Immigration & Deportation Initiative, Fall 2013

The initiative is intended to bring the continuing legislative efforts around immigration – and the discourse that surrounds them – into the community life and curriculum of the college, to generate debate and conversation, and to engage our students (nearly half of whom are themselves immigrants or the children of immigrants) intellectually with issues that will likely have direct and profound effects on their own lives and those of their loved ones.

This project will bring together a series of activities and events in order to encompass as many of the multifaceted origins and impacts of deportation as possible. This collection of approaches is intended to paint a varied and textured picture of the issues surrounding migration generally and deportation in particular. Proposed implementation of the initiative is as follows:

**September**

*Panel: Deportation Laws and Their Local Impact*

Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Corrections  
Alina Das, NYU Law  
Marianne Yang, Brooklyn Defenders Office  
Angela Fernandez, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights  
Monday, September 16, 4pm to 6pm  
6.68 Moot Court, NB  
(Coordinated by Dave Brotherton, Sociology Department, JJC)

New York City is well-known as a destination for immigrants, with a population that is approximately 37% foreign-born. A less well-known phenomenon of NYC's role as an immigrant destination is the fact that thousands of its immigrant residents are deported annually, for criminal and non-criminal offenses alike. While the role of immigrant communities in the City's cultural and economic life has been explored at length, what effects does the contemporary deportation regime have on these communities? How have these effects changed, and how might they change further in light of immigration legislation being considered by the US Congress? A panel of experts explores these questions and others.
October

Central America’s “Dirty” Little Secrets: War, Genocide and Deportation - Photography Projection & Speak Out
Launching Reception; Photographs by Jonathan Moller
Tuesday, October 8, 1:30pm to 2:40pm (displayed until November 27)
Atrium (outside of L61)
(Coordinated by Marcia Esparza, Criminal Justice Department, JJC; HMP Director)

To break the silence and raise awareness of the intimate connections between war, genocide, and deportation in the Latin American context, HMP presents a projected slideshow of photographs by Jonathan Moller, inaugurated with a launching reception during Community Hour. The images show exhumations, survivors, and community in Nebaj, Quiche, a rural area of Guatemala where genocidal carnage of indigenous communities by the U.S.-trained military took place during the country's decades-long armed conflict.

Book Talk: Outside Justice: Immigration and the Criminalizing Impact of Changing Policy and Practice
Michele Waslin, Pew Charitable Trusts
Juan Pedroza, Stanford University
Jorge Chavez, Bowling Green State University
Shirley Leyro, John Jay College/CUNY Grad Center
Wednesday, October 9, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
9.64 Conference Room
(Coordinated by Dan Stageman, Director of Research Operations, Office for the Advancement of Research, JJC & Bettina Muenster, Coordinator of Research & Special Projects to President Travis, JJC)

Edited by Professor and Chair of the John Jay Sociology Department David Brotherton, and Criminal Justice Doctoral Students Daniel Stageman and Shirley Leyro, Outside Justice looks at the overlap between public perceptions of immigration and criminality, and its reflection in the practical overlap between criminal justice and immigration control systems. In this, the first of the Office of the Advancement of Research's Fall Semester Book Talks, a panel of contributing authors to the volume will discuss the progress in their research since the time of publication, and their thoughts on the potential effects of immigration legislation on the policies and practices under study. Subjects are as diverse as driver's license policy and 'immigration enforcement through traffic enforcement', the secure communities program, immigrant quality of life under the threat of restrictive state laws, and the effects of deportation on the social cohesion of immigrant communities.
**Hip Hop Culture Addresses Deportation and the Undocumented**

Workshop & Performance by Rebel Diaz, political hip-hop trio  
Thursday, October 17, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

**Workshop & Performance by Rebel Diaz, political hip-hop trio**  
1pm-2pm Immigration Workshop, East End Cafeteria  
To RSVP: mmahraoui@jjay.cuny.edu  
2pm-3pm Musical Performance by Rebel Diaz, political hip-hop trio, Student Dining Hall  
(Coordinated by Bettina Muenster, Coordinator of Research & Special Projects to President Travis, JJC)

John Jay welcomes political Hip Hop trio Rebel Diaz, along with activist, community organizer, pastor, and John Jay alumna Claudia De la Cruz of Da Urban Butterflies Youth Leadership Development Project, for an afternoon of music and conversation on the plight of undocumented young people living under the threat of deportation.

