



Metropolitan Policy Program
at BROOKINGS

Audrey Singer
Senior Fellow

Immigrant Incorporation and Local Responses

American Sociological Association
San Francisco, CA

August 9, 2009

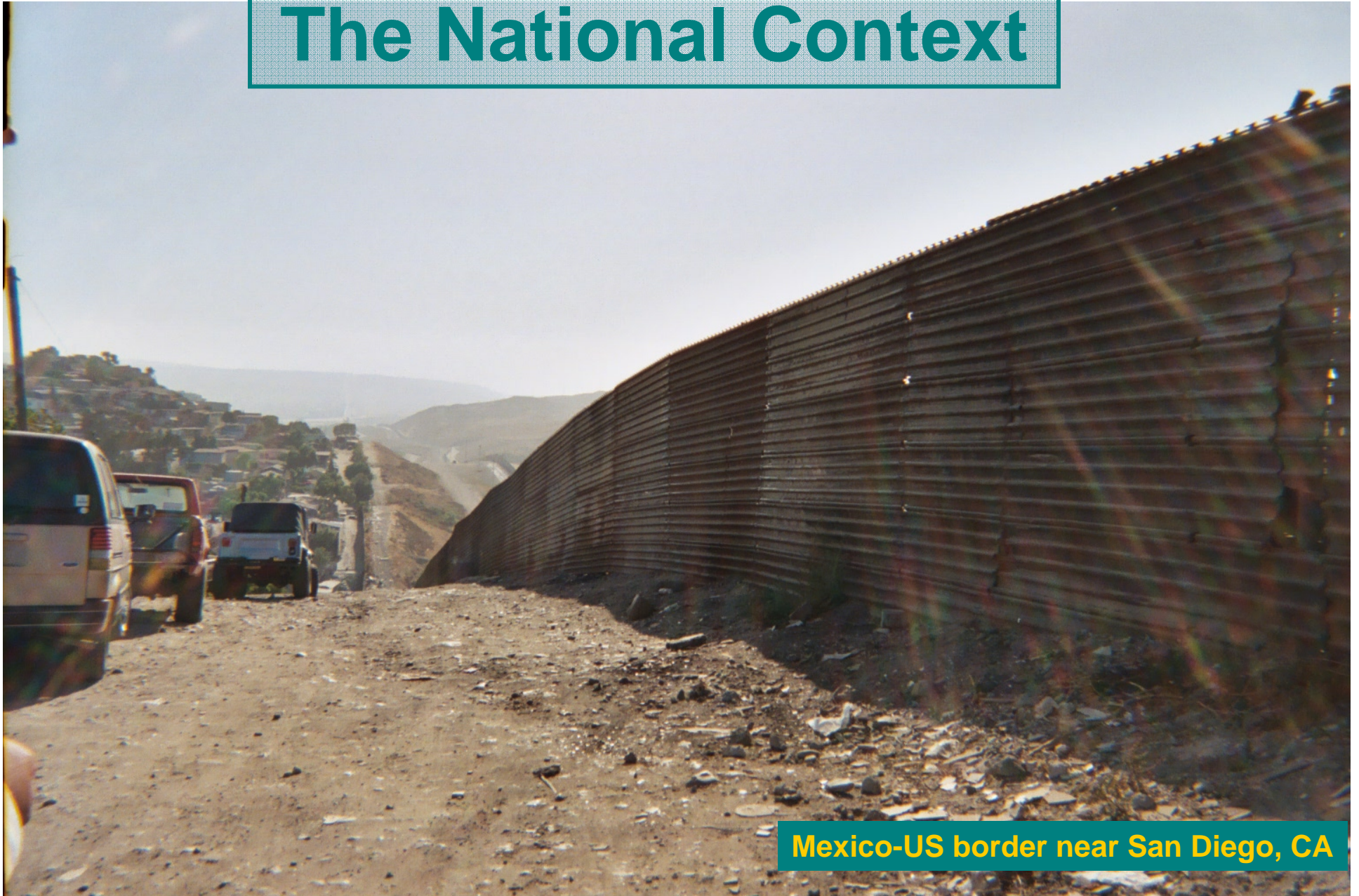
Questions --- Exploration

- **How do we evaluate recent state and local changes in light of the national context?**

