



*Institute for the Study of International Migration*  
*Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service*  
*at*  
*Georgetown University*



## POLICY BRIEFING

# **Bright Promises & Possible Pitfalls of Selective Migration: Lessons from the Competition**

### Who

**Rey Koslowski**, Associate Professor, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany (SUNY), Director of the Research Program on Border Control and Homeland Security.

Many nations are deploying “selective policies” to attract highly skilled foreign students and workers with point systems or temporary visas. Some observers fear America is losing the global competition, that say Europe’s Blue Card will trump our Specialty Visa (H-1B). But as more nations implement selective policies, broadening migrants’ options, will they succeed in attracting the migrants they want? Will national immigration policies matter less than welcoming societies, good jobs and the best schools?

### When

Friday, September 19, 2008  
8 AM, Continental breakfast  
8:30 to 10:00 Program

### Where

Georgetown University Law Center  
McDonough Hall, Room 437  
600 New Jersey Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC, 20001

### RSVP & Directions

Please RSVP to <http://www12.georgetown.edu/sfs/rsvp/index.cfm?Program=ISIM>

For questions, please contact Marwa Alkhairo, [mwa6@georgetown.edu](mailto:mwa6@georgetown.edu)

For a link to directions: <http://www.law.georgetown.edu/directions/>

### Media Notice

To encourage frank discussion, these proceedings follow Chatham House rules. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Presenters may be asked for quotes and photographs at the conclusion of the Briefing.

*ISIM thanks the Sloan Foundation for their generous support.*

## Bio

Professor Rey Koslowski's primary teaching and research interests are in the field of international relations focusing on international migration, information technology, homeland security, and European integration. During 2008-9, he will be a Fellow of the Transatlantic Academy at the German Marshall Fund in Washington, D.C. He has been a fellow at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He is the author of several books including most recently *Real Challenges for Virtual Borders: The Implementation of US-VISIT*, and *International Migration and the Globalization of Domestic Politics*. He received his PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.

<http://www.albany.edu/~rk289758/>

## Paper

Professor Koslowski is currently working on a paper titled "Selective Migration Policies and their Potential Pitfalls" while at the German Marshall Fund. We hope to post a link this paper when it is completed in the near future. The abstract for that paper is as follows:

Migration destination countries are increasingly adopting selective migration policies with immigration programs and visas to attract scientists, engineers, medical and information technology professionals. Selective migration policies may be explicit, as in Canada, Australia, the UK and France where point-systems select permanent migrants, or they may be more implicit, using temporary high-skilled visas, as in the US. This presentation compares US high-skilled migration policies to those of other migration destination countries and considers these selective migration policies within the broader context of international competition, international interaction effects and foreign policy objectives. While the presentation demonstrates the growing trend among states to adopt selective migration strategies, it points out certain pitfalls of this strategy, some of which are themselves due to the increasing popularity of selective migration policies among policymakers.