



Apr 21st, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

## Will New Immigrants Survive? Now You Know the Rest...

Samuel Kwainoe, '02  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

Kwainoe, '02, Samuel and Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, Michael, "Will New Immigrants Survive? Now You Know the Rest..." (2001). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 6.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2001/oralpres/6>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation 1.1

**WILL NEW IMMIGRANTS SURVIVE? NOW YOU KNOW THE REST...**

Samuel Kwainoe and Michael Seeborg\*

Department of Economics, Illinois Wesleyan University

Currently, the United States is experiencing an unprecedented wave of immigration. Undoubtedly, this presents questions of how immigrants fare after their arrival in the United States. Historically, immigrants to the United States started out initially with lower wages but with time they were able to catch up to natives and eventually overtake them. However, some observers think that things may be changing for the worse for new immigrants. George Borjas, for example, argues that recent decreases in demand for less skilled workers has put many immigrants at a disadvantage. He predicts that the wages of less skilled immigrant will no longer converge quickly to the levels of native workers and may even remain below native wages through out the life of the immigrant. The purpose of this paper is to use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) to follow the earnings history of a unique sample of young natives and immigrants from 1986 to 1998. This paper will test the hypothesis by Borjas that the wages of less educated, recent immigrants do not converge to the wage level of natives. In addition, it uses multiple regression analysis to determine if factors like education and language do affect immigrant wages.