A New Diaspora: Crisis Induced Emigration

Lia L. Friedman, Universidad de Rancagua
"New Argentinean Diaspora"

Anahi Viladrich, Columbia University
"Argentines in New York City: Uncertain Paths in Troubled Times"

Javier Neiman, HAIS Latin America Visa Program

Lia Friedman’s presentation will start with a brief reminder of the migratory movements to Argentina, during the years of colonization, the nationalities and ethnic groups that shaped the country, and the way in which the indigenous population was treated. This presentation will include debates about the dual nationality or citizenship of many inhabitants and the consequences that this fact contributes to the construction of identity and the likelihood of emigrating during times of crisis. As well as discuss the effects of the “brain-drain” in the culture, in the society and in politics, and the different reasons that people have given as an explanation for their departure which are not limited to the economic crash.

Anahi Viladrich’s presentation will reveal some of the complex factors involved in Argentine émigrés’ social paths in the US, including their diverse motivations to leave their country, their changing prospective plans, and the succession of different legal statuses in the US. Based on ethnographic data obtained from recent research conducted with Argentines in NYC, this talk will not only examine how legal status affects immigrants’ opportunities, but also its impact on Argentines’ self-presentation. In addition, I will analyze some of the legal conditions influencing immigrants’ place of destination, including the “visa waiver” in the US and Argentines’ eligibility for foreign citizenships. Finally, this talk will address immigrants’ changing migratory plans and destinies, particularly after September 11, and the effect of Argentine sociopolitical crisis of December 2001.

Location
Room 9205 (Ninth Floor)
The Graduate Center
365 Fifth Avenue

Friday
February, 14
4:30 p.m.

(Between 34th and 35th St.)

To reserve, send email to bildner@gc.cuny.edu or leave message at 212 817-2096