

Georgetown University
Institute for the Study of International Migration

Ambivalence of Race: Mexicans and the Dillingham Commission in Progressive-Era America

Assistant Professor Katherine Benton-Cohen discusses her ongoing research
at this month's *Migration Working Group* series
Monday, December 8, 2008
12pm, Clare Boothe Luce Room (ICC 563)
Lunch will be served

[Click here to RSVP](#)

"Ambivalence of Race: Mexicans and the Dillingham Commission in
Progressive-Era America"

This paper addresses the ways policymakers viewed Mexican immigrants differently than southern and eastern Europeans in the early twentieth century. The US Congress's Dillingham Commission, whose task was to study and recommend regulation of immigration in the early twentieth century, was largely uninterested in Mexicans, although it compared them to Italians, with whom it was intensely preoccupied. This paper is part of a larger book project on the history of the Dillingham Commission, whose 41-volume study of immigration, completed in 1911, was used to justify the immigration exclusions of the 1920s.

Dr. Katherine Benton-Cohen is an Assistant Professor of History at Georgetown University. She is a historian of the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, with particular interests in the histories of women and gender, race and immigration, and the American West. Dr. Benton-Cohen is currently completing a book entitled *Borderline Americans: Making Americans and Mexicans in the Arizona Borderlands*, to be published by Harvard University Press. She has published articles on a famous labor incident known as the Bisbee Deportation of 1917, as well as on women's homesteading in the American Southwest. Her next book project explores the history of the U.S. Congress's Dillingham Commission, which conducted a massive study of immigration in the early twentieth century.