# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About the IIR</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Letter from the Director</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People of the IIR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing Future Scholars</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Featured Projects</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Connections</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expanding Our Public Profile</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking Forward</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the Mission</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**About the IIR and Our Mission**

The Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) is a multidisciplinary research institute at George Mason University. The IIR’s mission is to inform and refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policymakers, and the public — including the business community and the media — by producing and disseminating reliable, valid, and objective multidisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States.

Our faculty affiliates, graduate students, and partners are at the forefront of immigration research. The IIR produces high-quality, timely research and analysis that examines the economic contributions of all immigrants in the United States, with a particular emphasis on immigrant entrepreneurs with high levels of education and skills.

The IIR is a joint venture between George Mason University and The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Massachusetts. The IIR was founded in 2012 through the generous donation of Ms. Diane Portnoy, educator and philanthropist from Malden, Massachusetts.

The IIR is located on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, outside the nation’s capital, Washington, DC. Its strategic location allows the IIR to draw on unparalleled academic, government, and private resources to advance its mission in research, education, and professional opportunities for current and future scholars of immigration studies. Through conferences, workshops, lectures, and other events, the IIR is able to engage in community outreach with one of the most diverse populations in the United States.

**About the Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.**

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrants and refugees become successful workers, parents, and community members through direct service programs and public education. ILC’s direct service program provides free year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston. The ILC further supports immigrants through the Public Education Institute.

The Public Education Institute uses a research-based approach to inform Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society. Since its inception, The ILC Public Education Institute has enhanced the store of immigration research by publishing eight studies and reports about Massachusetts immigrants as entrepreneurs, workers, and consumers. It is hoped that these studies will provide a basis for informed discussion about immigration reform. Diane Portnoy is the CEO and founder of The ILC.
A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to introduce the 2016-2017 Institute for Immigration Research (IIR) Biennial Report, Refocusing the Immigration Conversation. Immigrants and U.S. immigration policy have captured the attention of the nation over the past two years. From cries to build a wall, efforts to overturn Obama era policies, and new executive orders such as Executive Order 13769, which limited travel to the United States for citizens of seven countries, including five predominantly Muslim countries, issues related to immigration made headlines daily. Lower numbers for refugees and still lower rates of resettlement, as well as subtle, but important changes to administrative practices and policies related to visa programs have garnered less attention, but are equally significant changes to the nation’s immigration landscape.

During this time, the IIR has closely followed these events and made empirically informed comments, particularly with an eye to underscoring the positive economic contributions of our foreign-born population. In the few short years since its creation in 2012, the IIR has grown into an important participant in the national immigration conversation. Through research briefs and reports, academic papers, and statements in the press, broadcast, and social media, the IIR has become a recognized voice on matters related to immigrants and immigration. Through our more than 200 Immigration Data on Demand (iDod) factsheets created for local stakeholders, we have provided empirical evidence of the impact of New Americans across the country.

I am excited that the effort to amplify the IIR’s voice and bring facts to bear on the immigration discussion is aided by three new, or at least newish, staff members. Since the previous biennial report, Katharine Rupp has transitioned from a part-time position at the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR) to full-time office manager for both the CSSR and the IIR. Katharine brings incredible organizational and administrative skills to this position from years working in the retail sector, as well as a unique talent for creating a positive work environment. In late 2017, Michele Waslin joined the IIR as program coordinator. With a Ph.D. in political science and nearly twenty years of experience working on immigration issues with advocacy groups and think tanks, Michele has a deep knowledge and understanding of immigration policy and the actors who shape that policy. Also in late 2017, we offered a postdoctoral fellow position to Wenjing Wang. Ironically, Wenjing’s start date was delayed until early in 2018, as her work authorization took longer than normal, something that has become commonplace in today’s changing immigration climate. Now fully onboard, Wenjing’s background in anthropology and expertise with geographical data has already made her a valued member of the IIR team.

