Race, Gender, and Migration in the 20th Century



**Correction:** A heading in the last issue of the newsletter (Vol. L, no. 1) recorded Bernard "Ben" Maegi's date of birth incorrectly. Maegi was in fact born in 1968 as the text of his obituary stated. I apologize for the error. A.C.E.

## New Publications Noted

**Ali, Muna.** *Young Muslim America: Faith, Community, and Belonging.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

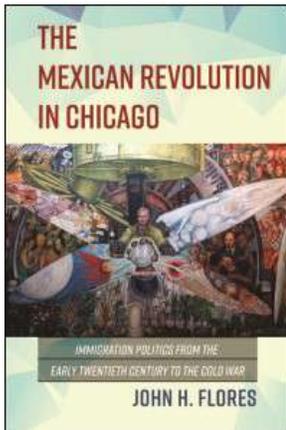
**Arnold, Bruce Makoto, Tanfer Emin-Tunc, and Raymond Douglas Chong, eds.** *Chop Suey and Sushi from Sea to Shining Sea: Chinese and Japanese Restaurants in the United States.* Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2018.

**Barlow, Matthew.** *Griffintown: Identity and Memory in an Irish Diaspora Neighbourhood.* Vancouver: UBC Press, 2017.

**Brigden, Noelle Kateri.** *The Migrant Passage: Clandestine Journeys from Central America.* Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press 2018.

**Chatty, Dawn.** *Syria: The Making and Unmaking of a Refugee State.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

**Donlon, Regina.** *German and Irish Immigrants in the Midwestern United States, 1850-1900.* Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.



**Fermaglich, Kirsten Lise.** *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America.* New York: New York University Press, 2018.

**Flores, John H.** *The Mexican Revolution in Chicago: Immigration Politics from the Early Twentieth Century to the Cold War.* Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2018.

**Garcia, Jerry.** *Looking like the Enemy: Japanese Mexicans, the Mexican State, and US Hegemony, 1897-1945.* Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2018.

**Garza, Melita M.** *They Came to Toil: Newspaper Representations of Mexicans and Immigrants in the Great Depression.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 2018.

**Glass, Joseph B.** *From New Zion to Old Zion: American Jewish Immigration and Settlement in Palestine, 1917-1939.* Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2018.

**Gordon, Scott Paul, ed.** *The Letters of Mary Penry: A Single Moravian Women in Early America.*

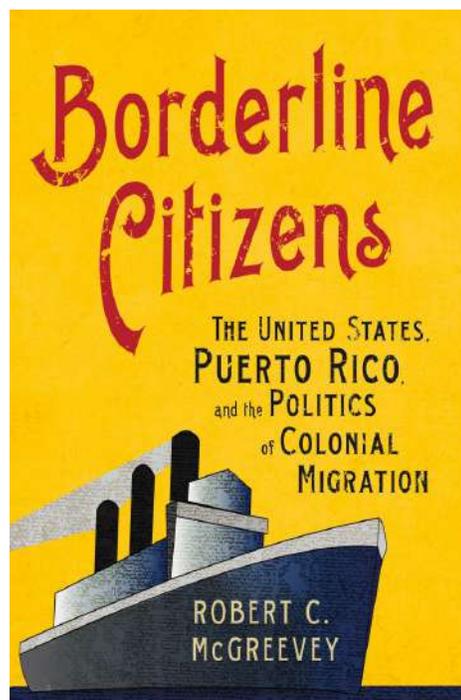
University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2018.

**Gupta-Carlson, Himanee.** *Muncie, India(na): Middletown and Asian America.* Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2018.

**Lew-Williams, Beth.** *The Chinese Must Go: Violence, Exclusion, and the Making of Alien in America.* Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2018.

**Lindskoog, Carl.** *Detain and Punish: Haitian Refugees and the Rise of the World's Largest Immigration Detention System.* Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2018.

