



IBC BANK & COMMERCE BANK 2022-2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

“HOW CLOSING THE BORDERS HEATED UP THE U.S. LABOR MARKET”



PRESENTED BY:

Pia M. Orrenius, Ph.D.

Vice President and Senior Economist
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022

TAMIU Student Center Ballroom (STC 203)

Doors Open 5:30 p.m. | Lecture 6 p.m.

Open to the public. Free of charge.



Presentation will be
broadcast live via Webex.

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The U.S. economy relies heavily on immigrant labor to grow the workforce. There appeared to be little need for such labor when the Pandemic struck, the economy went into lockdown, and unemployment soared. Public health protections mandated the borders be closed to most migrants. Meanwhile, the recession proved surprisingly short-lived and economic activity quickly rebounded. Workers, foreign and domestic, remained on the sidelines and the impasse set the stage for the tightest labor market since World War II.

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PIA M. ORRENIUS, PH.D. VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR ECONOMIST FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF DALLAS



Dr. Pia M. Orrenius is a labor economist working on regional economic growth and demographic change. Dr. Orrenius manages the regional and microeconomics group in the Dallas Fed Research Department, is executive editor of the quarterly publication *Southwest Economy* and co-edited *Ten Gallon Economy: Sizing up Economic Growth in Texas* (2015, Palgrave MacMillan). Her academic research focuses on the labor market impacts of immigration, unauthorized immigration, and U.S. immigration policy. She is coauthor of the book *Beside the Golden Door: U.S. Immigration Reform in a New Era of Globalization* (2010, AEI Press).

Orrenius is affiliated with several academic institutions. She is a research fellow at the Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs and the Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center at Southern Methodist University and at the IZA Institute of Labor in Bonn, Germany, as well as adjunct scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Orrenius was senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers in the Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C., in 2004–2005, where she advised the Bush administration on labor, health, and immigration issues. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Los Angeles and Bachelor degrees in Economics and Spanish from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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