



CCIS | Center for Comparative
Immigration Studies

UCLA Center for the Study of
International Migration

Unwanted: Italian and Jewish Mobilization against Restrictive Immigration Laws, 1882–1965

Friday, January 22, 2021 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM

Will be held via Zoom



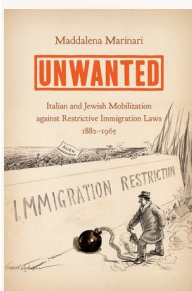
Author: Maddalena Marinari

Maddalena Marinari is Associate Professor of History at Gustavus Adolphus College. She has written extensively on immigration restriction, U.S. immigration policy, and immigrant mobilization. Her book *Unwanted: Italian And Jewish Mobilization Against Restrictive Immigration Laws, 1882-1965* explores Italian and Jewish mobilization against restrictive immigration laws from 1882 to 1965. Along with Maria Cristina Garcia and Madeline Hsu, she is one of the editors of *A Nation of Immigrants Reconsidered: U.S. Society in an Age of Restriction, 1924-1965*, an anthology on the impact of immigration restriction on the United States in the twentieth century.



Discussant: Roger Waldinger

Roger Waldinger, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Director of the UCLA Center for the Study of International Migration has written on numerous aspects of international migration. Recent publications include: *The Cross-Border Connection: Immigrants, Emigrants, and their Homelands* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015); *A Century of Transnationalism: Immigrants and their Homeland Connections* (co-edited with Nancy Green; University of Illinois Press, 2016); and *Origins and Destinations: The Making of the Second Generation*, co-authored with Renee Luthra and Thomas Soehl (Russell Sage Foundation Press: 2018).



In the late nineteenth century, millions of Italians and Eastern European Jews left their countries to take advantage of the demand for unskilled labor in industrializing nations including the United States. Many Americans of Northern and Western European ancestry regarded these newcomers as biologically and culturally inferior, and by 1924 the United States had instituted national origins quotas to curtail their immigration. Weaving together political, social, and transnational history, Maddalena Marinari in *Unwanted: Italian and Jewish Mobilization against Restrictive Immigration Laws* examines how Italian American and Jewish reformers profoundly influenced the country's immigration policy. Restrictionist legislators, anti-immigrant hysteria, and a fickle executive branch often left these immigrants with few options except to negotiate and accept political compromises. As they tested the limits of citizen activism, the reformers shaped the terms of debate around immigration in the United States in ways we still reckon with today.

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