

WOMEN AND CURRENT U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICIES

Fact Sheet

ELIZABETH J. CLIFFORD, PHD, TOWSON UNIVERSITY
 SUSAN C. PEARCE, PHD, EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

DISTRIBUTED BY *SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY* JANUARY 2012

IMPORTANT TERMINOLOGY

“Lawful Permanent Resident” (LPR): This immigration status gives holders the right to work and live permanently in the U.S., and travel to other countries. Often referred to as “green card holders.”

“Undocumented Immigrants”: People who are in the U.S. without legal permission. They may have entered illegally, or overstayed a visa that they previously held (called “overstays”). They must change their status in order to have the right to work, live in the U.S., or travel outside of the country.

“Refugee”: Someone who is outside of her or his native country, and cannot return due to persecution (or “well-founded fear” of persecution).

“Human Trafficking”: According to U.S. law, human trafficking involves recruiting, harboring, transporting, or otherwise obtaining a person to be used for labor or other purposes, and using fraud or coercion for the purposes of subjecting the person to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or slavery. Sex trafficking involves a person being coerced into performing commercial sex acts. [4]

OVERVIEW:

In 2010, there were over 101,000 more adult immigrant women than immigrant men entering in the United States with a legal immigration status or adjusting their status while in the U.S. to become lawful permanent residents.[1] In this fact sheet, we discuss the policies that govern whether, and how, women may enter the country or adjust their status once here as well as those that shape what immigrant women’s lives are like once here.

Historically, immigration laws regarding women were based in the law of coverture, which was derived from English common law. Under this law, a wife had no legal identity of her own; it was derived from her husband. Immigration law traditionally viewed women’s immigration status as derivative of her husband’s status. Thankfully, we have moved beyond those days. However, there are still ways in which immigrant women’s status as women shapes how policies relate to them.

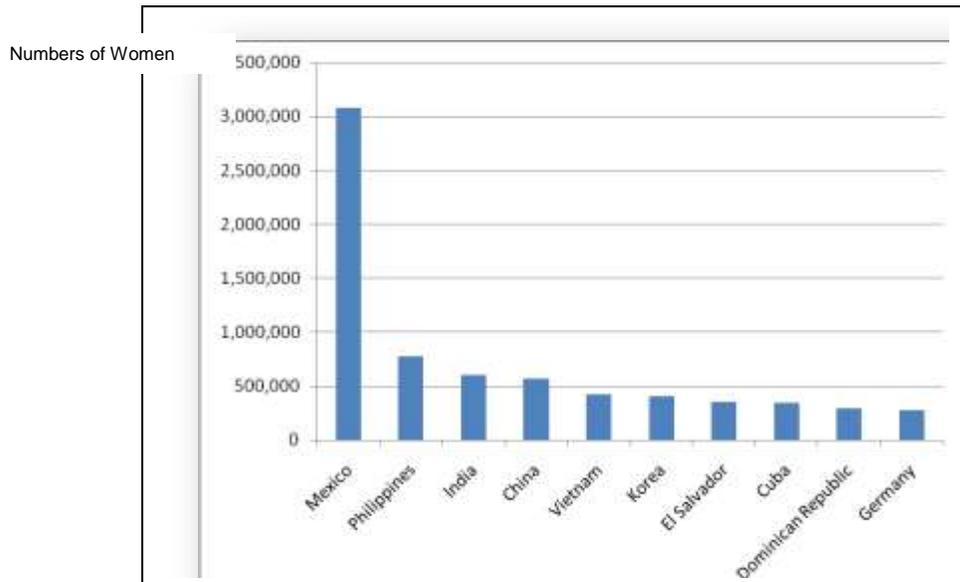
Currently, the Immigration and Naturalization Act governs who can and cannot immigrate legally to this country. Based on this act, the primary means of entry into the country are through family sponsorship, employment, or if one is an asylee or refugee. While the act does not specify different requirements for men and women, women tend to be more numerous in the family-related categories. [2]