Working side-by-side with the IIR’s full-time staff, our undergraduate and graduate students bring talent, energy, and dedication to the office. As one graduate student said in a recent email: “Everyday here feels like a superhero mission.” An attitude like that is contagious! Our students’ passion for immigration issues is matched by the intensity with which they analyze and interpret data.

As we look forward to the next phase of the IIR’s growth, we plan to build on the progress of the last two years as detailed in this report. An outline, for this growth based on our strategic plan, is found at the end of this report. Hopefully, during the next phase of the IIR’s growth, there will be growing recognition of the positive economic contributions of New Americans, and concrete progress will be made in the nation’s immigration legislation and policies.

Sincerely,

James C. Witte
The People of the IIR

The IIR staff works to fulfill the IIR’s mission and keep us moving forward on a daily basis. They conduct and oversee research, administer grants, plan events, maintain financial records, supervise research assistants, speak to the media, maintain the website, communicate with outside audiences, and much more.

James C. Witte, Ph.D, is the Director of the IIR. In addition to leading the IIR, Dr. Witte is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and is Director of the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR). Before coming to Mason, he was a professor at Clemson University and Northwestern University. In addition to immigration, his research interests include the use of the internet to collect data. He is also a scholar of Pakistan and traveled there ten times in the past five years. In the spring of 2017, Dr. Witte spent four months on a ship teaching in the Semester at Sea program and traveling around the globe.

Michele Waslin, Ph.D, is the IIR Program Coordinator. In this capacity, she tracks, analyzes, and writes about immigration research and policy, coordinates the work of the IIR, and builds relationships with academics and other experts. Before coming to the IIR, Michele worked on immigration research and policy at several organizations, wrote extensively on immigration policy, and appeared in English- and Spanish-language media. Michele and her husband are avid sports fans and live in northern Virginia with their cat Rocky.

Wenjing Wang, Ph.D, is the IIR Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Wenjing arrived at the IIR in January 2018 after receiving her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017. Originally from China, Wenjing brings a large array of quantitative and research skills to the IIR. She and her husband have been exploring their new home of Virginia and are avid rock climbers and hikers.

Katharine Rupp is the IIR Office Manager. After nearly 20 years of experience in the retail business world, Katharine joined the Mason team in December of 2015 as the Office Manager for the Center for Social Science Research and the Institute for Immigration Research. Katharine is the glue that holds the IIR and the CSSR together through her exceptional administrative skills. Katharine and her husband are upstate New Yorkers at heart, but love their home and community here in northern Virginia.

The IIR would like to thank our former staff:

- Justin Lowry, Postdoctoral Research Fellow (2014-2017)
Distinguished IIR Advisory Board Members

The IIR Advisory Board provides oversight and guidance for the IIR and our work. Board members assist with the dissemination of the IIR’s research, provide helpful feedback, evaluate the IIR’s financial condition, and generally promote the goals and objectives of the IIR.

Co-Chairpersons
- Ann Ardis, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Fall 2018-Present)
- Deborah Boehm-Davis, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Spring 2013-Fall 2017)
- Robert Matz, Interim Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Spring 2018-Fall 2018)
- Diane Portnoy, Founder and CEO, Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (Fall 2012-Present)

Members
- Frank Bailey, Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts Bankruptcy (Fall 2012-Present)
- Jack Censer, Professor Emeritus, George Mason University (Board Co-Chair Fall 2012-Spring 2013 & Member Spring 2013-Present)
- Lingxin Hao, Professor, Johns Hopkins University (Fall 2012-Fall 2016)
- Daniel Houser, Chair and Professor of Economics, George Mason University (Fall 2012-Present)
- Alex Nowrasteh, Senior Immigration Policy Analyst, Cato Institute (Fall 2017-Present)
- Jason Silverman, Wealth Management Advisor, Silverman Han Group (Fall 2014-Present)
- James Witte, Director, IIR, George Mason University (Fall 2012-Present)