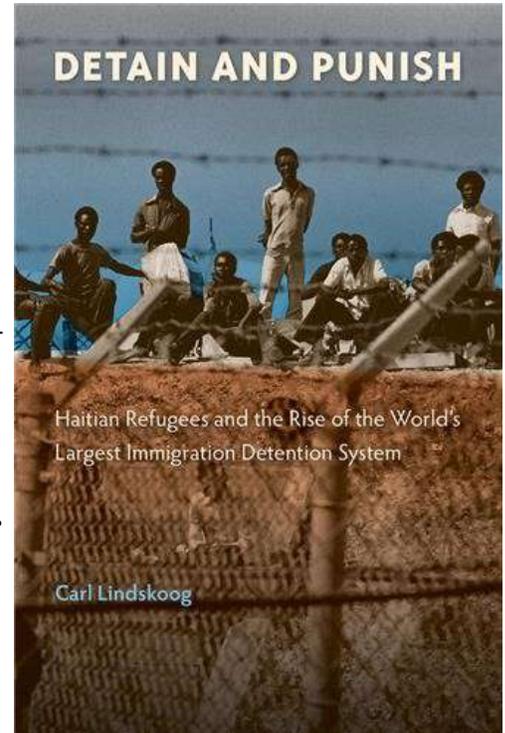
**Mannion, Patrick.** *A Land of Dreams: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Irish in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Maine, 1880-1923.* Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2018.



**Martinelli, Phylis Cancilla and Ana M. Varela-Lago, eds.** *Hidden Out in the Open: Spanish Migration to the United States, 1875-1930.* Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2018.

**McGreevy, Robert.** *Borderline Citizens: The United States, Puerto Rico, and the Politics of Colonial Migrations.* Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2018.

**Michney, Toddy M.** *Surrogate Suburbs: Black Upward Mobility and Neighborhood Change in Cleveland, 1900-1980.* Chapel Hill: University

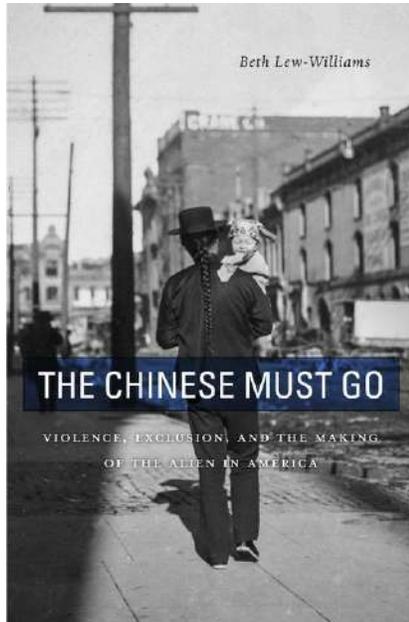


of North Carolina Press, 2017.

**Raska, Jan.** *Czech Refugees in Cold War Canada: 1945–1989*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2018.

**Wunder, John R.**  
*Gold Mountain  
Turned to Dust: Es-  
says on the Legal His-  
tory of the Chinese in  
the Nineteenth-  
Century American  
West*. Albuquerque:  
University of the New  
Mexico Press, 2018.

**Zanoni, Elizabeth.**  
*Migrant Marketplac-  
es: Food and Italians  
in North and South  
America*. Champaign:  
University of Illinois  
Press, 2018.



## Call for Papers

### Migration/Immigration Network of the Social Science History Association

#### 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

*“Data and its Discontents”*

Chicago, Illinois

November 21-24, 2019

*Submission Deadline: February 16, 2019*

The Social Science History Association is the leading interdisciplinary association for historical research in the United States. We welcome graduate students and recent PhDs as well as more-established scholars and leaders in the field from different disciplinary backgrounds.

In keeping with the conference theme, we especially seek panel and paper submissions related to “Data and its Discontents” and that engage with questions such as: What types of data—both qualitative and quantitative—are available to scholars of human mobility? What are the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of data? Who is and who is not represented in extant data and how does that influence migration scholars’ research

agendas and conclusions? How might scholars both demand and produce better data for the study of mobile people?

