Deportation Relief  
Final Project Report  
2015-2018

Overview
Three years ago this ISS Team Project set out to examine the impact of the then pending Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) program. DAPA would have provided temporary deportation relief and work authorization to an estimated 5.5 million undocumented parents of US citizens and legal permanent residents. We endeavored to understand the impact of this shift on 1) workplace conditions, and 2) legal consciousness and claimsmaking behavior among immigrant workers. When the prospects for DACA were ultimately ended by legal challenges and the new Trump administration, our focus shifted to assessing the impact of current programs that provide similar temporary relief.

Our team undertook three keystone projects focused on the impacts of immigration enforcement and specifically the experiences of immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The first, spearheaded by Alvarado and Hall, draws on census data to examine the impact of TPS on the educational outcomes of Salvadoran children. The second project, spearheaded by Gleeson and Gleeson is an interview-based study focused on the workplace experiences of Haitian and Central American TPS holders in New York City (124 individuals interviewed to date). Third, Matsudaira and Hall have drawn on administrative and survey data to assess the relationship between immigration enforcement and employer hiring practices.
In addition to these primary projects, team members have also advanced a number of individual and collaborative studies. For example, Alvarado has examined the impact of neighborhood context on child disadvantage, and the impact race and social networks on college readiness. Gleeson is engaged in ongoing research with colleagues on the impact of local civil society on worker rights advocacy, and the role of various government bureaucracies on enforcing workplace protections. Griffith’s legal scholarship is focused on the relationship of federal immigration law and workplace protections for immigrant employees. Hall’s work examines the impact of diverse institutional contexts on social, political and economic outcomes. Hall has also examined the impact of deportation on housing foreclosure, and is currently also examining the impact on residential segregation and child welfare. Matsudaira, who became a senior economist on the of Economic Advisors during the Obama administration, has been engaged in various projects examining factors shaping school performance, as well as the impact of immigration status on immigrant earnings.

Taken together, this multi-disciplinary research has leveraged both quantitative and qualitative research approaches, informed also by legal scholarship, on understanding how immigration status is impacting the educational experiences and work lives of immigrant communities.

More detailed overviews of each primary and sub-project can be found in the project descriptions’ archive.

**Key Results**

Much of this research is still in progress, but several highlights are worth noting.

Alvarado and Hall have worked with graduate student Alex Currit on an article assessing the impact of deportation relief on educational achievement, which is currently under review. This research, entitled “Liminal Legality and Education: Evidence from Salvadoran Child Migrants,” was presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Population Association of America. It has also been presented at research seminars for population centers at Penn State University, University of Colorado, and University of Wisconsin. Alvarado’s other work on child development and school achievement also appeared in the journals *Race and Social Problems* (2015), *Social Forces* and *Social Science Research* (2016). Hall’s recent publications have also appeared in several peer-reviewed outlets, including the *International Migration Review* (2015), *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Population and Development Review* (2016), and *Social Problems* (2017). Hall’s work on deportation, child welfare and foster care received support from the Cornell Project 2Gen Pilot Studies Program ($15,000). Hall is also a new associate editor for the *International Migration Review*.

