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The U. S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Center of Excellence through the Center for Borders, Trade, and Immigration Research, held a Homeland Security Symposium titled: **“Crossing Borders: People, Crime, and Enforcement Flows.”** This symposium was a three-part conversation on global migration trends, human smuggling operations, and the data pertaining to criminal organizations venturing into new markets. In addition, the presenters explored the current conditions that at the global level are impacting or shaping human mobility, to then report on the evidence that researchers have identified as connected to human smuggling and trafficking, and finally analyze what the data say about transnational criminal trends.

Instructor Biography

Dr. Gabriella E. Sanchez – The University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Gabriella E. Sanchez (Ph.D., Arizona State University) is a faculty member of the National Security Studies Institute at the University of Texas El Paso. She specializes in the study of the social organization of transnational criminal groups. Her work has primarily examined human smuggling and trafficking operators, their interactions with other criminal organizations, their potential for market diversification, and their decision making processes. She has been assistant professor at The Catholic University of America in Washington DC, research fellow at Monash University's Border Crossing Observatory in Melbourne, Australia, visiting lecturer at Wellesley College, Fulbright Scholar at the Criminology Department of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a Post-Doctoral Researcher at the University of Maryland's Consortium for the Study of Terrorism (START). Dr. Sanchez is also a US State Department Boren National Security Fellow. A socio-cultural anthropologist by training, Dr. Sanchez has completed extensive ethnographic research in smuggling and trafficking hubs in over 20 countries. A former criminal investigator, she also has extensive experience as a consultant for US federal and state agencies and global Nongovernmental organizations.

Dr. Sheldon Zhang – San Diego State University

Sheldon X. Zhang is Professor of the Sociology at San Diego State University. He has been conducting funded research on transnational human trafficking and smuggling activities for more than a decade. He has published two books on human smuggling/trafficking activities: *Chinese Human Smuggling Organizations—Families, Social Networks, and Cultural Imperatives* (Stanford University Press, 2008) and *Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings: All Roads Lead to America* (Praeger, 2007). His research has also led to numerous publications in journals as *Criminology*, *British Journal of Criminology*, *Crime, Law and Social Change*, and *Global Crime*. His current research on human trafficking focuses developing and testing measurement instruments and sampling strategies to produce prevalence estimates of the human trafficking problems for U.S. agencies such as the

National Institute of Justice (U.S. DOJ), and United Nations agencies such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) and International Organization on Migration (IOM). Zhang has led multiple federal and state funded projects studying issues ranging from human trafficking to evaluations of various community reentry programs.

Topics Covered

1. Global Migration Trends and Irregular Migration
2. Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking
3. Migration, Borders, and Crime

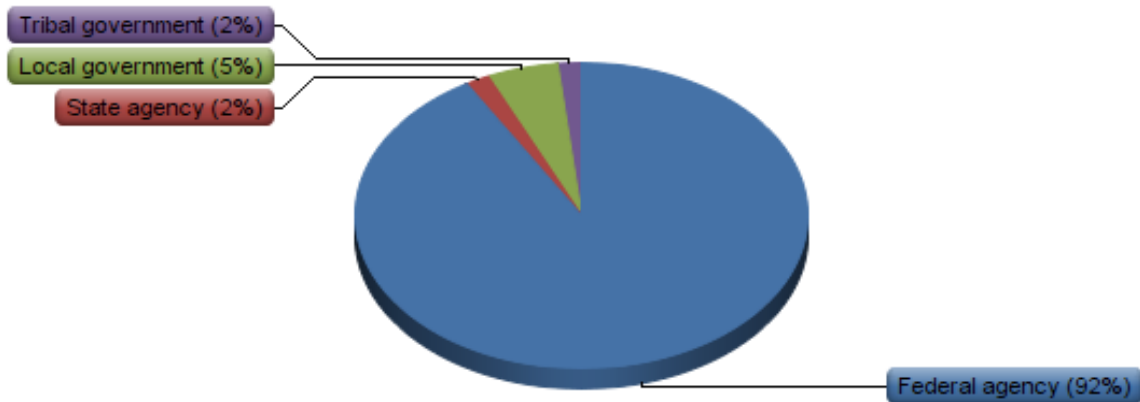
Analysis of Symposium Feedback

The symposium was well-attended with a total of:

- **80 Confirmed RSVPs**
- 76 Attendees (Approximately **95%** of RSVP total)

A total of 16 government agencies and one non-governmental organization was represented by the symposium attendees. Attendees from Washington, D.C., Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas attended this event. This symposium afforded particular attention to participants with interviewing and interrogation responsibilities. The following table displays each of the agencies/organizations with the total number of representatives in attendance.

Federal Agencies		State Agencies	
United States Marshall Service	04	UTEP (Police Department & Students)	02
ICE Homeland Security Investigations	04	New Mexico State University (Faculty & Students)	03
ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations	03	University of Maryland University College	01
Federal Bureau of Investigation	02		
CBP - Office of Border Patrol – EPT Sector	31		
CBP – Office of Border Patrol – TCA Sector	01		
CBP – OBP/HQ	10		
CBP - Office of Field Operations	05		
US Department of State	02		
Drug Enforcement Agency	01		
DoD Joint Task Force - North	02		
West Texas HIDTA	01		
Total	66	Total	06
Local Agencies		Other	
El Paso Police Department	03	Non-governmental organizations	01
Total	03	Total	01



Every attendee was asked to fill out a symposium evaluation. A total of 59 surveys (77% of total attendees) were submitted. Overall, the assessment feedback was overwhelmingly positive (listed percentages are the sum of both the “agree” and “strongly agree” percentages):

