

Immigration Workshop Report, 2009-10

BACKGROUND:

In September 2003, Professor Irene Bloemraad (Sociology) established the Interdisciplinary Immigration Workshop with funding from IRR/IRLE. While the Berkeley campus housed individuals with an expertise on immigration and a few area centers with an interest in migrants from a specific region, there was no single forum to bring together scholars of migration and immigrant integration. The Interdisciplinary Immigration Workshop was founded to provide such a venue.

WORKSHOP MISSION:

The goals of the workshop are three-fold:

- 1) to provide an interdisciplinary forum for workshop members to get constructive, personalized feedback on their immigration-related in-progress research projects;
- 2) to serve as a venue for information dissemination among members; and
- 3) to provide a forum for inviting guest speakers & organizing conferences around immigration matters for the Berkeley campus and interested community members.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2009-10:

Our accomplishments in 2009-10 are discussed more fully below, but in brief:

- we held 13 meetings to discuss members' work (see schedule below) with attendance of 8-22 people at workshop meetings;
- we have 209 individuals on the email list, spanning almost all social science disciplines and UC-Berkeley professional schools; the email list distributes regular announcement on funding, data sources and events related to immigration;
- we coordinated with another workshop to bring in an additional speaker;
- we maintained, in conjunction with IRLE Library staff, the Interdisciplinary Immigration Group's webpage, a resource for scholars and teachers of immigration (<http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/immigration/index.html>);
- we organized a full-day "Making Connections: International Migration Section Mini-Conference" conference with 45 presenters heading 20 roundtables and 2 panel discussions and 160 attendees;

A core mission of the group is to support and advance research on immigration. At each workshop meeting, one or two members circulate **work-in-progress**, such as a prospective journal article, dissertation proposal or even draft interview schedule. Each presentation is

assigned a discussant who provides written comments and who guides a general discussion of the work by all workshop members. During Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters, the workshop averaged approximately 8-12 members per meeting, including faculty, graduate students, visiting scholars and even advanced undergraduates. This year, as in past years, a number of papers presented at the workshop have gone on to be published or are awaiting publication decisions.

The workshop also provides a stimulating forum to bring in **outside speakers**. The workshop also collaborated with the ISSI's Center for the Study of Social Change, the Center for Latin American Studies, and the Ethnic Studies Department to welcome David Fitzgerald (Sociology, UCSD) and Michael Peter Smith (Community Studies and Development, UCD) in the spring 2010 semester.

Beyond individual speakers and presenters, the workshop organized another **conference** this year, the fourth since its founding. "Making Connections" was also the first ever mini-conference for the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association. It combined two keynote panels with numerous roundtables to provide individuals in all stages of their academic career – from graduate students to the most renowned academics in the field – with a unique opportunity to discuss issues of particular importance to the field. The two keynote panels included Demetrios Papademetriou (President of MPI, Washington, DC), Nancy Foner (CUNY-Grad Center) and Patrick Simon (INED, France). Twenty roundtables were headed by eminent figures in the field, such as Richard Alba (CUNY: Albany), Min Zhou (UCLA), and Doug Massey (Princeton).

The conference was extremely successful. Even before the conference was held, a fifth of those interested in attending needed to be turned away; ultimately 160 individuals from across the United States, and as far away as Europe and Japan participated in the conference. To communicate the discussions and lessons from the conference to a wider audience, we had rapporteurs take notes, which we distributed widely via email and which are available on the workshop webpage, hosted by IRLE. We also held a book raffle during the conference, with proceeds were donated to the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition.

Beyond providing feedback and furthering intellectual exchange with invited speakers, another key goal of the workshop is to act as a forum for **information dissemination**. Professor Bloemraad regularly forwards news on campus talks, fellowship opportunities, publishing opportunities and new migration data sources to the group email list. Over the summer of 2006 Professor Bloemraad, graduate student Bao Lo and the staff of the IRLE library worked together to build a new immigration website to serve as a resource for students, teachers and researchers of immigration. This initiative has created a permanent resource useful for group members and a larger public outside of the university. In 2009, graduate students Joanna Doran and Ken Haig, with the staff of the IRLE library made substantial revisions to and expansions of the site. We continue to work on improving and expanding the website.

As in past years, we have solicited anonymous feedback by workshop members to further improve the workshop's ability to deliver on its mission. The feedback we received is overwhelmingly positive. We are especially gratified to receive comments that provide testament to the workshop's blend of support and intellectual rigor, which some participants

have trouble finding elsewhere. We would like to share comments received from just two of our participants:

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the workshop, I learned about how other fields deal with migration. As for my own research, presenting just one time helped me deepen a chapter of my thesis. (In fact, I received more help from the workshop than I received from my whole MA thesis committee combined.) [emphasis in original]

The commitment of a small cadre of workshop co-leaders. It's nice, and rare! Also, the way the workshop combines an atmosphere of informality and collegiality with high-level intellectual feedback.

