

Immigration and Our Economic Future

Speaker Biographies

Moises Denis is a Nevada state senator, representing Nevada's second senate district. He has worked in his community for over two decades, serving in the Nevada Senate since 2010 and as majority leader from 2012 to 2015. Before being elected to the Senate, he was a member of the Nevada Assembly from 2004 to 2010. Denis also cochairs the National Council of State Legislatures' Task Force on Immigration and the States. After college, he worked in computer technology for the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada and for the private sector.

Jennifer Hunt is the James Cullen chair in economics at Rutgers University. She previously held positions at McGill University (2004–11), the University of Montreal (2001–04), and Yale University (1992–2001). From 2013 to 2015, she was chief economist of the US Department of Labor and then deputy assistant secretary for microeconomic analysis at the US Department of the Treasury. She is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Massachusetts, a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in England, and is on the scientific advisory council of the Institute for Employment Research in Germany. Her current research focuses on immigration and wage inequality, and her past research encompassed unemployment, the science and engineering workforce, the transition from communism, crime, and corruption. She received her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her doctorate degree in economics from Harvard University.

Sonia Lin is the general counsel and policy director at the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, where she leads policy and programmatic work on behalf of New York City immigrants. She was previously a supervising attorney and teaching fellow in the Cardozo Law School Immigration Justice Clinic and an associate at the employee rights law firm Outten & Golden LLP. Lin graduated with honors from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root Tilden Kern scholar, and Yale College. After law school, Lin clerked for the Honorable Denny Chin in the Southern District of New York. Before becoming a lawyer, Lin represented low-income immigrants as a Board of Immigration Appeals-accredited representative at the Legal Aid Society's Immigration Law Unit in New York.

Cecilia Muñoz is assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council. Before that, she was deputy assistant to the president and director of intergovernmental affairs, where she oversaw the Obama administration's relationships with state and local governments. Before joining the Obama administration, Muñoz was senior vice president for the Office of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation at the National Council of La Raza. Muñoz has testified numerous times before Congress and appears regularly in Spanish- and English-language media. Muñoz is former



chair of the board of Center for Community Change and served on the US programs board of the Open Society Institute and the board of directors of the Atlantic Philanthropies and the National Immigration Forum. In 2000, she was awarded a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in recognition of her work on immigration and civil rights. In 2007, she was the Towsley Foundation policymaker in residence at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She has received numerous other awards and recognitions. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dowell Myers is professor of policy, planning, and demography in the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California, where he directs the population dynamics research group. He is a member of the American Planning Association, American Sociological Association, Population Association of America, and the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association. Recent research has focused on public narratives and verifiable facts about immigration, aging, and taxation; projections of generational change in the United States, California, and Los Angeles; and the upward mobility of immigrants with duration of US residence. He has received the Haynes Award for Research Impact. Myers is the author of *Immigrants and Boomers: Forging a New Social Contract for the Future of America*. He has been an adviser to the Census Bureau, an academic fellow of the Urban Land Institute, and a member of the governing board of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Inc. Myers serves on the National Academy of Sciences panel studying the economic and fiscal consequences of immigration. He has a BA in anthropology from Columbia University, an MCP in city and regional planning from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD in urban and regional planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Kim Rueben, a senior fellow in the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, is an expert on state and local public finance and the economics of education. Her research examines state and local tax policy, fiscal institutions, state and local budgets, education finance, and public-sector labor markets. Rueben directs the State and Local Finance Initiative. Her current projects include work on state budget shortfalls, financing options for California, the fiscal health of cities, and examining higher education tax credits and grants. She serves on the Council of Economic Advisors for the Controller of the State of California and a National Academy of Sciences panel on the economic and fiscal consequences of immigration, and she was on the DC Tax Revision Commission in 2013. Rueben is also an adjunct fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she was previously a research fellow. She was an adjunct professor at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University and the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley; a visiting scholar at the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank; and a member of the executive board of the American Education Finance Association. Rueben received a BS in applied math-economics from Brown University, an MS in economics from the London School of Economics, and a PhD in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Audrey Singer is a senior fellow in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She is an expert on US immigration policy, the geography of immigrant settlement, and urban and metropolitan change. Her research focuses on demographic change in cities and suburbs, immigration and immigrant integration, and global refugee movements and municipal implications for long-term inclusion. Before joining Urban, Singer was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, where she is currently a nonresident senior fellow. She has been an associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a faculty member at Georgetown University, and an analyst at the US Department of Labor. Most recently she was a member of the National Academy of Sciences panel on immigrant integration. Singer has a BA in sociology from Temple University and an MA in sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. She earned a PhD in sociology with a specialization in demography from the University of Texas at Austin and conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Chicago.

Renata Soto is cofounder and executive director of Conexión Américas, a Nashville-based nonprofit founded in 2002 whose mission is to build a welcoming community and create opportunities where Latino families can belong, contribute, and succeed. Soto has led efforts that have helped solidify Nashville's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive city. She is a founding member of the Nashville for All of Us coalition, which led the campaign that defeated the English-Only referendum of 2009. Soto is the visionary behind Casa Azafrán, the nonprofit collaborative that stands at the gateway to Nashville's International District and is home to Conexión Américas and nine nonprofit and government partners. Soto is a nationally recognized leader and is chair of the board of directors of the National Council of La Raza. She also serves on the advisory board of Transportation for America.

Roberto Suro holds a joint appointment as a professor in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism and the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California (USC). He is also director of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, an interdisciplinary university research center exploring the challenges and opportunities of demographic diversity in the 21st century global city. Suro coedited *Writing Immigration: Scholars and Journalists in Dialogue* with Marcelo Suarez-Orozco and Vivian Louie. Before joining USC, Suro was director of the Pew Hispanic Center, a research organization in Washington, DC, which he founded in 2001. As a print journalist, Suro was foreign and domestic bureau chief for the *New York Times* and was deputy national editor and staff writer on the national desk for the *Washington Post*. He is the author of several books and several dozen book chapters, research reports, and other publications on Latinos and immigration. He regularly publishes commentaries with the *New York Times* and other national publications.