

## UC San Diego launches Center for Immigration Studies

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### UC SAN DIEGO LAUNCHES CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES

An academic center for the study of worldwide immigration patterns, the first of its kind on the West Coast, is being launched at the University of California, San Diego.

The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies (CCIS) will be directed by internationally-known immigration expert Wayne Cornelius, a political scientist at UCSD and former director of the university's Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies. No less than 30 UCSD faculty members -- political scientists, economists, historians, and sociologists, as well as anthropologists and health care specialist -- are involved in research that is immigration-related and will be affiliates of the Center. Several off-campus immigration specialists will also be involved. The center will be housed initially at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS).

According to Cornelius, CCIS will distinguish itself from other immigration studies programs in the U.S. by maintaining a broadly cross-regional rather than a U.S. centric perspective. In addition, the UCSD center will be the first in the field to look westward to Asian labor-importing and labor-exporting countries. CCIS will also train UCSD students to gather data on immigrant populations and potential emigrants in sending countries, taking maximum advantage of San Diego's "natural laboratory."

"The center's primary intellectual agenda will be to systematically compare the U.S. immigration experience with that of other current labor-importing countries," said Cornelius. "It will promote comparative research on the causes and consequences of international migration, the determinants and outcomes of government policies to regulate immigration and refugee flows, and relationships between labor-importing and labor-exporting countries in North America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific region."

CCIS will bring important new resources to UCSD for the study of an issue of critical importance to San Diego, the state of California, and the nation. Poised just 20 miles from the busiest international border point of entry in the U.S., San Diego is a prime area for studying nearly every facet of contemporary U S immigration, from Latin America as well as Asia-Pacific. According to Cornelius, CCIS will also provide a regular, high-visibility forum for discussion of immigration-related research, featuring presentations by UCSD faculty and graduate students, California and Tijuana-based immigration specialists, and guest scholars from the East Coast and abroad.

Cornelius is a leading specialist on Mexican immigration to the U.S. Since 1990, he has also conducted research on Third World migration to Japan, Spain, and Germany. He is the co-editor of *Controlling Immigration: A Global Perspective* (Stanford University Press, 1992) and also has authored numerous research papers and reports on immigration patterns, impacts, and responses.

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