The workshop's essential strength and real impact in the academic lives of its participants was especially illustrated this year, with Irene Bloemraad's absence and the graduation of key members of the workshop. The pressures in our academic setting renders all but the most essential activities impossible to sustain. If Irene Bloemraad's direct involvement had been the only driving force behind the workshop, the activities of the workshop, the activities of the workshop would have been suspended for 2009-2010. Or, if the workshop been animated by the engagement of only a small founding group of members, it would not have survived this group's graduation. Instead, the workshop continued throughout 2009-2010 in the same format, but under a different faculty leader and with mostly new membership. This testifies to the importance of an interdisciplinary venue for shared intellectual engagement on immigration issues.

The workshop has continued its activities thanks to the involvement of some especially dedicated individuals. Cybelle Fox stepped in to fill Irene Bloemraad's shoes, providing vital mentorship for the group. Helen Marrow and Ming Hsu Chen committed themselves to help her with the close reading and feedback. Those three individuals maintained the academic rigor of the workshop. Graduate student Joanna Doran volunteered to serve as the administrative coordinator, maintaining the listserv and general communication. Graduate students Angele Fillingim and Loan Le brought the refreshments that help make the workshop a warm and welcoming space. Terry Huwe and Heather Lynch helped maintain the workshop's website. Their contributions of all these people are gratefully acknowledged.

PLANS FOR 2010-11:

Our plans are spelled out in the request for funding accompanying this report. In brief, we wish to:

- Continue the bi-monthly meetings to discuss members' work;
- Continue to develop the website;
- Bring in 1-2 outside speakers to foster intellectual exchanges and provide campus members with a chance to connect with other researchers in the field.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. Workshop Schedule, 2009-10

Fall 2009

meeting date (Friday)	presenter	discussant	Title or description
September 11	Helen Marrow	Ming Hsu Chen	"In Ireland 'Latin Americans are Kind of Cool'"
September 25	Akasemi Newsome	Loan Le	Corporatism, Unemployment and the Representation of Immigrant Interests in Denmark and the Netherlands
	David Pieper	Catherine Berry	The Effects of Immigration on Age Structure and Fertility in the United States
October 9	Dawn Richardson	Lizzie Horevitz	Acculturation and Early Childbearing in Mexican-American Adolescents: A Systematic Literature Review and Theoretical Critique
	Yang Lor	Bao Lo	Hmong political involvement in Fresno, California and St. Paul, Minnesota.
October 23	Catherine Berry	Charlotte Chang	Why Don't They Worry? Lower Levels of Mental Health Distress Among Non-citizen Immigrants Compared to Naturalized Citizens and the U.S. Born Second Generation
	Paula Suarez	Akasemi Newsome	Rights, community development, integration and International Migration. Mexican-americans and latinos organizations of Mission District in San Francisco
November 6	Julia Chuang	Helen Marrow	"Living Land and Labor: Gendered Sojourns in Rural China."
	Jason Davis	Julia Chuang	"How does migration to the U.S. alter small holder farming in Central American origin areas in the short-term?"
November 20	Bao Lo	Dawn Richardson	Caught Between Two Worlds: Hmong Youth, Culture, and Socio-Structural Barriers to Integration

Spring 2010

Meeting date	Presenter	Respondent	Presenter	Respondent
2/5	<u>Ming Hsu Chen</u> Voting and Language Rights	Helen Marrow	--	--
2/19	<u>Paola Suarez</u> Immigrant rights, community development and international migration. Mexican-American, Latino and Latin-American organizations of San Francisco's Mission District in the Migratory Reform debate in US	Maria Rendon	<u>Kristel Acacio</u> Meso-Level Factors: Organizational Fields and International Labor Migration	Rick Smith
3/5	<u>David Pieper</u> Canadian immigration to the U.S. (Encyclopedia entry)	Alex Street	<u>Maria Rendon</u> How Does the Urban Context Matter? Violence, Peer Ties and "Anti-social" Behavior among the Second Generation	Charlotte Chang
3/19	<u>Alex Street</u> The Limited Relevance of Identity Politics for Germany's Foreign Residents	Saara Koikkalainen	<u>Ian Gordon</u> Soy lo mismo en cualquier terreno: Returnees and reintegration in Tacaná, Guatemala	Angela Fillingim
4/2	<u>Angela Fillingim</u> Human rights mobilization in a post-repression context: A case study of transnational adoption reunification	Helen Marrow	<u>Charlotte Chang</u> Adaptations to community-based participatory research based on a Chinese immigrant worker community context	Joanna Doran
4/16	<u>Saara Koikkalainen</u> Transferring cultural capital: the case of skilled, mobile Finns in Europe	David Pieper	<u>Eleanor Taylor</u> International Legal Framework around Human Smuggling	Kristal Acacio
4/30	<u>Loan Le</u> A Consideration of Theories of Immigrant Incorporation	Ming Hsu Chen	<u>Joanna Doran</u> Language brokering by children of immigrants: Evaluating effects, proposing new research	Catherine Berry

APPENDIX B: Email List Membership

As of 05/08/10

immigration_group@lists.berkeley.edu

See PDF attached

APPENDIX C: Making Connections conference flyer

See PDF attached