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# Immigration and the Migration of People

**Spring 2009**

The School of Arts and Sciences has a study and activity theme for the spring 2009 semester. Classes in a number of areas are incorporating a reading, writing assignment, study unit, or other project related to the theme. Near the end of the semester students will have the opportunity to present their research or creative project to other students and faculty across the School. The purpose of the semester theme is to promote a campus conversation and a large learning community by connecting classes that are considering similar issues across the liberal arts. Like so many expansive and complicated issues that we confront, the theme this semester demands multiple perspectives, and we invite students and faculty to take advantage of the many public activities scheduled and to learn about what various classes are doing with the theme.

To supplement and to connect what goes on in classes, the Arts and Sciences faculty have organized an extensive series of extra-curricular activities throughout the semester:

## **Theme Calendar as of March 12, 2009**

(additions or changes will be posted throughout the semester; please contact the Dean's Office, School of Arts and Sciences, 516 876-3915 for latest information)



School of Arts and Sciences

P.O. Box 210

Old Westbury, New York 11568

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## FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5, 2009

**Keynote Speaker for the Semester Theme: "Exploring Immigration" by Prof. Marcelo Suárez-Orozco.**

*1:15 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Lunch will be available during the Common Hour preceding. Contact Person: Jim Llana, Arts and Sciences*

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

**Immigration and Health Lecture and Discussion: "Key Issues in Immigrant Health" by Olveen Carrasquillo, M.D., Professor, Columbia University.**

*12:15 – 2:30 in H311, Campus Center. Lunch available during Common Hour. Contact Person: Prof. Martha Livingston, Biological Sciences.*

FEBRUARY 17, 2009

**Film and Discussion: "Salut Cousin" (directed by Merzak Allouache, 1996)**

The story of two Algerian cousins and their encounters in a racially and culturally diverse Paris.

*10:20, Rm. L107, Library. Contact Person: Prof. Sonia Assa, Modern Languages Dept.*

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

**Film and Discussion: "Crossing Arizona"**

This film examines the massive flow of illegal border-crossers into the treacherous Arizona desert through the eyes of those directly affected by it. "Crossing Arizona" reveals the surprising political stances people take when

immigration and border policy fail everyone.

*4:40 – 6:20 Rm. S-100, Science Building. Contact Person: Prof. Kevin Ozgercin, Politics, Economics, and Law*

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

**Lecture and Discussion: Migration and Conflict in India: The Case of Assam and Northeast India" By Prof. Sachi Dastidar.**

In the eastern Indian Subcontinent Britain partitioned Bengal and Assam in 1947 into India and East Pakistan; the latter became Bangladesh. This lecture focuses on how a political division can create unending ethnic, linguistic, nationalistic, religious and tribal conflicts aggravated first by British Colonial policy, then by migration of persecuted Bangladeshi Hindu refugees, and later by illegal Bangladeshi Muslim migrants, and by job seekers from other Indian states.

*8:30 am, Rm. D 313. Contact Person: Prof. Sachi Dastidar, Politics, Economics, and Law*

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

**Concert: "Afro-Cuban Rhythms"**

*4:00 – 7:00, Maguire Theater, Campus Center. Contact Person: Prof. Zenaida Madurka, ML*

## MARCH

MARCH 2, 2009

**Lecture and Discussion: "Migration of African-Americans to Africa: The Case of Sierra Leone" by Prof. Sylvie Kandé, History and Philosophy.**

*10:30 – 12:00, Rm. B106, Academic Village. Contact Person: Prof. Sylvie Kandé*

MARCH 5, 2009

**Lecture and Discussion: "Global Migrations of people and Capital: South Asia, the Middle East, Walmart and You" by Charles Kernaghan from the National Labor Committee.**

*Presentations at 1 pm and 6:30 pm, Recital Hall. Contacts: Profs. Joseph Harris, PEL and Carol Quirke, American Studies*

MARCH 11, 2009

**Film, Discussion and Lunch: "Farmingville." (award-winning documentary by Carlos Sandoval & Catherine Tambini, 2003)**

*Director's Statement: "To tell this story, we lived and worked for nearly a year in Farmingville, New York, where we experienced firsthand the tensions in this small Long Island town. Farmingville's story reflects the challenge facing many communities as the Latino population not only spreads across the nation farther than any previous wave of immigrants, but also bypasses traditional immigrant gateways and heads directly to suburbs and the American heartland."*

*10:20 – 1:00, film runs 78 minutes, followed by extensive discussion and lunch. Recital Hall Contacts: Prof. Eloise Linger, PEL, and Prof. Laura Anker, First Year Experience*

MARCH 12, 2009

**Art Exhibit Opening: "Migration and Nostalgia"**  
Art by four Cuban artists: Dinorah Irene Martinez, Humberto Piloto, Angel Irimia, and Zenaida

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Madurka. Co-sponsored with the Hispanic Latino Cultural Center. Exhibit will run from March 9 through March 30 in the Old Westbury Library. Opening Reception is at 10:30 am on March 12.

