Beyond the contentious politics of immigration policy lie questions about the conditions under which the children of the new immigrants will be successful in finding a place in American society. Professor Richard Alba will draw upon a new theory of assimilation and empirical research on integration to paint a portrait of opportunities and challenges and describe how the fate of the second generation is indelibly tied to the future of the entire country.

The seeds of Richard Alba’s interest in race, ethnicity and immigration were sown during his childhood in the Bronx of the 1940s and 1950s and nurtured intellectually at Columbia University, where he received his undergraduate and graduate education. Increasingly, his teaching and research have taken on a comparative focus, encompassing the immigration societies of North America and Western Europe. His books include the award-winning Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary Immigration (2003), co-written with Victor Nee; Blurring the Color Line: The New Chance for a More Integrated America (2009); and The Next Generation: Immigrant Youth in a Comparative Perspective (2011, co-edited with Mary Waters). Richard Alba is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and is Acting Director of the Center for Urban Research.