Birthright Citizenship, Reconstruction, and Immigrant Rights Today

talk by Greg Downs, Prof. of History, UC Davis *and* Ming H. Chen, Prof. of Law, UC Law, San Francisco

April 8, 2026
6-7:30 pm
Edith Stone Room
Albany Library
1249 Marin Ave.
Albany, CA

Greg Downs is professor and chair of History at UC Davis, author of four books on slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and another one forthcoming on Why Reconstruction Matters with Kate Masur.

Ming H. Chen is Harry & Lillian Hastings Professor of Law at UC Law San Francisco. She focuses on the intersections of citizenship, race, and equality in Constitutional and administrative law.

After the Civil War, the Fourteenth Amendment guaranteed citizenship as a birthright to almost all people born in the U.S. But there have been many challenges to this right, including in a Supreme Court case heard April 1, 2026.

Come hear two experts explain the history of birthright citizenship and the relevance of that history to battles over citizenship today.

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