

A wide-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. The statue is the central focus, standing on its pedestal. The water is a deep blue-green, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. In the background, the New York City skyline is visible, including several skyscrapers. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Untangling Complex Narratives

Supporting the Center for the Study
of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration

Socially conscious scholarship responds to vital questions about contemporary life. At Penn Arts & Sciences, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration (CSERI) addresses one of the most pressing concerns worldwide: the intersection of narratives surrounding ethnicity, race, and immigration. CSERI, the first center of its kind to address this intersection, supports collaboration and the formation of research networks at Penn and beyond—both nationally and internationally—and positions Penn as a leader in the progressive study of immigration and race.

Vital Questions About Contemporary Life

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Chenoa Flippen, Associate Professor of Sociology

CSERI, led by Chenoa Flippen, Associate Professor of Sociology, draws on the University's expertise in the social sciences, as well as related fields in the humanities, design, business, medicine, and law. It supports undergraduate, graduate, and faculty research, encouraging collaboration across disciplines and providing an institutional home for research on today's immigration challenges and opportunities and the future of ethnic and race relations. The Center hosts postdoctoral fellows, visiting scholars, and interdisciplinary colloquia and workshops, attracting top researchers. Through these efforts, CSERI is also building a pipeline for underrepresented minority researchers in the field.

The world is constantly in movement, with hundreds of millions of people moving across borders—often as membership within borders is contested—around cleavages of race, ethnicity, and legal status. CSERI examines these issues around the globe while maintaining a national focus on how the intersection of race and immigration shape contemporary immigrant incorporation, racial and ethnic relations, and persisting patterns of inequality specifically within the U.S.

Over the last several decades, the U.S. has been undergoing a rapid demographic shift, in large part due to immigration. American understandings of immigration, citizenship, and belonging revolve around two competing narratives: that of individuals coming to the U.S. by choice and working toward social, political, and economic incorporation over time, and that of forced or involuntary migration, centered on African-Americans, slavery, and the structural, legal, social, and cultural differences between “white” and “others.” CSERI looks to answer the key question of how the contemporary immigration experience plays out against the nation's difficult history of race relations.

Giving Opportunities

The giving opportunities described here support CSERI as a research hub for students and faculty and a national leader in immigration research. All gifts are payable over five years.

Endow and name CSERI with a gift of \$8 million

A gift of \$8 million will endow the Center in perpetuity, ensuring that CSERI is firmly established as a national leader in the field.

A leadership gift of this magnitude will enable the donor to name CSERI, linking the donor with the highest-quality research and scholarly activities related to ethnicity, race and immigration for generations to come.

Endow and name the CSERI directorship with a gift of \$2 million

Endowing the CSERI directorship will associate the donor's name with the program in perpetuity and help to leverage the University's strengths and resources across disciplines and promoting socially conscious scholarship.

Fund a postdoctoral fellowship

CSERI hosts early-career scholars as postdoctoral research fellows. Fellows have the opportunity to pursue their own research, as well as to support graduate and undergraduate student work, collaborate with faculty, and help to organize CSERI events. A term gift of \$400,000 supports one fellow per year for five years; an endowed gift of \$1.5 million supports one fellow per year in perpetuity. CSERI seeks to host two postdoctoral research fellows annually.





Support conferences and workshops

CSERI aims to lead one conference or workshop every semester to showcase student and faculty work and bring prominent scholars to campus. A term gift of \$125,000 supports CSERI conferences for five years; an endowed gift of \$625,000 supports CSERI conferences in perpetuity. A term gift of \$15,000 supports workshops for five years; an endowed gift of \$75,000 supports workshops in perpetuity.

Support faculty research

Outstanding faculty research is central to CSERI's mission. An endowed gift of \$300,000 supports innovative faculty research projects.

Support the CSERI Director's Fund

Gifts of any size to the Director's Fund allow the Center to respond to emerging needs and priorities.

To learn more about supporting the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Race, and Immigration at all levels, please contact Deb Rhebergen, Vice Dean for Advancement, at 215-898-9942 or drheberg@sas.upenn.edu.

