As politicians channel the heated contemporary debate over immigration reform and refugee policy in the United States into the scorching, sometimes vulgar rhetoric of presidential campaigns, there is an opportunity to remind ourselves that the arrival of immigrants and their assimilation is not a new tale, but a recurring pattern in the American past. Even as immigrant entrepreneurs’ capital and acumen transformed and continues to transform the American marketplace, other newcomers invested and continue to invest their no less precious identities and physical labor in America’s fields and factories, even at the peril of their own health and well-being at times. The perennial negotiation that newcomers conduct, trading their pasts and their labor for their futures, has long inspired the imagination of scholars. This presentation explores that negotiation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2016
6:00 – 8:00 PM
GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
1607 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20009

PROGRAM
6:00 PM RECESSION
6:30 PM KEYNOTE LECTURE

The keynote is part of a workshop conducted on the occasion of the completion of the German Historical Institute’s multi-year project, Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present. The project website, with biographies, thematic essays, teaching tools and a wealth of documents, images, and other media can be found at www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org