

Center for Interamerican and Border Studies, University of Texas at El Paso
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Advocate and Activist Survey Responses

We conducted an online survey with advocate and activist groups (N=47) to gain a broader understanding of the top priorities for the coming years, research products that could be helpful to them and areas that they think have not received adequate attention. We have included the raw answers in the appendix for you to read. However, we wanted to briefly highlight several themes.

Main Types of Products Needed in the Short Term:

General Advocacy and Media (23 mentions): The need for general outreach to the public was clear. How do we frame the issue better? Why do the same fallacious arguments continue to dominate the news cycle?

Policy Suggestions (12 mentions): How do we come up with new policy solutions to be used in government or presented by think tanks?

Litigation (11 mentions): The need for products that can be used to support existing or future litigation (includes information about recruitment into gangs for youths that can help asylum claims, as well as general procedural abuses by agencies).

Key Themes: Long term research and under emphasized issues

1. **Asylum Process:** A better understanding of the asylum process from multiple levels:
 - a. Who has access to asylum? Are people being denied access at the border?
 - b. What is the quality of representation? Need more data on country conditions, credible threats, and gang recruitment. Who is being denied and who approved? How many people show up to court?
 - c. What happens after? How do children handle their life in the United States (PTSD, assimilation, education etc.)? What happens to people after they are deported (danger, reintegration etc.)?
2. **Costs and benefits of Immigration and Border Enforcement**
 - a. General questions about costs and benefits of immigrants in society (labor, investment, etc.)
 - b. How much do we spend on enforcement? What is the impact on border communities (negative and positive)? Who are the private beneficiaries of this practice?

- c. The security trade nexus and how much it costs border communities to have a security focused border rather than one focused on trade (need for better metrics on security)
- d. The need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). What is the current situation for immigrants (court waits, lack of legal options etc.)?
- e. Criminalization of migrants and industrial incarceration complex

3. Why People Migrate

- a. Push factors (econ, family, violence and insecurity)
- b. Impact of U.S. Policies abroad (particularly in Central America)
- c. Potential ways to help people at home before they decide to migrate

4. Organized Crime and Drugs

- a. What are the impacts of recent violence in Mexico and Central America on migration? How has this pushed migrants out of their homes?
- b. Recruitment by gangs (particularly of unaccompanied children [UACs]) and potential dangers facing people once they return
- c. Kidnapping, crossing with drugs, human trafficking etc.
- d. Corruption and abuse by Mexican and Central American authorities

5. Due Process and Authority Abuse

- a. What are the actual procedures for authorities (Customs and Border Protection [CBP], Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE], and police working on 287(g), Secure Communities, Criminal Alien Program)? How do practices differ from stated policies?
- b. Institutional diagram and hierarchy – internal structure of DHS, CBP, ICE etc.
- c. Issues involving claims of fear, access to legal counsel, lack of or incorrect explanation of legal rights, returning possessions
- d. How can we better understand, publicize and stop abuses by U.S. authorities?

Other considerations:

A. Unaccompanied Minors or Family Migration

This is a theme throughout. While clearly the rise in Central American migration, particularly by UACs has been the most discussed issue in recent years, there has been a challenge to shape a message and get good data on what has happened to people since they arrived.

B. Other immigration groups – Asia, Middle East

C. LGBT issues related to enforcement and immigration

D. Gendered, ableist and ageist issues related to enforcement and immigration

E. Political rhetoric on immigration and immigrants

F. Need for quantitative data

Questions

What data do we already have that can fit some or all of these needs?

What research projects could be planned to fill in gaps in these questions as well as the scholarly literature?

My Report

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1. How would you classify your organization's primary activities? (can choose more than one)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	a. Direct migrant aid	11	23%
2	b. Federal immigration policy	21	45%
3	c. State immigration policy	7	15%
4	d. Legal assistance	21	45%
5	e. Community organizing/education	19	40%
6	f. Documentation/research/writing	10	21%
7	g. Impact litigation (e.g., class action)	5	11%
8	h. Other_____	8	17%

h. Other_____

Child welfare

legal and social services

Crim imm -- working with public defenders on Padilla advisals

f

Grantmaking

Labor organizing

think-tank

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	8
Total Responses	47

2. Who is your target audience? (can choose more than one)

#	Answer	Response	%
1	a. Migrants	25	53%
2	b. Immigrant communities	21	45%
3	c. Legislators and policy makers	25	53%
4	d. Courts	9	19%
5	e. Media	17	36%
6	f. General public	24	51%
7	g. Other	8	17%

g. Other

Queer Asian American communities
 Researchers
 criminal defense and public defenders
 academic interlocutors
 the catholic faithful
 Our congregation, denomination, and interfaith partners in caring for the stranger who is human just like us
 Unaccompanied immigrant children (UAC)
 Hospital employees

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	7
Total Responses	47

3. In the next four questions we are identifying research needs. If you could have specific academic research on a particular topic provided to you tomorrow, what would that topic be?

