Dear members of the Section on International Migration,

Since I last wrote to you, roughly six months ago, the novel coronavirus has ravaged the world. As of the time of this writing, more than 9 million people have contracted the virus and nearly 470,000 have died from complications associated with Covid-19. As the epicenter of the pandemic moved from Asia to Europe and then to the Americas, national economies shut down, leaving millions without work and deepening inequality and poverty across the globe. Migrants and immigrants have been profoundly impacted by the pandemic. The decision of governments to close international borders brought migratory flows to a standstill, stranding migrants in transit countries. Tens of thousands of migrants have been deported. Others are facing indefinite wait periods as consulates and immigration agencies have suspended services to visa applicants. As Tahseen Shams reminds us in a recent article, the justification to stall cross-border mobility often casts migrants as spreaders of disease, reviving the all too familiar xenophobia.¹

“I applaud the many members of the section who have actively taken on a role as public sociologists, highlighting the health risks, unsafe and unjust conditions that migrants and immigrants face during the current pandemic.”

In the United States and other countries, immigrants have been on the front lines of the pandemic public health responses. Many immigrant paramedics, nurses, doctors, hospital staff and homecare workers have bravely assisted patients; sadly, hundreds have succumbed to the virus. Foreign-born women and men employed in food production and distribution and other economic sectors have been classified as essential workers while their basic labor and human rights are undermined. These blue-collar workers can neither perform their jobs from home nor renounce their low wages. Rather than essential, their condition suggests a sacrificial role, as Phi H. Su and Malte Reichelt aptly put it in a recent op-ed.² To add insult to injury, documented and

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undocumented immigrants have been purposefully left out of pandemic-relief programs, such as the U.S. CARES Act. These exclusionary policies hurt the prospects for recovery of sectors that are highly dependent on immigrant workers and entrepreneurs, as Eli Wilson recently argued for the case of the restaurant industry.iii

I applaud the many members of the section who have actively taken on a role as public sociologists, highlighting the health risks, unsafe and unjust conditions that migrants and immigrants face during the current pandemic. Your interventions in the public arena could not be more timely and socially relevant.

Over the last few weeks, we have witnessed numerous demonstrations in the United States and abroad protesting the death of George Floyd at the hands of members of the Minneapolis Police Department. The same police brutality that killed Mr. Floyd has claimed the lives of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and many other African Americans. The section on International Migration released a statement condemning anti-Black racism and expressing solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives. With that statement we also shared educational resources for anti-racism. Both the statement and the resources for anti-racism are reproduced in this issue of WOM. Please continue sending syllabi, curricula and other educational tools, to guide our fight against racism directed at Black communities and other people of color. I also applaud the members of the section who have written op-ed pieces, blogs and articles addressing racism, xenophobia and other forms of oppression and discrimination. Your voices help us make sense of this momentous historical juncture. Relatedly, I’m pleased to report that we are joining other sections of the ASA donating reception funds to the Minority Fellowship Program. This effort has produced tens of thousands of dollars in additional support for the MFP.

I thank you for the opportunity to chair the section on International Migration. Needless to say, I was not expecting such a tumultuous tenure but I look forward to continue serving the section this coming year as past chair. Our annual conference is a casualty of the pandemic and the San Francisco meetings have been cancelled. The good news is that all the panels and most of the roundtables will still take place as part of the ASA’s virtual engagement event. We will send a message closer to the date of the event with details on which sessions will be pre-recorded and which ones will be held live. The section business meeting will take place live on the date and time originally scheduled in the conference program. We will announce the award winners and proceed with the ceremonial passing of the torch at the live business meeting.

On that note, congratulations to all award and honorable mention winners and see you all in August on Zoom!

Sincerely,

Rubén Hernández-León
Department of Sociology
UCLA

i See “Immigrants are not to blame for global epidemics: insights from past and present” at https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/pandemic-border/immigrants-are-not-blame-global-epidemics-insights-past-and-present
iii See “The employment Armageddon facing the U.S. restaurant industry” at https://contexts.org/blog/inequality-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/#wilson
The ASA Section on International Migration Statement Supporting Anti-Racism and the Movement for Black Lives

The ASA section on International Migration stands in solidarity with the thousands of demonstrators and the Movement for Black Lives protesting police violence against Black people in the United States and abroad. The section condemns the police and white supremacist violence that has taken the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and many other victims. We mourn the senseless loss of Black lives and share in the outrage expressed by protesters. As teachers and researchers, we reiterate our commitment to fight systemic anti-Black racism and to educate others, within and beyond the walls of academia, about institutional racism directed against Black communities and other people of color.

