HOW SHOULD WE STUDY HISTORY OF U.S. IMMIGRATION/MIGRATION?

Due Date: Tuesday, Feb. 7th—hard copy to be handed to me at the beginning of class.

Length: Four-to-five pages double-spaced with a twelve-point font

After having read the excerpts from the works in immigration/migration history assigned for Thursday 2/2 and Tuesday 2/7, you will write a short essay that critiques the approaches and methodologies that these pieces present. You should highlight the components that you think work well, and then develop your own ideal of what immigration/migration history should do based on your critiques and borrowings from the pieces that we read. Ultimately, I hope that the ideas that you develop will inform the shape and scope of our final web project.

Just to reiterate, the excerpted works that you can reference are:

- Oscar Handlin, excerpts from *The Uprooted*
- John Bodnar, excerpts from *The Transplanted*
- Kathleen Neils Conzen et al., excerpts from “The Invention of Ethnicity: A Perspective from the U.S.A.”
- Donna Gabbacia, excerpt from “Immigrant Women: Nowhere at Home?”
- George J. Sanchez, excerpts from “Race, Nation, and Culture in Recent Immigration Studies”

A Few Considerations:

- Give your paper a title related to the argument you want to make or vision you have for how we should study the history of immigration/migration. Do not simply call the essay “Peopling of New York Essay #1” or “Immigration History.” Give it a meaningful or clever title that makes the reader want to dive in.
- The paper is relatively short so do not attempt to critique every single aspect of every single reading. Pick and choose the ideas that either you find most problematic or most helpful to developing your own idea of what immigration/migration history should be.
- Often what a scholarly work does not do can be as useful as what it does do when using it to develop your own framework.
- This paper will not require formal citations/footnotes, but you obviously must attribute quotations and paraphrases of borrowed ideas. Since the paper will refer to course readings that we are all doing together, they can by cited in a simple parenthetical manner: (Author Last Name, page number).
- Please fell free to email if you want to bounce ideas off of me. I’d even consider a Skype conversation if you really need to talk an idea through. And if you want feedback on a draft, please email it to me by late Sunday afternoon at the latest to give me time to respond.