- **How to best measure local changes and various scenarios for incorporation?**

- **Can we explore the assumptions of incorporation/integration—where is it “located?”**

Immigration Reform: The National Context



Mexico-US border near San Diego, CA

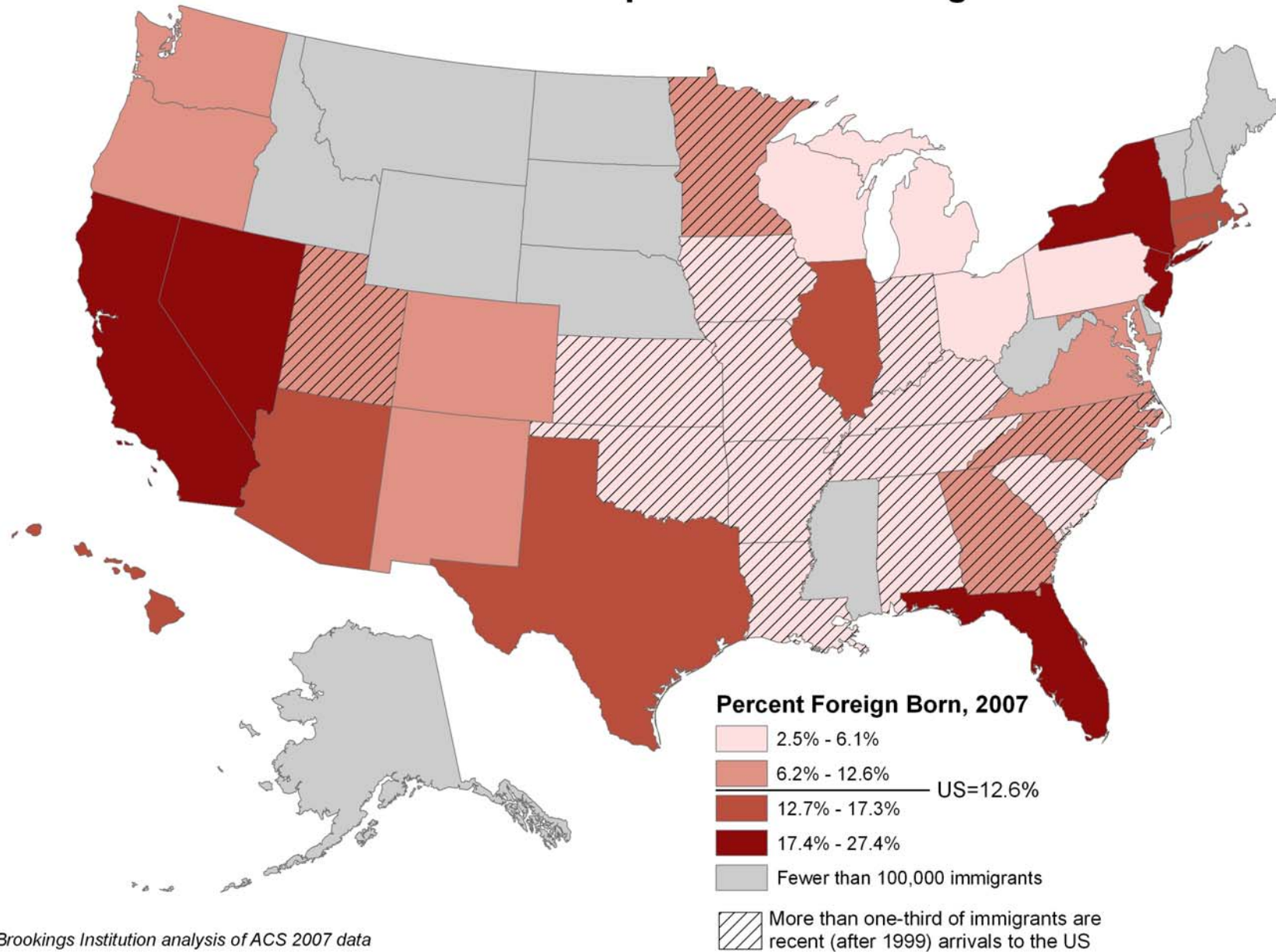
National context is important for understanding some of the changes in localities.

