TEACHING HIDDEN HISTORIES

*From Minority to Majority:*
*The Long Journey of 19th Century Irish and Modern Day Latinx Immigrants in the Merrimack Valley*

Virtual Meeting, Saturday, January 23, 2021
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM.

Greater Lawrence is and has always been a mixture of different ethnicities and cultures, but few have come to dominate the political and social landscape of the area quite like the Irish and Latinx communities. In this workshop, we will examine how these communities’ journeys exemplify a larger history of structural policies of exclusion, scapegoating and prejudice, but also perseverance and change.

**Speakers:**

**Dr. Llana Barber**

Llana Barber is associate professor of American Studies at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury where she teaches immigration, urban, and Latinx history, as well as the history of US imperialism. Her first book, *Latino City: Immigration and Urban Crisis in Lawrence, Massachusetts, 1945-2000* (UNC Press, 2017), explored the history of New England’s first Latinx-majority city. This work emphasized the impact of deindustrialization and suburbanization on Lawrence, and the Puerto Rican and Dominican activism that transformed the city. *Latino City* received the 2018 Lois P. Rudnick Prize from the New England American Studies Association and the 2017 Kenneth Jackson Award from the Urban History Association. Barber is currently researching the history of the Haitian diaspora from the 1970s to 1990s, focusing on U.S., Dominican, and Bahamian efforts to exclude Haitian migrants in this era.

**Dr. Robert Forrant**

Dr. Forrant is a professor in the History Department at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, teaching courses on global labor issues, labor history, immigration, and international development. He has been a consultant to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Metalworkers Federation, and several trade unions. Professor Forrant is the editor of three volumes on sustainable regional development, the author of numerous published articles and reports and a forthcoming book on industrial development and decline in the Connecticut River Valley and New England. Before completing his graduate education, he worked as a machinist
and union business agent at the now closed American Bosch plant in Springfield, MA and ran a community-based economic development program. He analyzes and reports on the Massachusetts industrial economy for the journal Massachusetts Benchmarks, a joint publication of the University of Massachusetts and the New England Federal Reserve Bank and he writes a monthly column on the economy for the Lowell Sun.

Glennys Sánchez

Glennys Sánchez is a Senior Associate at Great Schools Partnership. She has more than 10 years of experience as a community activist, K-16 education professional, and community-engaged researcher. Sánchez has devoted her professional career and personal journey to integrating the voices and participation of historically marginalized communities in different spaces ranging from nonprofit leadership, higher education, to community engagement research. In a previous role, Glennys led the family engagement research and knowledge management initiatives of a non-profit organization based in Boston that prepares educators to engage all families in equal partnerships that are essential to student success. Glennys earned an associate’s degree in business from Northern Essex Community College, a BA in economics from University of Massachusetts Boston, and a M.Ed. in Community Engagement from Merrimack College. In her spare time, Glennys organizes a social justice music, theater, and poetry festival. She lives in her adopted home of Lawrence with her partner and three children and often travels to her native Dominican Republic.

Moderator: Dr. Brad Austin

Brad Austin is a Professor of History at Salem State University, where he teaches modern U.S. history, sports history, the history of New England and slavery, and history education courses. He has served as the chairperson of American Historical Association’s Teaching Prize Committee. He is the author of Democratic Sports: Men’s and Women’s College Sports During the Great Depression (University of Arkansas Press, 2015) and the co-editor of Understanding and Teaching the Vietnam War (University of Wisconsin Press, 2013). He is also co-editor for the University of Wisconsin Press’s Harvey Goldberg Series for Understanding and Teaching History. In 2012, he won the Graduate Studies Teaching Award from the Northeastern Council of Graduate Studies, an organization representing more than 200 universities in the eastern United States and Canada.

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