

**SEMINAR***Dreams Achieved and Denied:  
Mexican Intergenerational Mobility***Robert Courtney Smith**  
**Graduate Center - Central University of New York**Chair:  
Giovanni Semi  
(University of Turin)**21 January 2025, h. 10:00**  
**Room 3d2 33 | Dept. of Cultures, Politics and Society**  
**Campus Luigi Einaudi**  
**University of Turin**  
**Lungo Dora Siena, 100 - Turin****Abstract**

U.S.-born Mexicans in New York City have experienced one of the largest single-generation mobility gains in U.S. immigration history, with college graduation rates far exceeding national averages for the second generation. This study investigates how this exceptional upward mobility occurred. Drawing on more than twenty years of longitudinal ethnographic research with nearly one hundred children of Mexican immigrants, it shows how legal status, public policies, and family strategies shaped their trajectories from adolescence into adulthood. Overall, it reveals how U.S.-born Mexicans in New York achieved historic upward mobility and demonstrates the powerful role inclusive public policy can play in improving the lives of immigrant youth and families.