Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) presents

**Immigrant Intergenerational Mobility**

*Methods, Interpretations, and Policy Implications*

October 28, 2009
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Davidson Conference Center
University of Southern California
Today will offer a close examination of our state of knowledge. Leading scholars in the field of immigration will discuss both the successes and failures of second-generation immigrants’ economic, political, and social incorporation in the United States.

Each presentation is a focused event accompanied by two commentators, followed by audience question and answer. The day will conclude with a synthesis that seeks to explain divergent findings and to propose dimensions of a consensus about intergenerational mobility.

Three broad objectives guide the day’s deliberations:

• Taking stock of recent and new findings on immigrant intergenerational mobility (how much do sons and daughters exceed the integration and status attainment of their immigrant parents, and over what period of time);
• Producing a more systematized understanding from the diversity of methods, ethnic groups, and metropolitan findings; and
• Assessing the implications for debates over immigration policy reform.

There are many specific questions that have emerged in debates over intergenerational mobility and how to best measure it. A few of the key questions deserving attention include:

• What are the most appropriate comparison groups or standards for evaluating the degree of intergenerational mobility?
• What constitutes upward or downward mobility?
• What outcome indicators are most important? And are there different conclusions that follow from focusing on different outcome topics?
• Finally, what are the implications of intergenerational mobility, in all its variations, for immigration reform that has been pending before Congress?

This workshop has been organized by the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII) at USC. The mission of CSII is to remake the narrative for understanding, and the dialogue for shaping immigrant integration in America. CSII brings together three emphases: leading scholarship, new data, and dialogue among major stakeholders.

Organized By:
USC’s Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration

Sponsored By:
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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James Irvine Foundation
8:30 AM OPENING REMARKS

Dowell Myers, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California

INTRODUCTIONS

9:00 PRESENTATION
Insights on Mobility in the Russell Sage New York Study

John Mollenkopf, Director, The Center for Urban Research, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

9:20 RESPONDENTS

Roger Waldinger, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

Janelle Wong, Professor of Political Science and American Studies & Ethnicity, University of Southern California

9:40 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

10:00 PRESENTATION
Generations of Exclusion: Mexican Americans, Assimilation, and Race

Vilma Ortiz, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

10:20 RESPONDENTS

George Sanchez, Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and History, University of Southern California

Susan Brown, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine

10:40 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

11:00 BREAK

11:15 PRESENTATION
Tracking Generation Cohorts Against Evolving Standards Set by the Mainstream

Julie Park, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park

Dowell Myers, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California

11:35 RESPONDENTS

Frank D. Bean, Director, Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy, University of California, Irvine

Enrico Marcelli, Associate Professor of Sociology, San Diego State University
11:55  QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

12:15  LUNCHEON

12:45  PRESENTATION
Mobility Design and Lessons from the Russell Sage LA Study
Frank D. Bean, Director, Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy, University of California, Irvine
Susan Brown, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine

1:10  RESPONDENTS
Vilma Ortiz, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Jennifer Glick, Associate Professor, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

1:30  QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2:00  PANEL DISCUSSION
Implications for Immigration Reform
Manuel Pastor, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California (Moderator)
Angelica Salas, Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles
Reshma Shamasunder, Director of California Immigrant Policy Center
John Mollenkopf, Director, The Center for Urban Research, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

2:40  QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2:50  BREAK

3:00  SYNTHESIS OF THE ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE ON INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY
Tomás Jiménez, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Stanford University
Manuel Pastor, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California

3:30  DISCUSSION

4:00  CLOSING COMMENTS:
The Final Take-aways of What We Have Learned
Dowell Myers, Co-Director, Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, University of Southern California
Frank D. Bean  
**Director, Center for Research on Immigration, Population and Public Policy, University of California, Irvine**

Prior to joining the UCI faculty, Frank D. Bean served as Ashbel Smith Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Director of the Population Research Center, and Chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin. He was also the founding Director of both the Program for Research on Immigration Policy and the Population Studies Center at The Urban Institute in Washington, DC. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Council on Foreign Relations, as well as a past recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. He has also been a Visiting Scholar at the Research School for Advanced Social Sciences at the Australian National University, the American Academy in Berlin, and the Russell Sage Foundation, as well as Distinguished Senior Visiting Fellow at CCIS and the Center for U.S. Mexico Relations at the University of California, San Diego. His current research focuses on the implications of U.S. immigration policies, Mexican immigrant incorporation, the implications of immigration for changing race/ethnicity in the United States, the determinants and health consequences of immigrant naturalization, and the development of new estimates of unauthorized immigration and emigration. Dr. Bean is also a participating faculty member in the program in Demographic and Social Analysis.