In their forthcoming article in the *Comparative Labor Law & Policy Journal*, Griffith and Gleeson argue that different immigration status categories produce differing experiences within the criminal, employment, and administrative law regimes. In turn, these distinct legal institutional contexts affect how immigrants weigh the prospect of coming forward with a workplace law claim against their employers. In Spring 2018, this research
on the work experiences of Temporary Protected Status-holders was awarded a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation ($30,242). A larger proposal to the National Science Foundation, which would fund interviews with comparative samples of undocumented and legal permanent resident respondents, is currently under review. (This work grew out of a proposal development grant Gleeson, Griffith and Hall received through the Cornell Population Center). In March 2018, Gleeson and Griffith also presented their work at a symposium at the UC Davis Law School, which will appear in an edited volume (in progress). Also of note, Gleeson’s book, *Precarious Claims* was published by University of California Press (2016) and was the subject of an Author-Meets-Reader Session at the Law & Society Association meetings in 2017. Gleeson has also published her research in the *Labor Studies Journal, Citizenship Studies,* and the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* (2015). Griffith work also appears in the 8th edition of the casebook Labor Law: Cases, Materials, and Problems (2015) and has articles published in the *Berkeley Journal of Employment & Labor Law* (2015), the *UC Davis Law Review* (2017) and the *Cornell Law Review* (forthcoming). Together Gleeson and Griffith have also (along with ILR colleagues Maria Cook and Larry Kahn) co-edited a forthcoming special issue of the *ILR Review* on “The Impact of Immigrant Legalization Initiatives: International Perspectives” and have co-authored an Introduction to this special issue.

In their work with graduate student Julia Zhu, Matsudaira and Hall are examining the impact of immigration enforcement on employer hiring practices, exploring how local efforts to deport unauthorized migrants affected the racial composition of firms and industries where unauthorized workers are concentrated. In addition, Matsudaira’s work has been published in the *Journal of Population Economics* (2016), the *Economics of Education Review* (2017), and publications for the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and National Academy of Medicine (2016) and the Urban (2017). Matsudaira’s work on welfare reform and child outcomes has also recently been funded by the Center for the Study of Social Inequality ($15,000, 2017).

For more information, see the list of project member publications and funding.

**Student Training**

A key element of this research has involved the training and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate research students. For example, Alvarado and Hall have worked with Sociology PhD student Alex Currit, who provided research assistance on the statistical analysis for the PAA presentation, and is a co-author on the current manuscript under review. Similarly, Hall and Matsudaira have worked with Policy and Management graduate student Julia Zhu to clean and analyze challenging administrative data from the Immigration, Customs Enforcement and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Julia’s efforts on this project have also spurred independent research projects focused on estimating the prevalence of deportation, using administrative data secured by the ISS team.

Given the intensive nature of the fieldwork Griffith and Gleeson undertook in the New York City region, they have worked with a substantial number of bicultural and bilingual research assistants (focusing primarily on the Haitian, and Spanish-speaking Central American community in New Jersey, Long Island, and Brooklyn).
These include two undergraduates: Kennys Lawson (SUNY Binghamton) and Vivian Vázquez (Cornell ILR Worker Institute Fellow); four graduate students: Jessica Santos (SUNY Binghamton), Lynne Turner (CUNY Sociology and Murphy Institute), Darlene Dubuisson (Columbia University), and Jennifer O’Brien (Cornell Law School); and two consultants: Patricia Campos-Medina (Cornell ILR Worker Institute staff and current PhD student at Rutgers) and Alicia Cañas (recent graduate from Adelphi University). This summer we look forward to welcoming a second ILR undergraduate (Laura Martinez) to continue the interview coding and analysis that Vivian Vázquez (who is graduating) has completed. Griffith and Gleeson have assisted Vivian Vázquez as she has presented the research in various forums, including the Ivy League Undergraduate Research Conference and the Worker Institute at Cornell.

