Immigration & Entrepreneurship: An Interdisciplinary Conference
September 13-14, 2012
Conference at the GHI and the University of Maryland, College Park

Conveners: David B. Sicilia (University of Maryland, College Park), David F. Barbe (University of Maryland, College Park), and Hartmut Berghoff (German Historical Institute)

Cosponsored by the Center for the History of the New America, the German Historical Institute, Maryland Technology Enterprise Institute, and the Office of Undergraduate Studies (University of Maryland)

Thursday, September 13, 2012 (German Historical Institute, Washington DC)

5:30 - 6:00 pm Reception

6:00 - 6:15 pm Opening remarks: David Sicilia (University of Maryland) and Hartmut Berghoff (German Historical Institute)

6:15 - 7:30 pm Alejandro Portes (Princeton University), “Transnationalism, Entrepreneurship, and Development”

7:45 pm Dinner (conference participants only)

Friday, September 14, 2012 (University of Maryland, College Park, MD)

8:00-8:30 am Breakfast
Van Munching Hall, 1500 Atrium

8:30-10:30 am Concurrent sessions

Education as Critical Social Capital

Van Munching Hall, room 1505
Chair: Brent Goldfarb (University of Maryland)
Comment: Dan Wadhwani (University of the Pacific)
• “New Pathways to West African Immigrant Entrepreneurship in the U.S.”
  Marilyn Halter (Department of History, and Institute on Culture, Religion, and
  World Affairs, Boston University) and Violet M. Showers Johnson (Departments
  of Africana Studies and History, Texas A&M University)

• “Immigrant Entrepreneurship and the Ethnic System of Supplementary Education:
  Chinese and Korean Communities in Los Angeles”
  Min Zhou (Department of Sociology, University of California-Los Angeles)

• “No Longer a Stranger in a Strange Land: Nikola Tesla, Disruptive Technology, and the
  Immigrant Experience”
  W. Bernard Carlson (Department of Science, Technology, and Society, School of
  Engineering and Applied Science, University of Virginia)

From Workers to Proprietor Entrepreneurs

Van Munching Hall, room 1511
Chair: David Sicilia (University of Maryland)
Comment: Alan Kraut (American University)

• “An Informal Immigrant Niche in Los Angeles: Mexican Immigrant Gardeners and
  Informal Economic Models”
  Alvaro Huerta (Chicano Studies Research Center, University of California-Los
  Angeles)

• “Wandering Jews: Peddlers, Immigrants, and the Discovery of ‘New Worlds’”
  Hasia Diner (Department of History, New York University)

• “We Just Want to Be Your Friend Señor Gobernador’: Transnational Mexican Migrant
  Elites”
  Yesenia Ruiz Cortes (Department of Anthropology, CUNY Graduate Center)

10:30-11:00 am  Coffee break
11:00-1:00 pm   Concurrent sessions

Enclaves, Regions, and Other Geographies

Van Munching Hall, room 1505
Chair: Julie Park (University of Maryland)
Comment: James Deutsch (Smithsonian Institution)

  Susan B. Carter (Department of Economics, University of California-Riverside)

  Elizabeth Zanoni (Department of History, Old Dominion University)

  Zulema Valdez (Department of Sociology, Texas A&M University)

- “Anabaptist Entrepreneurship: Mennonites, Amish, and Hutterites in the United States since Industrialization”
  Martin Lutz (Department of History, University of Heidelberg)

Immigrant Dominance of Consumer Sectors

Van Munching Hall, room 1511
Chair: Uwe Spiekermann (German Historical Institute)
Comment: David Kirsch (University of Maryland)

- “Jewish Immigrant Entrepreneurs and the U.S. Garment Industry”
  Andrew Godley (Henley Business School, University of Reading)

- “From Middleman to Motel Minorities: How an Immigrant Business can Start Small and Become Dominant”
  Pawan H. Dhingra (Department of Sociology, Tufts University)
• “Alchemies of Race: Italian Wine Entrepreneurs in California before and after Prohibition, 1880-1980”

  Simone Cinotto (University of Gastronomic Sciences, Colorno [Parma], Italy, and Department of Italian Studies, New York University)

1:00-2:30 pm  Lunch and Keynote Address
Van Munching Hall 2333

  Introduction by C. D. Mote, Regents Professor & Glenn L. Martin Institute Professor of Engineering Former President of University of Maryland, College Park

  Keynote Address by Alex Severinsky (Fuelcor LLC and University of Maryland), “My Entrepreneurial Stairway in the USA”

2:30-4:30 pm  Concurrent sessions
Human Capital
Van Munching Hall, room 1505
Chair: Elizabeth Clifford (Towson University)
Comment: Will Hausman (College of William and Mary)

• “Chinese Ethnic Enterprises in the Global Era”
  Xiaojian Zhao (Department of Asian American Studies, UC-Santa Barbara)

• “Mobile Modernizers: Jewish Immigrant Entrepreneurs from Central Europe in Nineteenth-Century America”
  Tobias Brinkmann (Department of History, Pennsylvania State University)

• “Rugged Altruism: Philanthropy among American Immigrant-Inventors and Entrepreneurs”
  Eric S. Hintz (Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, Smithsonian Institution)
• “Leveling the Playing Field: Patterns of Giving Back among Los Angeles’ Middle and Upper-Class Latino Entrepreneurs”

Jody Aguis Vallejo (Department of Sociology, University of Southern California)

Removing Barriers to Immigrant Entrepreneurial Success

Van Munching Hall, room 1511
Chair: Hartmut Berghoff (German Historical Institute)
Comment: Katherine Benton-Cohen (Georgetown University)

• “Global Competition for Talent: Parameters of and Trends in U.S. Economic Migration”

Ruth Wasem (Congressional Research Service, U.S. Library of Congress)

• “Financing Immigrant Businesses in the U.S. and Canada”

Wei Li (School of Geographic Sciences and Urban Planning, Arizona State University) and Lucia Lo (Geography Department, York University, Toronto)

• “Shedding Non-Golden Handcuffs: The Impact of Mobility Constraints on High-Skilled Immigrant Wages over the Career Life Cycle”

Shweta Gaonkar and Rajshree Agarwal (Department of Management and Organization, University of Maryland)

• “Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Creating Jobs and Strengthening the Economy”

Michele Waslin (Immigration Policy Center) and Marcia Hohn (Immigrant Learning Center)

4:30-5:30 pm  Closing session

David Sicilia (Department of History and Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland)

Van Munching Hall, room 1511