

Summary of Discussion at MPRC-IWG Meeting, October 14, 2014 (draft 10/17)

Following a welcome, overview of the agenda, and brief introductions, past IWG activities were briefly reviewed. The MPRC Information Core is setting up an “historical” site with the program for the Immigration Research at Maryland Conference, December 2008, co-organized by Judith Freidenberg and Sandy Hofferth, list of member-led informal seminars and guest speakers in the MPRC Seminar Series 2009-2010, and announcements for the MPRC Immigration Seminar Speaker Series, 2010-2011. These seminars focused on data sources and methods in studying immigrants and immigration (New Immigrant Survey, anthropological approaches, community-based participatory surveys, New York Second Generation Study, American Time Use Survey, multi-cohort linked immigration-naturalization records, and journalistic approaches).

There have been previous discussions of possible collaborative projects, including a DC area survey of immigrants and families, another conference featuring campus faculty research, or a project investigating immigrants and children from interdisciplinary perspectives. Other discussions related to interdisciplinary views of how immigration status and migration experiences influence parenting and children's trajectories, intersections of race and ethnicity with immigration, that is, addressing heterogeneity as to whether certain groups of immigrants are faring better than others, immigrant work and family lives, holding multiple and part-time jobs, and parents having second shifts, based on time use data, or in the informal economy, poverty and wellbeing among Hispanic and immigrant families, perhaps with mixed method studies for PG County, immigrant health disparities, emigration, Americans abroad, and family networks and proximity, and global mobility and destination selection.

In Fall 2014, there are related MPRC activities such as the Culture and Population Working Group (seminars by Hofferth-Moon on parental expectations and immigrants' becoming adults and Cabrera on Latino parents, immigrant status and cognitive-social skills). Over the past three years, the Center for the History of the New America and conferences has emerged and organized major conferences, including “Health across the Borders: Migration, Disease, Medicine and Public Health in a Global Age,” “Born in the USA: The Politics of Birthright Citizenship in Historical Perspective, and Immigration and Entrepreneurship.” CHNA Co-Director Ira Berlin elaborated upon creation of the Center for the History of the New America and its involvement with activities and major conferences. There will soon be a new Census Research Data Center at the Maryland campus, and IWG

members are invited to share ideas for RDC-housed data and uses for IWG members.

In a “speed-session,” several participants spoke for a few minutes about their ongoing specific interests for immigration-related research (Julie Park, Michael Rendall, Judith Freidenberg, Andres Villarreal, Karen Woodrow-Lafield, Stella Rouse, Marcia Bebianno Simoes, Amy Carratini, and Willow Lung Amam). The discussion shifted toward possible IWG strategies for 2014-2016. One option is to have member-led informal seminars or round-robin presentations of ongoing research and underlying questions and problems. Another option is to invite guest speakers for seminars in early 2015 or 2015-2016. One option of considerable interest is to schedule panel discussions to identify local emphases for data collection for enhancing social science understanding of immigrants in metropolitan DC. These might include speakers having expertise from non-partisan research organizations and similar projects, i.e., New York Second Generation Study (Phil Kasinitz previously visited), Immigration and Intergenerational Mobility in Metropolitan Los Angeles (IIMMLA), (Jennifer Lee, Ruben Rumbaut, Min Zhou); plans for an immigration-focused survey by the GMU Institute for Immigration Research (Dae Young Kim). Several members expressed interest in working toward a collaborative major project--perhaps a DC area survey of immigrants and families, a study of immigrants and children from interdisciplinary perspectives, or a “second generation” or “children of immigrants” survey, and such a project would be comprehensive and mixed methods. Members discussed funding prospects from a variety of possibilities, such as the university-wide emphasis on ties between College Park and Baltimore campuses, public health orientation to underserved populations, foundations strongly interested in the CHNA role, state agency sources, especially relating to contemporary issue of Central American children’s migration, or Federal agency sources such as Department of Homeland Security.

A reminder that at noon, Monday, October 20, the MPRC Seminar series features Katharine Donato, Vanderbilt University, “The Double Disadvantage Reconsidered: Gender, Immigration, Marital Status, and Global Labor Force Participation in the 21st Century.” (This was previously scheduled as “Children on the Move: Mexico-U.S. Migration and Prospects for the Future.”)