We invite the members of the section to share educational resources for anti-racism. We will circulate these resources to the membership via the listserv. Send information to asa.int.mig@gmail.com. Here’s an initial list of resources:

**Educational resources for anti-racism:**

- **Anti-racism resources for white people:** Resource guide compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein for white people to deepen their anti-racist work. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VlBO-QgirtTwCTugSkie5Fs/mobilebasic
- **Confronting white supremacy:** Educational resource sheet put together by educators to discuss and dismantle white supremacy in the classroom. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZXkW9wMHVG2gl2MgiYoDGmHKrKFQ7moKS1AMGo_7qyU/edit
- **Resource Hub for Black History and Activism:** Google Drive compiled by Charles Preston, filled with books and other important work by Black activists and readings on a range of topics. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bz011IF2Pu9TUWIxVWxybGJ1Ync
- **Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-Racist Action in Your Life:** Article written by Zyahna Bryant about how to take steps towards non-performative activism and anti-racist actions. https://www.teenvogue.com/story/beyond-the-hashtag-how-to-take-anti-racist-action
  - https://sociologistsforjustice.org/ferguson-syllabus/: Readings and educational resources developed by Sociologists for Justice.
  - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrAq4iBNb4nVIcTsLcNlW8zjaQXBLkWayL8EaPlh0bc/edit?usp=sharing: Google document for scaffolding anti-racism resources.

Council member Asad L. Asad (Stanford University) has suggested these articles on how to donate to organizations involved in the fight against racism and police brutality:


https://www.theverge.com/21277358/protests-donate-police-bail-demonstrations-minneapolis-nyc
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OSHIN KHACHIKIAN, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE
Oshin Khachikian is a PhD candidate at UC Irvine where he investigates how immigrant parents prepare their children for college. His research can be found in *The Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* as well as *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and examines how the formal organizational context of education and immigrant educational selectivity reproduce intergroup disparities in education by racializing college preparation among Mexican, Salvadoran, Filipino and Armenian origin students in Los Angeles.

Catherine Crooke is a PhD student at UCLA. Her interests include the sociology of refugee law and the construction of refugeehood as a legal status, a political concept, and a social category. Her current research focuses on asylum lawyering and its adaptations to exclusionary policies of migration control. Before pursuing her PhD, Catherine worked in refugee advocacy. She holds a JD from Yale Law School and an MSc in Refugee & Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford.

Molly Fee is a PhD candidate at UCLA. Her dissertation examines how refugee-specific and general assistance programs shape refugee incorporation in San Diego, CA and Boise, ID. Her research has also looked at the role of caseworkers in refugee resettlement and the overseas resettlement processing of Iranian religious minorities in Vienna, Austria. Before pursuing her PhD, she worked in the field of language and education policy at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC.

Blog: https://asamigrationsection.wordpress.com

Webpage: https://www.asanet.org/asa-communities/sections/international-migration

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ASAmigration

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ASAinternationalmigration/
Council Member Spotlight

Legal Inclusion, Social Exclusion

Asad L. Asad

I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, probably not the first place one imagines when thinking about the history of migration and immigrant integration in the United States. And yet, looking back, the inspiration behind my research on the relationship between legal inclusion and social exclusion emerges from those formative years in America’s Dairyland.

***

On September 11, 2001, I was in middle school. During my first few classes that morning, my teachers didn’t mention that anything horrific had happened. But the flurry of activity in the hallways, the audible sobs from neighboring classrooms, and the hum of news reports from the television in the teachers’ lounge suggested something was up. In a pre-smart phone era, it was not until I snuck online during my 11:00AM typing class that I discovered what had happened.

Two hours later, I arrived to English class. Ms. Taheri was a remarkable teacher who, each day, asked her students to write a five-paragraph essay on a topic of her choosing...in 15 minutes. (A good way to overcome writer’s block.) The activity was intense for many of us, but it also offered a challenging respite from the daily mundanities of middle school. On that day, the assignment offered a momentary escape from our growing realization that something terrible had happened—and that a lot more terribleness was on the horizon.

I don’t remember what I was writing about that day in English class. But I do remember that, two minutes into my 15 minutes of escape, Ms. Taheri pulled me back into reality and asked me to accompany her into the hallway.

“Is anyone giving you shit over this? Let me know, and I’ll take care of them.”

I was astounded. I had never heard a teacher swear before, let alone have one pull me into the hallway following a terrorist event to ask whether I had experienced any personal repercussions.

Reflecting on this brief exchange with Ms. Taheri, I realize now that she inspired me to think about how legal inclusion into a society could nevertheless coincide with social exclusion. I am a U.S. citizen by birth, with U.S.-citizen siblings and parents. Even so, Ms. Taheri knew legal inclusion via citizenship would do little to shield me or my family from social exclusion on the basis of our ethno-racial or religious background.

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Of course, I was not wholly unaware of this tension prior to September 11.

My parents, Baba and Mama, were born in the West Bank in the early 1950s and moved separately to the United States. They met in Wisconsin in the early ’70s. One marriage, a naturalization ceremony, and five children later, my twin brother and I joined the family.

To me, my earliest memories of childhood felt ordinary. Baba and Mama ran a small convenience store; unwound in the evenings by watching local news and Family Feud (pre-Drew Carey); voted with gusto during federal, state, and local elections; and took the family to the West Bank every summer to visit our relatives.

It wasn’t until I started elementary school, and met third- and fourth-generation Milwaukeeans, that our immigrant family started to appear different from those of my friends and neighbors. Other kids didn’t have parents with strong accents when they spoke English, or cousins who seemed to number in the hundreds, or grandparents who lived an ocean away. Aside from the occasional barbecue, our family ate food that looked and tasted normal to me but was, according to teachers and classmates, “exotic.” Britney Spears wasn’t the soundtrack of our road trips; rather, we coasted along the Midwest’s open highways listening to Om Kolthoum and Amr Diab. Santa and the Easter Bunny skipped our house, without fail, every year. Our family’s own holiday season seemed so foreign to others—why go without food or water from sunrise to sunset for 30 days?—that they didn’t know whether to cheer us on or offer sympathies.

Now, after September 11, whatever whispers of ostracization or “exoticism” that followed me early on in life became more explicit after that day in ways too numerous to name here.

***

I became a sociologist to study the relationship between legal inclusion and social exclusion. My work so far has centered on how U.S. immigration law compels this tradeoff among immigrants and their families. One way it does so is through deportability, or the threat of deportation, a phenomenon to which immigrants who lack citizenship are vulnerable. I have focused on the perceptions and experiences of noncitizens from Mexico and Central America, as they are targeted for deportation in a way that is disproportionate to their share of the noncitizen population. In a book under contract with Princeton University Press, I rely on in-depth interviews conducted over five years and population-representative survey data to examine how Mexican and Central American families whose members hold a range of legal statuses balance the demands of daily life with deportation’s possibility. Specifically, the book engages with theories of surveillance and social control to examine the myriad formal records immigrants with young children accumulate over the course of their lives in the United States—and what accumulating these records means to these families worried about deportation.

The book begins from the premise that immigrants with citizen children are more legible to the state via formal records than might otherwise be expected given their deportability. Legal status is one such form of legibility, which affords differential rights and protections to immigrants as they navigate daily life. But study participants identify deportability as inherent to all legal statuses that fall short of citizenship. Recognizing that even lawful permanent residence does not guarantee permanent residence, study participants search out formal records in other government bureaucracies to manage how state authorities judge them as “deserving” of societal
membership and “undeserving” of deportation. These authorities include a cast of government bureaucrats from daily life such as doctors, nurses, local police, social workers, and teachers. Each interaction, study participants believe, is an opportunity to curate a formal record of their “morality” as immigrants (e.g., by reporting crime to local police) and “competence” as parents (e.g., by shuttling children to regular medical check-ups). Study participants thus leverage formal records as a strategy to avoid punishment from discriminating bureaucratic authorities they encounter regularly. They nonetheless worry that immigration officials overseeing removal proceedings or legalization or naturalization opportunities may one day weaponize these same records to deny them access to long-term societal membership via legal status or citizenship.

Looking beyond the current book, I am launching a new project that offers additional insights into the relationship between legal inclusion and social exclusion. It focuses on denaturalization, or the process of removing an immigrant’s acquired citizenship, as a tool of federal immigration enforcement. Funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, the project uses multiple methods to examine whether and how federal judges make denaturalization decisions. First, it creates a database to summarize denaturalization case characteristics, including the age, sex, and national origin of naturalized citizens as well as legally-relevant case characteristics. Second, it considers in a multivariate framework whether naturalized citizens’ sociodemographic characteristics pattern judges’ denaturalization decisions, net of legally-relevant characteristics. Third, it scrutinizes the content of judges’ written decisions to uncover the possible reasoning underlying their decisions. Overall, the project foregrounds denaturalization as an understudied but growing dimension of legal vulnerability affecting naturalized citizens. In so doing, it demonstrates how a widening deportation dragnet ensures that one indicator of access to U.S. society—citizenship—does not guarantee immigrants’ long-term membership.

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With each passing day, the relationship between legal inclusion and social exclusion seems at once stark and fuzzy. Laws and policies seem to turn on excluding immigrants and their families from society, even as these same individuals and families demand their rightful place. But sociologists know, particularly those among us in the Section on International Migration, that present-day dynamics mirror those from previous historical moments and presidential administrations. Finding avenues for structural reform will require a commitment to rigorous research methods, a firm grounding in sociological theory, and above all, an earnest desire to listen to the populations who teach us about their lives.

