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The Center for Global Migration Studies

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The Center Remembers Ira Berlin



Ira Berlin, co-founder of the Center for Global Migration Studies, passed away in June. Ira was a world-renowned scholar of trans-Atlantic slavery.

In the early 1970s, he taught at Federal City College in Washington, DC before taking an appointment at the University of Maryland, College Park, in 1974. In 1976, he founded the Freedmen and Southern Society Project, serving as its director until 1991. That project has analyzed, annotated, and published thousands of

primary documents that profoundly reshaped interpretations of African American history in the eras of the Civil War and early Reconstruction.

Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America (1998) proved to be his most influential book, winning the Bancroft Prize, the Frederick Douglass Prize, and many others. This study demonstrated the complexity of slavery and the ways it, and constructions of race more broadly, changed

over time as both slaves and masters shaped the institution.

Over the last decade, he grew increasingly interested in migration, as seen notably in his books, *Generations of Captivity: A History of African-American Slaves* (2003; winner of the AHA's Albert J. Beveridge Award) and *The Making of African America: The Four Great Migrations* (2010), and in his work at the Center.

Ira's accomplishments led him to receive innumerable grants, honors, and awards. In 2002–3, he served as president of the Organization of American Historians, and in 2004, he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2014, Harvard University awarded him the W.E.B. DuBois Medal. And in 2016, the American Historical Association presented Berlin with its Award for Scholarly Distinction.

The Center will honor Ira's legacy as part of a conference in 2020 examining African diaspora migrations.

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UMD Launches Campus-Wide Year of Immigration



Along with its partners in ARHU and the Office of International Affairs, the Center for Global Migration Studies will commemorate the 2018-19 academic year as the Year of Immigration. The Year of Immigration has two goals: to increase awareness about immigration, global migration, and refugees; and to use that education to foster a more diverse and inclusive community, a goal that lies at the core of UMD's mission.

The Year of Immigration will offer curricula and programming under three interconnected themes:

Culture

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Conversation

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Community

Conversation will include a series of educational opportunities to raise awareness and deepen knowledge in the UMD community on key issues related to immigration, global migration and refugees. This includes the selection for the 2018-19

First Year Book, *The Refugees*, by Vietnamese-American novelist and Pulitzer Prize-winner Viet Thanh Nguyen, who will visit campus in October as part of the Arts & Humanities Dean's Lecture Series. The Center will host a discussion of *The Refugees* as part of its Immigration Reading Group with a conversation guided by Dr. Robert Chiles.

Community will provide UMD community members with opportunities to engage with local international and immigrant communities. The Office of Community Engagement will host a series of translation and interpretation events throughout the year, as well as a fall "Design Thinking" workshop with area non-profit organizations that will focus on immigrant civil rights issues, including the upcoming 2020 Census.

This work will build on a conference held by the Center last spring, *Race and Whose Story "Counts."*

Culture will recognize and celebrate the international diversity and cultures of our campus, surrounding communities, and beyond. Initiatives will include original storytelling, a film festival, international food events through UMD Dining Services, exhibitions presented by UMD Libraries' Special Collections, and numerous globally-focused arts performances, including an opera and chamber music series as part of the School of Music Maryland Opera Studio's Kurt Weill Festival beginning in October.



Upcoming: Global Labor Migration Conference

In June 2019, the Center will co-host the first Global Labor Migration summit to be held at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam. The summit will include a range of presentation formats including brief papers, roundtables, and conversations with activists and organizers.

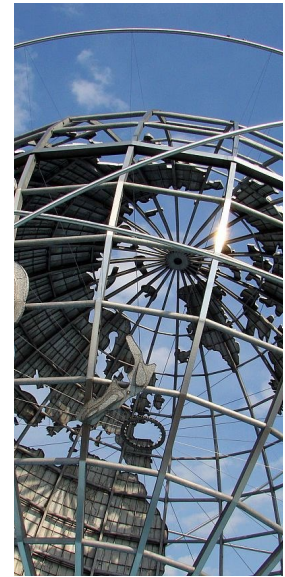
Two years ago, the Center created a global and in-

terdisciplinary network of scholars focused on contemporary and historical labor migration called the Global Labor Migration Network.

Because global labor migration is shaping the lives of millions, and because it is receiving unprecedented attention by scholars, the time is right for an international and interdisciplinary scholar-

ly network. This network unites social scientists and humanities scholars because connecting the work being done on labor migration in the contemporary world with those historicizing the phenomenon will lend the project much power, insight, and cross-fertilization.

To join the network or to learn more about it, visit <https://go.umd.edu/fwi>.



Upcoming: Deportations and Detentions Conference

The Center's March 2019 conference, will examine the history and contemporary impact of United States detention and deportation policies.

Discussions over the current deportation/detention regime reveal the contested nature of race and national identity today, and they link also to complex issues of citizenship, the legal sta-

tus of immigrants, and the relationship between private corporations and the immigration bureaucracy.

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Professor of History at UCLA, will offer a keynote address that puts detentions and deportations in both historical and international perspective. Her prize-winning book, *Migra! A*

History of the U.S. Border Patrol, revealed the history of policing along the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

Other panelists include Madeline Hsu, Professor of History at the University of Texas; Abel Nunez, Executive Director of CARACEN; and Robert Koulish, Research Professor in Government and Politics at UMD.

Examining Historical and Current Policies

Census 2020: Race and Whose Story "Counts" Conference

On April 19, 2018, the Center hosted *Census 2020*, a conference exploring the role of racial categorization in the upcoming census.

Panelists drew attention to the critical ways in which the Census has undercounted communities

of color, low-income persons, and rural persons.

Conference participants discussed how racial categories are created, how they reflect the politics of contemporary and historical America, and how they shape the experiences of citizenship, identity

formation, and belonging.

Melissa Nobles, Kenan Sahin Dean of the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences at MIT, delivered a keynote address that compared racial categories in the U.S. and Brazilian censuses.





We're on Facebook and Twitter!
Follow us and we'll keep you
informed of upcoming events!

Each month, the Center sponsors a number of events to bring together students, faculty, and the public. All of these programs are open to the public.

- It hosts a regular “Immigration in Film Series” to promote an understanding of the multiple experiences of immigrants.
- It sponsors a group that reads popular fiction about or by immigrants.
- It welcomes researchers and scholars to share their work in informal presentations or seminars.

For more information about these events, follow us on our social media accounts or check in on our webpage. If you would like to be added to our listserv, please email us at globalmigration@umd.edu.

Check out the newest additions to the Archive of Immigrant Voices!

Established in 2012 to house interviews with immigrants to the United States, the Archive of Immigrant Voices currently contains 79 oral history interviews, most of them about an hour in length. Each interview was conducted by an undergraduate student as part of their work in one of two oral history courses offered regularly at the University of Maryland.

The Archive currently houses interviews with immigrants from 45 different countries and every continent (as well as a migrant from Puerto Rico).

While the Archive will accept interviews conducted with immigrants who live anywhere in the United States, the bulk of the interviews are with people who currently reside in the Mid-Atlantic region, particularly the Washington DC Metro Area.

The Center is actively seeking researchers interested in working with the collection. Staff at the Center are collaborating with a doctoral student from the

University of Michigan, to begin a study of the discursive content of the interview narratives. This research will provide insights into interviewing practices that can be taken into the classroom to enhance our training of students.

<https://archiveofimmigrantvoices.omeka.net/>