**Contact Person: Prof. Zenaida Madurka, ML**

**Presentation and Discussion: “Postville: A Little Town on the Prairie,”** by Luis Argueta. Postville, Iowa, became the epicenter of immigration issues with the arrests of 389 workers at a meat-packing plant in May, 2008. This is the story as seen through the lens of a bicultural filmmaker, the director of Guatemala’s first internationally acclaimed film, “The Silence of Neto,” 1994. Argueta will relate his personal journey from **filmmaker to active citizen, telling** the story of how the most brutal, most expensive and one of the largest immigration raids in the history of the U.S. has become his life passion. He will discuss and show parts of his forthcoming film on the story. Co-sponsored with Hispanic Latino Cultural Center.

12:15-2 (with short break at 1 for class change) Recital Hall

**Contact Person: Prof. Kathleen O’Connor-Bater, ML or Jim Llana**

MARCH 18, 2009

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**Symposium: “Resisting Immigration: The Politics of Xenophobia in American Society.”** Participants include Prof. Kevin Ozgercin, Prof. Jingyi Song, and Carolos Canales, Community Organizer, Workplace Project

4:40 – 6:20, Recital Hall, Campus Center. **Contact Person: Prof. Kevin Ozgercin, PEL**

MARCH 19, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “Migration and Political Linguistics”** by Prof. Vicente Lledó-Guillem, Dept of Romance Languages and Literatures, Hofstra University. Co-sponsored with the Hispanic Latino Cultural Center. The talk will explain the ideology and politics of language in Spain during the 16<sup>th</sup> century by focusing on Castilian and Catalan. Prof. Lledó-Guillem will offer a new interpretive key to understanding the differences among the speakers of both languages not only in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but today as well.

4:40 – 6:20, Rm. L107, Library

**Contact Person: Prof. Z. Madurka, ML**

MARCH 23, 2009

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**Presentation and Discussion: “Immigration on Long Island: A Personal Story and a Public Life”** by the Honorable Legislator Vivian Viloría-Fisher, 5<sup>th</sup> District of Suffolk County. Ms. Viloría-Fisher is the Deputy Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature, as well as Vice Chair of the Legislature’s Ad Hoc Committee on Affordable Housing.

Ms. Viloría-Fisher will narrate her personal story of coming to New York from the Dominican Republic as a child and her experiences helping subsequent generations of immigrants, both personally and in her public life. A crusader against anti-Latino legislation in the County, she will discuss her efforts in the Legislature to

confront the volatile issue of immigration in Suffolk County.

3:00, MultiPurpose Rm. C, Student Union. **Contact Person: Jim Llana, Arts and Sciences**

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**Presentation and Discussion:**  
**“Navigating the System: Addressing Barriers to Health Access for Immigrant Populations”** by Sapna Pandya.

Discussion will center on systemic as well as point-of-delivery health service issues for newcomers to the U.S. Included in this talk is an exploration of how class, gender, English language proficiency, sexual orientation, religion, and other social factors can determine access to care. Examples from various public organizations and private individuals on how to address health disparities for immigrant populations will be offered.

Sapna Pandya, MPH, is currently Director of Programs for the South Asian Health Initiative at the Center for Immigrant Health of the NYU School of Medicine. In addition to her work with SAHI, she is a member of the core team on CIH’s Portal Project, newly launched to address financial, social, legal and psycho-social needs of immigrant cancer patients. She is also co-Founder of Humsafar International, a sexual health training collective, and is passionate about addressing socio-political and economic determinants of health, particularly for marginalized communities both in South Asia as well as in the U.S.

6:30 pm, Rm. B135, Academic Village

**Contact Person: Prof. Runi Mukherji, Psychology Dept.**

MARCH 24, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “The Language of the U.S. Latino Community: Continuity and Change in the Context of Education and Power”** by Prof. Ricardo Otheguy, Program in Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian

Literatures and Languages, Graduate Center, CUNY.

4:45 – 7:00, Multipurpose Room C, Student Union. **Contact Person: Prof. Kathleen O’Connor-Bater, ML**

MARCH 25, 2009

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**Art Exhibit: “The Borders”**

Group exhibition of 12 artists’ works addressing issues of immigration and migration. Comprising such diverse media as video, film, photography, painting, drawing, sculpture and installation, “The Borders” offers the viewer an opportunity to consider the political, social, and economic contribution that human migration makes to racial diversity, multiculturalism, and issues of national security through the eyes of artists, some of whom have personal experiences of immigration.