Susan K. Brown  
**Associate Professor of Sociology, University of California, Irvine**

Susan Brown is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. She holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Washington and an A.B. in government from Harvard/Radcliffe College. Professor Brown is examining the spatial and socioeconomic mobility of those of Mexican origin in greater Los Angeles. She also looks at inequalities of access to higher education. She has been co-Principal Investigator on the project “Immigration and Intergenerational Mobility in Metropolitan Los Angeles,” sponsored by the Russell Sage Foundation. She is the author of the 2004 book (under the name Susan Wierzbicki) *Beyond the Immigrant Enclave: Network Change and Assimilation*, and her recent publications have appeared in *Social Forces, City & Community*, and *Sociology of Education*. 

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*Intergenerational Mobility Conference - October 28, 2009*
Jennifer E. Glick
Associate Professor, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University

Jennifer E. Glick holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin and a BA in Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. This work focuses on immigrant adaptation and family survival strategies in receiving contexts. She has worked on projects examining life course transitions of immigrant and native youth in the United States. This includes a comparison of two cohorts of adolescents in their educational, family formation and labor market trajectories. More recently she has turned to examine the role of family and school context on the early school transitions of young children in immigrant families. A second area of research continues her long-term interest in immigration, family/household composition and intergenerational wealth-flows. This work addresses the economic distribution of wealth in immigrant and native households and the stability of extended family households over time. The relative importance of national origins and placement in the racial/ethnic hierarchy for immigrant adaptation also underpin much of this work. Dr. Glick’s new book (with Michael J. White) is Achieving Anew: How New Immigrants Do In American Schools, Jobs, and Neighborhoods. (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2009).

Tomás Jiménez
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Stanford University

Tomás Jiménez is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stanford University. He is also an Irvine Fellow at the New America Foundation. His research and writing focus on immigration, assimilation, social mobility, and ethnic and racial identity. His book, Replenished Ethnicity: Mexican Americans, Immigration and Identity (forthcoming, University of California Press), draws on interviews and participant observation to understand how uninterrupted Mexican immigration influences the ethnic identity of later-generation Mexican Americans. This research has been published in the American Journal of Sociology, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Social Science Quarterly, DuBois Review, and the Annual Review of Sociology. He is undertaking two new research projects. The first aims to understand how the ethnoracial and national identities of individuals in the host society are shaped by immigration. The second explores how high school US history textbooks from 1930-2008 weave immigration and immigrants into the national narrative. Jiménez has also taught at the University of California, San Diego. Before that, he was the American Sociological Association Congressional Fellow in the office of Rep. Michael Honda (CA-15), where he served as a legislative aide for immigration, veterans affairs, housing, and election reform. His writing on policy has appeared in reports for the Immigration Policy Center, and he has written opinion-editorials on the topic of immigrant assimilation in several major newspapers. He holds a B.S. in Sociology from Santa Clara University and A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology from Harvard University.
Enrico Marcelli is Associate Professor of Sociology and the Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies (BACH) at San Diego State University. Prior to moving to SDSU in 2007 he held positions at UCSD’s Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UCLA’s Drug Abuse Research Center and Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies, UMASS Boston’s Department of Economics, and Harvard University’s School of Public Health. His main areas of interest include U.S. international migration, biodemography, community-based statistical survey research, and the social determinants of health. Specifically, he teaches courses in survey research methods, urban economics/sociology, and the political economy of international migration and health. Along with demographer David Heer and researchers from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte (COLEF), he helped develop a survey-based method for estimating the number, characteristics and effects of unauthorized migrants employed in the United States. His early work using random individual-level data collected from foreign-born adult Mexicans residing in Los Angeles County investigated the labor market effects and integration of unauthorized Mexican migrants (e.g., International Migration, Journal of Economic Issues), their use of public assistance and remittance behavior (Sociological Perspectives, International Migration Review), homeownership (Social Science Quarterly), illegal substance use (Journal of Drug Issues, Journal of Ethnicity and Criminal Justice), and access to health insurance and medical care (Migraciones Internacionales). More recently he has begun studying the behavioral (e.g., social capital, sleep) and biological (e.g., physiological stress) mechanisms through which family environment, neighborhood context and workplace influence health outcomes using the 2007 Boston Metropolitan Immigrant Health & Legal Status Survey (BM-IHLSS) – a probabilistic household sample funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation that includes self-reported and biological data from more than 600 adult foreign-born Brazilian and Dominican migrants who were residing in the Boston metropolitan area. His first co-edited volume, entitled Informal Work in Developed Nations, was published in 2009 by Routledge.