The seminar met my expectations	71.0%
The overall topics covered in this seminar were relevant and useful to my current assignment	76.0%
The length of the seminar was appropriate	83.0%
The seminar description accurately described the seminar content	82.0%
The seminar class size was appropriate	96.0%
The seminar started and ended on time	87.0%
The seminar increased my knowledge of the subject matter	80.2%
The seminar increased my interest of the subject matter	73.0%
The overall quality of this seminar was excellent	78.0%
The instructors were qualified to teach this seminar	86.0%
The instructors’ presentation style was effective	86.0%
The instructors demonstrated a high level of knowledge for the subject matter	83.0%
Would you attend a second more in-depth seminar on this topic?	95.0%

Open-attended responses indicated a common satisfaction with the course with particularly positive comments regarding the competence of the instructor and the content’s utility and pertinence to their field of work. The following questions were asked in the exit survey and no edits have been made to the comments with the exception of spelling.

Q5. What other topic/subject matter would you like to see presented in similar seminars, tabletop exercises or practicums?

- TCO Networks/relationships- operating environments- decision making processes- criminal mindset/psyche/profile

- Active shooter gang activity as related to transnational crime shift of global smuggling patterns (human) health issues associated with shifting populations
- Emerging trends of money laundering facilitation in light of Mexican banking laws discouraging the technique of bulk cash smuggling
- I would like to learn more about financial transactions and money trends
- Integrity issues along the border
- Routes, structures in Mexico
- Interviewing techniques or law changes relating to drugs and immigration
- Economic: problems with immigration issues
- More current events about what is currently happening on top of research that has been done. Who is in charge/what organizations are involved etc.
- How the topics/subjects connect to U.S. Security
- The real reason for children crossing the border unaccompanied
- More in depth discussion of violence on the border
- Labor trafficking- specific high tech markets
- Social Media- Criminal Conduct
- A history in infrastructure based on border security vs. a history of risk based border security
- Violence between cartels and territories
- How immigration will impact the U.S. and our communities 15-20 years from now? Politically, the criminal element is exploiting relaxed IMM policies that have been weakened for political reasons, example: asylum process
- Relationship of TCO's operation in Mexico to the government of Mexico
- Collaboration between MX TCO and Terror Org. Understand of TCO territory power and control
- Topics: collaboration between MX TCO's and Terrorist organizations relationships between various MX TCO's
- Charrette to explore areas of research for academics incorporate victim service providers
- Traffic has shifted throughout the southwest border but each time we react as if it is a new problem- we can't control RGV like TCA, like ELP, etc. should have a plan by now
- The unaccompanied children and family unit issues we are facing with other than Mexicans, are citizens from Central America. How are current Presidential Candidates and political policies affecting illegal immigrants?

Q6. If there are any additional comments you have about the seminar topics covered please provide them below.

- Great idea. Would recommend the sessions be longer
- Trends change with day to day operations. I guess I would like a more up to date information
- Have updated research information
- A place to come in and out, a lot of people couldn't do that- field phone calls; so they left
- More bathrooms for break, find venue which allows drinks
- Great Symposium, but please allow more time for Q/A. The input/questions from the "rich" audience would be of great benefit for all of us, presenters included.
- A lunch break should be accommodated.
- Excellent Symposium
- Great Presentation
- Great course overall
- Dr. Zhang's topic very interesting addressing more of what is going on now, the hidden subtitle aspects of smuggling
- Overall enjoying and educational

- Time allotted to the symposium should have been longer to allow for more Q & A and discussion. It may be useful to designate time for each agency to provide input into discussions so participants can gather a wide range of useful perspective.

Webcast Analytics

This symposium was the first effort to add a webcast feature as part of the value added deliverable of this grant. Although the number of participants was low (6), this webcast provided an opportunity to learn about the challenges and gaps of this medium for the symposium series. It is anticipated that the PI will continue with simultaneous webcast broadcasting of the symposium series with efforts to increase viewership through this medium.

Geo-locations: District of Columbia, Nevada, and Texas

Average View Duration: 34:40 minutes

New Views since Live Webcast: 17

Playbacks: 30 times

Learning

Every attendee was asked to take a six (6) question Pretest Questionnaire in order to gauge the level of understanding of the topic. In addition, the participants were asked to take the same six (6) question Posttest Questionnaire at the conclusion of the symposium. The first question asked of the participant to self-measure their level of knowledge on the topic on a 1 to 10 scale with 1 as very *Knowledgeable* and 10 as *No knowledge*. A total of 58 pretests/posttests (76% of total attendees) were returned by the participants.

Analysis: Self-evaluation by the participants indicated an **8% increase** in learning. The average Pretest Questionnaire score was **72%** and the average Posttest Questionnaire score was **90%**. The results of the Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires revealed an **18% increase** in learning. Although the **18%** increase in learning was above the self-evaluation, it did not meet the 30% benchmark targeted.

Lessons Learned

As part of the program's self-evaluation process the following areas will be addressed:

- Seek the assistance of the Homeland Security Symposium Series Advisory Board in achieving a higher rate of return for both the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.
- Continue to emphasize to symposium participants the importance of the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.
- Ensure that the degree of difficulty in the Pretest and Posttest Questionnaire commensurate with the level of understanding of symposium participants.
- It appears that an inordinate number of participants were concerned with the lack of coffee and water for the venue. Future symposiums will be scheduled for venues that allow coffee and water.
- The first webcast of the symposium had several issues that will be addressed (non-stable link, advertising of the feature, and sound quality). These issues are being addressed through delivering the webcast on a stable platform that allows a longer term advertising feature.
- Harvesting more precise information of webcast participation is currently being addressed.

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Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.

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Date