Post-1965 New Immigration, Assimilation, and the Immigrant Health Paradox in the U.S.

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Immigrants make up 40% of the population in New York City and 43% in Los Angeles. Today immigrant origin youth account for 30% of all U.S. young adults between 18 and 34. Urban cities are being transformed by immigration throughout the country. The assimilation and adaptation patterns of immigrant origin children and youth will have long-lasting impact on the future of this country and have direct implications for everyone studying urban studies. In this presentation, Qin will discuss demographic information related to post-1965 New Immigration, new patterns of immigrant assimilation, in particular why the classic model of immigrant assimilation no longer works today. She will present an up-to-date review of research findings on the immigrant paradox -- a disturbing, counterintuitive trajectory showing that the longer immigrants stay in the U.S., the worse they do in terms of academic, psychosocial, physical health, and mental health outcomes. This raises a series of questions related to immigrant assimilation: e.g., what are immigrants assimilating into? What is the cost of assimilation for immigrants today? Is becoming American a risk factor in immigrant child and youth development? She will conclude by discussing potential explanations of the paradox and directions for future research.

For workshop information, contact guochen@msu.edu