



**CCIS**

**The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies**  
University of California, San Diego

## State and Local Immigration Policy in the U.S.: An Interdisciplinary Workshop

Eleanor Roosevelt College Administration Building  
Conference Room 115, First Floor  
May 9, 2008



*Demonstration against local immigration policy in Hazleton, Penna., March 12, 2007*

### Program

#### **9:00: Welcome and Introductory Comments**

**Wayne Cornelius**, Director of CCIS, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Gildred Professor of U.S.-Mexican Relations, UC-San Diego

**Monica Varsanyi**, Workshop Organizer-Chair, Assistant Professor, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University

#### **Session 1**

**9:15 Muzaffar Chishti**, Director, Migration Policy Institute at NYU School of Law, "Testing the limits: A framework for assessing the legality of state and local immigration measures."

**9:30 Karthick Ramakrishnan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UC-Riverside, "Immigration policies go local: The varying responses of local governments to low-skilled and undocumented immigration."

**9:45 Jessica Halpern-Finnerty**, Research Associate, Center on Wisconsin Strategy, "Cities and immigrants: Local policies for immigrant-friendly cities."

**10:00 Discussant: April Linton**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UCSD

**10:45 COFFEE BREAK**

## **Session 2**

**11:00 Jill Esbenshade**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, San Diego State University, "Immigrant regulation through local housing ordinances: A problematic trend in public policy."

**11:15 Michele Waslin**, Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation, "Immigration enforcement by state and local police: The impact on Latinos, immigrants, and citizens."

**11:30 Monica W. Varsanyi**, Assistant Professor, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University, "Immigration and Local Policing: Results from a National Survey of Law Enforcement Executives" (with Scott Decker, Paul Lewis, and Marie Provine).

**11:45 Discussant: Marisa Abrajano**, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UCSD

**12:30 LUNCH BREAK**

## **Session 3**

**1:30 Owen Furueth**, Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, and **Heather Smith**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, "Localized immigration policy: The view from a new immigrant gateway (Charlotte, North Carolina)."

**1:45 Doris Marie Provine**, Professor, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University (Fulbright Scholar, 2007-8, *Centro de Investigaciones sobre America*

*del Norte*, Mexico City), "Local immigration policy and the global city: Vancouver, Phoenix, and the power of law."

**2:00 Hinda Seif**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Illinois, Springfield. "Legislating in East LA: Immigrant drivers licenses, constituent letters, and the 'illegal' Latino lawmaker."

**2:15 Teresa Vázquez**, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Cal State Northridge, "The anti-immigrant city"

**2:30 Discussant: Tomás Jiménez**, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UC-San Diego

**3:15 General Discussion: Where Do We Go from Here?**

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



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### Participant Biographies

**Marisa Abrajano** ([mabrajano@ucsd.edu](mailto:mabrajano@ucsd.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UC-San Diego. She received her Ph.D. in politics from New York University in 2005. Her research is in the field of American politics, particularly in the areas of campaigns, mass electoral behavior, and race/ethnic politics. Her research has been published in *The Journal of Politics* and *Political Research Quarterly*. She is currently working on a book manuscript that examines the impact of candidates' televised campaign efforts on the Spanish-speaking population in the U.S.

**Muzaffar Chishti** ([muzaffar.chishti@nyu.edu](mailto:muzaffar.chishti@nyu.edu)), Director, Migration Policy Institute at NYU School of Law. A lawyer, his work focuses on U.S. immigration policy, the intersection of labor and immigration law, civil liberties, and immigrant integration. Prior to joining MPI, Mr. Chishti was Director of the Immigration Project of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial & Textile Employees (UNITE). His publications include: *Testing the Limits: A Framework for Assessing the Legality of State and Local Immigration Measures* (co-authored); *America's Challenge: Domestic Security, Civil Liberties, and National Unity After September 11* (co-authored); "Guest Workers in the House of Labor" in the *New Labor Forum*; "The Role of States in US Immigration Policy" in the *NYU Annual Survey of American Law* (2002); ); "Enforcing Immigration Rules: Making the Right Choices" in *NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy* (2006-07); "A Redesigned Immigration Selection System" in *Cornell International Law Journal* (Winter 2008).

**Wayne Cornelius** ([wcorneli@ucsd.edu](mailto:wcorneli@ucsd.edu)), is Distinguished Professor of Political Science and founding Director of the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies at the University of California-San Diego, where he holds the Gildred Chair in U.S.-Mexican Relations. His Ph.D. (in political science) is from Stanford University. His current research includes a comparative study of the outcomes of immigration control policies in the United States and Spain, a study of political incorporation among U.S.-based Mexican immigrants, and annual surveys of high-emigration communities in central and southern Mexico. His recent books (coedited with various scholars) include *Impacts of Border Enforcement on Mexican Migration: The View from Sending Communities* (2007); *Mayan Journeys: The New Migration from Yucatán to the United States* (2007), and *Four Generations: New Research from the Cradle of Mexican Migration* (forthcoming, 2008). He is currently coediting a book on Oaxacan migration to the United States, entitled *Oaxacalifornia*, to be published in late 2008.

