

Call for Submissions to Edited Volume on Rhetorics of Immigration

As reflected in the “nation of immigrants” mythology, the immigrant is a prominent character in the American historical imaginary, symbolic of the liberal progress narrative. Nevertheless, s/he has long occupied a fraught space in the U.S. economy, political field, and public culture; this space has since 9/11 been more complicated still, echoing and reinvigorating the powerful anti-immigrant sentiments of the 1980’s

2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement and the beginning of the “prevention through deterrence” approach to immigration policy. Despite the latter’s attempt to address the problems of the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), the economy of the early 1990s meant a growing demand for unskilled labor and a highly profitable industry of fraudulent identification. This demand, in the context of the “war on terror,” renders immigrant families vulnerable. In the Southwest, the so-called “Secure Communities” and 287(g) programs, which authorize local police to enforce federal immigration laws, have led to large-scale raids, straining relationships between law enforcement and the Latino/a population. Clearly, immigration remains one of the most important and daunting challenges that the United States faces in the 21st century.

The objective of this edited volume is to expand the discipline’s understanding of immigration as a policy debate, a cultural phenomenon, a historical circumstance and myth of origin, a sociological reality, and a theme of ethnic identification and tension. We already have a number of strong chapters and have been in preliminary communication with university presses.

Submissions on a range of relevant topics are encouraged, including (but not limited to):

- immigrants and citizenship
- immigration activism
- immigration policy development
- religious institutions’ and leaders’ relationship with immigrant communities
- immigrants in/and the media
- second generation immigrant populations
- history, memory, and commemoration of U.S. immigration
- immigration as a campaign issue for political leaders
- particular racial, ethnic, and religious immigrant groups
- immigrant subcultures and artistic and vernacular expression
- immigration, nationalism, transnationalism
- immigration, globalization and the nation-state
- immigration, race and racial imagination
- immigration, religious and cultural identity

Interested authors should submit an abstract no longer than 500 words by August 15, 2012. Submissions should be sent to professor Johanna Hartelius (jhartelius@gmail.com <mailto:jhartelius@gmail.com>). Final manuscripts should follow Chicago Style 15th ed., and be accessible to a broad readership. Final manuscripts are due December 15, 2012, and must not exceed 7,000 words including notes and references. If abstracts are accepted for inclusion in the volume, manuscripts must not be under review elsewhere. All manuscripts will be reviewed by the editor.