Asad L. Asad is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Stanford University, where he is a faculty affiliate with the Center for Comparative Studies of Race and Ethnicity. His research interests center on legal and social stratification, migration and immigrant integration, race/ethnicity, and health. Asad’s recent research has been published in International Migration Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Law & Society Review, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and Social Science & Medicine, among other outlets. More information about Asad and his work can be found on his professional website (asadasad.org). Follow him on Twitter @asasad.
Asylum Lawyering in Dark Times

Catherine L. Crooke

The current pandemic constitutes a cascade of crises unlike anything we’ve seen in our lifetimes. Even for the fortunate few whose day-to-day lives can functionally proceed much as they did before it hit, there’s the disquiet of witnessing the many weak points it exposes in our societal infrastructure. The pandemic surely illuminates these shortcomings in unique ways. And yet anyone thinking critically about the dynamics of international migration has long ago confronted the inadequacies of the social systems that order our world. This is acutely true in the context of asylum law and policy.

I’ve spent much of the past year exploring how U.S. lawyers advocating on behalf of asylum-seekers advance their work in the midst of ever-shifting government policies—policies expertly designed to constrain advocates’ ability to assist those in need of protection. Well before COVID-19 gathered momentum, I conceptualized this project in relation to the idea of crisis. Where many people experience the pandemic as a singular cataclysm, it emerges in the professional lives of asylum lawyers (and, it should go without saying, in the lives of asylum-seekers) as one widely-resonant crisis in a relentless onslaught of crises—most of them manufactured by state actors. Asylum lawyering thus demands endurance as well as sustained creative efforts to reimagine the forms advocacy can take in the face of new legal, regulatory, bureaucratic, and even geographical obstacles.

My research examines how attorneys maneuver this trying environment. Because asylum lawyers interact so intimately with state systems in the course of their work, understanding how they make sense of state power and government action presents an opportunity to gain ground-level insights into the technologies of border control. Viewing the U.S. asylum system from this vantage point is especially crucial for assessing the access to justice and due process problems intrinsic to the enactment of increasingly restrictive immigration policies.

I took a circuitous route to studying the U.S. asylum system. My initial exposure to the practical reality of forced migration came in the form of a college internship at Heartland Alliance’s office in Chicago, where I helped run a summer program for recently resettled youth. Shortly thereafter, while studying abroad in Jordan, I volunteered at Ruwwad, a non-profit organization supporting the Palestinian
community of Jabal al Natheef in eastern Amman. Each of these experiences afforded a partial view into the effects of international refugee policy, rather than the U.S. asylum regime. Later in college, I assisted with U.S. asylum cases as an intern at Human Rights First, but my work there didn’t require me to wade into the intricacies of the U.S. system.

Accordingly, I for years conceived my interest in forced migration as grounded in international refugee law and the intergovernmental—or non-government—institutions largely tasked with its implementation. This orientation informed my MSc studies at Oxford’s Refugee Studies Centre and subsequently motivated me to join the team at the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), an (at that time) tiny, scrappy legal aid organization uniquely devoted to refugee assistance—that is, to legal aid for people not yet on U.S. soil.

IRAP’s intervention in the refugee resettlement space is simple: people applying for humanitarian protection are more likely to succeed with the help of legal counsel, so these lawyers found a way to effectively mobilize pro bono counsel at a distance. This model attends to the important role that access to legal resources plays in immigrants’ well-being. And the idea that a person’s (lack of) proximity to legal resources largely determines their fate intuitively makes sense in the context of the international refugee protection regime, since many refugees reside oceans away from their intended destination, in areas with a relatively scant local supply of pro bono counsel.

What I didn’t fully appreciate at the time was the degree to which this proximity problem plays a profound role even for those who petition for protection while on U.S. territory. After my time at IRAP and prior to starting my PhD in the Sociology Department at UCLA this past fall, I completed my JD at Yale Law School. Through my legal training, I became more attuned to the efforts of myriad legal organizations striving to afford U.S. asylum-seekers with the substantive as well as procedural expertise necessary to succeed in their claims. And I experienced firsthand how difficult it is to accrue and maintain expertise in this domain, where the succinct—if somewhat ambiguous and arguably inadequate—international legal definition specifying who is a refugee dissolves into a complex, multi-layered, and fickle domestic bureaucracy.