**Jill Esbenshade** ([jesbensh@sdsu.edu](mailto:jesbensh@sdsu.edu)), Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, San Diego State University. She is the author of *Dislocation and Division: Regulating Immigration through Local Housing Ordinances* published by the Washington DC-based Immigration Policy Center and the forthcoming, "Local Immigration Regulation: A Problematic Trend in Public Policy" *Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy*.

**Owen Furuseth** ([ojfuruse@uncc.edu](mailto:ojfuruse@uncc.edu)), Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. He is the Associate Provost for Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs at UNC Charlotte. Prior to this appointment, he was Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Earth Sciences. Owen's professional interests are broadly focused on community planning, with particular interests in neighborhood change and place-making activities. In 2006, Owen and Heather edited *Latinos in the New South: Transformations of Place*, published by Ashgate Publishing Limited. On campus, Owen is leading an effort to establish a research and community outreach unit, The Center for Immigration to New Gateways. He is also on the leadership team for *Crossroads Charlotte*, an organization of over 40 public and private entities working to build interracial and cultural connections in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

**Jessica Halpern-Finnerty** ([jfinnert@cows.org](mailto:jfinnert@cows.org)), is a Research Associate at the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), a national policy center and field laboratory for high-road economic development based at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. In addition to her work on *Cities and Immigration: Local Policies for Immigrant-Friendly Cities*, Jessie has contributed to projects at COWS on topics such as labor's role in the new energy economy, and race-based socio-economic disparities in Wisconsin. Jessie is a graduate student in International Public Affairs at the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW – Madison, with a focus in social, labor and employment policy. This summer she will be traveling in Mexico, studying the impact of trade policy on workers and its implications for migration.

**Tomás Jiménez** ([tjimenez@ucsd.edu](mailto:tjimenez@ucsd.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UC-San Diego. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Before coming to UCSD, he was a Congressional Fellow in the office of U.S. Congressman Michael Honda. His research focuses on immigration, race, ethnicity, inequality, and assimilation. He is currently completing a book manuscript, which examines how Mexican immigration influences the assimilation of established, long-standing Mexican Americans. His research has appeared in the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, and the *DuBois Review*. His writing has also appeared in *The Los Angeles Times*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. Professor Jiménez is also a fellow at the New America Foundation and a visiting research fellow at UCSD's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies.

**April Linton** ([aplinton@ucsd.edu](mailto:aplinton@ucsd.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, UC-San Diego. Her current research explores several aspects of non-English language use in the United States, including contexts for Spanish retention among U.S.-born Latinos, the initiation and maintenance of dual-language school programs, and the role of language politics and policy in the immigration debate. Linton's most recent study of dual-language education (with Rebecca C. Franklin) will contribute to a UCLA Civil Rights Project volume on educating English learners under restrictive language policies such as CA Prop. 227. She also works and teaches in the area of trade and global development and is co-editor of *Trading Morsels: Globalization and Governance at the Intersection of Food, Trade, and the Environment* (forthcoming, Routledge).

**Doris Marie Provine** ([marie.provine@asu.edu](mailto:marie.provine@asu.edu)), Professor, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University (Fulbright Scholar, 2007-8, *Centro de Investigaciones sobre America del Norte*, Mexico City). She is a lawyer and political scientist. Much of her past work explores the politics and practices of courts at various levels, from town and village justice courts (*Judging Credentials: Non-lawyer Judges and the Politics of Professionalism*), to the United States Supreme Court (*Case Selection in the US Supreme Court*) and courts at the international level. Her more recent work explores legal issues in social context, with particular

emphasis on racism and inequality, (*Unequal Under Law: Race and the War on Drugs*). Currently Provine is studying the way cities are positioning themselves with respect to national immigration policy in an era of increasing globalization, migration, and inter-urban competition. With the support of a Fulbright North American Studies research grant, she has spent the past academic year studying the local/federal immigration nexus in each of the three NAFTA nations.

**Karthick Ramakrishnan** ([karthick@ucr.edu](mailto:karthick@ucr.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UC-Riverside. His research interests include political participation, civic voluntarism, and the politics of race, ethnicity, and immigration in the United States. He is a principal investigator on a multi-site research project on immigrant civic engagement funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, and a project on civic engagement in new growth regions by the James Irvine Foundation. Ramakrishnan has authored several publications on immigrant adaptation, local governance, and civic engagement. His articles have appeared in *International Migration Review*, *Urban Affairs Review*, and *Social Science Quarterly*. He is also the author of *Democracy in Immigrant America* (Stanford University Press, 2005), and is an editor of two volumes on immigrant politics and civic engagement: *Transforming Politics, Transforming America* (University of Virginia Press, 2006) and *Civic Roots and Political Realities: Immigrants, Community Organizations, and Political Engagement* (Russell Sage Foundation, 2008).