Many new areas, with little recent history of immigration have fast growing foreign-born populations

No movement on federal reform after major Congressional debates in 2006 and 2007

Proliferation of state and local laws around the country as local leaders have stepped in to fill the void

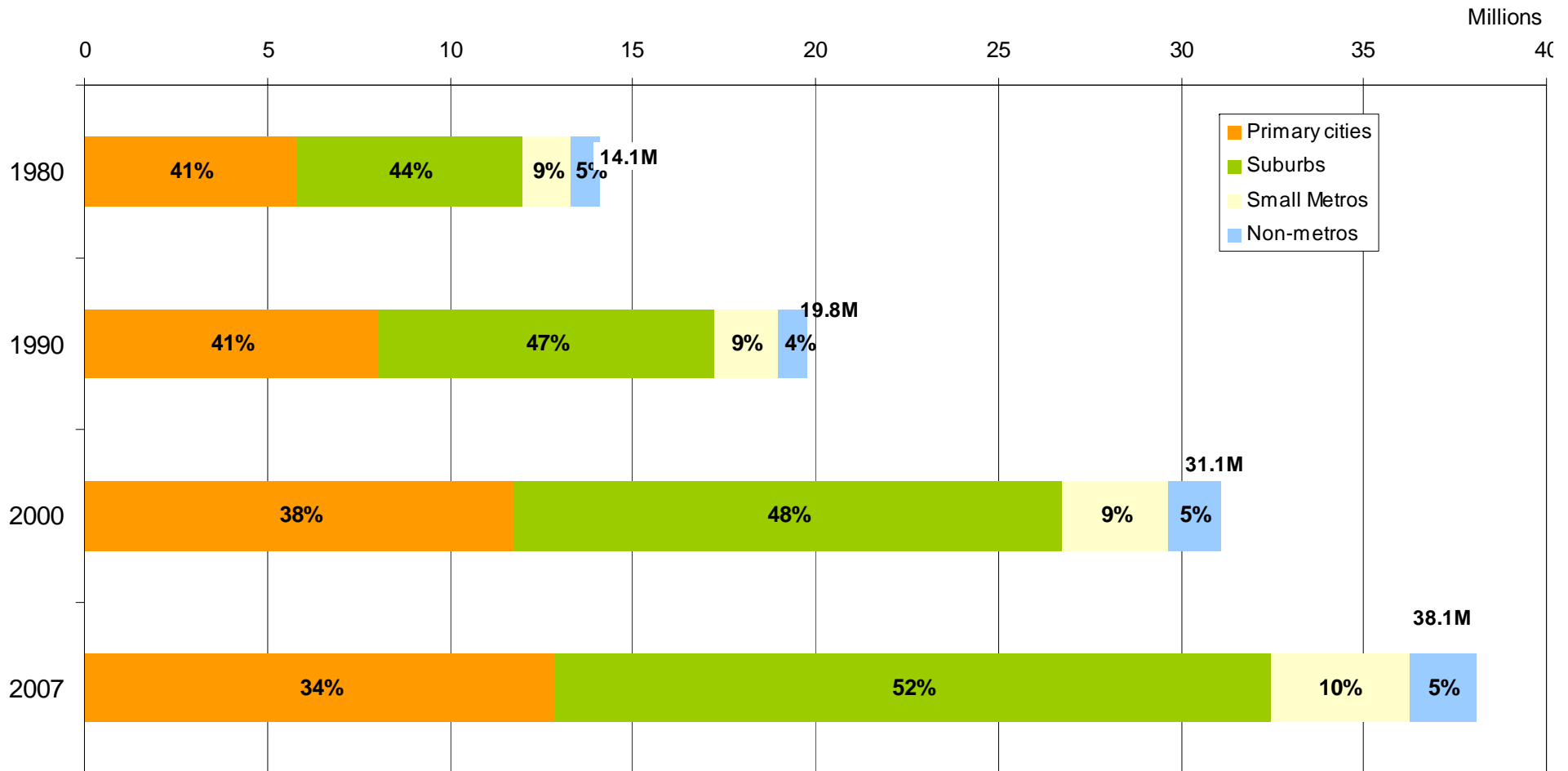
Map 1. Many states with high proportions of recent arrivals have little experience with immigration.