Today, what strikes me is the increased convergence between the domestic and the international spheres in terms of how they reflect barriers to justice. Because the duty to protect asylum-seekers is contingent on their presence in the receiving territory, emergent technologies of border control seek to produce a legally significant distance between would-be claimants and the state. The current experiences of asylum-seekers pursuing safety in the United States yet forced to wait indefinitely in Mexico for an opportunity to articulate their claims evokes the experiences of refugees awaiting approval for resettlement. This surreal—if not altogether surprising—turn captures the U.S. asylum system’s startling capacity to shapeshift. To remain effective, legal advocates must constantly scrutinize the movements of the bureaucratic machinery to anticipate impending shifts, while simultaneously reconfiguring their own work to address new hurdles. In response to the Remain in Mexico (“MPP”) program, informal
‘metering’ policies, and ‘safe third country’ agreements, as well as the U.S. government’s overzealous use of detention and deportation, asylum lawyers are innovating ways to penetrate spaces designed to be inaccessible.

Over the course of my PhD, I hope to continue examining the relational tensions between attorneys and the state through the ethnographic study of asylum lawyers in Los Angeles. I’m lucky to make UCLA’s Sociology Department my intellectual home during this time and already feel immense gratitude for the wisdom and mentorship of its community of international migration scholars. I view the IM section as a vibrant extension of that family. I look forward to many stimulating dialogues in the coming years, both in the service of scholarship and in the pursuit of more resilient frameworks for achieving social justice.
STAGNANT DREAMERS
How the Inner City Shapes the Integration of Second-Generation Latinos

María G. Rendón

A quarter of young adults in the U.S. today are the children of immigrants, and Latinos are the largest minority group. In Stagnant Dreamers, sociologist and social policy expert María Rendón follows 42 young men from two high-poverty Los Angeles neighborhoods as they transition into adulthood. Based on in-depth interviews and ethnographic observations with them and their immigrant parents, Stagnant Dreamers describes the challenges they face coming of age in the inner city and accessing higher education and good jobs and demonstrates how family-based social ties and community institutions can serve as buffers against neighborhood violence, chronic poverty, incarceration, and other negative outcomes.

$39.95 $31.96 | December 2019 | 978-0-87154-700-8 | paperback

IMMIGRATION AND THE REMAKING OF BLACK AMERICA

Tod Hamilton | Foreword by Douglas S. Massey

Over the last four decades, immigration from the Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa to the U.S. has increased rapidly. In several states, African immigrants are now the primary drivers of growth in the black population. While social scientists and commentators have noted that these black immigrants’ social and economic outcomes often differ from those of their native-born counterparts, few studies have carefully analyzed the mechanisms that produce these disparities. In Immigration and the Remaking of Black America, sociologist Tod Hamilton merges interdisciplinary scholarship with new data to enhance our understanding of the causes of socioeconomic stratification among both the native-born and newcomers.

$35.00 $28.00 | May 2019 | 978-0-87154-407-0 | paperback

Noteworthy Books on International Migration

THE COMPANY WE KEEP
Interracial Friendships and Romantic Relationships from Adolescence to Adulthood
Grace Kao, Kara Joyner, and Kelly Stamper Balistreri
$29.95 $23.96 | October 2019 | 978-0-87154-468-1

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS
The Making of the Second Generation
Renee Luthra, Thomas Soehl, and Roger Waldinger
$35.00 $28.00 | October 2018 | 978-0-87154-912-9

CREDIT WHERE IT’S DUE
Rethinking Financial Citizenship
Frederick F. Wherry, Kristin S. Seefeldt, and Anthony S. Alvarez
$29.95 $23.96 | April 2019 | 978-0-87154-866-5

THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE OF U.S. IMMIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY
Edited by Katharine M. Donato and Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes
FREE online at rsjournal.org | Fall 2020
Copublished with the Carnegie Corporation of New York
Being an Immigrant with Limited Social Protections is a Killer during Pandemic Too

Tiffany D. Joseph, Northeastern University

Originally published in footnotes, May/June 2020, volume 48, issue 3:

In this COVID-19 pandemic, “racism is a killer.” But, being an immigrant with limited social protections is too. The impact of COVID-19 has been disproportionately felt in communities of color, rendering visible the insidiousness of structural racism. Missing from COVID-19 statistics is documentation status, which is associated with health care and health outcome disparities. Research on race and immigration as social determinants of health before COVID-19 suggests that the combination of minority race and undocumented status may be lethal. Since 2012, I have researched immigrants’ healthcare access in Boston, and that work has shown that documentation status poses a risk to getting care even in this progressive epicenter of health reform. That risk has escalated during COVID-19 due to pre-pandemic exclusions and hyper-enforcement.

Undocumented immigrants are especially vulnerable because many policies openly exclude them, making it difficult to get driver’s licenses, find quality affordable housing, and access health care. Their recent exclusion from the CARES Act will have a devastating blow, making post-COVID-19 recovery nearly impossible for many. There are several ways undocumented and documented immigrants’ exclusion may negatively impact their well-being in the present pandemic and its aftermath.