Gleeson also works with several undergraduate and graduate students through her other sub-projects. Through her NSF-funded research on the Local Implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (with Els de Graauw), she has supervised 5 graduate students at Cornell and CUNY: Adriana Cruz (CUNY-Murphy), Jenny Coronel (CUNY-Public Affairs), Siqi Tu (CUNY-Grad Center, Sociology), Yoselinda Mendoza (Cornell-Sociology), and Amy Saz (ILR alum and CIPA) to help with interview coding and analysis.1 Through her ILR, NSF-IRC and Einauidi funded research on Transnational Labor Advocacy (with Xóchitl Bada), she has also supervised two UCSC graduate students (Claudia Lopez and Ruben Espinoza) and UPenn postdoc (Heidy Sarabia) for data collection, as well four undergraduate ILR Worker Institute Fellows (Albaro Tutasig, Zakiya Williams Wells, Hannah Cho, and Clady Corona) who helped with coding.2 Also through the Worker Institute, Gleeson has supervised 5 undergraduate ILR Worker Institute Fellows (Alexandra Wagner, Taylor Marcella Keating, Gabriella Lifsec Devon Gilliams, Michelle Zhao) through her work on the Mobilizing Against Inequality Website (with Lowell Turner),3 and another (Michael Snyder) for her research on Immigration and Labor Under Trump. Gleeson is also currently supervising a Rawlings Scholar (Nikhil Dinghra) whose research focuses on the dynamics of sanctuary jurisdictions. Gleeson also worked with Alex Currit (Cornell Sociology PhD student) on analysis of the New Immigrant Survey (with Els de Graauw and Amada Armenta).

In the classroom, Griffith and Gleeson have developed a course, ILRLR 3035: Seminar on Precarious Workers, which engages students in their research on immigration and low-wage work. Hall continues to teach the largest undergraduate course on immigration on campus, that covers policy debates on the costs and benefits of immigration. He also has developed a new graduate seminar on Immigrant Incorporation that trains doctoral students on theoretical debates and methodological challenges in research on immigration.

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1 https://daca-immigration.weebly.com/project-team.html
3 https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/mobilizing-against-inequality
Campus Impact

The Deportation Relief Project is engaged in timely research that impacts some of the most precarious communities of color across the United States. Especially since the last presidential election, which has produced significant policy upheaval, we have been called on to speak about our research in many public fora on and off campus.

For example, over the last three years, Gleeson has participated in panels hosted by the Cornell Law School, the ILR Worker Institute, for the Trustees and Alumni weekends, and a December 2016 book workshop hosted by the ILR Pierce Memorial Fund. Hall has also moderated a campus discussion regarding changing immigration policy under the Trump administration (February, 2017), participated in a panel sponsored by the Cornell Latin America Student Society on changes to immigration enforcement policy (February, 2017), and shared insights on the impacts of immigration to the State of New York at CaRDI’s Community Development Institute conference (September, 2017). Hall will also present new work on how legality shapes family formation behaviors at the Program for Research on Youth Development and Engagement (PRYDE) in May. Griffith has presented in various forums hosted by the Worker Institute at Cornell. For instance, in February 2015 she presented her research in a talk entitled, “Crossing the Borders of Immigration and Employment Regulation.” Griffith spearheads an undergraduate research fellowship program through the Worker Institute and often speaks about her research in this capacity.

In addition to these individual efforts, Gleeson and Hall (along with Sociology professor Filiz Garip, and with the participation of Steven Alvarado) co-organized a major conference in November 2017 on Criminalizing Immigrants: Border Controls, Enforcement and Resistance. With support also from the Center for the Study of Inequality and the Cornell Population Center, this research brought together empirical projects from around the globe and from a range of disciplines. This research will be forthcoming later this year in a special issue of the American Behavioral Scientist.

The Deportation Relief Theme Project has continued to create synergy among the various migration scholars on campus (who previously also came together under ISS through an earlier project led by Michael Jones-Correa. This list of current affiliates includes 210 migration scholars (Cornell 171, Beyond Cornell 39), who are drawn from 55 different Cornell units, as well as 4 community groups.

Over the last three years, we also hosted several experts to consult with our group in a small workshop, including Josh Stehlick (National Immigration Law Center, 3/2/16), Shoba Wadia (Penn State Law, 4/6/16) and Leticia Saucedo (UC Davis Law). We also consulted with Cornell colleagues Jenny Ifft (Dyson) and Doug Heckathorn (Sociology) regarding their methodological approaches.

Additionally, over this period, Gleeson, Griffith, and Hall were all invited to consult with the Russell Sage Foundation at convenings focused on setting the agenda for immigration research in the social sciences.