

***Soc 98Ga: Junior Tutorial
Understanding Mexican Migration Flows to the
United States***

Filiz Garip
Department of Sociology
644 William James Hall
fgarip@wjh.harvard.edu

Time: Monday 4-6pm
Location: 501 William James Hall
Office Hours: Monday 9-10am
Website: <http://isites.harvard.edu/k89473>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The labor migration of workers from Mexico to the United States constitutes the largest contemporary international migration flow in the world. What motivates individuals to migrate across borders? What are the social and economic implications of sending migrants for origin households and communities? This tutorial will guide students through the preparation of an empirical research paper that explores these broad questions.

We will use statistical methods and analyze survey data from the Mexican Migration Project (MMP). This survey is the result of a multidisciplinary research effort between investigators in Mexico and the United States. In addition to basic demographic data, the survey gathers information on family composition, fertility, infant mortality, marital history of the household head, labor history of the household head and his/her spouse, and ownership history of properties and businesses. Moreover, detailed information on individuals' internal and international migration moves, and multiple aspects of key U.S. trips (work experience, income, social networks, and remittances) are also collected.

We will begin with a broad overview of the theories of migration, and then be exposed to a variety of substantive problems and research approaches to the quantitative study of migration. Through critical reading of existing literature, preparation of research proposals, and reviewing the projects of other classmates, we will collectively obtain a better understanding of issues surrounding contemporary migration to the United States, and gain experience in conducting original empirical research.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend each meeting, do the readings thoroughly and in advance, and participate actively in class. Basic familiarity with statistics is necessary. (The course will provide a brief review of statistical concepts and their applications in STATA as a reminder.) Other requirements for the course are as follows:

1. First four weeks will be dedicated to reviewing the recent literature on international migration. For each week (excluding the first), students will prepare a 1-page response paper, describing the major themes of the week's readings and presenting some questions for discussion arising from them. (All assignments should be typed in 12-font Times New Roman, double-spaced, and posted on the course website by *5pm Sunday evening*. Late assignments are penalized one-third of a letter grade for each day past the deadline.)
2. Students will provide several drafts of their research paper over the course of the semester (see the schedule below). Each student is required to read other students' work *before* class. In selected weeks (indicated in the schedule), students will prepare a short (1/2 page) written review for *each* of the submitted drafts. Hand *two* copies to me in class. The reviews are not meant to be evaluative, but should be used to raise questions, offer clarifications and constructive criticisms, and suggest potential readings or analyses. These reviews will allow us to share our own research experience and wisdom with others in the classroom, and help improve each others' work.
3. In the final three weeks of the semester, students will prepare a formal in-class presentation that describes their research question and preliminary findings. Each presentation will be approximately 20 minutes, and followed by questions and discussion.
4. Final paper (20-25 pages) is due on the last day of the reading period, December 12 by 5pm.

The final paper will constitute 60% of the grade. Participation in class discussions and the formal presentation of ongoing research will each account for 10%. Response papers, interim drafts and reviews of others' work will add up to the remaining 20% of the grade.

READINGS

All of the required readings are available through online course reserves. Additional readings will be assigned based on selected research topics later in the semester.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. (Jan 28) Course Introduction & Review of the MMP Survey.

This week we will talk about the goals of the course and your own research interests. We will also broadly discuss the current issues in migration to the United States, and get acquainted with the survey data for the course.

Week 2. (Feb 4) Causes of International Migration.

- Alejandro Portes and Reuben Rumbaut. 2006. *Immigrant America: A Portrait* [3rd Edition]. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 1, 2.
- Douglas Massey, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Adela Pellegrino, and J. Edward Taylor. 1993. "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal." *Population and Development Review* 19: 431-66.
- Filiz Garip. 2010. "Discovering Diverse Mechanisms of Migration: The Mexico-U.S. Stream from 1970 to 2000."
- **Assignment 1:** Write a 1-page response paper to the readings.

Week 3. (Feb 11) International Migration and Remittances.

