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Migrants to the United States are a diverse population. I capture this diversity with a new method, cluster analysis, adapted from the hard sciences. Focusing on the Mexico-U.S. stream, the largest in the world today, I find four distinct types of migrants. Each type gained prevalence in distinct periods. Earlier migrants were mostly men from rural areas with little education and few assets. They came to the United States to increase their earnings. These migrants, whom I call income maximizers, remained the majority in the 1970s, when the U.S. wages were high, and slowly declined in size as the wages declined. In early 1980s, another migrant type, one I call risk-diversifiers, dominated the Mexico-U.S. stream. These migrants came from households with substantial assets, and migrated to insure against the risks to those assets in the volatile economic climate of Mexico. From the mid-1980s to early 1990s, network migrants became the majority. These migrants were mostly women, who came to join their families in the United States. This group doubled in number after the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986, which legalized about 2 million undocumented migrants and issued visas for their immediate relatives. Starting in the mid-1990s, a new unexpected migrant type gained prevalence. These migrants, whom I call the urban stream, were highly educated, worked mostly in manufacturing and lived in metropolitan areas of Mexico. Their numbers increased with the growing economic and cultural ties between Mexico and the United States, especially after the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994. In short, there are diverse mechanisms that lead individuals to migrate. Research on current migration needs to pay attention to these different mechanisms to have policy and predictive value.