"Farewell to the American Dream? Anti-Immigrant Sentiment and the Future of Citizenship" will be the central question explored by historian Paul Spickard in the 2011 Robert A. Friedman Lecture at Baruch College on Tuesday, March 15, from 12:45 to 2:15 PM in Room VC 3-150. The lecture is free and open to the public.

A Professor of History at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Spickard is the author or editor of sixteen books, including *Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity* (2007) and *Japanese Americans: The Formation and Transformations of an Ethnic Group* (2009).

Spickard suggests that the promise of the American dream, that people from all over the world would be able to come to the United States and enter freely into the fruits of American citizenship, has never been honored in the same way for peoples of color as it has been for the children of Europe. Still, the notion that anyone could come here and become an American has remained a core part of American identity.

Recent US debates have turned vitriolic against two varieties of newcomers: Mexicans and people from the Middle East. Both are cast in public imagery as threatening presences, eternal foreigners who can never become true Americans. Does this signal a change in the American political landscape, or is it something we have seen before? On one hand, anti-immigrant sentiment has always been present in the United States. On the other, there might just be something new and sinister at work in the present anti-immigrant moment.

Spickard’s lecture traces the tradition of the American welcome to foreign peoples, as well as the equally powerful American xenophobic tradition. It describes the rhetoric, goals, and methods of the anti-immigrant movement that currently operates in American political culture. It assesses the chances that specific anti-immigrant goals, such as an end to birthright citizenship, might in fact be achieved. And it points toward what must happen if meaningful immigration reform, and a restoration of the promise of the American dream, is to be achieved.

Robert A. Friedman, MBA (’67), Emeritus Trustee, Baruch College Fund is a retired partner of The Goldman Sachs Group, L.P. He joined Goldman Sachs in 1968 and served as a member of the Management Committee, as the Chief Financial Officer and as partner-in-charge of the Goldman Sachs Asset Management Group. He is also a founding principal of Sage Capital Management Corp.

For more information, contact Prof. Vincent DiGirolamo at (646) 312-4334 or vincent.digirolamo@baruch.cuny.edu.