We seek submissions addressing these questions through the topics below, though we also welcome proposals on all aspects of social science history. *Submission of complete sessions and interdisciplinary panels are especially encouraged.*

- Migration and Mass Incarceration
- Administrative Violence: Data and Immigration Controls
- Use and Abuse of Immigration Data
- Nativism and Anti-Immigrant Sentiments
- Xenophobia in the Past and Present
- Intersections of Migration: Race, Gender and Sexuality
- Data, Surveillance, and Policing Bodies and Borders
- Making Mobility Visible: GIS and Mapmaking
- Geographies of Migration
- Climate Change and Mobility
- Counting and Categorizing Mobile People
- Interdisciplinary and Mixed-methods Approaches

Submit a panel or paper via <https://ssha.org/>. Individuals who are new to the SSHA need to create an account prior to using the online submission site. Please keep in mind that if your panel is accepted, every person on the panel must register for the conference. Graduate students are eligible to apply for a Graduate Student Travel Grant to help over the cost of attendance.

Contact the Migration/Immigration Network Representatives with questions or help with submissions:

Kelly Condit-Shrestha ([cond0092@umn.edu](mailto:cond0092@umn.edu))

Gráinne McEvoy ([mcevoygr@gmail.com](mailto:mcevoygr@gmail.com))

Elizabeth Venditto ([vendi002@umn.edu](mailto:vendi002@umn.edu))

Elizabeth Zanoni ([ezanoni@odu.edu](mailto:ezanoni@odu.edu))



**(JAHSSD continued from page 1)**

tory and experiences” (<http://jahssd.org/>). Located in the heart of Balboa Park, on the edge of downtown San Diego, the JAHSSD archives has seen the number of visiting scholars (both domestic and international) increase every year. There has also been increased interest in interning at JAHSSD, from Boy Scouts to MA candidates.

While writing my thesis, I expanded the JAHSSD oral history collection. I coordinated a project documenting oral histories of Japanese Americans returning to San Diego after incarceration in American concentration camps during World War II (*REgenerations Oral History Project, San Diego Volume III*). After I completed my thesis, I became part of the production team that created a 26-minute documentary titled *Democracy Under Pressure* (2000). I remember rushing out of my final interview with the college president and driving directly to a JAHSSD member’s home to finish a grant application for the documentary—we got

years and curated a variety of public exhibits. I utilized archival photographs for my community pictorial history, *Japanese Americans in San Diego*, published in 2008. All proceeds from the book went to JAHSSD. The multi-year effort to digitize and catalog the 3000+ archival photographs in the collection is currently absorbing some of my time.



**JAHSSD shares a building with the San Diego Historical Center and other organizations in Balboa Park.**

In the grind of teaching five classes a semester at San Diego City College, research and writing often becomes a low priority, as it does for many community college instructors. For me, however, asking questions, finding answers in the primary sources, and presenting the answers in journal articles is something I enjoy. It would be almost impossible to do that work without archives to conduct the research. Through my various interactions with JAHSSD, I feel I am not just an objective observer documenting the past, but an active agent interpreting the past, documenting the living history, and creating a San Diego Japanese American legacy.

**Susan Hasegawa teaches US history and Asian American history at San Diego City College and is the chair of the History and Political Science Department. She is the author of “Americanism and Citizenship: Japanese American Youth Culture of the 1930s,” *Journal of San Diego History* 54 (Winter 2008): 16-25, which explores the intersection of ethnicity and patriotism. She is also a lifetime member of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.**



**JAHSSD members labeling photographs from the collection. Photo credit: Susan Hasegawa.**

the grant, and I got the tenure-track position at San Diego City College.

Researchers can also serve in different capacities in local historical societies and volunteer their time and expertise. I served as the vice president of the JAHSSD for some ten

**(GIGM continued from page 1)**

by eliminating German instruction in the local schools. We had been witnessing the closing of German programs at colleges and school districts around the country since the start of our careers: we now felt a professional obligation to counter the trend by raising public awareness of the Midwest as a crossroads of migration while highlighting the value of local archival collections and education programs.

