The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) Online Press Kit
December 2015

Table of Contents

CSII Fact Sheet 2
CSII Leadership 3
The PERE/CSII Story 4
What is Immigrant Integration? 5
CSII In the Media 6
Featured CSII Projects 7
CSII Publications 8
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/csii/manuel-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/csii/pierrette-hondagneu-sotelo

CONTACT

Mailing: 950 W. Jefferson Blvd, JEF 102 Los Angeles, CA 90089-1291
Phone: 213.821.1325 Fax: 213.740.5680
Web*: http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii Email: csii@dornsife.usc.edu
Twitter: @CSII_USC Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/csii.usc

* Please note the new location of CSII’s website as of August 2014
CSII Leadership

A full listing of all PERE/CSII staff available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/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/csii/manuel-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, Berkley 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/csii/pierrette-hondagneu-sotelo)

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/ortiz)
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/pere
http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii
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” http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/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://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/undocumentedca/
CSII in the News

Recent Op-Eds and Media Mentions

Kin of undocumented could swell U.S voter rolls by 1.6 million
By Inquirer.net – December 1, 2015
http://globalnation.inquirer.net/133014/kin-of-undocumented-could-swell-u-s-voter-rolls-by-1-6-million

Immigrants May Impact an Election
By Richard Gonzales; NPR: The Two Way – November 24, 2015

Growing Number of Voters Have Families Impacted by Immigration
By Griselda Nevarez; NBC News Latino – November 19, 2015

Diversity in Southern California’s Asian immigrant community
By Brenda Gazzar; The San Bernardino Sun – October 4, 2015

Latinos Now Dominate Watts, but Some Feel Blacks Still Hold Power
By Esmeralda Bermudez and Paloma Esquivel; Los Angeles Times – August 10, 2015
http://www.latimes.com/local/wattsriots/la-me-watts-riots-latinos-20150809-story.html#page=1

Immigrant Relief Will Come Through the Courts Or the Ballot Box
By Kamal Essaheb; Sojourners – July 14, 2015
https://sojo.net/articles/immigration-relief-will-come-through-courts-or-ballot-box

Nearly 80 percent of Latino families struggle to get by in LA
By A Martinez; KPCC Take Two – March 23, 2015
http://scpr.org/programs/take-two/2015/03/23/42055/nearly-80-percent-of-latino-families-struggle-to-g/

USC study cites political risk to GOP for opposing immigration plan
By Kate Linthicum; Los Angeles Times – March 11, 2015

A Bumpy Road on Immigration
By Susan Milligan; U.S. News and World Report – February 23, 2015

Most States Suing Obama Over Immigration Have Small Undocumented Populations
http://nationaljournal.com/next-america/newsdesk/most-states-suing-obama-over-immigration-have-small-undocumented-populations-20150129

High Fees Limiting U.S. Citizenship to Wealthy, Non-Mexicans
By Suzanne Gamboa; NBC News – January 12, 2015
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://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/undocumentedca](http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/undocumentedca)

---

**CCF Council on Immigrant Integration**

This 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://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/council-on-ii/](http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/council-on-ii/)
CSII Publications

Additional reports available at http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/publications

DAPA Matters: The Growing Electorate Directly Affected by Executive Action on Immigration

November 2015
By the Center for the Study of American Progress, Manuel Pastor, Tom Jawetz, and Lizet Ocampo

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/dapa-matters

The Kids Aren’t Alright – But They Could Be: The Impact of DAPA on Children

March 2015
By Manuel Pastor, Jared Sanchez, and Vanessa Carter

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/dapa-impacts-children/

Unauthorized and Uninsured: Building Healthy Communities in California

February 2015
By Enrico Marcelli and Manuel Pastor

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/unauthorized-and-uninsured

Citizenship: A Wise Investment for Cities

September 2014
By The Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), and CSII

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/citizenship-matters

Citizenship Matters: How Children of Immigrants Will Sway the Future of Politics

July 2014
By Manuel Pastor, Justin Scoggins, Vanessa Carter, and the Center for American Progress

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/citizenship-matters

Why Excluding Undocumented Californians from the Affordable Care Act Hurts All of Us

May 2014
By Enrico Marcelli, Manuel Pastor, and Steven P. Wallace

http://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/ensuring-california/