A Nation of Immigrants: A Short History of an Idea

Mae Ngai is Lung Family Professor of Asian American Studies and Professor of History at Columbia University. She is a U.S. legal and political historian interested in questions of immigration, citizenship, and nationalism. She is author of the award-winning Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America (2004) and The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America (2010). Ngai has written on immigration history and policy for the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Nation, and the Boston Review. Before becoming a historian she was a labor-union organizer and educator in New York City, working for District 65-UAW and the Consortium for Worker Education. She is now writing The Chinese Question, a study of Chinese gold miners and racial politics in nineteenth-century California, Australia, and South Africa.

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Woody Tanger Auditorium
Brooklyn College Library