Text Response

If we could have something that shows gang/cartel recruitment of teenage boys is more like the recruitment of child soldiers in Africa or forceful recruitment by terrorist groups than it is like gang recruitment in the United States, that would be so helpful to the asylum community. How that would be researched, I have no idea. Assess the outcome analysis of providing post releases services to UACs/ families with their legal relief outcomes or attendance in/at court Conducting a cost analysis of providing community based case management vs. costs for detention of children and adults

how often Mexican children are denied access to the asylum process by CBP and how the contiguous country provisions and Juvenile Referral mechanism impact access to asylum for Mexican children in need of international protection.

How to fix Central America

How cartels in Mexico target the recruitment of young adult males (and even females) for the drug industry. Recruitment can be in the form of getting the young adults addicted to drugs as a way to groom their dependency on the cartel. In 2013, I had a case of a young man for whom I tried a "child soldier" theory in an asylum case because it reminded me how warlords in Africa recruit young boys and then dress them up like soldiers. The drug wars in MX are no different than the warfare in Africa. Also, the recruitment research can help us present these cases under Human Trafficking legal theory.

Statistics & analysis on profiling of Asians based on race, religion, gender identity, sexuality, through DHS, PEP, and other departments/programs. Especially in Southeast and South Asian communities.

More work on country conditions would be appreciated and the conditions to which migrants are subjected in their home country.

Issues affecting unaccompanied immigrant children after they arrive in the United States, such as integration, family dynamics, school, church, counseling, PTSD.

Average costs of migration and range of those costs (such as money spent on bus tickets, food, mafia, guides) and how individuals pay for those costs

Best Practices with Released Unaccompanied Minors

Why do individuals who they themselves have immigrated and it may have been a difficult process appear not to think the 11,000,000 should have a chance. ?and not get involve to help those in the shadows.?

How many years/opportunities does it take a survivor of sexual violence to disclose past sexual abuse? We have seen countless asylum applicants who had suffered sexual abuse fail to disclose it at the border, at their credible fear interview, and even to their attorney during the first 5 to 8+ attorney-client meetings, only to disclose it much later, which may cause the government to raise credibility issues.

Number of people who die crossing the U.S.-Mexico border per year.

The use of summary removal procedures at the border.

What is the trend of individuals charged with both illegal reentry/drug charges? Can we identify the percentage of "backpackers" (i.e., those who are coerced into carrying loads of marijuana as a well to pay coyotes to return to their families in the U.S. or who cross to feed their families). Would like to show that the increase in drug offenses is related to the coercion of cartels forcing people to carry drugs.

The treatment of LGBT migrants at the border, particularly by CBP. Also rates of LGBT people apprehended for re-entry.

The connections between the cartels and corrupt Mexican officials and the use of torture in Mexico by the cartels against Mexicans and Central Americans. The inability of the Mexican government to prosecute its own corrupt members and to control the cartels.

Push factors driving migrants, including an exploration of potential environmental drivers.

Anything related to the Border Patrol. In hundreds of conversations with immigrants in Detention, almost all spoke at length and powerfully of the terror and abuse experienced in the "hieleras" or ice boxes at the border where they were kept before being sent to Detention Camps. How can the Border Patrol operate with such impunity?

Credible statistics regarding the number of undocumented immigrants per state, per county Credible statistics about the type of businesses that employ undocumented workers and how the workforce helps them compete in the world Information regarding the employment agencies that hire undocumented workers and staff them out to other businesses What are the economic contributions of undocumented workers and their families, housing, retail shopping, etc.? Statistics about the economic impact on communities if undocumented workers and their families were forced to leave. What are the economic, social, political, safety/security costs of not doing anything? How much has not doing anything cost communities in terms of federal dollars because undocumented families are not counted in the census-but at the same time may be the beneficiaries of services? Who are health costs (\$, absenteeism, and overall health) of not providing insurance to undocumented workers?

