

SUMMER 2019

Baltimore Field School
Documenting Stories of Migration and Resettlement
AMST 380/680

2019 Summer Session I, 4 weeks (May 28—June 21)

Tu/W/Th 1-4:10

Lions Building, Baltimore

Instructors:

Nicole King, Chair, American Studies, UMBC

Michelle Stefano, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

The Baltimore Field School: Documenting Stories of Migration represents a new collaboration between the American Folklife Center (AFC) at the Library of Congress and UMBC (AMST). Structured as an ethnographic field school, students will learn the basics of conducting cultural research and documentation out in the research field (a.k.a. “conducting fieldwork”), focusing on the stories and experiences of Nepali community members who have made Baltimore home.

Classes will be led by Professors Nicole King and Michelle Stefano, with guest lectures by AFC staff, at the Lions Building in downtown Baltimore, and fieldwork will be led by King and Stefano during the second half of the course. Fieldwork will mainly focus on the audio documentation of interviews with Nepali community members in Baltimore. Through carefully selected readings and film screenings, students will critically engage with scholarship on the methods and ethics of ethnographic research and documentation, migration and immigration, as well as popular (and frequently injurious) depictions of refugees and immigrants in the current media.

The Baltimore Field School will prepare students to:

- 1)** Critically engage with the theories and methods of conducting ethical and culturally sensitive ethnographic research;
- 2)** Critically engage with the methods for documenting culture through the use of audio and audio-visual technologies;
- 3)** Learn from the stories and experiences of migration and resettlement, as well as about the impacts of migration and resettlement on senses of cultural identity, belonging, and place; and
- 4)** Critique mainstream/political discourses on refugees, displacement/migration, and immigration to the US.

Moreover, the cultural documentation of community members’ stories (audio recordings and related materials) will be deposited in the American Folklife Center Archives at the Library of Congress as a means of preserving these materials for future publics and researchers alike, and ensuring that they become a part of the historical record. Once research is completed, students will travel to the AFC in Washington, D.C. to tour the archives.

**For more information, please contact Nicole King,
Chair of the Department of American Studies at nking@umbc.edu**