John Mollenkopf is Director of the Center for Urban Research. He is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and coordinates its interdisciplinary concentration in Public Policy and Urban Studies. He has authored and edited fifteen books on urban politics, urban policy, immigration, and New York City. Prior to joining the Graduate Center in 1981, he directed the Economic Development Division of the New York City Department of City Planning and taught Urban Studies and Public Management at Stanford University.
Dowell Myers is a professor of urban planning and demography in the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development. He is director of the Population Dynamics Research Group and also serves as co-Director of the new Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at USC. Well-known as a specialist in demographic trends and their relation to all areas of policy and planning, Dr. Myers leads the ongoing USC California Demographic Futures research project. Recent applications have focused on the upward mobility of immigrants to the US and California, trajectories into homeownership, changing transportation behavior, education and labor force trends, and projections for the future of the California population. A frequent public speaker on the dynamics and meaning of demographic trends, Dr. Myers has testified before the U.S. Congress at Ellis Island and before the California Legislature. His recent research is appearing in Demography and International Migration Review. His newest book, *Immigrants and Boomers: Forging a New Social Contract for the Future of America* (Russell Sage, New York) received the 2007 Thomas and Znaniecki Award from the American Sociological Association for Best Book on Immigration. He also received the best article award for 2008 for “Aging Baby Boomers and the Generational Housing Bubble” that appeared in the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Dr. Myers holds a Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and he also studied demography and sociology at Harvard University. That was preceded by a Master of City Planning degree from the University of California, Berkeley and an B.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University.
Vilma Ortiz
Professor of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

Vilma Ortiz is Professor of Sociology at University of California, Los Angeles. Her research addresses broad theoretical issues of racial/ethnic stratification and social inequality. For more than 20 years, she has studied the socio-economic experiences of Latinos in the U.S., focusing both on specific Latino groups as well as comparative studies with other racial/ethnic groups. She and Edward Telles are co-authors of the award-winning Generations of Exclusion: Mexican Americans, Assimilation, and Race (Russell Sage, 2008). Using unique longitudinal and inter-generational data, they examine Mexican-American integration across a wide number of dimensions: education, English and Spanish language use, socioeconomic status, intermarriage, residential segregation, ethnic identity, and political participation. They find that Mexican Americans do not fit traditional models of assimilation and they identify institutional barriers as a major source of Mexican-American disadvantage.

Julie Park
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park

Julie Park is currently Assistant Professor of Sociology and the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. She is also a faculty associate of the Maryland Population Research Center (MPRC). Professor Park’s research focuses most broadly on the adaptation process of immigrants in the United States which includes the areas of immigration, demography, race, and urban studies. Specifically, she examines how immigrants improve their socioeconomic status with longer duration in the U.S. Second, she utilizes an innovative cohort method to assess the intergenerational mobility across immigrant generations. A third topic area addresses how residential segregation is changing in new and established immigrant gateways. Her latest research is appearing in Social Science and Medicine and in Demography. She received her Ph.D. (2003) and M.A. (2001) in Sociology as well as a Masters in Urban Planning (1998) from the University of Southern California. She received her B.A. in sociology at the University of California, Davis.
Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Founding Director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC and is Co-Director, with Dowell Myers, of USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. He holds an Economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, the California Air Resources Board, and many others. Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. His most recent book, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America* (Cornell University Press 2009; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuoka), suggests how regional organizing is charting a new path for progressive politics and policies in America’s urban areas.

