The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) Press Kit
April 2014

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BACKGROUND

The mission of The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC is to remake the narrative for understanding and the dialogue for shaping, immigrant integration in America. Our intent is to identify and evaluate the mutual benefits of immigrant integration for the native-born and immigrants and to study the pace of the ongoing transformation in different locations, not only in the past and present but projected into the future.

Thus, CSII brings together three emphases: scholarship that draws on academic theory and rigorous research, data that provides information structured to highlight the process of immigrant integration over time, and engagement that seeks to create new dialogues with government, community organizers, business and civic leaders, immigrants and the voting public.

CSII’s work is rooted in three R’s: rigor, relevance, and reach. In general, we seek and support direct collaborations with community-based organizations in research and other activities, trying to forge a new model of how university and community can work together for the common good.

CSII was founded in 2008 by Professor Manuel Pastor (current CSII Director), and Dowell Myers, USC Professor of Policy, Planning and Development and is now Co-Directed by Professor Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo.

LEADERSHIP

Dr. Manuel Pastor is a Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity at USC where he serves as Director of USC’s Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) and Director of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII). Pastor’s research has focused on the economic, environmental, and social conditions facing low-income urban communities in the United States. Full bio and profile: http://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/pastor

Dr. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo is a Professor of Sociology at USC where she serves as CSII’s Associate Director. Dr. Hondagneu-Sotelo’s research fortes lay in international migration, immigrant integration, Mexican/Latino immigrant workers, Muslim American immigrants in the post-9/11 era, informal labor sectors, gender, and religion and social movements for immigrant rights. Full bio and profile: http://dornsife.usc.edu/cf/faculty-and-staff/faculty.cfm?pid=1003363

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CSII Leadership
A full listing of all PERE/CSII staff available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/staff

Dr. Manuel Pastor
Director, PERE and Director, CSII
Professor of Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity
at the University of Southern California

Dr. Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) at USC and co-directs USC’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. He holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In recent years, his research has focused on the economic, environmental, and social conditions facing low-income urban communities in the United States. He is also a sought-after speaker on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment. (Full bio available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/pastor)

Dr. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo
Associate Director, CSII
Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California

Dr. Hondagneu-Sotelo is the Associate Director of USC’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley as well as an M.A. in Latin American Studies. Dr. Hondagneu-Sotelo’s research fortes lay in international migration, immigrant integration, Mexican/Latino immigrant workers, Muslim American immigrants in the post-9/11 era, informal labor sectors, gender, and religion and social movements for immigrant rights. (Full bio available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/cf/faculty-and-staff/faculty.cfm?pid=1003363)

Rhonda Ortiz
Project Manager, PERE/CSII

Rhonda Ortiz is a Project Manager at the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity and the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at USC where she both manages research projects and conducts research. Ortiz holds a Masters in Urban Planning from UCLA and is fluent in Spanish. Ortiz previously worked as an Evaluation Associate for The California Endowment, and as a Research Analyst for SEIU Local 399 conducting research on the living wage ordinance in Santa Monica and coordinating an environmental education program. Ortiz was a member of the inaugural cohort of the Rockwood Fellowship for a New California. (Full bio available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/pere/oritz)
The PERE/CSII Story

The Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE) was founded in 2007 to support communities working to build stronger, healthier, and more just communities by adding to their work rigorous research with relevancy to policy debates.

We believe that long-term change is made when communities are empowered and hold decision-makers accountable. Community organizing does just that – it builds capacity in communities that stays beyond election cycles and can grow over years to form a different type of force for change. And when communities come together across race, space, and place, movements for change build and have an impact on greater scales of governance.

One of the many elements required to make this sort of change is research – PERE’s niche. Social movements always have an intellectual side wherein root causes are explored and strategies are weighed. As a university-based research organization with reach to affected communities, PERE has contributed reliable data in the areas of environmental justice, immigrant integration, and regional equity that is academically rigorous as well as relevant to policy debates.

In 2008, PERE took into account the growing intensity of the immigration debate. To create space for this body of research, the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) was born from within PERE and took on its own branding – a deep engagement of the many immigration researchers at USC, a developing ability to be responsive to just-in-time data requests, and an intentionally cross-sectoral approach to building broad alliances.

Longtime USC faculty, Dowell Myers (Price School of Public Policy) joined PERE founding director Manuel Pastor (Sociology and American Studies & Ethnicity) to co-direct CSII in those first few years, then passed the co-directorship to Ange-Marie Hancock (Political Science) and in 2013 to Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo (Sociology).

With immigrant integration now housed at CSII, social movement research – which was always the line through PERE’s issue areas – became, explicitly, one of the three priority research areas: regional equity, environmental justice, and social movement building. Because of its many community partnerships, PERE is well situated to not just provide data analysis but also to study the development of contemporary movements for social justice. To date, PERE has over 300 interviews with community leaders on making change through social movement organizing.

Today, PERE/CSII has grown to an organization of ten full-time staff; many affiliated faculty at USC and other universities; strong relationships with most social justice organizations and philanthropic partners in Los Angeles, many in California, and others throughout the nation; and the capacity to provide quantitative and qualitative data on issues of environmental equity, regional development, immigrant integration, and best practices for building social movement.

Learn more about PERE and CSII:
http://dornsife.usc.edu/per
http://csii.usc.edu
What is Immigrant Integration?

