



CALL FOR PAPERS
Im/migrant Well-Being: A Nexus for Policy & Research
2025 Conference

Hosted by: The Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative (IWSC)

Conference Organizers: Elizabeth Aranda, University of South Florida – Immigrant Well-Being Research Center; and Elizabeth Vaquera, The George Washington University – Cisneros Hispanic Leadership Institute.

Dates & Location: February 14-15, 2025, Hilton Bayfront Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida

Theme: The 2025 Conference on Im/migrant Well-Being will focus on the lived experiences, challenges, and successes of immigrants within and across generations over time in the United States. We invite submissions that critically examine the intergenerational impacts of how United States immigration policies, such as Title 42, "Remain in Mexico"/Migrant Protections Protocols, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and surveillance, executive actions like the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and other policies and programs shape the daily lives and well-being of immigrants and their families. By centering the voices and experiences of immigrant communities, this conference seeks to generate empirical work that promotes the humanity of immigrants and informs evidence-based policymaking at the local, state, and national level. The 2025 Conference on Im/migrant Well-Being builds upon the first "[Im/migrant Well-Being: A Nexus for Research & Policy](#)" conference, held in 2023, which successfully convened scholars, policymakers, and community advocates to delve into the critical issues surrounding immigrant well-being through a series of thematic panels and keynote addresses by distinguished scholars engaged in policy advocacy, and which resulted in the publication of two special issues of the journal, *American Behavioral Scientist*.

What's New in 2025: The 2025 Conference on Im/migrant Well-Being will focus more intently on the intergenerational dynamics of immigration and well-being, recognizing that the experiences of immigrants and their descendants unfold over time. This sequel event seeks to explore the effects of policies and societal attitudes over generations, expanding the dialogue to include newer studies, emerging policy developments, and the latest findings aimed at improving immigrant well-being. A key differentiator for the upcoming conference will be its enhanced emphasis on actionable insights and translational research. By fostering a more robust interface between academia and policymaking, the event aspires to catalyze direct impacts on policy formulation and implementation. The intention is not only to discuss academic findings but also to workshop strategies for

effectively communicating these insights to policymakers, advocacy groups, and the wider community.

Furthermore, the 2025 Conference on Im/migrant Well-Being will spotlight the critical issue of adaptability and resilience among immigrant populations over time and across generations, in the face of evolving state policies and global challenges, such as recent state level immigration policies like Texas' SB 4 and Florida's SB 1718 and social and health crises including media tropes tying immigrants to issues like crime and fentanyl. This focus acknowledges the dynamic nature of immigrant experiences, requiring adaptive policy solutions that are responsive to both current realities and future contingencies. The goal is to set a forward-looking agenda that anticipates the needs and challenges of immigrant populations in the coming years following a presidential election year and as we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

The Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative posits well-being identified by organizations such as the CDC, NIH, and UN as a critical concept for both creating public policies and analyzing their impact, including the following dimensions of well-being:

- **Social well-being**, such as studies of social activities, work, or access to social resources;
- **Relational well-being**, such as studies of families, friendships, or support networks;
- **Emotional well-being**, such as studies of life dis/satisfaction, emotions, or resilience;
- **Psychological well-being**, including studies of identity, safety, mental health, or uncertainty;
- **Physical well-being**, such as studies of stress, dietary and activity habits, or access to medical interventions;
- **Economic well-being** that centers im/migrants themselves and/or their families, such as access to legal representation, health, food, and housing;
- **The intersections of some or all of these forms of well-being** as they relate to state violence, such as im/migrant detention, forced expulsion, and raids.

Topics of interest in this conference include but are not limited to:

- Social, relational, emotional, psychological, physical, and economic well-being of immigrants and their families and communities as described above;
- Intergenerational processes and impacts of immigration policies;
- Impacts of state violence, detention, forced expulsion, and raids;
- Intersectional experiences of underrepresented immigrant communities;
- Resilience, identity negotiation, and cultural adaptation across generations;
- Translating research findings into actionable policy recommendations and other examples of “engaged scholarship.”

Conference Format & Objectives:

On Day 1, conference presenters will participate in panels on im/migrant well-being, which will be open to the public. On Day 2, conference presenters will participate in closed workshops on how to translate academic work for public audiences, policymakers, and members of the press. The 2025 Conference on Im/migrant Well-Being will serve as a launching point for continued engagement for participants as scholar affiliates of the Im/migrant Well-Being Scholar Collaborative. The conference is structured around the following key objectives:

1. Enhance scholar development and research on im/migrant well-being
2. Establish a collaborative research network of researchers and practitioners dedicated to improving immigrant well-being
3. Enhance translational research and policy impact
4. Identify and develop future research collaborations related to immigrant well-being, involving both academic scholars and community organizations.

Submission Guidelines and Deadlines: We welcome submissions from a diverse range of disciplines, including sociology, psychology, education, economics, anthropology, political science, criminology, and other related fields. Scholars from underrepresented backgrounds and minority-serving institutions are strongly encouraged to submit their work. Submissions must focus on a specific US immigration policy. Submissions focused on international policy will not be considered.

Please submit an extended abstract (up to 2,000 words, including references) that includes the following:

- Research question and its relevance to the conference theme
- Theoretical framework
- Data and methodology
- Preliminary findings
- Policy implications and evidence-informed solutions
- Conclusion

Abstracts should be submitted through the online submission form on the conference website by **September 15, 2024**:

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/centers/iwrc/events/2025-conference/index.aspx>.

Graduate students seeking to submit their work should include a letter of recommendation from their advisor. Contributors should note that this call is open and competitive. Additionally, submissions must be based on original and unpublished material.

Authors will be notified of our decision no later than **October 31, 2024**. Complete papers will be due **December 15, 2024**.

Conference Support and Plans for Childcare and Family Care Resources at the

Conference Site: The Collaborative will pay for one hotel room for two nights per selected paper at the Hilton Bayfront Hotel in St. Petersburg during the dates of the conference: February 14-15, 2025 (arriving on February 13). Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days of the conference.

Understanding the critical role of family care responsibilities in conference participation, especially for early-stage researchers and primary caretakers, the conference is committed to facilitating attendance by individuals with such responsibilities. The conference organizers will establish partnerships with professional childcare providers to deliver onsite services. These services will be designed to be parent-friendly, incorporating breastfeeding support and opportunities for regular check-ins, all offered at subsidized rates to enhance affordability.

Inquiries: Questions should be directed to the conference organizers at cas-iwrc@usf.edu.