Security/civil liberties, profiling on northern border

1) negative consequences for the country in not giving legal status to current undocumented residents 2) understanding of the "push" factors for immigration

After publishing a book on the unaccompanied, undocumented child migrants in federal immigration custody (Whose Child am I? Terrio, University of California Press, 2015), I am developing a collaborative research project on the needs of immigrant minors after their release from federal detention as well as those undocumented youth who do not enter any federal systems.

Circumstances surrounding Border Patrol interviews (to determine initial fear of return prior to beginning asylum process) and likelihood of fabrication of answers to questions. The research on this is old and unfortunately not very convincing to immigration judges, and inaccurate interview "transcripts" oftentimes derail

otherwise strong asylum claims. Similar research for the credible fear/reasonable fear interview process (how often are CBP/ICE officials not giving someone a credible fear interview even when they express a fear of return? How often do mistakes make it into the "transcript"?) is less pressing but would be very helpful. Rights violations perpetrated by Mexican law and migration enforcement officials. In-country processing of vulnerable children. Post-deportation/ reintegration protection concerns. Effective violence reduction strategies in Northern Triangle. Failures of Plan Colombia

human smuggling through our border in El Paso

How many families are being separated during border apprehensions and why are they happening?

Charts, graphs, and numbers in color showing how much \$ is wasted on detaining people and what that \$ could buy if instead the US used community supervision for people who are out of status. How much has the US spent on alternative-to-detention supervision programs for asylum seekers? When and where did they run some pilot programs about this and what were the outcomes? What has to happen, who has to decide, if we could vastly reduce the population at our local detention center and instead have those people in our community under community supervision (does not mean electronic monitor).

The perils of deported Mexican youth who had fled to the USA to escape gang/cartel recruitment/trafficking.

-Data re impact and effectiveness of deterrence as the driving force in US border enforcement strategy - prosecutions/Streamline, family detention, no bond detention, border walls, checkpoints, etc. -Study of role of private industry in expansion of border militarization/surveillance tech, in US and globally -Data re impact of drug prohibition/war on drugs on cross-border interdiction efforts - and vice versa - eg, role in driving migration, enforcement costs, etc. -Extent, nature, and impact of referrals made by local law enforcement to Border Patrol -Extent, nature, and impact of county first responders'/911 call center practice of selectively referring migrant - or perceived migrant - distress calls to Border Patrol/BORSTAR, and not to county responders (potentially in violation of Equal Protection Clause) - Extent, nature and impact of medical repatriations in SW hospitals and nationally - Extent, nature and impact of BP targeting of migrant workers, particularly farmworkers in rural areas, and/or BP collaboration with employers re the same - Extent and nature of 'hidden' BP abuses - in detention, in the desert, in the interior

What happens to the immediate family members that migrants leave behind in their home countries.

unaccompanied minors performance in Texas public schools Women in immigration detention centers

New trends in crimes against migrants at the border, particularly in Mexican border cities, and who the main victims are (Mexican migrants, migrants in transit, deportees).

Economic data regarding the impact of hospital employees in the city and county of El Paso.

I'd be more interested in enforcement data that allowed my agency to do its own research.

In general, more work on developing evidence-based practices in immigration as well as cost-benefit analyses. So many government practices do not seem to serve the purported purpose and, at the very least, do not appear to be a good use of taxpayer money.

Family separation

Prospective cyclical pattern of unaccompanied child migration from Central America.

Analysis of how checkpoints and towers have affected migrant deaths.

How to develop and present a humane, metrics-driven alternative to militarized border enforcement

I think in the immediate near term it would be valuable to have research on the benefits and effects, to both immigrant communities and the broader society, of pro-immigrant policies undertaken at the state and local levels--things like city run immigrant integration offices, municipal ID programs, driver's license access, etc. In this moment of federal inaction and rising xenophobia, we need to be able to best take advantage of possible openings to advance policy in other arenas, and having better research to support such policy pushes would be immensely valuable.

Moreover, while we have a good academic understanding of the ways that policy devolution has played out in advancing anti-immigrant efforts, we don't have a good grasp of the opportunities it presents to immigrant/border community advocates.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	42

4. What border related issues have not received adequate public attention due to lack of data, research, analysis, or other information?