CSII defines immigrant integration as improved economic mobility for, enhanced civic participation by, and receiving society openness to immigrants. We identify and evaluate the mutual benefits for the native-born and immigrants and study the pace of change in different locations, not only in the past and present but the future as well. CSII concentrates on: scholarship and rigorous research; data that provides information on immigrant integration over time; and dialogue between government, community organizers, business and civic leaders, immigrants and the voting public.

Quick California immigrant integration facts:

- 27% of Californians are immigrants.
- Of all children in California, 48% have at least one immigrant parent.
- One in six of all California kids have at least one undocumented parent.

Quick Los Angeles County immigrant integration facts:

- One-third of Los Angeles residents are immigrants, nearly half of our workforce is foreign-born, and two-thirds of those under 18 are the children of immigrants.
- Children of immigrants are 64% of all LA County children - and nearly 90% of those are US citizens.
- Long-term immigrants (those who have stayed more than 30 years) have higher home-ownership rates than the US-born, 63% and 54%, respectively.

For additional data on Los Angeles, see CSII’s report, “Immigrant Integration in Los Angeles”

For additional data on CA and its counties, see CSII’s report, “What’s At Stake for the State”
http://csii.usc.edu/documents/whats_at_stake_for_the_state.pdf
CSII in the News

Recent Op-Eds and Media Mentions

Scars from the Immigration Wars
By Joshua Hoyt and Manuel Pastor
The Chicago Tribune - January 3, 2014

Viewpoints: California, unlike the federal government, leads on immigration reform
By Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Manuel Pastor
Special to The Bee – October 21, 2013
http://www.sacbee.com/2013/10/17/5827489/viewpoints-california-unlike-the.html

Why City Hall needs an immigrant affairs office
By Maria Blanco and Manuel Pastor
Los Angeles Times – September 10, 2013
http://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-immigrant-affairs-city-hall-blowback-20130910,0,3074164.story

Much at stake in immigration reform
By Tim Rutten
Daily News Los Angeles - May 10, 2013

California Has Most to Gain From Immigration Reform
By Albert Sabaté
ABC News Unvision - May 10, 2013

USC: One in Six Calif. Kids Has an Undocumented Parent
New America Media - May 10, 2013

Huffington Post– selected blog posts by Manuel Pastor
The full listing of blog posts available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/manuel-pastor/

Republicans: Don't Worry About the Votes of the Unauthorized, Fear the Power of Their Citizen Kids
February 6, 2014

Why Citizenship Matters: Getting to the Bottom Line
August 4, 2013

Immigrant Integration Is American -- and Key to Reform
June 21, 2013

Nurturing Naturalization
February 28, 2013
Featured CSII Projects

**What's at Stake for the State: Undocumented Californians, Immigration Reform, and Our Future Together**

By Manuel Pastor and Enrico Marcelli, with Vanessa Carter and Jared Sanchez
May 2013

"What's at Stake for the State" paints a multi-hued picture of the state’s 2.6 million unauthorized Californians, providing data at the state and regional levels on their demographics, their potential income gains, and how to make the most of their authorization.

Building off a methodology originally pioneered by co-author, Enrico A. Marcelli (Demographer, Department of Sociology, San Diego State University) to estimate the unauthorized, “What’s at Stake for the State” is the first report to estimate undocumented Californians at this breadth and level of detail.

One in six California kids have at least one undocumented parent and 81% of those kids are citizens. Nearly half (49%) of undocumented Californians have lived here more than 10 years. And they are nearly 7% of California’s total population, 8% of all adults and 9% of the state’s workforce.

More info: [http://csii.usc.edu/undocumentedCA.html](http://csii.usc.edu/undocumentedCA.html)

**CCF Council on Immigrant Integration**

This two-year project is designed to organize, convene, and facilitate a council of stakeholders in Los Angeles County for the California Community Foundation (CSII). The CCF Council on Immigrant Integration brings together business, labor, community-based organizations and city planners/governmental agencies to build alliances across sectors and to tackle policy development.

The goal of the Council is that members achieve a common understanding of immigrants’ complex roles in local communities; engage in candid discussions about the realities facing immigrants and receiving communities; and reach consensus about mutual responsibilities and shared community goals that can ensure the continued social and economic well-being of the region. This project is funded by the California Community Foundation.

More info: [http://csii.usc.edu/projects_council.html](http://csii.usc.edu/projects_council.html)
CSII Publications

What's at Stake for the State: Undocumented Californians, Immigration Reform, and Our Future Together

May 2013
By Manuel Pastor and Enrico Marcelli; With Vanessa Carter and Jared Sanchez

Nurturing Naturalization: Could Lowering the Fee Help?

February 2013
Prepared by Manuel Pastor, Jared Sanchez, Rhonda Ortiz, and Justin Scoggins; Commissioned by the National Partnership for New Americans;

Citizen Gain: The Economic Benefits of Naturalization for Immigrants and the Economy

December 2012
By Manuel Pastor and Justin Scoggins

Rock the (Naturalized) Vote: The Size and Location of the Recently Naturalized Voting Age Citizen Population

October 2012
By Manuel Pastor and Jared Sanchez

California Immigrant Integration Scorecard

October 2012
By Manuel Pastor, Rhonda Ortiz, Vanessa Carter, Justin Scoggins, Anthony Perez

All Together Now? African Americans, Immigrants, and the Future of California

September 2011
by Manuel Pastor, Juan De Lara, and Justin Scoggins