

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

announces

The Clifford C. Clogg Lunch Lecture

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

12:00 noon–1:00 p.m.

302 Pond Lab

Stephen L. Morgan

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Education

Department of Sociology and School of Education

Johns Hopkins University



"Mexican Ancestry, Immigrant Generation, and Educational Attainment in the United States"

After introducing alternative perspectives on assimilation and acculturation, we use the 2002-2012 waves of the Education Longitudinal Study to model differences in educational attainment for students sampled as high school sophomores in 2002. We focus on patterns observed for the growing Mexican immigrant population, analyzing separately the trajectories of 1st, 1.5th, 2nd, and 3rd+ generation Mexican immigrant students, in comparison to 3rd+ generation students who self-identify as non-Hispanic whites and students who self-identify as non-Hispanic blacks or African Americans. The results suggest that the dissonant acculturation mechanism associated with the segmented assimilation perspective is mostly unhelpful for explaining patterns of educational attainment, especially for the crucial groups of 1.5th and 2nd generation Mexican immigrant students. Instead, standard measures of family background can account for large portions of group differences in bachelor's degree attainment, with or without additional adjustments for behavioral commitment to schooling, occupational plans, and educational expectations. The broad structure of inequality in the United States, as well as the rising costs of bachelor's degrees, should be the primary source of concern when considering the prospects for the incorporation of the children of recent Mexican immigrants into the mainstream.

This publication is available in alternative media upon request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Penn State encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please call 863-5407 in advance of your participation or visit. U.Ed.