DEMOGRAPHICS OF GENDER AND U.S. IMMIGRATION

**Foreign-Born Women and Men in the U.S. Population 2008
 (18 Years and Older who Migrated as Adults)[3]**

Women	Men	Total
13,000,583	12,466,707	25,467,290

**Top Ten Countries of Origin
 Adult Foreign-Born Women Residing in the
 United States Who Migrated as Adults 2008 [3]**



GENDER AND U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY TIMELINE [2] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9]

1875 "Page Law":

Exclusions included felons, contract laborers, prostitutes, and Asian women thought to be brought over for "lewd and immoral purposes." In reality, it was used to exclude most Asian women attempting to immigrate.

1882 Chinese Exclusion Act:

excluded Chinese immigrants for a period of ten years.

1891 Immigration Act:

placed immigration under control of the federal government, expanded excluded classes, and allowed for deportation. New excluded groups included those likely to become "public charges," those with "loathsome and contagious diseases," and those who had been found guilty of "crimes of moral turpitude," including adultery, rape, and sodomy.

1892 Geary Act:

Extended Chinese exclusion.

1903 Immigration Act:

Exclusions expanded to include all involved in the prostitution trade. Pregnancy was also listed as a ground for exclusion.

1907 Immigration Act:

Again expanded excluded groups, and expanded grounds for deportation. Women who entered into prostitution within three years of arrival were now subject to deportation.

1907 Gentlemen's Agreement:

Excluded further Japanese labor migration, but allowed wives of Japanese immigrants already in U.S. The practice of "picture brides" immigrating became an important way for Japanese women to enter legally.

1910 Mann Act:

Enacted due to fears of "white slave trade." Furthered bans against women being imported for purposes of prostitution.

1917 Literacy Act:

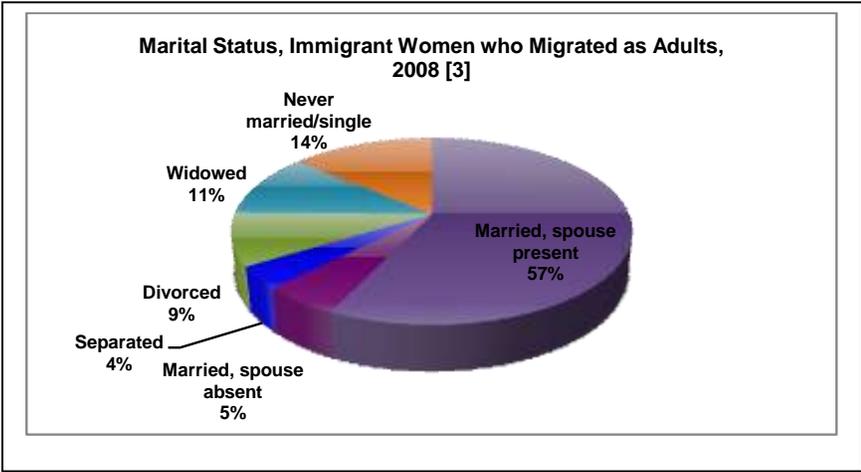
Required immigrants to be able to read a certain number of words in their native language in order to gain admittance.

1920 "Ladies Agreement":

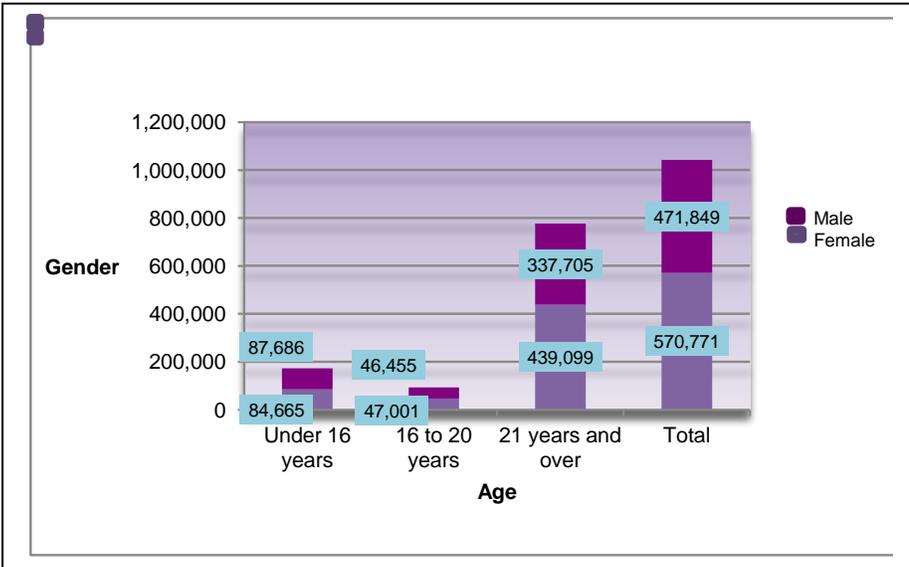
The agreement between the U.S. and Japan ended immigration of "picture brides."

1921 Quota Act:

Quotas were set on how many immigrants could enter from any given country, giving preference to immigrants from Northern and Western Europe. Within quotas, family members were given preference.



Gender and Age of New Immigrant Recipients of Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card) Status 2010 [10]



POLICY CONCERNS:

Gender-based Asylum Claims

In 1996, in the *Matter of Kasinga*, the Board of Immigration Appeals for the first time granted asylum based on gender as a category. In this case, a young woman sought asylum on the grounds that if she were to return to her home country she would face female genital cutting. Since this landmark decision, women have been recognized as a "particular social group" for the purposes of gaining asylum. Women who are fleeing countries in which there is state-sanctioned harm to women, such as Afghanistan under the Taliban, have also successfully pressed cases of gender-based asylum. Sex trafficking, sexual slavery, and honor killings have also been grounds for asylum. Domestic violence has more recently been accepted as grounds for asylum. In 2009, Rody Alvarado was granted asylum on this basis, after a 14-year-long battle. Restrictions on this asylum include the need to demonstrate that the applicant's home country does not provide adequate protection for victims of partner violence. [11]

Sexuality-based Asylum Claims

Asylum-seekers from countries where gays and lesbians are routinely penalized and tortured due to their sexual orientation have had the right to claim asylum in the U.S. since 1994. Such individuals must have a well-founded fear that they would be persecuted if forced to return to their home country. Making such claims became more difficult, however, in 1998, when a one-year deadline was imposed. In other words, with very few exceptions, gays and lesbians in this category must file their asylum claims within one year of entry into the U.S. Unfortunately, many who fit into this category do not even know that it is possible to make this claim during their first year here, or for other reasons may have difficulty making this claim. [12]

GENDER AND U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY TIMELINE, cont.

1922 Cable Act: Ended the practice of American women losing their citizenship upon marrying foreigners, provided the foreigners were themselves eligible for citizenship. Also ended the practice of foreign women automatically obtaining American citizenship upon marrying American citizens. Such women now had to go through the naturalization process.

1924 National Origins Act: Reduced quotas, particularly from Southern and Eastern Europe. Also made Asian exclusion more complete.

1945 War Brides Act: Allowed the foreign wives and fiancés of American servicemen to immigrate.

1952 McCarran-Walter Act: Ended exclusion of Asians, but created very small quotas for immigrants from Asian countries. Also specified "subversives" and gays and lesbians as excludable and deportable categories.

1965 Immigration and Nationality Act: Ended racially based national quotas. Placed a new emphasis on family reunification immigrants and workplace skills in high demand.

1986 Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments: Increased penalties for those involved in "sham marriages", and created a 2-year provisional green card for immigrant spouses of citizens and permanent residents.

1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act: Allowed limited amnesties for undocumented immigrants. Also made it more difficult for undocumented immigrants to work in the U.S., by requiring employers to check workers' documents.

1994 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Allowed certain battered immigrants to file for immigration relief without assistance of or knowledge by their abuser, in order to seek safety and independence from the abuser. Reauthorized in 2000 and 2005. [15]

Detention and Deportation

During 2010, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) apprehended 517,000 foreign nationals. They detained 363,000 and removed 387,000. Many who are detained locally in facilities such as county jails.[13] Reports on gender-specific experiences of detention and deportation include women's separation from children if they are the children's primary caregiver, gender-related harassment behind bars such as removing headscarves and sexual assault, and many women's fear of calling the police if they are abused, due to the fact that domestic violence is grounds for deportation, as well as fear of their own arrest and deportation if their immigration status is in question.

T Visa: A temporary residency (nonimmigrant) status that may be adjusted to a permanent residency status. This visa is available to those who have been subject to severe forms of trafficking who agree to help investigations against traffickers and who show that they would suffer harm if they were removed from the U.S.[14]

U Visa: This visa is available to immigrants who are victims of crime that included substantial physical or mental abuse. The crime must have occurred in the U.S., or the perpetrator must have broken U.S. laws in the commission of the crime. Among the crimes included are domestic violence, rape, sexual assault, trafficking, prostitution, abusive sexual contact, sexual exploitation, and female genital mutilation. In contrast to the Violence Against Women Act relief, a victim of domestic violence does not need to be married to the abuser to file for this visa. The victim does have to agree to cooperate with the police in the investigation. [16]

PENDING LEGISLATION:

While none of these acts are gender-specific, all would have a significant impact on immigrant women, particularly those who are undocumented. Undocumented immigrant women would be more likely to be able to pursue higher education and find a path to citizenship if the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) were to pass. Lesbians would be able to sponsor their immigrant partners if the Uniting American Families Act passed. On a more negative note, undocumented immigrants would be at more jeopardy of deportation and would be less able to obtain help from the police if the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal (CLEAR) act were to pass. These acts are all pending at the federal level.

DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act: The latest version was introduced in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in 2011. It would allow certain students of foreign-born parents to apply for legal immigration status, and would eliminate a federal provision that discourages individual states from granting in-state tuition rates regardless of immigration status. The Act sets up a two-stage process: Immigrant students who grew up and graduated from high school in the U.S., and demonstrate good moral character, would initially qualify for "conditional lawful permanent resident" status. During a conditional period of six years (normally), the student would be required to attend college or serve in the armed services. Following the conditional period, the students would be eligible for regular lawful permanent resident status. [17]

Uniting American Families Act: This act would allow same-sex partners to be sponsored by American citizens and permanent residents. Introduced in April 2011, it was referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement. [18] At a time when more and more countries and states are allowing same-sex marriage, and when many countries do allow same-sex partners to sponsor partners for immigration purposes, this would be a big step forward for immigrant women who have been unable to sponsor their same-sex partners.

CLEAR Act (Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal): The act would require state and local law-enforcement officers to enforce immigration laws. Women's rights activists are concerned that such a law—and its practice—would further endanger immigrant women and children. Victims of domestic violence, trafficking, or other crimes might be afraid to file a report, which could jeopardize their immigration status. A version similar to the CLEAR Act was attached to the bill HR10 (the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act), which passed the House of Representatives in October 2004, but failed to pass in the Senate. It was reintroduced in 2011, and was referred to the House Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement. [19]

On the state level: State-level efforts are also underway in some places, particularly regarding state versions of both the DREAM and CLEAR acts. Most notably, Arizona passed SB 1070 in 2010 and Georgia passed HB 87 in 2011, both of which require law enforcement personnel to ascertain the immigration status of those they stop if they suspect they may not be in the country legally. Those opposed to these laws worry about possible racial profiling, as well as the concerns discussed above regarding the CLEAR Act. Other states are also considering similar laws. On a more positive note, some states have passed their version of the DREAM Act. While they are limited in terms of creating a path to citizenship (because of

GENDER AND U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY TIMELINE, cont.