A Special Thank You to Those Who Offered Additional Support
- Kevin Augustyn, Director of Development, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Alecia Bryan, Associate Director of Development, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Shannon Davis, Professor, George Mason University (Acting Director, IIR, Spring 2017)
- Karen Glover, Director of Communications, Immigrant Learning Center
- Ellen Hembree, Assistant Director of Development, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Denzil Mohammed, Director, ILC Public Education Institute
- Kathy Smith, Director of Development, Immigration Learning Center
Faculty Affiliates

Scholars at Mason conduct a good deal of immigration-related research across many departments and colleges making Mason a national leader on immigration research. As a university-wide clearinghouse for immigration research and scholarship, the IIR collaborates with our Mason colleagues. The IIR has 17 faculty affiliates.

- Amy Best, Department of Sociology
- Lisa Breglia, Global Affairs Program and Global Interdisciplinary Programs
- Jo-Marie Burt, Global Affairs Program
- Carol Cleaveland, Department of Social Work
- Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, Schar School of Policy and Government
- Tyler Cowen, Department of Economics
- John Dale, Department of Sociology
- Shannon Davis, Department of Sociology
- Justin Gest, Schar School of Policy and Government
- Lisa Gring-Pemble, School of Business
- Jhumka Gupta, Department of Global and Community Health
- Mehtab Karim, Schar School of Policy and Government
- Dae Young Kim, Department of Sociology
- Bethany Letiecq, Department of Human Development
- Tyler Myroniuk, Department of Sociology
- Eric Waithaka, Department of Social Work
- Adam Winsler, Department of Psychology
DEVELOPING FUTURE SCHOLARS

The IIR takes seriously its goal of preparing the next generation of immigration scholars. We choose top graduate and undergraduate students and provide them opportunities to work closely with IIR staff and faculty. In addition, the IIR provides students with opportunities to discuss the latest developments in immigration research and policy, share their own research, collaborate with other experts, learn about relevant resources and events, and gain access to immigration experts. In exchange, the students perform invaluable research and communications work for the IIR.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

- **Graduate**
  - Rasmieyh Abdelnabi, Graduate Research Assistant (2016-2017)
  - Alysia Blake, Graduate Research Assistant (2015-2016)
  - Sean Doody, Graduate Research Assistant (2017-Present)
  - Yukiko Furuya, Graduate Research Assistant, (2018-Present)
  - Eirini Giannaraki, Graduate Research Assistant (2018-Present)
  - Melissa Gouge, Graduate Research Assistant (2017-2018)
  - Marissa Kiss, Graduate Research Assistant (2016-Present)
  - Mohamed Mohamed, Graduate Research Assistant (2017-2018)
  - Delmer Kevin Nazar, Graduate Research Assistant (2018-Present)
  - Mohammad “Ismail” Nooraddini, Graduate Research Assistant, (2017-Present)
  - Mayra Parada, Graduate Research Assistant (2016-Present)
  - Nicole Slivensky, Graduate Research Assistant (2015-2016)
  - Joshua Tuttle, Graduate Research Assistant (2014-2017)
  - Maria Valdovinos, Graduate Research Assistant (2016-2017)

- **Undergraduate**
  - Orsolya “Orshi” Buzas, Intern (2016)
  - Laurel David, Intern (2016)
  - Sabinaya Joshi, OSCAR Research Assistant (2016-2018)*
  - Timothy Joslyn, Research Assistant (2016)
  - David Kanos, Research Assistant (2017-2018)
  - Bianca Kwan, OSCAR Research Assistant (2017-2018)*
  - Farhaj Murshed, OSCAR Research Assistant (2017-2018)*
  - Nilab Osmani, Intern (2018)
  - Elizabeth Portaluppi, Communications and Research Assistant (2016-2018)

- **Affiliated Researchers**
  - Andrea Zach, Researcher (2017)
  - Louise Puck, Researcher (2015-2018)
  - Katie Kerstetter, Researcher (2017-2018)

*OSCAR (Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research) Research Assistant
IIR Alumni – Where are They Now?

The experience provided by the IIR gives our alumni the knowledge and skills they need to advance their careers. Our recent students and staff have taken their scholarship and abilities to the next level.

Dr. Justin Lowry is currently an assistant professor of anthropology at SUNY Plattsburgh, where he teaches classes on archaeology and anthropology. One of his most popular classes is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) class called Mapping Cultures. Justin reports he would not be able to teach that class without his IIR experience training people in GIS. Justin is also conducting research in collaboration with his new colleagues, collecting first person accounts and material remains of refugees passing through the unofficial border crossings in upstate NY. Justin concludes, “All of these roles and research would not have been possible if it were not for the work I was encouraged to do or the skills I gained while at the IIR.”

Joshua Tuttle has served as a consultant with the Survey Research and Analytics Center at Deloitte Consulting, LLP. He has led a number of survey projects for federal agencies in the defense and health sectors. Recently, Joshua accepted a research position at GovStrive, a management consulting firm based in Georgia. At GovStrive, Joshua will lead a survey research and analytics team that serves various government agencies. Joshua is completing his doctorate in sociology at George Mason University. His dissertation discusses the role that Evangelicals, particularly Southern Baptists, played in the economic restructuring of the U.S. economy during the late 20th century.

Alysia Blake is a survey statistician at the United States Census Bureau working with the decennial census. Much of her work, primarily project management, touches upon every aspect of the survey life cycle. Alysia reports that her time at the IIR and the training provided, such as data analysis and mapping, allows her to better work with the many different stakeholders who come together to make the decennial census possible. She also feels that her IIR experience allows her greater flexibility to move around within the agency due to the different skillsets that she acquired. Alysia concludes that the IIR “has provided a foundation that I can continue to build upon.”

Dr. Melissa Gouge is a Research Analyst for the Office of Research and Evaluation at the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). She works in collaboration with a team of researchers and program staff to develop tools for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data to increase our knowledge of the impact national service has on communities across the United States. Melissa gained valuable skills and experience working among like-minded colleagues at the IIR. During her time with the IIR, she worked on projects directly related to civic participation that she uses in her professional role at CNCS.
Visiting Scholars

In 2016 and 2017, the IIR was privileged to serve as the primary host for seven visiting scholars from three different countries: Pakistan, Turkey, and Russia. These scholars have benefited from working with the IIR faculty, staff, and students. We have also benefited in turn, learning from their insights, experiences, and research. Moreover, by hosting visiting scholars, the IIR takes part in a tradition that goes back to Thomas Jefferson, where science and diplomacy are inextricably linked and are important facets of people-to-people diplomacy.

- Ozlem Turker, Ankara University, Turkey
- Hilal Barin, Hacettepe University, Turkey
- Mustafa Hyder, University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Sumrin Kalia, University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Munazza Danish, University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Salman Khatani, University of Karachi, Pakistan
- Aigul Mavletova, National Research University, Higher School of Economics, Russia
Immigration Data on Demand (iDod)

Through iDod, our signature project, the IIR partners with numerous organizations across the United States and provides factual information about immigrants in specific geographic areas. Requests come from nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, churches, state and local government agencies, law firms, the media, and for-profit businesses. The iDod fact sheets are used by the requesters to respond to inaccurate information, provide services to immigrant communities, conduct further research, and advocate for policies that maximize the contributions of immigrants.

Moving forward, the IIR will continue to produce fact sheets upon request. In addition, we will create fact sheets on issues that are highly relevant and important. For example, in 2017, we produced the “45 for the 45th” fact sheet series, meant to provide data on immigrants and their contributions for the incoming administration. We will also focus on forming deeper partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and others who request data.
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Moving forward, the IIR will continue to produce fact sheets upon request. In addition, we will create fact sheets on issues that are highly relevant and important. For example, a fact sheet series, meant to provide data on immigrants and their contributions for the incoming administration. We will also focus on forming deeper partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and other entities.
FEATURED PROJECTS

The IIR continues to produce relevant research that pushes back against myths and misinformation, and adds to the scholarship on immigrant contributions to the U.S. economy.

Shining a Light on Immigrant Artists:
In 2017 the IIR produced a podcast entitled *Making a Mark, Making Places*, which captures the voices and stories of immigrant artists in the United States. The three-part series includes conversational interviews with six immigrant artists and explores how they established themselves in the United States.

Refocusing the Conversation:
During a recent Congressional election in Virginia, there were claims that immigrants were more likely to engage in criminal behavior. Pushing back on this myth, the IIR produced “Arrest Rates by County in Virginia, 2015,” which showed that in areas of Virginia with a large immigrant population, arrest rates were low. In areas of the state with relatively small immigrant populations, arrest rates were higher. IIR research found that across the state, there was no correlation between the proportion of foreign-born individuals living in the area and arrest rates.

Monitoring the Immigration Conversation:
The Twitter Analysis #immigrationreform Initiative tracks discussion relating to immigration on Twitter. Since the project began in February 2013, the IIR has collected nearly 15 million tweets containing the word immigration. We analyze tweets to identify immigration “influencers” and examine who is talking to whom, what they’re talking about, and how these conversations are changing over time. We compile, analyze, and assess the political and public discussions via Twitter using NodeXL and other research software as a means to understand the opinions of the public, policymakers, and the media regarding immigrants and immigration.
In 2016, the IIR and the Immigrant Learning Center released “Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy Through Care and Innovation.” This collaborative project examines the role of immigrants in the health care industry. It concludes that while immigrants make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they play a disproportionately large role in American health care.

Highlighting Immigrants in Sports:
As part of our research on immigrants in the labor market, the IIR examined immigrants in sports. “Baseball: The (Inter) National Pastime” looks at foreign-born players in Major League Baseball and highlights two examples—the 2017 All Star Game and the division-leading Washington Nationals—to illustrate how changes in professional sports mirror and foreshadow the broader impact of demographic change and increasing globalization.

Exploring Immigrant Integration:
This research focuses on the extent to which higher levels of social capital, civic engagement, and volunteering among immigrants are associated with greater economic opportunity and success for individuals and communities. It examines the sequence and timing of volunteer activities, social networks, and economic success to clarify whether community engagement and social ties are driving economic success or are consequences of success. The research also assesses the influence of the communities themselves. The aim is to explore how volunteering translates into greater employment and earnings potential, and how the character of a community shapes that process.

Focusing on Immigrants in Health Care:
In 2016, the IIR and the Immigrant Learning Center released “Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy Through Care and Innovation.” This collaborative project examines the role of immigrants in the health care industry. It concludes that while immigrants make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, they play a disproportionately large role in American health care.
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The IIR works with George Mason University and the Northern Virginia Metro Area community to push back against myths and promote lively conversations about the economic contributions of immigrants.

The IIR encourages immigration conversations through our monthly colloquia. These events bring distinguished speakers to the George Mason University campus and provide faculty, students, and community members an opportunity to engage in constructive conversation about a variety of immigration-related topics.

2016:

A Dialogue on Immigrant Integration in America, January 28, 2016
Welcoming America, a nonprofit organization, connects leaders in community, government, and nonprofit sectors. Their networks provide support both locally and nationally. This conversation revealed how they build on tested methods and approaches to creating inclusive, welcoming places for immigrants, and how they seek to change systems and cultures by creating policy, reinforcing welcoming principles, and communicating the socioeconomic benefits of inclusion.

Central American Day Laborers in the United States, February 18, 2016
Louise Puck, IIR affiliated researcher, shared her qualitative research findings on Central American immigrants working in Centreville, VA. The aim of the study was to examine the value of a day laborer’s social network and the importance of acquiring English language skills and vocational skills to gain employment.

Immigrants, Entrepreneurship, and the Arts, March 31, 2016
What does entrepreneurship mean? It is common for people to define entrepreneurship in a narrow way, confined to self-employment and seeking maximum profitability. However, a broader understanding sees entrepreneurship as an outlook that produces value of all types based on flexible, innovative, and creative efforts. Our panel discussion group examined the practices and contributions of artists, particularly immigrant artists, and how they provide an ideal means to illustrate this view in U.S. society.

A Nation of Nations with Tom Gjelten, April 14, 2016
Tom Gjelten, correspondent for National Public Radio and author of A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story, discussed how the landscape of America has changed over the past fifty years since the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. Mr. Gjelten shared the impact of this law and how it has transformed America, as told through the experiences of families in one suburban county in Virginia.

Immigrants in Health Care: Keeping Americans Healthy through Care and Innovation, September 28, 2016
The panel discussed the importance of immigrants to health care in the United States. They have vital roles in medicine, medical science, and long-term care, and they have a growing presence in nursing. Immigrants fill critical vacancies, bring education and skill from their homeland, and help to provide culturally competent care to an increasingly diverse patient population. They also play a critical role in innovations to improve the health of all Americans.
2016 Continued:

The New Minority, the U.S. Presidential Elections and Immigration, October 18, 2016

Dr. Justin Gest presented the findings from his latest book, The New Minority: White Working Class Politics in an Age of Immigration and Inequality. He detailed a comprehensive cross-national analysis of white working class alienation in the United Kingdom and United States, along with survey research of radical right support due to loss of social status and political importance.

The U.S. Presidential Elections and Immigration Policy, November 10, 2016

This panel discussion examined the results of the 2016 elections and how the outcome directly impacts immigration policy in the United States. The event featured a moderated discussion between Nicolas Perilla, the President of the Cisneros Center for New Americans, and Miguel Solis, the youngest serving board member of the Dallas, TX Independent School District. Politically and socially active in the Hispanic community, both Mr. Perilla and Mr. Solis offered important insights on the results of the 2016 election.

Numbers That Matter— Using Immigration Data to Advance Change, December 6, 2016

This webinar, presented in cooperation with the Immigrant Learning Center, gave a live demonstration of Immigration Data on Demand (iDod), a new, online service that generates free, customized fact sheets on immigrant populations down to state, county, congressional district and even neighborhood levels.

2017:

Xenophobia and Islamophobia in the Modern Era, February 1, 2017

In recent years, the United States has witnessed an increase in xenophobic and Islamophobic rhetoric. The prevalence of inaccurate information about immigrants and Muslims has resulted in significant fear and mistrust in many communities. This panel discussion presented facts about these two specific groups in order to promote greater understanding and empower audience members to engage in informed activism.

DACA, DAPA, and Deportation, February 27, 2017

Over the past decade, there have been multiple efforts to reform the U.S. immigration system, including policies such as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents). Only DACA remains in effect, and it is uncertain whether it will continue to allow young undocumented immigrants to plan their future without fear of deportation. This event featured a free screening of the film Dream: An American Story and followed with a panel discussion that included immigration experts examining the new reality for Dreamers in America.

Creating Welcoming Cities for Immigrants with Data, April 26, 2017

This event highlighted how data plays an important role in creating welcoming cities for immigrants. Guest speaker Andrew Lim, Associate Director of Research at the New American Economy (NAE), presented his findings. The NAE brings together more than 500 Republican, Democratic, and Independent mayors and business leaders who support immigration reforms that help create jobs for Americans today.
Celebrating Immigrant Artists as Entrepreneurs

Early in 2016, the IIR initiated a new research project focusing on immigrant artists and their contributions to U.S. life. Findings show they are entrepreneurs – innovative, flexible, dynamic, risk taking, creative, and growth oriented – who create value for themselves and the communities in which they live and work. The IIR hosted two events to celebrate many of the artists who assisted with the research.

Krasnow Institute- May 2, 2016
Artists Sushmita Mazumdar, Yosef Habte, Doler Shah, Rana Jaafar Yaseen, Sharmila Karamchandani, Ernesto Bravo, and Yuri Long presented their work and spoke on their experiences.

Clarendon Ballroom- May 15, 2017
Armando Trull, WAMU reporter for race and ethnicity, served as special guest for this event and spoke about the role immigrants play in American culture. He was joined by Mason President Ángel Cabrera who welcomed our guests.
EXPANDING OUR PUBLIC PROFILE

The IIR distributes our research and informs conversations about the economic contributions of immigrants through the news media and social media. Social media contact information can be found on page 20.

IIR in the News

In 2016 and 2017, the IIR’s work was featured in many news articles. Here is a small sample:


**Selected 2016-17 Publications**

**Books:**


**Refereed Journal Articles:**


Refereed Journal Articles Continued:


Book Chapters:


LOOKING FORWARD

At this juncture, with the critical need for the nation to address issues of immigration and immigration policy—and to do so in a data-driven way—the IIR is ready to expand its work and impact. Our 2019-2022 Strategic Plan directly addresses IIR’s intermediate goals:

1. To serve as a university-wide clearinghouse for immigration research and scholarship and a resource for scholars, students, and staff. To build on the strengths of existing research and programs at Mason, and to promote collaboration across disciplines and research centers.
2. To promote partnerships and collaboration with external organizations to respond to community needs.
3. To engage in relevant primary and secondary research, to produce factual, reliable information to counter myths and misinformation, and to provide evidence about the ways in which immigrants contribute to the U.S. economy.
4. To disseminate our research findings in ways that build relationships with our primary audiences: academics, policymakers, the business community, the media, and the public.
5. To equip undergraduate and graduate students with the conceptual and methodological tools to be the next generation of immigration scholars.
6. To expand the IIR’s funding base through new partnerships and funding sources.

These intermediate goals represent key steps toward the IIR’s long-term goals:

- That Mason and Mason faculty be recognized as national leaders in multidisciplinary immigration research, and that the IIR be recognized as a preeminent, multidisciplinary immigration research institute with regional, national, and international reach and influence.
- To use our research, resources, and influence to inform and refocus the immigration conversation among academics, policymakers and the public—including the business community and media—by producing and disseminating valid, reliable, and objective multidisciplinary academic research related to immigrants and immigration to the United States.
SUPPORTING THE MISSION

As we continue in our efforts to influence immigration policy with fact-based, unbiased research, we will expand our influence by becoming recognized as a thought-leader in immigration research. Furthermore, our work enriches the public discourse on immigrants and immigration policy while also making significant and original contributions to the field.

Contributors to the IIR join our commitment to see sound immigration policy based on objective, evidence-based research. With your support, we can discredit the influence of outdated myths and self-serving partisanship.

- **Follow us on social media**
  - @Institute for Immigration Research-GMU
  - @iirgmu
  - iir.gmu.edu

- **Join our mailing list**
  - Visit our website or [https://bit.ly/2OPz8nJ](https://bit.ly/2OPz8nJ) to join our mailing list.
  - The IIR uses this list to send event announcements, newsletters, and other updates.

- **Attend our events**
  - Upcoming events can be found at iir.gmu.edu/events.

- **Make a gift**
  - Give online at [advancement.gmu.edu/iir01](http://advancement.gmu.edu/iir01) (Please indicate the IIR as the recipient).
  - Mail a check to:
    - Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations, 4400 University Drive MSN 1A3, Fairfax, VA 22030.
    - Please make checks payable to the George Mason University Foundation, Inc. and indicate the IIR in the memo line.
  - Call (703) 993-8850
    - A staff member from the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations can answer any questions you have about making a gift.