

The Literature of Immigration: Scholarly; Personal; Creative
The Hanna Geldrich-Leffman Memorial Colloquium on
Language, Literature, and Society
March 25–26, 2009.

The 2009 Colloquium on Language, Literature, and Society will focus on the immigrant experience. Scholars and practicing artists will illuminate both the physical and emotional disruptions brought on by relocation as well as the expression of issues of personal and cultural identity in literature.

The speakers on the first day will be Kathleen Conzen of the University of Chicago and Edward Park of Loyola Marymount University. Dr. Conzen is an historian who has written extensively on the immigrant experience with particular emphasis on German immigrants, urban immigration, and issues of ethnicity and assimilation. Dr. Park is an expert on immigration policy. He has also co-authored with his brother a book entitled *Probationary Americans*, which highlight issues of current U.S. immigration policy from the vantage point of the Asian-American community.

The second day will be devoted to the creative literature arising out of the immigrant experience. In the morning Nahid Rachlin will meet with students in a class on writing fiction. In the afternoon Deborah Contrada will recount the stories of Italian immigrants. The colloquium will conclude with a reading by Nahid Rachlin from her first novel *Foreigner* and her latest work, a memoir entitled *Persian Girls*.

Schedule:

Wednesday, March 25

2:00 p.m. Kathleen Neils Conzen, Ph.D, University of Chicago
“George Kulzer's Apologia: The Four Lives of an Immigrant
Autobiography”

7:00 p.m. Edward J.W. Park, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount University
“Probationary Americans: Reimagining the Immigrant Subject in the Age of
Crisis”

Thursday, March 25

2:00 p.m. Deborah Contrada, Ph.D., University of Iowa
“The Migrant Italians: Storytelling Across Worlds”

7:00 p.m. Nahid Rachlin will read from her novels, *Foreigner* and *Persian Girls*

All events will take place in the Fourth Floor Programming Room