Text Response

We don't know very much about Mexican teenagers that are recruited to be footguides for the cartel. I would love to know more about the circumstances under which they are recruited and about what happens when they are returned to Mexico.

CBP abuses Cost benefit analysis of private prison industry and community based case management

Border life, including endemic corruption, south of the checkpoints. Lack of accountability of US CBP their MX and CA corollaries.

How the cartels are controlling the immigrant smuggling aspect of the border...not just arms and drugs. Even me as an attorney who has been working on border migration for 10 years was surprised to learn about reality of how cartels control the crossing by migrants when I went down to Nogales, Sonora on a border tour in 2014.

Treatment by CBP and conditions in detention. I recently toured CBP and was appalled by the conditions there to which immigrants were subjected.

What happens to teenage Mexican children who work as footguides. Are they forced into narcotrafficking? Are they getting voluntary departure and going back to the US? Expedited removal? Are some able to get back in school and succeed in the US?

Issues of individuals fleeing violence and given expedited removal Abuse of migrants by Mexican police

Effective strategies for social services of Unaccompanied Minors. There is a lot of research on Dreamers, but not the specific challenges that Unaccompanied minors face.

Gendering border studies, public health, environmental pollution, binational institutions, wage inequalities

Juvenile Referral Process as conducted by CBP and ORR to detain Mexican juveniles for months in ORR custody under suspicion of smuggling activities

Why the mainstream religions do not get as involved in the immigration issue and sometimes appear to be complacent?--over the long haul and consistently.

CBP's due process violations (expeditiously removing people without asking them if they have a fear of return, not reading forms to people, forcing people to sign forms, deporting people even though they claim a fear of return, etc); How many people suffer subsequent harm/are killed in their country of origin after being deported;

Relationship between U.S. policies (foreign, economic) and corruption/violence in countries with highest number of refugees/migrants heading to the U.S.

Federal prosecution of illegal entry/re-entry; increase in the use of reinstatement as a summary removal procedure

See above

LGBT people seeking protection in the US.

The use of torture along the US-Mexican border. Internal relocation is a huge issue

for Mexican asylum, withholding and Convention against Torture claims.

Again, the Border Patrol and also the mistreatment of elderly immigrants in Detention.

Clarification regarding refugees from Central America - are they entering without inspection? How many people entered without inspection last year from Mexico? How does that compare with 5 years ago? Is there any data about whether we are effective at protecting our borders? Is there a report card written by think tanks respected by both political parties? How has border enforcement changed over the past 5 years? How much \$ is spent on border enforcement? What do experts say we should do differently? In 2015 how many people who crossed over the US/Mexican border without inspection? What is a realistic goal? What is the goal of the GOP? In other words, what is the trigger that will satisfy the GOP that it is time to pass CIR? How does the border system we currently have in place impact other types of trafficking? Does it actually allow it to thrive and give criminals the upper hand? the consequences of US involvement in other countries especially in Central America

Experiences of unaccompanied border crossers and the young families with children before and during their attempt to cross, the experience of young families in the so-called "family reception centers," the processes that govern release from federal custody, and longitudinal studies of young migrants who win some form of legal status and seek to build lives in this country.

Border Patrol not receiving adequate training and/or not following procedure, not just in regard to migrants but also with US citizens crossing the border, in airports, or at checkpoints. There are a lot of anecdotes available and some excellent journalism on this issue in recent years but nothing quantitative that I'm aware of.

Violations and lack of accountability of CBP Risks of expedited removal

I believe adequate attention has not been placed on the deportation process between the U.S. and Mexico. U.S. doesn't require travel documents from Mexico in order to deport a national making deportations faster and easier for the U.S. leaving the individual with little time and relief to fight their case.

how deeply interdependent are border communities in all levels (but political) and how much they are one community, despite being divided by one political international line (border). That one international border, that is only an political line division cannot separate in a black and white fashion border communities.

Recent border-crossers / Repeat border crossers -- people who re-enter after being deported; how many are coming back to be with their spouse or children or parent or sibling? We need to highlight how ICE gives a heightened level of criminality or "enforcement priority" to those who are trying to be with their family, trying to be present, involved, and financially contributing for their wife and kids. Highlight and calculate in dollars the economic and emotional toll to these families, and make a financial projection for the social money that would be saved and the lives healed if instead there were mechanisms to allow these people to stay in USA or to enter and exit freely in a trackable way.

Tracking unaccompanied immigrant children (UAC) in the USA--post detention-release placement outcomes, education attainment, etc.