1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act:

Limited public benefits available to immigrants, increased deportable crimes, and made it more difficult for poor immigrants to sponsor family members. [20]

1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act:

This was also known as "welfare reform." This act greatly decreased immigrants' access to public benefits such as food stamps and Social Security Income. [21]

1996 Defense of Marriage Act:

Also not specifically an immigration policy, but impacted efforts of same-sex couples in regards to immigration, as it limited the definition of marriage to be only male-female couples. [22]

2000 Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act:

criminalized trafficking in persons, including sex trafficking. [4]

2001 USA Patriot Act:

Enhanced surveillance procedures for the purpose of investigating terrorism. Fully implemented and expanded the foreign student visa monitoring program. Made available limited humanitarian relief and immigration petitions to surviving non-citizen spouses and children of citizens who die from specified terrorist attacks. This act was reauthorized in 2011. [23]

2005 International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA):

Regulates petitions to bring espoused individuals to the United States for marriage, including those who use mail-order marriage brokers. Under the auspices of the VAWA 2005 reauthorization. [24]

2007 Regulations for the U Visa for Victims of Crime:

Allowed this visa to be implemented for the first time. [16]

jurisdictional issues), these acts allow some undocumented immigrants to attend state universities at in-state tuition rates.

RESOURCES:

Advocacy Organizations

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women: A network linking anti-trafficking groups and individuals across globe. www.gaatw.org

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: An umbrella organization of local immigrant, refugee, civil rights, and labor organizations, the NNIRR focuses on immigrant and refugee issues in general. A number of their initiatives, however, have been centered on immigrant women, such as "Hands that Shape the World: A Report on the Conditions of Immigrant Women Five Years After the Beijing Conference." www.nnirr.org

Immigration Equality (formerly Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force): This coalition of immigrants, attorneys, and activists focuses on three main areas: discrimination against same-sex couples in U.S. immigration law, discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS in U.S. immigration law, and improving the process of sexual orientation-based asylum. www.immigrationequalityactionfund.org

Center for Gender & Refugee Studies: Focuses on women seeking gender-based asylum. Provides information, public education, and resources related to gender-based asylum law and policy. <http://cgrrs.uchastings.edu>

Freedom Network: Provides education, advocacy, and network-building to combat trafficking across the United States. Consists of member organizations with staff devoted to trafficking services or advocacy. <http://www.freedomnetworkusa.org>

Tahirih Justice Center: Dedicated to "promoting justice for women and girls worldwide." This center address legal services for immigrant and refugee women who flee to the U.S. for protection from human rights abuses. The staff provides legal advocacy, holistic services, public policy advocacy, and outreach and education to bring justice to these women's lives. <http://www.tahirih.org>

Break the Chain Campaign: Focuses on preventing exploitation and abuse of all migrant women, particularly domestic workers who have experienced trafficking and exploitation. Affiliated with the Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, DC. <http://www.breakthechaincampaigndc.org/>

Asian Immigrant Women Advocates: Focuses on empowering low-income Asian immigrant women in California, particularly though the issues of health, safety, women's leadership, and youth leadership. www.aiwa.org

BOOKS:

Gardner, Martha, 2005. *The Qualities of a Citizen: Women, Immigration, and Citizenship, 1870–1965*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Hochschild, Arlie Russell and Barbara Ehrenreich. 2002. *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*. New York: Henry, Holt, & Co.

Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierette. 2003. *Gender and U.S. Immigration: Contemporary Trends*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Louie, Miriam Ching Yoon. 2001. *Sweatshop Warriors: Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Luibhéid, Eithne. 2002. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. 2008. *The Force of Domesticity: Filipina Migrants and Globalization*. New York: New York University Press.

Pearce, Susan C., Elizabeth J. Clifford, and Reena Tandon. 2011. *Immigration and Women: Understanding the American Experience*. New York: New York University Press.

Segura, Denise and Patricia Zavella. 2007. *Women and Migration in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands: A Reader*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Sokoloff, Natalie J., ed. (with Christina Pratt). 2005. *Domestic Violence at the Margins: Readings in Race, Class, and Gender*. Rutgers: Rutgers University Press.

