https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537781412000047 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Forum: Revisiting John Higham's *Strangers in the Land*

The idea for this forum on John Higham's *Strangers in the Land* emerged from the Immigration History Roundtable, established by Alan Kraut in 2007. The roundtable is a group of scholars, ranging from a PhD candidate (now successfully defended) to senior faculty, in the metropolitan Washington area. We meet regularly to discuss members' work in progress or recent scholarship in the field. Membership is fluid, given the nature of academic life.

Washington is a terrific place to study immigration history because of the proximity to the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and other collections, as well as policy organizations, including the Migration Policy Institute, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Many historians who study immigration feel a professional responsibility to provide a much-needed historical context for current political and policy debates. Historians in the Washington area also benefit from a wealth of museums, the concentration of universities, and the fact that so many relevant conferences—the Organization of American Historians, American Historical Association, American Studies Association—meet regularly in the district. Members of the roundtable have gathered at one of the many Thai, Indian, and Ethiopian restaurants in the city, as well as one of the less ubiquitous Guatemalan lunch places in town. All come prepared to discuss national politics and historiographical debates, though many find a way to work in a conversation about baseball (Yankees, Red Sox, and Nationals) or college basketball (Hoyas). Members have collaborated on conference panels, history workshops, and other professional activities. Because *Strangers in the Land* is one of the enduring reference points for U.S. immigration historians, this retrospective forum illustrates what a collection of immigration scholars at work on diffuse subject matter have in common in the early twenty-first century, as well as places they diverge or even disagree.

Deirdre M. Moloney