Angelica Salas is the director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and is widely regarded as one of the most gifted organizers in the country today. Since becoming CHIRLA's director in 1999, Salas has spearheaded several ambitious campaigns. She helped win in-state tuition for undocumented immigrant students and established day laborer job centers that serves as a model for the rest of the nation. She led efforts to allow all California drivers to obtain a drivers license and is a leading spokesperson on federal immigration policy. Under Salas’ leadership, CHIRLA and its partners across the country have built the foundation for the recent upsurge in immigrant rights activism. As part of a national coordinating committee, Salas helped convene a coalition of organizations in Southern California which have successfully mobilized millions of immigrants to demand comprehensive immigration reform including legalization with a path to citizenship, family reunification, and the protection of civil and labor rights.
George Sanchez
Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and History, University of Southern California

George Sanchez is Professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and History at the University of Southern California, where he also serves as Director of College Diversity. He is the author of *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (Oxford, 1993), co-editor of *Los Angeles and the Future of Urban Cultures* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), and author of “What’s Good for Boyle Heights is Good for the Jews’: Creating Multiracialism on the Eastside During the 1950s,” (American Quarterly 56:3, September 2004). His academic work focuses on both historical and contemporary topics of race, gender, ethnicity, labor, and immigration, and he is currently working on a historical study of the ethnic interaction of Mexican Americans, Japanese Americans, African Americans, and Jews in the Boyle Heights area of East Los Angeles, California in the twentieth century. He is Past President of the American Studies Association in 2001-02, and is one of the co-editors of the book series, *American Crossroads: New Works in Ethnic Studies*, from the University of California Press. He currently serves as Director of the Center for Diversity and Democracy at USC, which focuses on issues of racial/ethnic diversity in higher education and issues of civic engagement. He is also co-editing, with Amy Koritz of Tulane University, *Civic Engagement in the Wake of Katrina*, (to be published by University of Michigan Press in 2009). He is serving on the National Advisory Board of “Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life,” and was Program Chair for their October 2008 conference in Los Angeles. He received his Ph.D. in History in 1989 from Stanford University.

Reshma Shamasunder
Director, California Immigrant Policy Center

Reshma Shamasunder is Director of the California Immigrant Policy Center, a partnership of four immigrant rights organizations advocating for immigrants in California; the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, the National Immigration Law Center, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, and Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network of San Jose. Prior to coming to the Policy Center, Reshma was Director of Benefits Policy and Government Affairs at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition. In addition to working on immigrant issues, Reshma has worked on issues of homelessness, child labor in India, and domestic violence. Reshma holds a Master in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Roger Waldinger is Distinguished Professor of Sociology at UCLA, where he served as Chair of his department from 1999 to 2004 and as Director of the Lewis Center for Regional Policy from 1995 to 1998. He has worked in the field of international migration throughout his career, writing on a broad set of topics, including immigrant entrepreneurship, labor markets, assimilation, the second generation, high-skilled immigration, immigration policy, and public opinion. The author of six books, most recently, *How the Other Half Works: Immigration and the Social Organization of Labor* (University of California Press, 2003), he is now writing a new book, tentatively entitled *Foreign Detachment: America's Immigrants and Their Homeland Connections*. A 2008 Guggenheim Fellow, his research has been supported by grants from the Ford, Haines, Mellon, National Science, Sloan and Russell Sage Foundations.

Janelle S. Wong holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University and a BA in political science from UCLA. Her research interests include race, ethnicity and politics; political participation, political mobilization and public opinion research. She is author of *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions* (2006, University of Michigan Press). She has published articles on race, ethnicity and politics in *Political Behavior, American Politics Review, Social Science Quarterly, P.S.: Political Science and Politics*, and the *American Journal of Sociology*. As part of the Pilot National Asian American Political Study (PNAAPS) research team, she co-authored *The Politics of Asian Americans: Diversity and Community* (Routledge 2004), an analysis of the first multi-city, multi-lingual, multi-ethnic survey of Asian Americans’ political attitudes and behavior. She teaches courses on race and politics and Asian American politics and has studied the demographics of voting participation. Her current research is on immigration, religion and conservative politics in the United States.