



Università degli Studi di Firenze
Facoltà di Giurisprudenza

The Immigrant and the City: Immigration and its Impact on Municipalities

March 23, 2009

The United States has seen an increase in immigration in recent decades and, at the same time, the growing restrictiveness of regulation in the aftermath of 9/11. This new security context also frames debate in Europe, where old and new countries of immigration have received larger numbers of immigrants and refugees and the European Union has sought to develop a community-wide policy for the Schengen area. Debate surrounding immigration has often remained at the national level, focusing on large scale flows and macro-policy prescriptions. However, the tasks of municipal actors in cities faced daily with arbitrating specific cases on the ground, and local dynamics that have a significant impact on the development of national policy, often go unexamined.

“The Immigrant and the City” conference will bring together prominent scholars, policy makers and municipal officials and actors from the United States and Europe to address the impact of immigration on municipalities. How are major immigration issues translated at the municipal level? What strategies have city officials adopted to implement policy changes? How have they dealt with enforcement issues? What is the role of immigrant rights groups/representatives? What kind of municipal variation exists in integration strategies towards immigrants? An investigation of how municipalities manage the integration of growing immigrant populations in European and American cities, in two areas that are central to the integration of immigrants: education and the labor market, will illuminate the similarities and differences in the challenges facing municipalities on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as the complex interplay among different policy levels.

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Program

- 8:45 a.m. Registration
- 9:15 a.m. **Welcome**
Ellyn Toscano, Director, Villa La Pietra and Global Initiatives, New York University
Michele Papa, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Florence
- 9:30 am **Introductory Panel**
Moderator: Ruth Rubio-Marín, European University Institute
Cristina Rodríguez, New York University - *Cooperation and Competition between the National and the Local in U.S. Immigration Law*
Alessandro Simoni, University of Florence – *Italian Immigration Law and its Many Faces: A Review of the Interaction of Legal and Political Discourse at National and Local Levels*
- 10:45 a.m. **Introductory Remarks:**
Mayor Graziano Delrio, Reggio Emilia, Italy
- 11:00 a.m. **Panel – Immigrant Integration through Education**
Moderator: Can Aybek, European University Institute
Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, New York University - *Rethinking Integration in the Global Era*
Maurice Crul, University of Amsterdam - *The Turkish Second Generation in Europe: What Explains Differences in School Success Across Countries?*
Carla Rinaldi and **Deanna Margini**, Reggio Children, Reggio Emilia
Reflections on Multiculturalism in the Educational Service of the Town of Reggio Emilia
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. **Panel – Immigrant Integration through the Local Labor Market**
Moderator: David White, European University Institute
Muzaffar Chishti, New York University - *Immigration and the Labor Market in the U.S.: The Law, the Reality and Proposals for Reform*
Maurizio Ambrosini, University of Milan - *Useful Invaders: The Reluctant Import of Immigrant Workers in the Italian Labor Market*
Franco Corradini, Assessore per la Sicurezza e la Coesione Sociale, Reggio Emilia - *Labor Market Integration in the Town of Reggio Emilia*
- 3:45 p.m. Afternoon break
- 4:00 p.m. **Concluding Round Table**
All Participants
Chair: Cristina Rodríguez, New York University
- 5:30 p.m. Day end