First, deportation concerns remain a huge deterrent for immigrants seeking healthcare under the Trump administration’s immigration policies. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detentions and immigration court dates continued after “stay-at-home” advisories were issued across the country. While new immigration arrests were eventually scaled back, COVID-19 transmission among those already being held in inhumane immigrant detention centers and prisons spiraled without social distancing measures and access to regular handwashing.

The Trump administration’s changes to the public charge rule are also causing panic. Targeting lower-income immigrants, the administration redefined “public charge,” and since February has allowed immigration officials to use more factors in determining immigrants’ future likelihood of using public benefits. Although the administration clarified that the rule does not limit the use of testing, screening or treatment of communicable diseases such as COVID-19, that statement is unlikely to reassure vulnerable immigrants. A medical interpreter I interviewed in 2019, long
before COVID-19, shared that an immigrant patient with health insurance “didn’t want to use any benefits because she was in the process of getting her green card.”

Exclusion from the Affordable Care Act severely limits undocumented immigrants’ access to care. Most are ineligible for the Medicaid expansion and purchasing coverage in the healthcare exchanges. Some cities and states have used local funds to extend coverage to immigrants in their respective jurisdictions, but those options are still constrained by documentation status. In many cases, immigrants’ must be gravely sick before they seek care. According to a healthcare advocate I interviewed in 2015, immigrants must consider “jeopardizing their ability to stay here or their health.”

Even if they brave leaving their homes for COVID-19 testing and treatment, the next challenge for immigrants is finding help in their primary language and from culturally sensitive providers they can trust. Although the country has become more diverse racially and linguistically, that diversity is not reflected among medical professionals. This also influences immigrants’ health. In this pandemic, vital information and assistance in multiple languages have been harder to come by and may also undermine the care that immigrants receive.

Many migrants are suffering similar fates outside of the United States. In industrialized countries with robust social safety nets, immigrants have also been excluded from public benefits and face racialized anti-immigrant policies. Migrants from the Global South often form the backbone of Global North economies, working in agriculture, cleaning, and construction. They are vulnerable to labor exploitation and living in cramped conditions, factors which have contributed to the spread of COVID-19 in Europe, the Gulf States, and Asia.

For those who wonder why immigrants are important in combating this pandemic, one need look no further than demographics. Fourteen percent of the U.S. population is foreign-born. In the country’s largest states - some also COVID-19 hotspots - immigrants comprise at least 20 percent of the population. Further, an estimated 16 million people live in mixed-status families, meaning citizen relatives’ health and healthcare decisions are also affected. It is important for everyone in our country to be able to access good healthcare without fear, both for their own protection and to benefit public health. If healthcare is inaccessible to such a large percentage of our population, combatting COVID-19 will be an upward battle. It is important to include immigrants in policy and philanthropic efforts to combat and recover from COVID19.

Tiffany D. Joseph is Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University. Her current book project examines how state and national policy shifts reconfigured Boston immigrants' healthcare access from 2012-2019 for which she received a 2019-2020 Ford Foundation Senior Fellowship. She is also the author of Race on the Move: Brazilian Migrants and the Global Reconstruction of Race (Stanford University Press, 2015).
2020 ASA International Migration Award Winners

**Thomas and Znaniecki Book Award:**

**Co-winners:**

Angela Garcia, University of Chicago, *Legal Passing: Navigating Undocumented Life and Local Immigration Law*

David Fitzgerald, UCSD, *Refuge Beyond Reach: How Rich Democracies Repel Asylum Seekers*

**Honorable mentions:**

Tod Hamilton, Princeton University, *Immigration and the Remaking of Black America*

Maria Rendon, UC Irvine, *Stagnant Dreamers: How the Inner City Shapes the Integration of Second-Generation Latinos*

**Louis Wirth Best Article Award:**

**Winner:**


**Honorable Mentions:**


**Aristide Zolberg Distinguished Student Scholar:**

**Co-winners:**

Daniela Pila, University at Albany, “Legal Status Fluidity: Theorizing Legal Status Transitions and How Filipinos Navigate Immigration Pathways”

Jiaqi Liu, University of California, San Diego, “Citizenship on the move: The deprivation and restoration of emigrant citizenship in China”
Honorable Mentions:

Chen Liang, University of Texas Austin, “Taiwanese Immigrants for Trump? Racialized Assimilation into a White Society”

Jacob Thomas, University of California, Los Angeles, “Whom Do US Consular Officers Perceive As ‘Immigrants’? How Cultural Habitus Stratifies Legal Mobility From Mainland China to the United States”

Vanessa Delgado, University of California, Irvine, “They think I’m a lawyer: Undocumented College Students as Legal Brokers for Their Undocumented Parents”

Award for Public Sociology in International Migration:

Robert Smith, Professor of Sociology, Immigration Studies and Public Affairs at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College and the Graduate Center

Distinguished Career Award:

Cecilia Menjivar, Professor of Sociology and Dorothy L. Meier Social Equities Chair, UCLA

Thank you to our Section Award Committee Members!