GIGM has pursued three interrelated goals: 1) promoting primary research on German immigrants in Iowa, a surprisingly under-researched group when compared to their counterparts in neighboring midwestern states; 2) fostering a deeper, historically rooted understanding of current immigration-related issues, such as bilingualism or the dynamics of exclusion in times of heightened social tensions; 3) partnering with communities across the state to raise awareness of hometown microhistories. Campus administrators deserve high marks for recognizing the value of the project and providing financial support. Alongside funding from campus entities, including the UI Office of Outreach and Engagement and the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, we received support from Humanities Iowa, the German Historical Institute, and the Chicago Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. Their combined generosity funded two academic conferences, a workshop for community partners, a series of exhibits, and support for two graduate research assistants to help digitize source materials and serve as liaisons for community partners.

Much of the research for GIGM occurred in undergraduate courses taught in History and German. We also engaged the state chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG) to recruit hosts for our traveling exhibit, distribute sample lesson plans, and discuss ways of integrating the project into the high school classroom, not just for German instruction, but also through collaborations with teachers in Social Studies and Spanish. By linking the classroom to the project's public components, we hoped to support teachers in drawing attention to the importance of language study for US history and to the relevance of their curriculum for the local community.

Students at all levels were invariably excited to discover that they could apply their language skills to the study of local history and find sources pertaining to world events in repositories so close to home. In the capstone research course for German majors at the UI, students gained practice in transcribing and translating primary sources, such as handwritten correspondence from the Iowa Women's Archive or select articles from the German newspapers

preserved by the State Historical Society of Iowa. We additionally partnered with Prof. Heike Bungert, a historian of German American culture at the Universität Münster, whose students aided in the processing of source material while corresponding with their Iowa peers. The international scholars who attended our two symposia noted the importance of Iowa sources for transnational history, and their interest in turn helped to remind state archivists and administrators that the value of their collections extends well beyond the borders of the state.

The main component of our community outreach was a 12-banner exhibit that toured the state in 2017, stopping in a total of 34 localities. The Iowa Museum Association kindly helped circulate our call for collaborators, and strong interest allowed us to print a second, AATG-funded set of banners so that the exhibit could appear in two towns simultaneously. Host institutions included public libraries, high schools, county fairs, and the State Historical Museum in Des Moines. Our preparatory workshop for community partners helped them to design supplementary programming around local interests, such as walking tours of historic districts.

The project's lasting product is the GIGM Omeka archive ([germansiniowa.lib.uiowa.edu](http://germansiniowa.lib.uiowa.edu)), a growing digital collection that gives researchers and the greater public easy access to primary German-Iowan sources. The site features an interactive map of the over 50 German newspapers that once dotted the state, searchable transcriptions of nineteenth-century sources printed in blackletter font, and over 1000 pieces of correspondence from the Iowa State Archives pertaining to the so-called Babel Proclamation, the May 1918 executive order of Governor William Harding that outlawed the speaking of all foreign languages in public for the duration of World War I. Our main project website ([germansiniowa.com](http://germansiniowa.com)) offers an overview of other project components, including resulting publications and related press coverage.

**Glenn Ehrstine is an associate professor of German and International Studies at the University of Iowa. He usually publishes on the literature of the late medieval and early modern period, but has a forthcoming translation with Lucas Gibbs of "Iowa's Prohibition Plague" in *The Annals of Iowa*.**



# The Immigration and Ethnic History Newsletter

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For more updates from IEHS, visit <http://iehs.org/>, follow @IEHS1965 on Twitter, or “like” <https://www.facebook.com/IEHSPage/>.

## Inside This Issue

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From the IEHS President  
IEHS at the 2019 OAH

New Publications Noted



Special thanks to Jolene Kreisler and Lisa Lamson for their help with this issue.

**New Publications? Awards? Conferences planned? Research projects? Let us know! Email details to [newsletter@iehs.org](mailto:newsletter@iehs.org).**

## Membership

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

1 **Individuals (1 Year):**

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

2 **Students (1 Year):**

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

3 **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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