GENDER AND U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY TIMELINE, cont.

2008 William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act:

Expanded victim protection and the role of the U.S. State Department in combating trafficking worldwide. [4]

2009: Widow's penalty abolished. Until this date, any individual whose immigration status was dependent on that of her/his spouse, and the spouse died, lost that immigration status. [25]

2010: Gender-based asylum granted for escaping intimate partner violence, for the first time. Recipient: Rody Alvarado. [11]

Strum, Philippa and D. Tarantolo, eds. 2002. *Women Immigrants in the United States*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Proceedings of a conference sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the Migration Policy Institute.

Villalon, Roberta. 2010. *Violence against Latina Immigrants: Citizenship, Inequality, and Community*. New York: New York University Press.

ARTICLES/REPORTS:

Cavaliere, Shelley. 2011. "Between Victim and Agent: A Third-Way Feminist Account of Trafficking for Sex Work." *Indiana Law Journal* 86:1-53.

Chapkis, Wendy. 2003. "Trafficking, Migration, and the Law: Protecting Innocents, Punishing Immigrants." *Gender and Society*, 17 (6): 923-937.

Enos, V. Pualani. *Learning from the Experiences of Battered Immigrant, Refugee and Indigenous Women Involved with Child Protective Services to Inform a Dialogue among Domestic Violence Activists and Advocates*. Report available from www.endabuse.org.

Erez, Edna, Madelaine Adelman, and Carol Gregory. 2009. "Intersections of Immigration and Domestic Violence: Voices of Battered Immigrant Women." *Feminist Criminology* 4:32-56.

Feminist Majority Foundation. 2008. "Government Accountability Office Releases Domestic Worker Abuse Report." *Feminist Daily News Wire*. Retrieved August 24, 2009, from <http://feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=11188>.

Pessar, Patricia and S. Mahler. 2003. "Transnational Migration: Bringing Gender In." *International Migration Review*, 37 (3): 812-846.

Piper, Nicola. 2006. "Gendering the Politics of Migration." *International Migration Review*, 40 (1): 133-164.

U.S. Department of State, *Annual Trafficking in Persons Report*. Worldwide report on efforts of governments to combat trafficking in persons. Available at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>.

VIDEOS:

"Home is Struggle" (1991): Immigrant women from Nicaragua, Chile, Argentina, and the Dominican Republic tell their stories. Available through *Women Make Movies*. (www.wmm.com)

"Knowing Her Place" (1990): The story of Vasu, an Indian woman who has lived most of her life in the U.S., as she wrestles with the conflict between her goals and her traditional upbringing. Available through *Women Make Movies*. (www.wmm.com)

"Chasing Freedom" (2004): A Court TV produced drama about two women – a woman who is seeking asylum in the U.S. after fleeing the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the pro-bono lawyer who reluctantly defends her. Despite being a made-for-TV film, this is a compelling look at the asylum system in the U.S., as well as conditions for women under the Taliban. Court TV's web site on the movie also includes fact sheets and other teaching resources about the asylum process. <http://www.courtstv.com/movie/chasing%5Ffreedom/>

"Made in L.A." (2007): A documentary that follows three immigrant women across their lives as labor activists for workers' rights in the garment industry. Produced by PBS with the Independent Television Service. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla/>

"Hot Bread Kitchen" (2008): Short film about a New York City enterprise to help immigrant women support themselves by baking and selling bread. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5Qxn6bRETM>

"Mrs. Foundo's Daughter" (2009): Mrs. Foundo fights the threat of deportation, knowing that return to her native Mali would not only bring her back to ethnic conflict and drought, but would also subject her daughter to female genital mutilation. Available through *Women Make Movies*. (www.wmm.com)

"Sweatshop Cinderella" (2010): Depicts the story of early 20th century Jewish immigrant writer Anzia Yezierska. Available through *Women Make Movies*. (www.wmm.com)

REFERENCES

[1] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, "2010 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics." Accessed December 13, 2011, http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/yearbook/2010/ois_yb_2010.pdf

[2] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Immigration and Nationality Act," accessed June 29, 2011, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.f6da51a2342135be7e9d7a10e0dc91a0/?vgnnextoid=fa7e>

539dc4bed010VgnVCM100000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM100000ecd190aRCRD&CH=act

[3] Calculated using: Ruggles, Steven Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. 2008. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 4.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor].

