



UCLA Center for the Study of **International Migration**

Streets of Gold: America's Untold Story of Immigrant Success

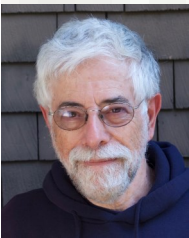
Friday, May 19, 2023 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



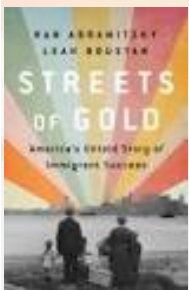
Author: Leah Boustan

Leah Boustan is Professor of Economics at Princeton University and Director of the Industrial Relations Section. She is also a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, where she is co-director of the Development of the American Economy Program. She is co-editor at the American Economic Journal: Applied Economics and on the editorial board of the American Economic Review.



Discussant: Claude S. Fischer

Claude S. Fischer is Professor of the Graduate School in Sociology at U.C. Berkeley. He has worked in urban studies, social networks, the history of technology, and American history. One of his recent books is *Made in America: A Social History of American Culture and Character* (2010).



Immigration is one of the most fraught, and possibly most misunderstood, topics in American social discourse—yet, in most cases, the things we believe about immigration are based largely on myth, not facts. Using the tools of modern data analysis and ten years of pioneering research, new evidence is provided about the past and present of the American Dream, debunking myths fostered by political opportunism and sentimentalized in family histories, and draw counterintuitive conclusions, including:

Upward Mobility: Children of immigrants from nearly every country, especially those of poor immigrants, do better economically than children of U.S.-born residents – a pattern that has held for more than a century.

Rapid Assimilation: Immigrants accused of lack of assimilation (such as Mexicans today and the Irish in the past) actually assimilate fastest.

Improved Economy: Immigration changes the economy in unexpected positive ways and staves off the economic decline that is the consequence of an aging population.

Helps U.S. Born: Closing the door to immigrants harms the economic prospects of the U.S.-born—the people politicians are trying to protect.

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