

The Contemporary Cuban Immigration Crisis **Susan Eckstein, Boston University**

For over half a century Cubans have been privileged U.S. immigrants. Even when arriving without authorization most of them have been entitled to a path to citizenship and to social, economic, and political rights denied other unauthorized immigrants. Although President Obama retracted Cubans' unique right to parole entry, basis for securing a path to lawful permanent residency, in recent years Cubans have been arriving in record numbers and pursuing new means to transform unauthorized into authorized immigration. The Biden Administration has both expanded Cuban immigration entitlements and attempted, with little success, to contain Cuban immigration. The paper will describe how and why Cuban immigration has evolved in recent years, despite and because of official U.S. policy.