**Performance & Justice Series: Installation by Eve Topolska**  
Monday, October 21, 1:30pm-3:00pm & Wednesday, October 23, at 2:00pm-3:30pm  
Black Box Theatre  
(Coordinated by Seth Baumrin, Department of Communications and Theatre Arts, JJC)

International theatre scholar and archivist Eve Topolska presents an installation accompanying open discussion about the struggle of African immigrants who lose their lives trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Morocco to Spain in their attempt to escape hunger, war, and general poverty. The installation will be a multi-media presentation of photographic documentation of the African immigrants and Spanish efforts to prevent their immigration. The installation will also contain footage of the theatre of Angélica Liddell, a Spanish director who confronted her own nation’s anti-immigration policy and brutal actions with the piece, *And the Fish Walked Out to Fight Against the Men*, protest from the stage against the appalling holocaust of the black immigrants that was, and unfortunately still is, happening at the Spanish coast. During the installation Eve Topolska will circulate among the spectators as they visit the multi-media gallery and talk to them in groups as well as make a more formal presentation after approximately 30 minutes of each group’s visit. This event can be held twice, and each event can be repeated twice in the time segments allotted.

**Film Screening & Discussion: Tony & Janina’s American Wedding**  
Ruth Leitman, director, producer, editor  
Steve Dixon, co-producer, composer, outreach coordinator  
Tuesday, October 29, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm  
L61  
(Coordinated by Shirley Leyro, JJC CRJ Ph.D. candidate)

A feature length documentary that gets to the heart of the broken, red tape ridden U.S. immigration system. After 18 years in America, Tony and Janina Wasilewski’s family is torn apart when Janina is deported back to Poland, taking their 6 year old son Brian with her. Set on the backdrop of the Chicago political scene, and featuring Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez at the heart of the immigration reform movement, this film follows the Wasilewski’s 3-year struggle to be reunited, as their Senator Barack Obama
rises to the Presidency. With a fresh perspective on the immigration conversation, this film tells the untold human rights story of Post-9/11 America, that every undocumented immigrant in our country faces today, with the power to open the conversation for change.

**November**

*Performance & Justice Series: Staged Reading of Yue Madeleine Yue*

Thursday, November 7 & Saturday, November 9, from 3pm to 5pm
Black Box Theatre

(Coordinated by Seth Baumrin, Theater & Communications Department, JJC)

A tragi-comedy by Kosovo’s leading playwright, Jeton Neziraj, about the abuse and forced migrations of Roma people in modern Europe.

Performed by John Jay Students with a discussion with its author Jeton Neziraj.
“The play is full of humor that runs between childish exuberance and bitter satire and yet, to its great credit, sympathy and poetry are never left on the wayside” (*Der Standard, Austria*)
The play addresses everyday racism towards Roma in Kosovo from A to Z and the corruption of local authorities and Germany’s refusal to take responsibility. (*Theater Heute, Germany*)


Friday, November 8th
Graduate Center

(Coordinated by CUNY faculty member Alfonzo Gonzalez)

The book describes the last ten years of migration control policies and Latino migrant activism in Los Angeles, New York City and Washington DC.

(Please contact: alfonso.gonzales@lehman.cuny.edu)

*Academic/Expert Panel Discussion: The New American Diaspora*

Bernard Hedley, Prof. of Sociology at UWI; Steve Vigil, El Salvador Peace Process; Daniel Kanstroom, Boston College, Author of *Aftermath*
Thursday, November 14, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
L9.64 conference room, NB

(Coordinated by Dave Brotherton, Sociology Department, JJC)

For many Americans, immigration is perceived as an end – the 'just desserts' of criminal activity or immigration violations by non-citizen residents. For those individuals deported, however – not to mention the families they may leave behind – deportation is just the beginning. What happens after deportation, in the countries that may receive thousands of individuals with no real knowledge of the local culture, or perhaps even the language – individuals who, in many cases, think of themselves solely as Americans? Three of the premier scholars of deportation and the 'American Diaspora' it creates will present their work and discuss this very issue.
**Unwanted: The Faces and Voices of Haitians and Dominicans**
Launching Reception of a student photo-ethnographic exhibit on the plight of people from Haiti and the Dominican Republic
Monday, November 18, 1:30pm to 2:40pm
First Floor, NB
(Coordinated by Luis Barrios, Africana & Latino/a Studies Program, JJC)

Luis Barrios, Professor of Latina/o Studies, presents excerpts from a photo-ethnography created by John Jay students who participated in a study abroad in the Dominican Republic in the Summer of 2013. These photos, videos, and accompanying interviews examine the experiences of both American residents who find themselves effectively stranded and outcast in Santo Domingo after being deported from the United States, and Haitian immigrants who have crossed the border into the Dominican Republic looking for work and an improvement in their dire economic circumstances. Moving and insightful, these student projects explore the parallels and differences between these two forms of migrations, and the individuals who experience them.

**Creative Expressions: Challenging the Immigration Taboo**
Poetry contest & open mic: JJ students share their stories
Musical & theatrical performances by JJ's Artist United & Theatre Clubs
Networking opportunity with community-based organizations
Monday, November 25, 12:00pm to 3:00pm
Student Dining Hall
(Coordinated by Bettina Muenster, Coordinator of Research & Special Projects to President Travis, JJC in collaboration with Student Life & Student Affairs, and JJ clubs)

An afternoon of poetry, performance and networking with organizations by and for John Jay students, for many of whom immigration is an important part of their day-to-day experience and identity.

**Central America’s “Dirty” Little Secrets: War, Genocide and Deportation - Photography, Film, and (Re)Presentation**
Aura Bogado, freelance writer & journalist, The Nation, Colorlines & others
Mario Rosales, filmmaker and producer, “The Return of Lencho”
Tuesday, November 26, 4pm to 7pm
Student Dining Hall, East End
(Coordinated by Marcia Esparza, Criminal Justice Department, JJC; HMP Director)

To break the silence and raise awareness of the intimate connections between war, genocide, and deportation in the Latin American context, HMP presents a projected slideshow of photographs by Jonathan Moller, inaugurated with a launching reception during Community Hour. The images show exhumations, survivors, and community in Nebaj, Quiche, a rural area of Guatemala where genocidal carnage of indigenous communities by the U.S.-trained military took place during the country's decades-long armed conflict.
December

Lecture

Keynote Address by Judge Robert A. Katzmann
Chief Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
Opening Remarks by President Jeremy Travis
Wednesday, December 4, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Moot Court
followed by:
Reception
Hosted by
President Jeremy Travis
6:00pm to 7:30pm
Justice Quad

(Coordinated by Dan Stageman, Director of Research Operations, Office for the Advancement of Research, JJC & Bettina Muenster, Coordinator of Research & Special Projects to President Travis, JJC)

Judge Robert A. Katzmann, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, was originally appointed to the court by Bill Clinton in 1999. In 2008, Judge Katzmann convened the Study Group on Immigrant Representation, a panel of eminent lawyers, academics, and advocates, to discuss reforms to make the legal processes surrounding immigration fair and equitable for the immigrants subjected to them – most importantly in the area of access to competent and affordable legal counsel. The panel’s report on the issue, Accessing Justice: The Availability and Adequacy of Counsel in Immigration Proceedings, is widely seen as a blueprint for comprehensive reform. We welcome Judge Katzmann to John Jay College, for the keynote lecture of our semester-long initiative.

A Call to Action: Deportation Initiative Student & Community Closing Forum

Monday, December 9, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm
Student Dining Hall, East End

(Coordinated by Dan Stageman, Director of Research Operations, Office for the Advancement of Research, JJC & Bettina Muenster, Coordinator of Research & Special Projects to President Travis, JJC & in partnership with community-based/advocacy organizations)

Our semester-long immigration and deportation initiative closes with “A Call to Action” and an opportunity for John Jay students, faculty, and alumni to connect with local advocacy organizations and other immigrant-focused non-profits to reflect on what has been accomplished and what challenges lie ahead.