

1-6-2017

Driggs Lecture to Look at First Global Migration Crisis

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Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Driggs Lecture to Look at First Global Migration Crisis" (2017). *University Relations News Archive*. 2243.
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Contact:

Melissa Vangsness, Director of Communications
Phone: [320-589-6414](tel:320-589-6414), melissav@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: [320-589-6068](tel:320-589-6068), jrray@morris.umn.edu

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[Driggs Lecture to Look at First Global Migration Crisis](#)

Erika Lee will deliver the lecture on Thursday, January 19.

MORRIS, Minnesota (January 6, 2017)—Erika Lee, director of the Immigration History Research Center and the Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, will deliver the 2017 O. Truman Driggs Distinguished Lecture in History. The lecture will take place on Thursday, January 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall. Lee’s talk is titled “The Walls Go Up: A History of the first Global Migration Crisis.”

Lee, an award-winning author and leading immigration and Asian American historian, tells the forgotten history of the first global “immigration crisis,” when Chinese immigration sparked international debates, race riots, and new restriction laws around the world. Telling a story that mirrors today’s headlines, Lee connects the global history of Chinese exclusion to global debates about immigration today. She compares the mass migrations of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with mass migration today. She examines why and how certain migrations become perceived as “crises” and considers how common “solutions,” such as immigration restriction and border security, have sometimes created new humanitarian crises with tragic results.

O. Truman Driggs Distinguished Lecture

Supported by the philanthropic gifts of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends, the lecture honors the memory of O. Truman Driggs, professor of history at Morris from 1963 until 1989. Annually, the lecture brings distinguished visitors to campus to speak on topics relating to history, the liberal arts, or public affairs.

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