

Preface and acknowledgements

Much has happened in the immigration policies and programmes of Australia and the US since 1992, when *Nations of Immigrants: Australia, the United States and International Immigration*, edited by Gary P. Freeman and James Jupp, was published by Oxford University Press. That volume, a joint venture between the former Australian Bureau of Immigration, Multicultural and Population Research in Melbourne and the Edward A. Clark Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, deserves a companion that takes stock of changes that have occurred since 1992. The Clark Center and Monash University's Institute for the Study of Global Movements have joined forces to provide this.

The present volume commences with an introduction by the editors, who canvas immigration trends in the two countries and issues they pose: sustaining social cohesion; relying on skill-based immigration; resorting to guest worker programmes; allowing international students to enter domestic labour markets; cherry picking able and educated workers from developing countries; dispersing immigrants to sub-national regions and localities; coping with urban sprawl and pressures on the environment; dealing with asylum seekers and undocumented migrants; and reconciling large-scale immigration with spiralling energy costs.

Following this introduction, pairs of parallel chapters by leading Australian and American scholars consider for Australia and the US five broad topics: compositions and contours of recent immigration flows; policy convergences and divergences between the two countries; immigration's effects on their labour markets; policies aimed at integrating new groups of immigrants; and changing shapes of ethnic relations and multiculturalism in Australia and the US.

The chapters in this book were composed initially as papers for a two-day workshop at Monash University's Centre in Prato, Italy. During November and December 2008 the papers were revised in light of the Prato discussions. We thank all of the authors for their informative exchanges at the workshop and for the professional and prompt way in which they revised their chapters.

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Institute for the Study of Global Movements handled complex administrative arrangements with dexterity. Irene Thavarajah at the Monash Events Management Centre in Prato organized much of the workshop with her characteristic good humour. Kate Latimer at Mediagiants in Melbourne skillfully conceived the Prato workshop programme and helped ensure its smooth unfolding. In Austin Mary Clements, in the Department of Government at the University of Texas at Austin, carefully processed complex travel itineraries and their costs, while Frances Cushing, the Clark Center's administrative associate, kept her eye on the Center's budget and encouraged the project throughout.

We hope that this volume contributes useful insights into alternative approaches to immigration today and demonstrates, once again, the value of joint Australian and American research efforts.

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