See above.

What are the specific costs that border communities bear as a result of border militarization.

number and location of unaccompanied minors in the USA number of minors deported

How the new shifts in migration, particularly of Central American migrants, have impacted U.S. enforcement operations, particularly as many of these individuals are actively turning themselves in to U.S. authorities.

Impact of different tactics to reduce incidence of use of force BP sector by sector.

The impact of enforcement on border communities and residents; the screening for fear of persecution and violence that is supposed to take place at POEs; Border Patrol abuses; and crossing deaths.

The fact that "illegal" migration is at an all-time low, yet the administration and certain politicians have scapegoated asylum seekers and individuals who want to reunify with their family members.

Family separation - what happens to families after deportation.

Absence of child-friendly processes and procedures by border-based government agencies interacting with children in the prosecution and adjudication of children's cases in immigration court. Specific reasons for child migration and trends of factors children face in home country and during migration.

Border Patrol interior enforcement at checkpoints, on roving patrols

We need some examination of the impact state level border enforcement has on border communities as states (ex. Texas and Arizona) increasingly attempt to enter this domain. There has probably been enough done by Texas in the Rio Grande Valley to serve as the basis for such research. Additionally, see below comment about need to better understand spatial-organizational dynamics within CBP. Expanding on that--it would be interesting to see if/how local relationships with CBP affect results as seen in measures such as abuse documentation, and if there are such connections, to try and understand what engagement approaches have proven successful/unsuccessful. El Paso is probably a good starting point for such research, although it should not only be limited to that area.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	38

5. What issues do you think are misunderstood due to the lack of data, research, analysis, or other information?

Text Response

I can't think of any right now. I think migration in general is misunderstood, especially in the context of unaccompanied children that are sent to the United States. People think they're coming for fun when they're coming because the alternative is death. But I don't know how this could be remedied by data/research. impact showy raids and other splashy immigration enforcement tactics actually have on intent to migrate (are people simply less likely to approach BP when they cross or are they actually crossing in smaller numbers)?

Central America Push factors for migrants Why a wall doesn't/won't work and is inhumane Immigration processes - people think everyone can just 'get in line' for a visa, 'do it the legal way' HA! Plenty of research on the economic benefits of migrants yet it is willfully ignored/misunderstood by the conservative right

How little choice people really do have along the border when it comes to interacting with cartels. Even within my mind, I judge the choices some kids make and then when I sit down to fully write out their declarations, it dawns on me how vulnerable disfranchised youth along the border can be to the cartels. I remember one case where a kid grew up in a DIF orphanage and the DIF staff would turn the kid over to the cartel connectors.

Asian immigration, including undocumented immigration, racial profiling, national security, etc. Especially in Southeast and South Asian communities.

How do the gangs, MS 13 and Calle 18 continue to thrive, even with government crackdown in Honduras and El Salvador? Drug trafficking, extortion rackets, prostitution, robberies?

What happens to Unaccompanied Minors once they are released from ORR custody.

Lots

Detention of unaccompanied minors

Why we can't get Comprehensive Immigration reform a done deal?/ We have been talking about it for years. Why is there a backlash against the new arrivals? Why don't we see this as a moral/humanitarian issue?

The impact of detention on already traumatized survivors of violence, including adult males; The false idea that detention or alternatives to detention such as ankle monitors are required to guarantee someone's appearance in immigration court; U.S. causes of critical conditions in other countries that promote and even demand flight from those countries.

The danger of notarios and other individuals who are not legally able to practice law, essentially anyone who is not an attorney or an accredited representative, but do it because they think that they are helping and don't realize the danger of it. It would be helpful to do some research on the number of people who are actually affected by receiving bad legal advice.

Same as above.

The criminalization of migrants via illegal entry and illegal reentry charges and how this is lining the pockets of private prison corporations.

Prosecutions of drug trafficking offenses and illegal reentry cases where there is a

fear of persecution and/or torture in Mexico

Because the hieleras are not run by the private prison mega corporations CCA or GEO, they are frequently left out of the analyses.