**Hinda Seif** ([hseif2@uis.edu](mailto:hseif2@uis.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Illinois, Springfield. She is also a research associate with University of California San Diego's Center for Comparative Immigration Studies. Prior to relocating to the Illinois State capitol in 2007, she was visiting assistant professor of labor studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick and UC ACCORD postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Latino Policy Research at UC Berkeley. After working for a decade as a director of shelters that served immigrant battered women, an advocate for homeless people living on the streets, and a union organizer in New York City, California, and New England, Seif received her Ph.D. in cultural anthropology at the University of California, Davis. Seif's publications include "Wearing Union T-shirts: Undocumented Women Farm Workers and Gendered Circuits of Political Power" (*Latin American Perspectives*, 2008) and "'Wise Up!' Undocumented (Im)migrant Youth, Latino Legislators, and the Struggle for Higher Education Access" (*Latino Studies*, 2004). She is starting a research project on members of the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus and immigrant incorporation policies and politics in Illinois.

**Heather Smith** ([heatsmit@uncc.edu](mailto:heatsmit@uncc.edu)), Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Earth Sciences, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Heather A. Smith serves as the Director of the interdisciplinary Urban Studies Minor in the College of Arts and Sciences and as a Faculty Research Associate with the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. Heather has an active research agenda in the areas of immigrant settlement and adjustment and urban revitalization and gentrification. Her immigrant based research explores intersections between concentrated poverty and immigrant neighborhoods in Canada's primary gateways and explores the causes, processes and implications of Hispanic "hyper-growth" in Charlotte, NC and the broader US South. Her research has recently been published in a series of edited volumes. A chapter on "The Untraditional Geography of Hispanic Settlement in a New South City" for example, can be found in *Immigrants Outside the Megalopolis: Ethnic Transformation in the Heartland* edited by Richard Jones (Lexington Books, 2008). With Owen J. Furuseth, Heather is the co-editor of *Latinos in the New South: Transformations of Place* (Ashgate, 2006) and the co-author of "Latino Place Making and Community Building in the Middle-Ring Suburbs of Charlotte" published in the Brookings Institution's *Twenty-First Century Gateways: Immigrant Incorporation in Suburban America* (2008).

**Monica Varsanyi** ([monica.varsanyi@asu.edu](mailto:monica.varsanyi@asu.edu)), Assistant Professor, School of Justice and Social Inquiry, Arizona State University. In the fall of 2008, she will become Associate Professor in the Department of Government at John Jay College, City University of New York. Varsanyi is an urban and political geographer (Ph.D., UCLA) whose research addresses the politics of unauthorized immigration in the United States. She is currently working on two related projects: one which explores growing tensions between local grassroots immigration policy activism and the federal government's plenary powers over immigration and citizenship policy; and second, with colleagues at ASU (Scott Decker, Paul Lewis, and Marie Provine) a national study which explores the growing involvement of city police in immigration enforcement, and the impact this is having on the relationship of local police and (unauthorized) immigrant communities. Prior to coming to ASU, she was a postdoctoral scholar at the Centers for Comparative Immigration Studies and U.S.-Mexican Studies at UCSD. Her publications include "Immigration policing through the backdoor: City ordinances, the 'right to the city' and the exclusion of undocumented day laborers," in *Urban Geography*, "Documenting undocumented migrants: The *matrículas consulares* as neoliberal local membership," in *Geopolitics*, "Rescaling the 'alien,' rescaling personhood: Neoliberalism, immigration and the state," forthcoming in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, "Interrogating 'urban citizenship' vis-à-vis undocumented migration," in *Citizenship Studies*, "The rise and fall (and rise?) of noncitizen voting: Immigration and the shifting scales of citizenship and suffrage in the United States," in *Space and Polity*, and "The paradox of contemporary immigrant political mobilization: Organized labor, undocumented migrants and electoral participation in Los Angeles," in *Antipode*.

**Teresa Vázquez** ([tere@csun.edu](mailto:tere@csun.edu)), Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, California State University-Northridge. At the University of California, Berkeley, she obtained her master's in city and regional planning with a concentration in regional and environmental planning. She received her Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. Her research includes both domestic and international topics in planning policy, theory and history, qualitative methods, and planning for diverse and immigrant communities. She is the author of *Land Privatization in Mexico: Urbanization, Formation of Regions and Globalization in Ejidos* (Routledge, 2004).

**Michele Waslin** ([mwaslin@aifl.org](mailto:mwaslin@aifl.org)), Senior Policy Analyst, Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation. Michele Waslin, Ph.D., is Senior Research Analyst at the Immigration Policy Center, a division of the American Immigration Law Foundation located in Washington, DC and dedicated to providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in America. In this capacity Michele tracks and analyzes immigration policy and the immigration debate, writes fact sheets and reports on a multitude of immigration-related topics, provides technical assistance to organizations, conducts public education events, and maintains relationships with wide array of national, state, and local advocacy organizations as well as federal agencies. Michele has authored several publications on immigration policy and post-9/11 immigration issues. Previously she worked as Director of Immigration Policy Research at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and Policy Coordinator at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Originally from Wisconsin, she received her Ph.D. in 2002 in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame.