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The Center for Global Migration Studies

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Global Labor Migration Conference in Amsterdam

The Global Labor Migration Summit held at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam brought together sociologists, anthropologists, historians, and legal scholars from six continents.

The conference was structured to capture the vastness of global labor migration in past and present. Participants included nearly two hundred lead-

ing social scientists and historians from North and South America, Asia (particularly China, Korea, and India), Europe, Africa, and Australia who presented research and generated dialogue on topics ranging from state regulation, global governance, and legal and imperial regimes, to the experiences, transnational ties, and forms of resistance created by migrants themselves.

There was a strong emphasis on race, ethnicity, and gender in shaping the experience of migration as well as its regulation.

These topics were covered in thirty-five panels, three plenaries, and two keynote addresses.

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Global Labor Migration Summit



Labor Migrations, Past and Present

Plenaries included such topics as global labor activism in the 21st century (with leaders from organizations based in Geneva, Hong Kong, and California); the past and future of global governance (which included both scholars and a representative from the International Labor Organization); and a final plenary to generate ideas and strategies for next steps in building the Global Labor Migration Network.

The Global Labor Migration Network—the broader project which led to the conference—now includes hundreds of scholars.

A key goal of the conference was to build and strengthen the network. The final plenary discussed a number of ideas for next steps for the conference which we are now exploring, including publishing a book as well as a special journal issue from the papers presented at the conference; creation of a digital commons in which migration scholars around the world could share ideas and research; organizing smaller workshops in the Global South in order to build connections there, particularly in Africa, Latin America, and South Asia; and future conferences.

The conference required significant fundraising. In addition to support from the Center itself, we were able to raise another \$50,000 from universities across the United

States and Australia, as well as a major contribution from the International Institute of Social History.

As Leo Lucassen, the Research Director at the International Institute of Social History, noted, the conference and the work of the Network is much needed. It is, he said, “instrumental to show the normality of migration and thus provide a much needed counterweight against the current mounting xenophobia and restrictive anti-migration policies in various parts of the world.”

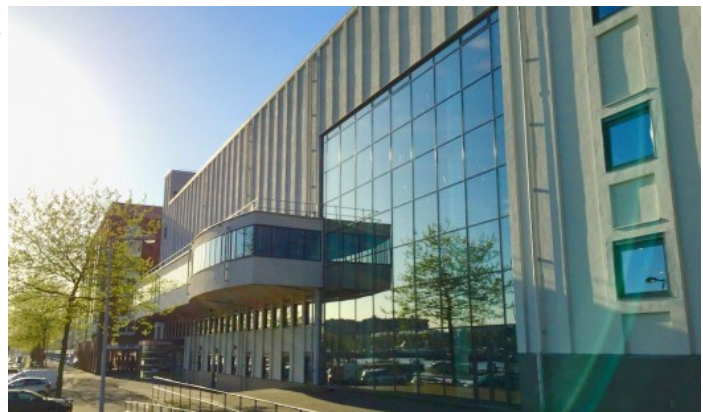
If you would like to learn more about what transpired at the conference, the conference program can be found [online](#).

You can also capture a sense of the excitement by following #glm19 on Twitter. For example Jorge Giovannetti of the University of Puerto Rico wrote that the conference was “an intense learning experience of great and meaningful intellectual exchanges. Kudos to the

@UMD_CGMS and @IISG_Amsterdam teams listed below for making it possible.”

A team of editors is now working on soliciting papers from the conference to be published in an edited volume of scholarship. Stay tuned for more information on this phase of the project.

The next Global Labor Migration conference will be held in two years in Hong Kong. The International Sociological Association has already awarded our partners \$50,000 to help fund the next conference. Details about the conference and a call for papers will be announced early next year.



Undergraduate Update

Undergraduate participation in the Center continues to expand each year.

The last academic year saw two students complete the Immigration and Migration transcript notation program. A dozen more are in the pipeline for completion in the next two years.

Forty students completed oral history interviews with immigrants, many of which will be added to the Center's ever-growing [Archive of Immigrant Voices](#). Students in Professor Michael Ross's "History of the American Dream" course used these interviews as the basis of their year-end essays.

The annual International Foodways Festival continues to draw large crowds. The Center's last event of each academic year features food prepared by students in the History of Immigration class taught by Dr. Robert Chiles.



Deportations and Detentions Symposium

The Center's March 2019 symposium examined the history and contemporary impact of United States detention and deportation policies.

Discussions over the current deportation/detention regime revealed the contested nature of race and national identity today, and the links to complex issues of citizenship, the legal

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

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Professor of History at UCLA, offered a keynote address that put detentions and deportations in both historical and international perspective. She also presented on Million Dollar Hoods,

a mapping project tracing incarceration rates in Los Angeles.

Other panelists included 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

A Bridge Apart Film Screening and Discussion

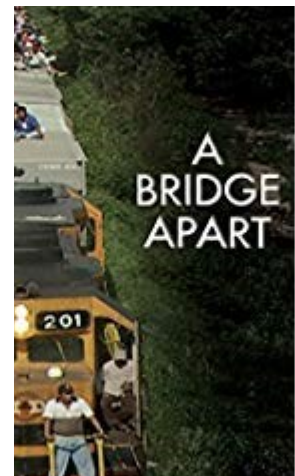
In April, the Center hosted a film screening and panel discussion of *A Bridge Apart*, a documentary exploring the migration of people from Central America and Mexico to the United States. The film also investigates the role of human trafficking and vio-

lence in the migration voyage.

Among the speakers at the event were Meg Barrett, one of the film's producers; Jacqueline Chacon, UMD SAFE Center immigration attorney; and Denise Noonan Slavlin, retired immigration

judge and President Emeritus of the National Association of Immigration Judges.

The film was a featured event of the University's annual Social Justice Day which focused last year on the campus-wide theme of immigration.





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.

NEH Awards Grant for Upcoming Conference

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a \$50,000 collaborative research grant to the Center for its next conference, *Immigration and the Making of African America*, to be held in April 2020 on the College Park campus.

As part of the conference, the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. will host a day of community-focused activities, panel discussions, and an author talk.

The grant will support

both the conference and planning for a future publication exploring how immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America have influenced African-American culture and society in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The inspiration for this project began with conversations between NMAAHC director Lonnie Bunch and the Center's late co-founder, Ira Berlin. Both were eager to explore the experiences and effects of the African diaspora.



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES**