



## **Douglas S. Massey**

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### **Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Topics 2020-2021**

#### **Why Border Enforcement Backfired**

From 1988 to 2008 the budget of the U.S. Border Patrol rose 15 times, going from \$205 million to more than \$3 billion, and the Border Patrol increased by a factor of nearly five, growing from 3,700 to 17,500 officers. Over the same period 24.8 million unauthorized migrants were apprehended along the border and 4,000 migrants lost their lives while trying to gain entry to the United States. Despite this massive increase in the U.S. border enforcement effort, the number of undocumented residents grew by a factor of six, rising from 1.9 million people in 1988 to 11.6 million in 2008. In this lecture, I present reliable quantitative data to explain how America's strategy of massive border enforcement not only failed, but backfired—actually serving to accelerate the growth of the undocumented population rather than constrain it.

#### **New Realities at the Mexico-U.S. Border**

Undocumented migration from Mexico ended in 2008 for reasons quite apart from America's massive border enforcement effort. Since then the net volume of undocumented Mexico-U.S. migration has been negative and the rate of undocumented entry has dropped to zero. The very few undocumented arrivals are offset by many more departures, causing the undocumented Mexican population to fall by 25%, or 1.7 million persons. Despite these numbers, President Trump campaigned in 2016 on a promise to build a border wall and since then he has dramatically increased resources for border enforcement, continuing a long-standing mismatch between U.S. policies and realities along the Mexico-U.S. border. In an era when large inflows of unauthorized Mexicans seeking jobs have been replaced the arrival of a much smaller inflow of families and children, what in the past was simply a counterproductive border control strategy has become a humanitarian tragedy. In my lecture I describe the profound shift in the number and composition of migrants arriving at the border today, and explain how our harsh enforcement regime of deportation, exclusion, and detention is undermining the welfare of the United States and harming the next generation of Americans.

#### **Miracles on the Border: Votive Paintings of Mexican Immigrants**

Migration to the U.S. is a tradition in Mexico going back to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and since its earliest days the human side of international background has been well-captured in a genre of population Mexican art known as retablos. These are votive paintings, usually rendered on

metal, in which the supplicant gives thanks to a holy image for a miracle received, many of which touch on the trials, tribulations, and rewards of migration to the United States. This presentation features a brief introduction to retablo painting and its influence on Mexican popular and fine arts followed by a colorful slide show of retablos left at shrines to the Virgin Mary and the Holy Child by U.S. migrants and their family members. The images tell the story of immigration to the U.S. from the viewpoint of those who experienced it and come from a larger collection of retablos taken from the book *Miracles on the Border* (U. of Arizona Press 1995) and a traveling art exhibit of the same name.

### **Race, Segregation, and Inequality in the United States**

Despite declines in discrimination and prejudice, the United States remains a very racially segregated society, one that is now beset by a rising tide of economic inequality and class segregation. In this lecture, I describe recent trends in the residential segregation of African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians in U.S. metropolitan areas and present evidence on the continued causes of segregation. I then outline how the combination of high levels racial and class segregation concentrate poverty in black and Latino neighborhoods while simultaneously concentrating affluence in the neighborhoods of well-off whites and Asians. The result is a socially and politically polarized America where life chances depend on where you live and the socioeconomic mobility is increasingly unlikely.

### **Black Diversity at Elite Colleges and Universities**

Although race relations in the United States historically have been dominated by a “one-drop rule” that rendered race a “master status” for persons of African ancestry, in recent decades immigration from Africa and the Caribbean, along with a growing black middle class and rising rates of interracial marriage have combined to diversify the black elite. In this talk, I draw on a unique study of black college students at selective colleges and universities to reveal the remarkable diversity of the new black elite with respect to identity, nativity, generation, class, and integration. I describe in some detail how their social and academic experiences on campus are structured by differences along these dimensions, and what their variegated pathways tell us about the nature of race in the United States today, not only on elite college campuses but throughout American society.

### **Possible topics for classroom visits and informal discussions:**

Immigration and the Changing Nature of Race in the United States

Immigration, Obama, and White Backlash in the United States

Race, Class, Gender and Social Mobility in American Society

Public Policy and the Creation of Inequality in America

The Future of Immigration and Globalization in the World Today

The History of Racial Segregation in the United States

## **AV Needs**

A projector and screen for Powerpoint presentations