Opening Reception and Performance: Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Exhibit runs through April 23 in Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, Campus Center. Hours are 12 to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday and by appointment.

**Contact Person: Prof. Hyewon Yi, Visual Arts Department**

MARCH 26, 2009

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**Presentation and Conversation:** “Immigration and the Art of Writing,” by Suketu Mehta.

Author of the critically acclaimed Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found which won the Kiriya Prize and the Hutch Crossword Award, and was a finalist for the

2005 Pulitzer Prize. Mehta has won the Whiting Writers Award, the O. Henry Prize, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for his fiction. His work has appeared in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Harpers Magazine*, *Time*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He is currently working on a book about immigrants in New York, for which he was awarded a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship.

11 – 1 pm, Recital Hall, Campus Center. Light Indian luncheon served during Common Hour, compliments of Division of Student Affairs.

**Contact Person: Prof. Narayan Hegde, English Dept.**

**“The Listening Project”** by Profs. Julio Gonzalez and Laura Anker. The Listening Project was a grant-supported study of the impact of burgeoning Latino immigration on the East End of Long Island. Profs. Gonzalez and Anker will report on their systematic interviews in the Town of East Hampton to document and provide greater insight into the issues, conflicts, and changes caused by the present wave of immigration; to promote constructive dialogue, leadership development and intercultural exchange and; to provide the necessary data and understanding upon which effective public policy is based.

1 pm, H311, Campus Center

**Contact Persons: Profs. Gonzalez (School of Education) and Anker (First Year Experience)**

MARCH 27, 2009

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**Immigration Walking Tour: Lower East Side, Chinatown, Little Italy:**

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Private walking tour specifically arranged for Old Westbury students and faculty by Michelle Nevius, professional guide. The tour explores historic patterns of immigration in the city, from the Germans and Irish in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through more recent arrivals. Tour starts at Allen and Delancey Streets. Limit of 20 ; you must register through School of Arts and Sciences no later than March 13. Sponsored by Arts and Sciences. 1-3 pm, Lower Manhattan  
**Contact Person: Jim Llana, Arts and Sciences**

MARCH 30, 2009

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Film and Discussion: “**Letters from Alou**” (Directed by Montxo Armendáriz, 1990)

The story of an illegal African immigrant in Spain. Despite many hardships faced by undocumented immigrants in many places, Alou learns the skills necessary (including Spanish) for survival in a new country and writes optimistic letters to his parents back home about his life in Spain.

2:30, Rm. L107, Library. **Contact Person: Prof. Sylvie Kandé, History and Philosophy**

MARCH 31, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “Migration and Identity on the Indian Subcontinent: Religion, Nationality, and Citizenship”** by Prof. Sachi Dastidar.

Except for India all the states on the Indian Subcontinent have based their national identity on either language or religion or both. And then there is the 1947 British Partition of India, creating the displacement of over 60 million people, giving them

different citizenship from their ancestral lands, which continues to this day. Moreover, India claims to be home of 10-15 million illegal Bangladeshi and millions more illegal Nepali. In a nation where there is no official ID card or birth record and high corruption, this creates a citizenship dilemma. This lecture focuses on complexities brought about by these changes and on socio-political conditions.

1 pm, Multi Purpose room, Student Union. **Contact Person: Prof. Sachi Dastidar, PEL**

## APRIL

APRIL 1, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “African Immigrants in the U.S.”** by Prof. Sylvie Kandé

1:00 – 2:30, Rm. A101, Academic Village. **Contact Person: Prof. Sylvie Kandé**

**Film and Discussion: “African-American Lives I”**

“Eminent Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. uses revolutionary breakthroughs in genealogical research and DNA analysis to take eight prominent African Americans on once-unimaginable journeys into their past—tracing their family sagas down through U.S. history and even back to Africa.” (PBS Home Video) Focuses on Whoopi Goldberg, Bishop T.D. Jakes, Quincy Jones, Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, Chris Tucker and Oprah Winfrey.

4:40 – 8:10, Room S-100, Science Building. **Contact Person: Prof. Kevin Ozgercin, PEL**

APRIL 13, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “Anna May Wong and Josephine Baker in Europe: Migrations of Race, Gender and Modernity”** by Prof. Shirley Lim, History Dept., Stony Brook University.