[4] U.S. Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2011. Accessed June 29, 2011, <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2011/index.htm>

[5] USCIS Glossary, Accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=b328194d3e88d010VgnVCM1000048f3d6a1RCRD&vgnnextchannel=b328194d3e88d010VgnVCM1000048f3d6a1RCRD>

[6] Takaki, Ronald, 1989. *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. New York: Penguin Books.

[7] PBS, "The New Americans," Timeline of U.S. Immigration Policy" Accessed July 1, 2011, http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/foreducators_lesson_plan_03.html

[8] Luibhéid, E. *Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at the Border*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

[9] Portes, A. and R. Rumbaut. *Immigrant America: A Portrait, 2nd ed.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.

[10] Table 8: Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status by Gender, Age, Marital Status, and Occupation: Fiscal Year 2010. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

[11] Center for Gender and Refugee Studies, "Documents and Information on Rody Alvarado's Claim for Asylum in the U.S." Accessed July 1, 2011, <http://cgrs.uchastings.edu/campaigns/alvarado.php>.

[12] Immigration Equality, "Seeking Asylum." Accessed June 30, 2011. <http://www.immigrationequality.org/issues/asylum/seeking-asylum/>

[13] U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 2011. "Immigrant Enforcement Actions: 2010," Accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/enforcement-ar-2010.pdf>

[14] USCIS, T Visa, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=28df3a4107083210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=28df3a4107083210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD>

[15] Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, 2009, "The *History of the Violence Against Women Act*," accessed June 29, 2011, <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/docs/history-vawa.pdf> .

[16] USCIS, U Visa, Accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=ee1e3e4d77d73210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=ee1e3e4d77d73210VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD>

[17] 108th Congress of the United States, DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) bill, S1545IS Accessed June 30, 2011, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c108:1:./temp/~c108iVvCj> and National Immigration Law Center, "Dream Act: Summary," May 2011, Accessed July 1, 2011, <http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/dream-bills-summary-2011-05.pdf>.

[18] 112th Congress of the United States, Uniting American Families Act of 2011, H.R. 1537, Accessed June 30, 2011, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/D?d112:1:./temp/~bdJM8Y:@@D&sum2=m&/home/LegislativeData.php?n+BSS:c=112>

[19] 112th Congress of the United States, CLEAR (Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act of 2011) bill, H.R. 100, accessed June 30, 2011, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c108:1:./temp/~c1086cSMto>

[20] Pub. L. 104-208, "Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996", accessed June 29, 2011, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.f6da51a2342135be7e9d7a10e0dc91a0/?vgnnextoid=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM100000ecd190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=fa7e539dc4bed010VgnVCM100000ecd190aRCRD&CH=publaw>

[21] H.R.3734, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 accessed June 29, 2011, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c104:H.R.3734.ENR>.

[22] 104th Congress of the United States, "Defense of Marriage Act," Accessed June 30, 2011, <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c104:H.R.3396.ENR>:

[23] USA Patriot Act of 2001. Public Law 107-56, October 26, 2001, Accessed June 29, 2011, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-107publ56/pdf/PLAW-107publ56.pdf>

[24] U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Interoffice Memorandum re International Broker Regulation Act Implementation Guidance," Accessed December 13, 2011, <http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/IMBRA072106.pdf>

[25] "Obama Signs Law to End Widow Penalty," Migration Expert website, November 4, 2009, Accessed December 13, 2011, http://www.migrationexpert.com/visa/us-immigration-news/2009/nov/1/234/obama_signs_law_to_end_widow_penalty