

“Lines in the Sand: The Changing Narrative of American Identity and Migration”

Council for American Studies Education 2020

February 28, 2020 8am-2pm

[Chicago History Museum](#)

It is commonly acknowledged that the history of the United States and the history of immigration are inextricably linked. In the last 10 years, this relationship has taken on new and sometimes alarming dimensions. This year’s CASE Conference will focus on the NOW, the present lives and experiences of migrants and refugees as they navigate their way into and through the American civil society. Of course this also means we will reach into our curricula and pedagogy for ways to teach the complexities of the moment.

Conference Schedule

[Morse Genius Chicago Room](#)/ Registration & Continental Breakfast 8:00 am

[Morse Genius Chicago Room](#)/ Welcome from CASE Steering Committee 8:45 am

[Morse Genius Chicago Room](#)/ Keynote Address: Adam Goodman, assistant professor of [Latin American and Latino Studies](#) and [History](#) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He is the author of *The Deportation Machine: America's Long History of Expelling Immigrants* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming Spring 2020). Please pick up a postcard at registration for a 30% discount code!

CPDU Note: This year, teachers desiring CPDUs should pick up the appropriate form at registration and ask for initials at each presentation. The evaluation will be on the reverse and should be turned in at lunch.

Session 1 10:10-11:00

[Mandel Room](#)

My America

Cary Cranston, American Writers Museum

Cary Cranston of *The Writer's Museum*, will share news of the exciting new exhibit showcasing narrative explorations of human migration throughout our world today. From their website:

My America gives visitors and students a deep and personal experience, bringing them face-to-face — both through videos and in person — with contemporary authors who are immigrants and refugees from all parts of the world, and is designed to elicit thoughtful dialogue on a wide variety of issues. The authors featured in My America delve into questions about writing influences, being multilingual, community, family, and what it means to be American.

[Gallery Talk](#)

Meet with Chicago History Museum education staff in their new exhibit, *American Medina: Stories of Muslim Chicago*. Staff will provide an orientation to the space, be on hand to answer questions, lead a closing discussion and distribute the exhibition learning guide. Here is a brief description from their website:

This exhibition draws from more than 100 interviews conducted with Muslim Chicagoans sharing their stories of faith, identity, and personal journeys. Dozens of objects from local individuals and organizations, such as garments, artwork, and photographs, as well as videos and interactive experiences expand on how and why Chicago is known as the American Medina.

Morse Genius Chicago Room South

**Beyond the Classroom: Resources for Teachers
NNHS**

Jordan Shiner, Bev Zbinden, Katie Gillies,

This two part presentation will provide road maps for two Chicago field trips, and lots of reading resources available from your library. Niles North teacher Jordan Shiner will share both his immigration and Great Migration Chicago Field Trips, while Niles North Librarian Bev Zbinden and North Reading Specialist Katie Gillies will talk participants through their book lists and suggestions for ways to incorporate contemporary literature for the American Studies curriculum as well as resources for developing English readers.

Break- Snacks Chicago Room 11:00-11:20

Session 2 11:25-12:15

Morse Genius Chicago Room South

First-person stories of migration as told through the narratives of students from Syria. NNHS

Come listen to four students who are current and former English Learners at Niles North High School. All four students are from Syria and moved to Skokie within the last three years. English Learner Instructors Lisa Fretzin and Omar Salem will give a brief overview of the migration trends that Skokie has seen over the years along with how they help their students practice skills connected to narrative writing, public speaking, and the courage to share personal events from their own life experiences.

Gallery Talk

American Medina

Chicago History Museum

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Session 3 12:20-1:10

Morse Genius Chicago Room South

Many people assume that Americans didn't know what was happening in Nazi Germany, and that lack of awareness explains America's lack of response. But if someone wanted to know what was happening in Nazi Germany, all they had to do was pick up an American newspaper. While we often think that spreading awareness about atrocities is the most important step in preventing or stopping them, awareness is often not enough; there remains a persistent gap between awareness and action.

In this presentation, we discuss a new one-semester elective that was adopted at OPRF called "Holocaust Studies," and demonstrate how teachers can use the Holocaust to teach students about immigration, refugee crises, and the limits of awareness. There's a significant body of evidence that demonstrates that intensive, focused learning about the Holocaust helps students have significantly reduced antipathy towards others. One of the goals of this new course is to help foster empathy and a passion for upstanding in students.

The presentation will include curricular frameworks for incorporating into American History and American Studies courses the immigration quota system, antisemitism, the American press's reporting on the Holocaust, and the world's lacking response to the Jewish refugee crisis of the 1930s and 1940s.

Guild Room

Teacher Roundtable - Looking to the Future of CASE Neil Rigler and Ken Kramer, Deerfield HS

Based on the results of a survey we sent out in the spring of 2019 after the last CASE conference, there is a lot of interest in expanding the work of CASE. During this session, we'd like to review the results of the survey with the participants and then use that information to propose future activities. Part of that work will also be assigning chairpeople for each event and coming up with suggestions for dates, times, and locations. Part of the work of the roundtable will also be collecting other suggestions beyond those already named on the survey.

Mandel Room

The Brother of My Own: Using Short Stories to teach Empathy for Immigrants Alex Zilka and Lissa Raguseo, New Trier HS

This session will explore historical and current immigrant experiences through three short stories. We will focus on identifying and understanding commonalities among immigrants and how students can develop empathy skills in conjunction with each reading. Additionally, we will place each story in its context through historical and contemporary materials such as political cartoons.

Morse Genius Chicago Room

Lunch & Closing Remarks & CPDU Completion 1:10-2:10

For CPDUs please be sure a presenter has initialed your attendance at each session. This is new for CPDUs this year.