- Charles Tilly. 2007. "Trust Networks in Transnational Migration." *Sociological Forum* 22(1): 3-24.
- Leah Vanwey. 2004. "Altruistic and Contractual Remittances Between Male and Female Migrants and Households in Rural Thailand." *Demography* 41(4): 739-756.

- Peggy Levitt. 1998. "Social Remittances: Migration Driven Local-level Forms of Cultural Diffusion." *International Migration Review* 32(4): 926-948.
- Luin Goldring. 2004. "Family and Collective Remittances to Mexico: A Multi-dimensional Typology." *Development and Change* 35(4): 799-840.
- **Assignment 2:** Write a 1-page response paper to the readings.

Feb 18 – President’s Day Holiday, No Class

Week 4. (Feb 25) International Migration and Development.

- J. Edward Taylor, Joaquin Arango, Graeme Hugo, Ali Kouaouci, Douglas Massey, and Adela Pellegrino. 1996. "International Migration and Community Development." *Population Index* 62(3): 397-418.
- Jorge Durand, Emilio Parrado, and Douglas Massey. 1996. "Migradollars and Development: A Reconsideration of the Mexican Case." *International Migration Review* 30(2): 423-444.
- Filiz Garip. 2010. "Repeat Migration and Cumulative Remittances as Mechanisms for Wealth Inequality in Mexico."
- Peggy Levitt. 2001. *The Transnational Villagers*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 1-4, 180-197.
- **Assignment 3:** Write a 1-page response paper to the readings and 1-page statement of the proposed research question.

Week 5. (Mar 4) Case of Contemporary Mexican Migration to the United States.

- Douglas Massey, Jorge Durand, and Nolan Malone. 2002. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. Pp. 24-51, 73-104.
- **Assignment 4:** Write a 3-page *revised* statement of your research topic with hypotheses. Bring to class a ½-page review of each classmate’s statement.

Week 6. (Mar 11) Discussion of Research Methods.

- Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb and Joseph Williams. 1995. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Pp. 29-63, 85-111.
- Royce Singleton, Bruce Straits, and Margaret Miller Straits. 1993. *Approaches to Social Research*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chapter 4, pp. 67-99)
- **Assignment 5:** Revise your research statement to reflect the logic described in Chapters 3&4 of *The Craft of Research*.

Week 7. (Mar 25) Review of Basic Statistics & Examples of Research Using the MMP Survey.

This week, we will review basic statistical applications in STATA, and read exemplary articles that use the MMP survey data.

- Massey, D. S. and K. E. Espinosa. 1997. "What's Driving Mexico-U.S. Migration? A Theoretical, Empirical, and Policy Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 102(4):939-99.
- Shawn M. Kanaiaupuni. 2000. "Reframing the Migration Question: An Analysis of Men, Women, and Gender in Mexico." *Social Forces* 78(4): 1311-1348.
- Durand, J., W. Kandel, E. A. Parrado, and D. S. Massey. 1996. "International Migration and Development in Mexican Communities." *Demography* 33(2): 249-64.
- **Assignment 6:** Write a 3-page statement of research methods (e.g., What portion of the data will you use to answer your question? How will you analyze it?) Bring to class a ½-page review of each classmate's statement.

We will devote the remainder of the semester to your analysis of the final paper. I will assign readings that are relevant for the various projects. Class time will be spent on providing reviews of others' work, solving data problems, analytic issues and discussing the relevant literature for each project.

Week 8. (Apr 1) Discussion of Research Methods and Preliminary Analyses.

- **Assignment 7:** Bring to class descriptive statistics for variables of interest, and results from preliminary statistical analysis.

Week 9. (Apr 8) Discussion of Research Paper Drafts.

- **Assignment 8:** Write a 10-page draft paper that includes description of the research question, hypotheses, literature review, and research methods. Also include tables and figures displaying results from preliminary analysis. Bring to class a ½-page review of each classmate's statement.

Week 10. (Apr 15) Student Presentations

- Draft paper presentations.

Week 11. (Apr 22) Student Presentations

- Draft paper presentations.

Week 12. (Apr 29) Student Presentations

- Draft paper presentations.