

# All Campus Lectures

During Welcome Week, students will have the opportunity to preview academic life on campus by attending one of the All Campus Lectures. Each of these lectures connects to and explores a unique theme of The Newcomers and is given by dynamic DU faculty from a variety of academic disciplines. Below are the featured 2019-20 All Campus Lectures selections.

## "Becoming American – What My Journey as An Immigrant and as a Scholar Taught Me about the American Dream"

Reiman Theatre, Margery Reed Hall  
capacity: 164

Dr. Jing Sun, Political Science



This lecture is offered by Jing Sun, a professor from the Political Science Department and a new American citizen. Professor Sun will combine his personal experience with scholarly analysis to examine the evolving meaning of national identity in an age of global integration. The talk will also offer insights on the value-based confrontation between the "Chinese Dream" and the "American Dream", and what such a grand rivalry may say about America's "soft power" in international relations.

## "Borders in an Age of Globalization"

Sturm Hall, 151  
capacity: 140

Dr. Kevin Archer, International Studies



Recent immigration patterns and the Syrian refugee crisis have laid bare the fundamental problem of border controls in an age of economic globalization. At its most basic the problem is one that pits the economic value of open borders against the ongoing political narrative concerning the need for border controls. This lecture will unpack the development of borders and border controls in the modern international system and will provide context for understanding the issue of refugees, immigration, & trafficking in an era relative economic openness and globalization.

The students profiled in The Newcomers came to Denver as refugees from war, political asylum seekers, and immigrants from economic crises of all types. All migrated at a time of rising xenophobia, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and tightened border controls. Their very presence in Denver highlights the basic openness that remains the hallmark of borders in an age of globalization.

## "Immigration in the Era of Mass Incarceration"

Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center  
capacity: 971

Dr. César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández, Law



In immigration prisons today, there are children—whether 17-years-old or 17-weeks-old. There are women—whether traveling alone or mothers who came to the United States with their kids. There are men—some hope to support families back home; others have green cards and decades in the United States. Like the children of Helen Thorpe's focus whose resilience in the face of immense obstacles marks them as extraordinary, the half million migrants locked up face the difficult task of navigating a legal labyrinth from behind barbed wire, removed from friends and family, and standing on the precipice of a government official's life-altering decisions. Combining legal doctrine and law-enforcement policies, this lecture contextualizes a key feature of immigration law and policy today, while pushing listeners toward the hard questions of why the United States incarcerates so many migrants and whether it should.

## "Immigrant Poets and Writers in Their Own Words "

Byron Theatre, Newman Center  
capacity: 350

David Daniels, University Writing Program

Dr. Lydia Gil Keff, Languages & Literatures



In The Newcomers, Helen Thorpe carefully documents the experiences of displaced students who have lost their homelands, students forced to navigate a new culture while gradually learning to share their stories "about fortitude, about resilience, about holding on to one's humanity through experiences nobody should have to witness." How have contemporary writers, similarly exiled from their homelands, shared their stories of immigration and exile? How do they negotiate with a new linguistic and cultural terrain while maintaining a commitment to their pasts? This collaborative presentation explores the ways in which contemporary writers, often displaced by war and poverty, have chosen to tell their stories in both poetry and prose.

# All Campus Lectures

## "Muslim, Jew, Immigrant: Fear of Others in the US Today"

Dr. Andrea Stanton, Religious Studies

Dr. Sarah Pessin, Religious Studies, Philosophy

Sturm Hall, 248

capacity: 487



The Newcomers connects us to the lives of refugees in Denver at a time when newcomers to the United States do not always feel welcome. In this joint talk, we talk about the growing anti-immigrant sentiment in America today, and how a rise in anti-immigration sentiment goes hand-in-hand with a rise in anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment. Drawing on history, philosophy, and religion, our talk helps uncover deep connections between anti-immigrant, Islamophobic, and anti-Semitic talk and hatreds -- past and present. For example, we highlight how the percentage of immigrants in the US today (roughly 14% of the population) is the same as at the turn of the 20th century when Americans reacted to European immigrants (many Catholic or Jewish) by imposing increasingly restrictive immigration laws. We also consider how those laws were loosened starting in the 1960s, resulting in an increasingly diverse American immigrant population (including many Muslim immigrants). Within this context, we consider the roles of identity, memory, freedom, and generosity in a pluralist democracy, and we consider a range of tools for working our way out of today's precarious American "landscape of hate".

## "No Longer Newcomers: Day Laborers, Working Conditions, & Engaged Research in the Denver Metro Area"

Anderson Commons, 290

capacity: 200



The lecture will address themes in Thorpe's *The Newcomers* including ethnographic research, engaged scholarship, and dynamics of, and barriers to, immigrant integration by focusing on immigrant day laborers in the Denver metro area who have been marginalized by the city's growth. Many assume that day laborers are newcomers; with time and experience, they will transition to more stable working and living conditions and integrate. Nearly 90% of day laborers in the Denver metro area are foreign-born and 94% are Latino. However, nearly 70% lived in the U.S. for more than ten years. Instead of upward mobility, weak labor rights enforcement combines with discrimination, fear of immigration consequences, precarious work conditions to lead many day laborers to face prolonged barriers to integration. In some cases, they assimilate to the underclass, making it difficult to improve their living and working conditions. However, day laborers also organize and collaborate with community partners to uplift working conditions and raise awareness of the inequality of growth in the Denver metro area.