

PUBLIC LECTURE

## Understanding the lives of immigrants and their descendants: From selection to adaptation

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### **Abstract**

In this lecture, I will discuss some of the most important problems that social scientists face when studying immigrants and their descendants. I will focus on: (1) the challenges of testing theories and hypotheses, (2) the problems of generalisation, and (3) future directions for empirical research. Throughout the lecture, I will provide an overview of some recent socio-demographic research on immigrants and their descendants, with a focus on several of my own studies as examples from the literature. I will show how immigrants are different from those who remain in their origin countries, how their socio-economic lives adapt after arrival, and how their childbearing changes across generations. Reflecting on what we know, I will then propose how we can gain a deeper understanding of immigrants and their descendants.