Brookings Institution analysis of ACS 2007 data

Dramatic shifts in settlement patterns among the foreign-born toward the suburbs

Size and Share of Foreign-Born Population by Location, 1980-2007



Metros with the largest immigrant populations grew slower during this decade than in the 1990s

Percent growth in the foreign-born population in metro areas with the largest foreign-born pop, 2007

	Growth Rate 2000-2007		Growth Rate 2000-2007
1 New York NY	10.0	11 Boston MA	18.5
2 Los Angeles CA	4.4	12 San Diego CA	11.2
3 Miami-Ft Lauderdale FL	14.3	13 Atlanta GA	58.1
4 Chicago IL	14.7	14 San Jose CA	15.1
5 San Francisco CA	10.4	15 Philadelphia PA	29.9
6 Houston TX	34.1	16 Seattle WA	32.4
7 Dallas-Ft Worth TX	39.5	17 Las Vegas NV	65.0
8 Washington DC	31.3	18 Detroit MI	15.4
9 Riverside-San Bern.	48.9	19 Sacramento CA	38.9
10 Phoenix AZ	60.9	20 Tampa FL	43.3

Source: ACS, 2007

Many of the metropolitan areas with the fastest growing immigrant populations are in the South

Percent growth in the foreign-born population in metro areas with the largest foreign-born pop, 2007

		Growth Rate 2000-2007			Growth Rate 2000-2007
1	Cape Coral FL	122.2	13	Raleigh-Cary NC	61.5
2	Greenville SC	77.0	14	Phoenix AZ	60.9
3	Lakeland FL	74.9	15	Atlanta GA	58.1
4	Nashville TN	74.1	16	Chattanooga TN	57.6
5	Little Rock AR	74.0	17	Allentown PA	56.9
6	Knoxville TN	71.6	18	Scranton PA	55.9
7	Indianapolis IN	70.7	19	Charleston SC	53.7
8	Las Vegas NV	65.0	20	Columbus OH	53.6
9	Birmingham AL	64.8	21	Harrisburg PA	53.0
10	Orlando FL	63.9	22	Jacksonville FL	52.8
11	Columbia SC	63.9	23	Sarasota FL	52.4
12	Charlotte NC	63.6			

Source: ACS, 2007

A closer look at county level growth shows suburban “hotspots” where local response has been strong

Percent growth in the foreign-born population in counties, 2000-2007

Forsyth County, GA	17,714	201.1	ES	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Henry County, GA	12,092	198.9	ES	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Loudoun County, VA	55,343	189.5	MS	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Lake County, FL	28,398	162.5	ES	<i>Orlando, FL</i>
Frederick County, MD	19,735	153.7	ES	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Prince William County, VA	76,415	137.4	MS	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Pinal County, AZ	36,624	125.5	EX	<i>Phoenix, AZ</i>
Lee County, FL	89,677	122.2	MS	<i>Cape Coral, FL</i>
Anoka County, MN	23,883	121.7	MS	<i>Minneapolis-St Paul MN</i>
Hamilton County, IN	15,814	117.1	MS	<i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
Rutherford County, TN	14,102	113.4	MS	<i>Nashville, TN</i>
St. Charles County, MO	12,114	107.4	MS	<i>St. Louis, MO</i>
Williamson County, TX	37,649	104.1	ES	<i>Austin, TX</i>
Placer County, CA	35,457	101.9	ES	<i>Sacramento, CA</i>
Cherokee County, GA	16,514	99.6	ES	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>

Source: ACS, 2007

Classification of suburban counties

Suburban classification is based on % of county population (net primary city population) living in urbanized areas according to 2000 Census data. Counties with less than 10,000 immigrants excluded.

HD = **high density**: counties with >95% in urbanized areas

MS = **mature suburb**: counties with between 75% and 95% in urbanized areas

ES = **emerging suburb**: counties with between 25% and 75% living in urbanized areas

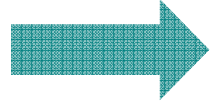
EX = **exurbs**: counties with \leq 25% in urbanized areas

State and Local Response



Outside a tax preparation shop, Herndon, VA

THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS: The Policy Context for Localities



No uniform set of policies and programs to aid in the social, economic, and political incorporation of immigrants



Local action, i.e., day labor, language policies, occupancy policies, local police enforcement offer fragmented response



Local efforts may be compounded by the large number of recent arrivals and local governance structure



Immigrant integration operates at the local level