

Presentation of ISI



WHAT IS ISI?

The Immigration & Security Initiative (ISI) is a transatlantic research network which has assembled a group of renowned scholars in the area of immigration policy, drawn from across the globe. Their goal is to examine a series of hitherto unanswered questions regarding the consequences of post-9/11 immigration policies in the European Union and the United States – for immigrants, governments and institutions such as universities and corporations whose performance has often been heavily influenced by immigrant flows.

THE GOALS OF THE ISI RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Immigration policy was arguably the central fulcrum of political debate before 9/11 in Western Europe. But the same was not true of the United States. Now, as a direct consequence of the terrorism attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the distinction in agendas is far less clear. With images of subway and bus attacks in London, the Madrid bombing and the Beslan grammar school massacre still in the public consciousness, policy debates among many G-8 countries are focusing on the relationship between immigration, integration and national security. The involvement of Islamic terrorist organizations in a series of large scale attacks has focused attention on immigration from the Middle East and South Asia. Immigrants to Europe and North America now face unprecedented problems in a variety of areas, including but also extending beyond the realm of security. With the ‘securitization’ of immigration issues, visa access has become complicated as countries grapple with the issue of how to distinguish the legitimate refugee or asylum seeker (and legal immigrant) from the potential terrorist or ‘bogus’ refugee. Educational institutions face mounting problems in processing the applications of foreigners seeking to study in their countries, posing a potential challenge to both their vibrancy and that of the corporate and scientific communities more generally. And even immigrants who are well established in their new countries of domicile often face consequential problems regarding access to adequate political representation, housing and social welfare programs. Paramount to policy makers, mass publics and immigrants alike is a concern about the balance between the exigencies of security and the minimal requisites of civil liberties, and the risk of radicalization among fragments of new communities sympathetic to the disaffection, if not the methods, of terrorists.

Clearly, the terms ‘terrorists,’ ‘asylum seekers,’ and ‘immigrants’ risk becoming conflated in both the politics and the policies of many societies. The overt danger is of a breakdown in the liberal, universalistic and ultimately inclusive set of principles that have

guided liberal democracies in regards to citizenship and identity since the second half of the twentieth century. Pre-eminently, the amalgam between security and immigration issues has served to obscure the distinction between those countries where discrimination against foreigners is an unintended corollary in the aftermath of 9/11 and those where a claim might be made that national security has deliberately been used as a legitimating tool to discriminate against 'third country nationals.' The apparent linkages between those 'who are foreign' and those 'who threaten,' has changed the nature of 'identity politics' in these recipient countries, complicated in some cases by opinion polls reputedly supporting the view that a significant proportion of new communities oppose some of the central values of their new countries of abode. This change is potentially of major significance to the way in which each country defines its own citizenship and nationality.

Faced with this daunting set of issues, the ISI scholars address the following issues:

- (i) *How much have policies changed? Was 9/11 in these three geographic areas a turning point (a common theme among American commentators) or, alternatively, did it mark an acceleration of trends towards efforts to reduce immigrant flows evident before 9/11 (a more common view in the EU)?*
- (ii) *To what degree is there a tendency towards policy convergence or divergence across these areas in the period since 9/11?*
- (iii) *To the degree that any convergence has taken place, is it patterned on a model evident in the European Union or the United States?*
- (iv) *How can policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic address the issues associated with immigration, integration and security through policies that respect both the exigencies of security and the requisites of the civil rights of both minorities and broader domestic populations?*

The first stage of this project resulted in the publication of a volume edited by Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia and Simon Reich entitled *Immigration, Integration and Security: America and Europe in Comparative Perspective* (University of Pittsburgh, 2008). To tackle these broad questions in a manageable way, in the second stage of the project, ISI participants will focus on one pre-selected policy area from among the following four areas:

- Internal security;
- Social welfare programs;
- Civil liberties and antidiscrimination policies;
- Integration issues.

The second stage of the project resulted in the publication of an edited volume by Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia and Simon Reich entitled *Managing Ethnic Diversity after 9/11: Integration, Security, and Civil Liberties in Transatlantic Perspective* (Rutgers University, cloth 2010 and paperback 2011).

ISI MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE



University of Pittsburgh
Ford Institute
for Human Security

SIMON REICH
Director, Ford Institute for Human Security
University of Pittsburgh



ARIANE CHEBEL D'APPOLLONIA
CEVIPOF
Sciences Po Paris