The Thomas & Znaniecki Best Book Award
Chair: Rick Baldoz, Oberlin College, Members: Abigail Andrews, UCSD and Mary Waters, Harvard University

Louis Wirth Best Article Award
Chair: Jackie Hwang, Stanford University, Members: Kim Ebert, North Carolina State University and Nadia Flores, Texas Tech University

Aristide Zolberg Student Scholar Award
Chair: Emir Estrada, Arizona State University, Members: Jacob Rugh, Brigham Young University and Hajar Yazdiha, University of Southern California

The Award for Public Sociology in International Migration
Chair: Leisy Abrego, UCLA, Members: Daniel Martinez, University of Arizona and Minjeong Kim, San Diego State University

Distinguished Career Award
Chair: Rubén Hernández-León, UCLA, Members: Irene Bloemraad, UC Berkeley and David FitzGerald, UCSD
2020 ASA International Migration Section Panels

The schedule for the virtual International Migration Section Sessions will be shared over the listserv in July.

Technologies of Migration Control
Session Organizers:
Jane Lilly Lopez, jane_lopez@byu.edu; Brigham Young University
Rawan Arar, arar@uw.edu; University of Washington

Presenters:
Jiaqi Liu, University of California, San Diego, Citizenship Off the Menu: Emigrant Membership and State Sovereignty in China
Ian Van Haren, McGill University, Civil Society as Agents of Migration Control in Canada’s Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program
Asad L. Asad, Stanford University, The Noncitizen’s Dilemma: Legal Visibility to Record-Keeping Institutions in an Era of Mass Deportability

Theorizing and Understanding Immigrant Organizations
Session Organizer:
Ali Chaudhary, ali.chaudhary@rutgers.edu; Rutgers University

Presenters:
Jennifer A. Jones, University of Illinois-Chicago and Hana Brown, Wake Forest University, Immigrant-Serving Organizations and the Racial Politics of Immigrant Rights
Nihal Kayali, UCLA, Organizational Uncertainties: Temporary Protection and Syrian Refugee-Run Healthcare in Turkey
Ernesto Castañeda, American University, Urban Contexts and Immigrant Organizations: Differences in New York, El Paso, Paris, and Barcelona
Walter Julio Nicholls, UC Irvine, Why Immigrant Rights Organizations Embrace Nationalism: A Case Study of the US Immigrant Rights Movement

Media Framing or Framing The Media? Contemporary Portrayals of Migrants And Refugees Around The World
Session Organizer:
Anahi Viladrich, anahi.viladrich@qc.cuny.edu; Queens College CUNY

Presenters:
Monika Gosin, College of William And Mary, Cuban-American Media on the Limits of a Special Status
Cristian Alberto Doña Reveco, University of Nebraska-Omaha, ‘Migrant Invasions To The South American Tiger’: Newspaper Portrayals of 1990s Immigration to Chile
Hana Brown, Wake Forest University, Reporting on Refugees: A Content Analysis of Major Television Network News Coverage From 1980-2016
Breanne L. Grace, University of South Carolina-Columbia, “Send Them Back!”: Refugee Vigilance and the Nightly News

Discussant:
Cecilia Menjivar, University of California-Los Angeles
Critical Migration Studies and Under-Explored Intersectionalities: Racialization, Global Geopolitics, and Indigenous Peoples’ Mobilities

Session Organizers:
Sofya Aptekar, sofya.aptekar@umb.edu; University of Massachusetts Boston
Jane H. Yamashiro, jane@alumni.ucsd.edu; Smith College

Presenters:
Abigail L. Andrews, UC San Diego, Banished Men: The Gender, Geography, and Politics of Mass Deportation
Garrett Bunyak, Georgia Tech, Inferiority by Association: Migration Narratives, Animality, and Chicana/Ecofeminist Possibilities
Daniela Pila, University at Albany, Legal Status Fluidity: Theorizing Legal Status Transitions and How Filipinos Navigate Immigration Pathways
Jennifer Rene Darrah-Okike, University of Hawaii, Nathalie P. Rita, University of Hawaii, and Philip M.E. Garboden, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Making Home Amidst Empire: Indigeneity, Immigration and the Re-Making of Race in Hawai’i’s Public Housing
Aaron Arredondo, University of Missouri and Juan José Bustamante, University of Arkansas, White Spaces in Brown(Ing) Places: Toward The Spatialization Of Critical Immigration Studies

Discussant:
Payal Banerjee, Smith College

A New Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Immigration Laws Shape Migration Flows

Session Organizer:
Silvia Pedraza, spedraza@umich.edu; University of Michigan

Presenters:
Shannon Marie Gleeson, Cornell University, ILR School and Kate Griffith, Cornell University, Employers as Subjects of The Immigration State: Fomenting Employment Insecurity for Temporary Immigrants at Work
Jose Luis Collazo, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, Returning to “¿México Lindo Y Querido?”: The Role of Place of Origin, Destination, and Immigration Enforcement
Irene Browne, Emory University, Anne Kathrin Kronberg, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, and Jennifer Mcdonnell, Emory University, The Unexpected Spillover Effects of Restrictive Immigration Policy: Raising or Lowering Latinx Earnings?

