



Immigration/Migration Research at Columbia

sponsored by The Columbia Population Research Center's

Immigration/Migration Signature Research Area Group

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Participant Biographies

Session I: Immigration/Migration and Health

LISA BATES, Speaker

Lisa Bates is an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Trained as a Social Epidemiologist, she received her doctorate from the Department of Society, Human Development, and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health and was a 2005-2007 Columbia University Health & Society Scholar. Her research focuses on how social stratification and processes of social change translate into health outcomes. Current work addresses socioeconomic and cultural dimensions of immigrant adaptation and health in the U.S., with attention to life course issues, subgroup differences in the effects of immigration on health, and critical perspectives on acculturation. Bates is a co-founder of the Cross-National Initiative on Place, Migration, and Health, a network of researchers in the US and elsewhere committed to understanding the links between migration processes and the health of (im)migrants, their families, and their sending and receiving communities using a cross-national lens for research and policy.

YAO LU, Speaker

Yao Lu's research focuses on social stratification and demography from a comparative perspective. She is particularly interested in understanding various causes and consequences of migration and immigration in the context of societal changes in a variety of settings, including China, Indonesia, South Africa, and the United States. Currently she is working on a national survey project to collect data on migration and health in China.

ALASTAIR AGER, Speaker

Alastair Ager, PhD, is Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health in the Mailman School of Public Health. He has worked in the field of global health and development for over twenty years, after originally training in psychology at the universities of Keele, Wales and Birmingham in the UK. He was head of the Department of Psychology at the University of Malawi from 1989 until 1992, and subsequently served as Foundation Director of the Institute of International Health and Development at Queen Margaret University College, Edinburgh. Immediately before joining Columbia he was Senior Research Manager for the UK Department for International Development, with responsibility for the agency's \$50 million per annum global portfolio of health and education research. He has wide international experience as a lecturer, researcher and consultant across sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Europe and North America, working with a range of intergovernmental, non-governmental and governmental agencies. He is a Board Member of the Antares Foundation, supporting the development of effective staff care within the humanitarian sector. In 2009 he was appointed as Executive Director of the Global Health Initiative based at the Mailman School of Public Health. He is author of over one hundred scholarly publications. His current research and writing is focused in the areas of child protection in crisis settings; global health systems and strategy; integration of refugees and forced migrants; and the organization of humanitarian response.

SALLY FINDLEY, Chair

Sally Findley is a Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health and Clinical Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Findley's work is dedicated to finding creative strategies to expand opportunities for the disadvantaged, particularly mothers and their children, and most notably, strategies that facilitate the adoption of improved health promotion practices or increase adherence to recommended treatment programs, such as daily medications for asthma. Her work grows out of the needs of her partner organizations, and currently includes childhood asthma and immunizations, and child survival in Mali. Dr. Findley's research involves close collaboration with community partners, whether in New York or in Mali. All her work utilizes a community-based participatory approach for the design, implementation, and research aspects of the programs. Throughout her work she seeks to embed a strong training component that empowers partners to carry on both the interventions and the evaluation of those interventions as they evolve.

Session II: Immigrants and the Labor Market

YINON COHEN, Speaker

Yinon Cohen is the Yosef H. Yerushalmi Professor of Israel and Jewish Studies and also a Professor of Sociology at Columbia University. Yinon Cohen received his B.A. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and his M.A and Ph.D. from SUNY at Stony Brook. His research focuses on international migration, social stratification and labor markets. Current and recent research projects include patterns of self selection and earnings assimilation of immigrants in Israel, Germany, and the USA, the development of socioeconomic ethnic and gender gaps in Israel, rising income inequality in Israel, and the transformation of the Israeli Industrial Relations system.

NEERAJ KAUSHAL, Speaker

Dr. Neeraj Kaushal is Associate Professor of social work, and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is also Research Fellow at IZA - the Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, Germany. She is a labor and health economist, and her research focus is on how policies and events affect the well-being of low-income families with special emphasis on immigrants.

IRWIN GARFINKEL, Chair

Irwin Garfinkel is the Mitchell I. Ginsberg Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems and co-director of the Columbia Population Research Center. A social worker and an economist by training, he has authored or co-authored over 180 scientific articles and twelve books on poverty, income transfers, program evaluation, single parent families and child support, and the welfare state. His research on child support influenced legislation in Wisconsin and other American states, the US Congress, Great Britain, Australia, and Sweden. He is currently the co-principal investigator of the Fragile Families and Child Well being Study. His most recent book is *Wealth and Welfare States: Is America Laggard or Leader?*

Session III: A Panel Discussion – Immigration Policy in the US: Where we are? How did we get here? Where do we go?

RODOLFO de la GARZA, Speaker

Rodolfo de la Garza is the Eaton Professor of Administrative Law and Municipal Science at Columbia University. He combines interests in Political Behavior and Public Policy. In Political Behavior he specializes in ethnic politics, with particular emphasis on Latino public opinion and electoral involvement. His primary interests in public policy include immigration and immigrant settlement and incorporation. He has edited, co-edited and co-authored numerous books; among them are *The Future of the Voting Rights Act*; *Muted Voices: Latinos and the 2000 Election*; and *Sending Money Home. Hispanic Remittances and Community Development*. Currently he is directing studies on immigrant incorporation, Latinos and U. S. foreign policy and Latino voting patterns. Professor de la Garza has also participated in the evaluation and design of community service programs including increasing immigrant access to health services in California, and in evaluating Texas' state-sponsored naturalization campaign.

FRANCISCO RIVERA-BATIZ, Speaker

Francisco Rivera-Batiz is a Professor of Economic and Education at Teachers College, Executive Director of the Program in International Migration at Columbia University, and Director of the New York Latino Research Clearinghouse. He has conducted extensive research on the socioeconomic effects of immigration in U.S. labor markets and on U.S. immigration policy. His research has focused on migration from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to the U.S., examining the forces behind this mass migration, the impact on the U.S. labor market, and the socioeconomic progress of the immigrants themselves. He has, for example, sought to explain why the earnings of LAC migrants have been sharply declining relative to the earnings of other immigrants as well as natives. Research on this issue—published in 2007 by the journal *World Economy*, using data from various Census PUMS as well as the 2005 American Community Survey—shows that the most significant factor explaining the lower relative wages of LAC migrants in the U.S. is the comparatively low (and declining) educational attainment of these migrants relative to other immigrant groups and natives. Rivera-Batiz has also written on Dominican, Mexican, Puerto Rican and other Latino groups in New York City and in the U.S., and his socioeconomic profiles

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of Dominican and Mexican New Yorkers have been widely disseminated in the press. Rivera-Batiz has received funding from the State Assembly of New York to carry out some of his research and dissemination activities on the Latino population of New York.

DAVID REIMERS, Speaker

David Reimers is a Professor Emeritus of History at New York University. His research interests include immigration, U.S. history, ethnicity, and nativism. He has authored several books; among them are *Other Americans: The Global Origins of the American People* (New York University Press, 2005); *Unwelcome Strangers: American Identity and the Turn Against Immigration. The New Nativism* (Columbia University Press, 1998); and *Still the Golden Door: The Third World Comes to America* (Columbia University Press, 1985, 2d edition, 1992). He is currently working on two projects for Oxford University Press: essays for the Oxford University handbook on migration and immigration; and a book entitled, *New Laws, New People: Immigration and American Society Since 1945*.