

# NONPROFIT SEMINAR

CENTER FOR  
NONPROFIT STRATEGY  
AND MANAGEMENT

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## National Immigrant Communities Project

Tuesday, November 11, 2014  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

### BIOGRAPHIES

**Nisha Agarwal**  
**Commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs**

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Nisha Agarwal is an accomplished public interest lawyer and a leading voice in immigration reform at the local and national level. She brings to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs an entrepreneurial drive and a proven record of enacting pro-immigrant legislation in New York City and New York State.

Most recently, she worked with Judge Robert A. Katzmann, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, to establish the Immigrant Justice Corps, a new nonprofit that will recruit recent law school graduates and partner them with non-profit legal services providers to offer legal representation to undocumented immigrants. She was previously Deputy Director of the Center for Popular Democracy, the groundbreaking non-profit advocacy group dedicated to advancing pro-immigrant, pro-equality and pro-justice policies at the grassroots and national levels, which she co-founded in 2012. Prior to CPD, Agarwal served as Director of the Health Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

Agarwal received her B.A. summa cum laude from Harvard College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She currently lives in Brooklyn.

**Steven Choi**  
**Executive Director, The New York Immigration Coalition**

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Steven Choi is the Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition – a pan-immigrant umbrella group in New York State with nearly 200 member organizations. He was formerly the Executive Director of the MinKwon Center for Community Action in Flushing, Queens. He served as the Program Director for the Korean Immigrant Workers Rights Project and with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) protected low-wage Korean immigrants from employers. Mr. Choi has extensive experience in working with Korean and Asian American organizations, such as the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), the Korean Youth and Community Center (KYCC), and served as co-chair of the 9th Annual National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law & Public Policy.

Mr. Choi received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a M.A. from the University of Hawai'i, and a B.A. from Stanford University in History with Honors.

**Hector Cordero-Guzman, PhD.**  
**Professor, School of Public Affairs, Baruch College**

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Dr. Héctor R. Cordero-Guzmán is an applied sociologist and Professor of research methods, social policy, and non-profit management at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College of the City University of New York. He is also a Professor in the Ph.D. Programs in Sociology and in Urban Education at the *City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center*. Dr. Cordero-Guzman has published academic research and taught graduate courses on issues related to education, labor markets and employment, poverty, race and inequality, non-profit organizations, micro-finance, international migration, economic development, and social policy. Prior to joining The School of Public Affairs at CUNY, Dr. Cordero-Guzman worked as a Program Officer in the Economic Development and the Quality Employment Units of the Asset Building and Community Development Program at *The Ford Foundation*. Dr. Cordero-Guzman has been elected to the board of directors of several non-profit organizations including: *ACCION-New York*, *Community Service Society of New York (CSS)*, *Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone (UMEZ)*, *St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction*, the *Association for Research of Non-Profit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA)*, *The Economic Policy Institute (EPI)*, *The Afro-Latin Jazz Alliance*, and *El Museo Del Barrio*. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Sociology from *The University of Chicago*.

**Els de Graauw**  
**Assistant Professor, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences,**  
**Baruch College**

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Els de Graauw is Assistant Professor at Baruch College, the City University of New York, with an appointment in the Department of Political Science and teaching responsibilities also in the School of Public Affairs. Her research centers on the nexus of immigration, race and ethnicity, civil society organizations, (sub)urban politics, and public policy. She recently completed a book manuscript on the role of immigrant-serving nonprofit organizations in advocating immigrant integration policies in San Francisco, with a focus on immigrant language rights, labor rights, and municipal ID cards. She currently has under way a comparative study of city immigrant affairs offices in the United States. She is also collaborating with Shannon Gleeson (Cornell University) on an institutional analysis of the implementation of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in three metropolitan regions: the San Francisco Bay Area, the Greater Houston Area, and the New York City Metro Area.

Her research appears in *Politics & Society*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Annual Review of Political Science*, *Daedalus*, *Hérodote*, and various edited volumes. Her work has been supported by, among others, the National Science Foundation, the Hauser Institute for Civil Society at Harvard University, the Institute for the Social Sciences at Cornell University, and the Netherland-America Foundation.

Dr. de Graauw earned her Ph.D. degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley. She has been a researcher at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and Cornell University. In 2012, she co-founded the Section on Migration and Citizenship of the American Political Science Association. After serving as co-president for two years, she currently serves as the Section's secretary. In 2014, she joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

**Erwin de Leon**  
**Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Metropolitan Housing &**  
**Communities Policy Center**

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Erwin de Leon is a research associate at the Urban Institute's Metropolitan Housing & Communities Policy Center. He leads the National Immigrant Communities Project (NICP) and has authored and co-authored reports and articles on community-based nonprofits, immigrant organizations, and government contracting and grants. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the New School's Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy.