

Language Acquisition and Immigrant Integration: Comparing European and U.S. Experiences

May 4, 2009

Lipman Room, Barrows Hall, UC Berkeley

AGENDA

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Immigrant integration and language policy differ significantly between European countries and the United States. The United States does not have a coherent, unified national policy on immigrant integration or language access. In fact, many states and localities have been on the forefront of creative interventions for improving language access for immigrant populations. In Europe, many countries have explicit goals and funds dedicated to cultural, social and language integration and assimilation. This conference will examine specific successful initiatives and programs in the K-12, post-secondary education and workforce training spheres in the American and European context. Further, this conference will explore what the U.S. can learn from the European experience, particularly in light of potential large scale immigration reform in the United States.

9:30 – 10:00 am **Breakfast**

10:00 -10:45 am **Welcome, Introduction, and Demographic Overview**

Goodwin Liu, *Co-Director, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity & Diversity*

Michael Fix, *Senior Vice President and Director of Studies, Migration Policy Institute*

10:45 – 12:15 pm **Session 1: K-12 Strategies and Interventions**

Patricia Gándara, *Co-Director, Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles, and Professor of Education, UCLA*

Aída Walqui, *Director of Teacher Professional Development, WestEd*

Discussant: Jorge Ruiz de Velasco, *Associate Director and Director of Education, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity & Diversity*

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Session 2: Post-Secondary Education and Workforce Training

Rubén Lizardo, *Associate Director, PolicyLink*

José Ramón Fernández-Peña, *Director, Welcome Back Initiative, San Francisco State University*

Discussant: Maria Echaveste, *Senior Fellow, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity & Diversity*

2:30 – 2:45 pm

Break

2:45 - 4:00 pm

Session 3: The Evolving Role of Government at Home and Abroad

Raul González, *Senior Legislative Director, National Council of La Raza*

Daniel Faas, *Fulbright-Schuman Fellow, Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley*

Discussant: Aarti Kohli, *Director of Immigration Policy, Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity & Diversity*

4:00 pm

Closing Remarks: Jorge Ruiz de Velasco