



Presenter: Sulgi Kim de Leon

Session & Time: Oral II

Room/Time: GUZ 111 / 1:40-2:00

Discipline: History, Political Science

Faculty Mentor: Alison Howard

Digital Portfolio URL:

https://sites.google.com/d/1aflaOQfkbvG5APiDpVZONL-fvehBrrhl/p/1HtyiDqjueflVpkEYiQossWC5fylq_sNy/edit

Title: Immigration Policy Priorities in the Carter and Reagan Administrations

Abstract:

Historically, immigration policy has been important for the United States. It has shaped the nation's economy, demographics, and political landscape. In each presidential administration, immigration has been addressed differently, shaped by a combination of political, economic, and international factors. While scholars such as Higham (1956), Zolberg (2008), and Pineau and Waters (2016) have examined the events leading up to and the effects of various immigration policies, the literature has not focused on a critical actor in immigration policy: the president. This thesis asks what factors shaped the immigration policy priorities of Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan? This study uses content analysis to address this question by examining presidential speeches and official White House memoranda during these two presidential administrations. Through

this analysis, this research hopes to identify the patterns that prompt presidents to choose a focus for what needs to be addressed in immigration policy.