In the 1920’s, Parisians idolized Josephine Baker, and Anna May Wong’s German-made films and London theater performances rendered her the most beautiful “Oriental” woman in Europe, yet both women were American. Anna May Wong’s and Josephine Baker’s film, theater and dance performances provide windows into the ways that American race and gender emerged as central to a cultural modernity that circulated around the globe. The talk shows first, how their performances became critical to European and Third World definitions of racial difference and second, how the construction of American modernity got shaped outside of its nation-state borders.

2:50 – 4:30, Recital Hall, Campus Center. **Contact Person: Prof. Amanda Frisken, American Studies**

APRIL 15, 2009

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**Symposium: “Human Trafficking for Sex and Labor.”** Participants include Nisha Varia, Deputy Director of Women’s Rights, Human Rights Watch; Jean Bucaria, Director, New York Anti-Trafficking Coalition for National Organization for Women;

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Katherine Chon, President/Co-Founder, Polaris Project.

1:00 – 2:40, *Recital Hall, Campus Center. Contact Person: Prof. Ozgercin, PEL*

APRIL 16, 2009

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**Film and Discussion: “The Immigrant.”** Written and Directed by Charlie Chaplin, 1917

1 pm, Rm. C117. **Contact Person: Prof. Carol Quirke, American Studies**

**Film: “The Visitor.”** Written and Directed by Tom McCarthy, 2007.

Critically acclaimed, this film is the story of a college professor who finds an undocumented couple living in his New York apartment after he has been away for several months. He develops a surprising and deeply moving connection to them and learns directly of the plight of illegal immigrants in the detention system of the INS. One of the stars, Richard Jenkins, is a nominee for an Academy Award this year.

2:50 pm, Rm. 117. **Contact Person: Prof. Carol Quirke, American Studies**

**Presentation and Discussion: “Nomadic Landscapes and Changing Borders” by Prof. Catherine Bernard.**

This talk is based on the recent exhibition: *Terre Natale, Ailleurs commence ici/Native Land, Elsewhere Starts Here*, recently shown at the Cartier Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris. It featured the work of Raymond Depardon, photographer and filmmaker, and Paul Virilio, urbanist and philosopher in the

form of film and digital projections. The themes of the exhibition—roots and their disappearance and the identity questions that stem from them—underscore the film and installations of the exhibition and will be explored in this presentation.

1 pm, Room H311, Campus Center  
**Contact Person: Prof. Catherine Bernard, Visual Arts**

APRIL 20, 2009

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**Symposium: “Waging War, Creating Refugees: Humanitarian Crisis in the Middle East and Africa.”**

Participants will include Ghassan Shabaneh, Asst. Prof. of International Studies, Marymount Manhattan College who will speak about the Palestinians; Tatiana Carayannis Associate Director, Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, Social Science Research Council, who will speak about the Congo; a third speaker, TBA, will address the situation in Iraq.

1:00-2:40, *Recital Hall, Campus Center. Contacts: Profs. Kevin Ozgercin and Eloise Linger, PEL*

**Film and Discussion: “Flores de Otro Mundo”** (Flowers from Another World—directed by Iciar Bollain, 1999)

“Looking for companionship, a group of lonely Spaniards. . . hold a soiree for single women. But for the most part, their party guests are poor immigrants from third-world countries. Based on a true story, this award-winning drama from director Iciar Bollain traces the relationships of three new

couples, documenting their struggles with clashing cultures, sex and racism.” (summary from <http://www.flixster.com/movie/flores-de-otro-mundo>)

2:50, Rm. L107, Library. **Contact Person: Prof. Fernando Guerrero, ML**

**Lecture and Discussion: “Migrancy: Mapping the Emergence of New Literary Terrains.”** Prof. Norma Klahn from the Literature Department of the Univ. of California/Santa Cruz will be speaking on immigration and cross-border issues in literature. Prof. Klahn’s research focus: Latin American literary and cultural studies; Chicano/Latino literature and culture from a cross-border perspective; modernity/postmodernity; poetics and politics; contemporary critical theories (i.e., border, ethnic, feminist, transnational/global).

4:40, *MultiPurpose Room C, Student Union. Contact Person: Prof. Jesse Fernandez, ML*

APRIL 21, 2009

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**Lecture and Discussion: “Immigration and the Obama Administration: Prospects and Legal Reforms”** by Prof. Cristina Rodríguez, New York University School of Law.

Professor Rodriguez will look ahead at the issues in immigration that face the new administration and discuss the likely need for changes in the law.

5:00 pm, *location TBA.*

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APRIL 23, 2009

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**RESEARCH DAY.**

Presentations of student research and creative projects connected to the theme and to other topics. Specific format will be forthcoming.

11 am – 3 pm, MultiPurpose Room, Student Union