

**THE CENTER FOR IMMIGRATION RESEARCH
SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS**

Are immigrants *good* Americans?

Exploring how spirituality influences
immigrant civic participation

A speech by Drs. Elaine Ecklund and
Michael Emerson of Rice University

Friday, April 24, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Honors College Commons, MD Anderson Library



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Religion is an important part of the immigrant experience, as well as a central motivator of civic participation in the United States. Yet, little is known about whether religious participation strengthens the ability of new immigrants to contribute to American civic and political institutions. Scholars of immigrant religion focus mainly on the benefits religious communities provide to immigrants themselves, while neglecting the ways religion might help immigrants focus outward on helping those outside their own ethnic communities. We examine how various forms of religion and spirituality influence immigrant civic participation, such as voluntary association membership, community service, political participation, and various forms of collective action, as well as how religion and spirituality help shape civic identities.

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