

METROPOLITAN CENTER

for research on equity and the transformation of schools

In collaboration with the
NYU Center for Multicultural Education & Programs (NYU CMEP)

Immigration and New York City Schools

Saturday, December 5, 2015

9:30am – 4:00pm

9:30am **Registration**

10:15am **Welcome**

- David Kirkland, *Metro Center*

10:30am **Panel 1: Demographic change & immigrant families**

This panel will focus on changes in immigration patterns. Panelists will talk about what it means for a community to experience demographic shifts resulting from immigration. Moreover, panelists will share practical ways for schools and communities to anticipate and/or respond to demographic change, as well as how they are able to build relationships with immigrant families.

- Rebecca Tesfai, *Temple University*
- Cesar Zuniga, *Parent Child Home Program*
- Joe Luft, *Internationals Network for Public Schools*
- Derron Wallace, *Brandeis University*
- Moderated by Roey Ahram, *Metro Center*

11:45am **Lunch and Keynote Speaker**

- Jael Ferguson, *Westbury High School*

12:45pm **Panel 2: Undocumented youth**

Panelists will discuss the needs of undocumented youth (and their families) and how schools and community-based organizations can help support their academic success.

- Hiro Yoshikawa, *New York University*
- Max Ahmed, *New York Immigration Coalition*
- Nedda DeCastro, *Internationals Network for Public Schools*
- Pia Iribarren, *New York University*
- Moderated by Ahmed Alif, *Columbia University*

2:00pm **Break**

2:15pm **Panel 3: Language and Adaptation**

This panel will focus on how schools work with immigrant students who are English Language Learners. Panelists will discuss challenges and opportunities for schools regarding language and adaptation.

- Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, *New York University*
- Marguerite Lukes, *Internationals Network for Public Schools*
- Ron Woo, *Statewide Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network*
- Moderator: Gabriela Bermudez, *New York University*

3:30pm **Presentation of Metro Center White Paper**

- Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, *New York University*

3:45pm **Closing Remarks**

- David Kirkland, *Metro Center*
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Panel Bios

Max Ahmed, *New York Immigration Coalition*. Mubashar (Max) Ahmed is the Senior Education Advocacy Associate with the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC). He works closely with community leaders across NYC to lead an Education Collaborative that fights for immigrant students' and their families' right to educational and life success. Through the multi-ethnic and multi-sector Collaborative, Max helps foster deeper cooperation and development of collective solutions to improve our education system. Max engages community leaders, elected officials, and administrators on behalf of the NYIC and the Education Collaborative to support ongoing campaign efforts. He also coordinates the Your Children Can Go to College, Yes They Can Project that provides immigrant parents with workshops, resources, and information on sending their children to college. He has testified before the New York City Council to provide educational supports and a sound education to the City's 150K English language learners. Previously, Max worked as a Senior Client Relations Manager at Cotton Mine. Max graduated, Cum Laude, with a Baccalaureate of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from the City University of New York, City College.

Dr. Roey Ahram, *New York University*. Dr. Ahram has led numerous evaluation projects including projects funding by the New York State Education Department and the National Science Foundation, and provides technical assistance and analysis on education policy and research to school districts. Additionally, he has taught research methods courses at Hunter College and has published various articles on special education disproportionality. Prior to joining Metro Center in 2006, Roey was a high school mathematics teacher in Worcester, MA and Chairman of the Worcester Public Schools Mathematics Curriculum Revision Committee (7th-12th grade). He earned his Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and his Master of Arts in Teaching at Clark University in Worcester, MA, and his Ph.D. in Teaching and Learning from New York University.

Ahmed Alif, *Columbia University*. Ahmed Alif is a Master's student in the Advanced Clinical Social Work Program at Columbia University. He graduated from the Applied Psychology program at NYU, where his research focused on undocumented students psychological distress and academic performance, and how familial and immigration policies influence undocumented parents' participation in the U.S. economy. His mentors were Dr. Hiro Yoshikawa and Dr. Sumie Okazaki. He currently working as an intern at Arab American Family Support Center (AAFSC), an agency contracted by Administration of Children's Services (ACS). Most of his cases involve abuse/neglect and domestic violence. He has previously worked with Asian American Careers and Education Lab at NYU, NYU PlayLab, NYU Child Study Center and Elmhurst Hospital."

Gabriela Bermudez, *New York University*.

Dr. Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng, *New York University*. Hua-Yu Sebastian Cherng is a sociologist whose scholarly and community-based work focuses on the social lives of marginalized youth. His interests include comparative perspectives on race/ethnicity (with a focus on China and the US), immigrant adaptation, and social capital within the school and educational context. As such, his research examines the social relationships in the lives of minority and immigrant adolescents in the US, gender and ethnic differences in education in China, and cultural and social capital transfers between adolescents in the US. His scholarship has appeared in journals such as *American Educational Research Journal*, *Social Forces*, and *Teachers College Record*. Cherng received his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2014, and he has also taught in a charter middle school in San Francisco and a college in rural China.

Nedda de Castro, *International High School at Prospect Heights*. Nedda de Castro started her career in education in 1987 as a Bilingual Math Teacher in Spanish and English at Edward R. Murrow HS in Brooklyn. She then pursued a Master's degree in Social Work and since then has been a passionate youth advocate in health and education. She first came in contact with the Internationals in 1992 as the Teen Age Pregnancy and Parenting Social Worker and Internship site supervisor at The New York Presbyterian-Hospital for students of Laguardia International. In 1995, she received the International High School's Partnership in Education Award for her service to students. By 1998, she was the Social Work Manager for Women's Health, while continuing to the focus of her practice on adolescents. In 2000, she left the hospital and returned to the DOE with the goal of becoming a school-based leader. She was invited to become a founding member of the International HS @ Prospect Heights team in 2004, and she jumped at the chance. The Assistant Principal from 2005, she became the principal in February of 2010. Nedda has a MS in Policy and Management from SUNY Stony Brook and a Master's of Social Work from NYU.

Jael Ferguson, *Westbury High School*.

Pia Iribarren, *New York University*. Pia Iribarren is an undocumented Latina senior at NYU working on a Psychology major and Chemistry and Physics minors on a Pre-Health track. She is a core member of the NYU DREAM Team, a group of students, immigrants and allies, both documented and undocumented, working to make NYU more accessible to undocumented students as well as advocating for the right of undocumented people. Pia hopes to one day become the first physician in her family and to be able to provide quality healthcare to her community.

Joe Luft, *Internationals Network for Public Schools*. Joe Luft is currently Deputy Director of Internationals Network for Public Schools and will assume the role of Executive Director on January 1, 2016. Prior to joining Internationals Network, Joe was the founding principal of the Flushing International High School in Queens, NY and a teacher at the Brooklyn International High School. Joe holds a B.A. in History and Hispanic Studies from Connecticut College and a M.A. in ESL/Secondary Education from The George Washington University in Washington DC. He is a graduate of the New Leaders for New Schools urban principal preparation program.

Dr. Marguerite Lukes, *Internationals Network for Public Schools*. Dr. Marguerite Lukes, Director of National Initiatives at Internationals Network for Public Schools, has been an educator and advocate for emergent bilingual students and their families for more than 25 years in roles including ESL teacher, family educator, curriculum developer, teacher educator, and researcher. Marguerite received her doctorate from New York University, where she conducted research about educational experiences of Latino migrant youth and designed professional development for schools across New York State serving immigrant students. Her 2015 book, *Latino Immigrant Youth and Interrupted Schooling: Dropouts, Dreamers and Alternative Pathways to College*, is available at <http://www.amazon.com/author/lukes>

Neriel Ponce, *RAISE*. Neriel David Ponce is a student at Hunter College studying anthropology and Asian American studies. He is a core member of RAISE: Revolutionizing Asian American Immigrant Stories on the East Coast, a pan-Asian undocumented youth-led group.

Dr. Rebecca Tesfai, *Temple University*. Rebecca Tesfai is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Temple University with a background in Demography, Sociology and Public Health. Her work focuses on how race and immigrant status interact in U.S. social and economic structures and, in doing so, her work highlights the diversity of immigrants in this country, which has important implications for policy to decrease racial/ethnic disparities.

Dr. Derron Wallace, *Brandeis University*. Derron Wallace is a sociologist of education whose primary research focuses on inequalities, identities and immigration in global cities. More specifically, his work examines the educational outcomes of working class and middle class Black immigrants in urban schools and neighborhoods. Derron's most recent study explored the national, political and cultural factors that position Afro-Caribbean youth as 'high achievers' in New York relative to African Americans, and 'underachievers' in London compared to Black Africans. For his work, Derron received the 2015 Distinguished Dissertation Award from the American Educational Research Association. Derron's scholarship is informed by 4 years of community organizing in London working with primary and secondary school students on living wage, street safety, immigration, and social housing campaigns.

Ron Woo, *Statewide Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network*. Ron Woo is the Deputy Director of the New York State Statewide Language Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network (NYS Language RBERN) at New York University. He is an experienced educator and administrator in public school and higher education for more than 45 years and continues to serve in this capacity. During his more than 36 years at New York City Department of Education (NYC DOE), Mr. Woo has served in multiple senior administrative and policy leadership positions, including associate/special assistant to deputy chancellors, superintendent for monitoring and school improvement, executive director for the integrated service centers, executive director for special education, deputy executive director for human resources, assistant director for equal educational opportunity, citywide coordinator for ESL programs, among others. Upon retiring from the NYC DOE, Mr. Woo served for five and a half years as Hunter College's director of alternative teacher certification programs including bilingual education and ESL. He continues to serve as a senior policy associate (consultant) at the City University of New York and teaches graduate educational leadership courses in education policy and law at the Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Mr. Woo holds a B.A. in Education from Brooklyn College; an M.A. in TESOL/Applied Linguistics from New York University, and a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. Mr. Woo holds permanent New York State certifications as a School District Administrator and as a School Administrator Supervisor along with teaching certificates in Childhood Education and TESOL. He also holds several supervisory licenses from the New York City Department of Education, including Education Administrator and Principal, as well as teaching licenses in Common Branches and English as a Second Language (ESL).

Dr. Hiro Yoshikawa, *New York University*. Hiro Yoshikawa is the Courtney Sale Ross Professor of Globalization and Education at Steinhardt, and a University Professor at NYU. He conducts research on the effects of policies related to immigration, early childhood development, and poverty reduction in the United States and in low- and middle-income countries. He is the author of the book *Immigrants Raising Citizens: Undocumented Parents and Their Young Children*.

César Zuniga, *Parent Child Home Program*. César Zuniga oversees data collection, quality assurance, and research projects. He coordinates the National Center's efforts to build the capacity of replication sites capacities to plan and conduct research and evaluation projects on the short and long-term impacts of the Program on children and families. He is responsible for the implementation of The Parent-Child Home Program's Management Information System (MIS), including designing, updating, and providing training to Site Coordinators and Home Visitors. Before coming to The Parent-Child Home Program, César worked as a project associate at the Equity Assistance Center (EAC) at New York University. César also served as a Board Member of the Passaic Public Schools in New Jersey. He has a Master's degree in Educational Administration and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Developmental Psychology.