Discussant:
Silvia Pedraza, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

International Migration Roundtables

Session Organizers: Kevin Escudero, kevin_escudero@brown.edu; Brown University
Tahseen Shams, tahseen.shams@utoronto.ca; University of Toronto

2020 IM Section Business Meeting

The ASA 2020 IM Section Business Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, August 11 from 8:30-9:10am. Information to join the business meeting will be sent out over the section listserv when available.
Angie Y. Chung was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University at Albany.


David Feldman has an upcoming "public sociology" essay in the journal Catalyst, entitled "Putting Unconditional Amnesty For All Back on the Map: More Than a Response to Lee."

Chiara Galli, UCLA Department of Sociology, completed her dissertation entitled: Refugee Children or Immigrant Teenagers? The Precarious Rights and Belonging of Central American Unaccompanied Minors in the United States, Chair: Roger Waldinger

Chiara Galli will be starting a Klarman postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University, Sociology Department starting in July 2020.

Brenda Gambol began a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Division of Social Sciences at Mount Saint Mary College this spring.


Cecilia Menjívar was interviewed by Milena Belloni and Ilka Vari-Lavoisier, HOMing Project, University of Trento, Trento, Italy https://homing.soc.unitn.it/2019/12/03/homing-interview-34-cecilia-menjivar/.


Daniela Pila was awarded the American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association for University Women (2020-21) and an Honorable Mention for the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2020-21)
Maria G. Rendón wrote the blog post “Amidst Rising Inequality, Second-Generation Latinos in the Inner City Sustain the American Dream” for the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration (CSII), University of Southern California [https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/blog-second-gen-latinos-rendon/](https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/blog-second-gen-latinos-rendon/)

Maria G. Rendón’s op-ed “For Latinos, a college degree doesn’t guarantee entrance to the middle class” appeared in the OC Register, Los Angeles Daily News [https://www.ocregister.com/2020/02/20/for-latinos-a-college-degree-doesnt-guarantee-entrance-to-the-middle-class/#](https://www.ocregister.com/2020/02/20/for-latinos-a-college-degree-doesnt-guarantee-entrance-to-the-middle-class/)


Kerilyn Schewel, Department of Sociology, University of Amsterdam, completed her dissertation entitled "Moved by Modernity: How Development Shapes Migration in Rural Ethiopia", Chair: Prof Hein de Haas.

Cinzia Solari’s *On the Shoulders of Grandmothers: Gender, Migration, and Post-Soviet Nation-State Building* (Routledge, 2018), won the 2020 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Mirra Komarovsky Book Award. Awards were presented at the Feb 2020 Meetings in Philadelphia.

Alessandra Bazo Vienrich was recently awarded the James E. Blackwell Award from the Department of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in recognition of exemplary research on minority group affairs, for her work on undocumented/DACA college students.

Alessandra Bazo Vienrich will be starting a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the Department of Sociology at Worcester State University in the Fall 2020.

Min Zhou received the following grants:
Recent Publications


Recent Books

Home Care Fault Lines: Understanding Tensions and Creating Alliances
By Cynthia Cranford
Cornell University Press

Americans Abroad: A Comparative Study of Emigrants from the United States, Second Edition
By Arnold Dashefsky and Karen A. Woodrow-Lafield
Springer
Hyper Education: Why Good Schools, Good Grades, and Good Behavior Are Not Enough

By Pawan Dhingra

NYU Press

Above the Fray: The Red Cross and the Making of the Humanitarian NGO Sector

By Shai M. Dromi

University of Chicago Press
Of Love and Papers: How Immigration Policy Affects Romance and Family

By Laura E. Enriquez

University of California Press

Ambitious and Anxious: How Chinese Undergraduates Succeed and Struggle in American Higher Education

By Yingyi Ma

Columbia University Press
Global City-Twinning in the Digital Age

By Michel S. Laguerre

University of Michigan Press

Stagnant Dreamers: How the Inner City Shapes the Integration of Second Generation Latinos

By María G. Rendón

Russell Sage Foundation
Here, There, and Elsewhere: The Making of Immigrant Identities in a Globalized World

By Tahseen Shams

Stanford University Press

Fruteros: Street Vending, Illegality, and Ethnic Community in Los Angeles

By Rocío Rosales

University of California Press