What would be the economic, social, political costs to removing all the undocumented workers and their families? Information about second migration of undocumented families - what are the number of undocumented families in midsize cities and rural areas? (Are these red states denying their dependence on undocumented workers?) Is there hard data about what would happen to manufacturers and agribusinesses if all the undocumented workers and their families were removed? What would happen to the jobs of US Citizens employed by these manufactures/agribusinesses of US Citizens if all the undocumented workers and their families were removed? What hard data is there about what would happen to the overall economy if all the undocumented workers and their families were removed?

the consequences of US involvement in other countries especially in Central America

The nature of the federal policy of deterrence, the motivations for migration to this country from Central America and Mexico, the challenges that both undocumented and legal refugees face in living/working/getting education in this country, the complexity of US immigration law and policy.

The general public doesn't seem to be aware of who is entering the US and what they want and also the rights that they have. People think hoards of Hispanic males looking for work are coming in, and some discussion of the nuances of the reality (perhaps using statistics rather than anecdotes) might be helpful, in addition to thoughtful explanations of why we can't just "send them back" without giving them the right to apply for asylum.

The fact that only people from Mexico and Central America cross the border. People from other countries such as Dominican Republic, have to fly to a central American country or Mexico and then cross the border. Society has a misconception of "illegal entries" but there are limited forms of legal entries which are denied to people.

same as above

The fact that labor trafficking and labor exploitation of immigrants flourishes in the USA proportional to the lack of work authorization. If the govt granted EAD for people who are here out of status, most situations of wage theft, unfair working conditions, etc. would simply cease. If the middle aged man from the Middle East who is working at a gas station for \$7/hr 12 hours a day, or the woman who doesn't speak English well who is working at the dry cleaners/convenience store/restaurant/etc had work authorization, they could leave the workplace where they are trapped (working for an employer who is cheating them while they are too afraid to demand their rights), and get a better job, so they get happier and healthier, and make a better contribution to their family, our economy, & US society.

By the general public, all aspects of immigration are misunderstood because the dialogue is partisan shouting matches, and not for a lack of data/research/analysis. See above.

Cost to the U.S. population of keeping migrants in an unauthorized state.

invisibility of unaccompanied minors increase of human trafficking due to deportation of children and women without documentation and their release to fake relatives, possible members of trafficking networks

The main reasons driving migration from the region currently, broken down by country. I don't think there is enough data to determine how many of the migrants coming to the U.S. should be considered potential refugees or in need of another form of international protection.

The perception of violence in the border is misunderstood by media outlets.

The security and safety of border communities; the degree to which the border is controlled; the fact that the border cannot be 100 percent secured; the way in which border communities are invariably bi-national communities; the cascading effects of deportations.

So many!

Criminality, what types of crimes and offenses are causing deportations.

Same as above.

Border security as understood through concepts like operational control and situational awareness. Also the scale of Border Patrol abuses like racial profiling and improper searches/detentions.

I feel like we would benefit from a better understanding of the agency dynamics and politics within the organizational structures of CBP and ICE. I think these entities are too often seen as top down out of D.C. with not enough attention given to either the effects of ground level personnel or of regional command structures (such as border patrol sectors). While there has been work of this sort done in the past, it needs to be updated for the DHS era and conducted more comprehensively nationwide.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	36

6. What do you think is the most important issue(s) for research over the long term (more than one year)?

Text Response

I don't have an answer for this one.

Outcomes of unaccompanied migrant children and their families legal relief attainment (SIJS, Asylum, Trafficking other) collectively

long-term impact of criminal prosecutions of irregular border crossers

Anything to help people view and understand the majority of migrants as refugees and the CA situation as yielding a migrant crisis.

How Cartels are deeply connected to Authorities along the border. It can be hard to say who is truly ruling border towns.

Racial profiling in immigration enforcement, including Asian & Black immigrants.

Grey area of human trafficking: poor teenagers from Guatemala's Mayan communities, especially Huehuetenango and Quiche Departments. Children are being told to leave home and work in the US in order to send money back to family in Guatemala. Is this trafficking? What life would those same children have if they stayed in Guatemala? Abuses in home country? Extreme poverty?

Deportation of parents of US citizen children who have a minor criminal record (such as DUIs)

Outcomes of Unaccompanied minors besides their legal outcomes.

local issues (disparities) of immigration advocacy. (IE- Legal: SIJS predicate orders, local asylum grant rates, court docket size and wait. Social Needs: school access, health access, mental health)

See above

the same

Relation between U.S. illicit drug consumption and violence in other countries.

The need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

The harsh consequences of summary removal orders.

In the 100-mile Border Patrol zone, what are the trends of racial profiling at checkpoints and during roving patrols. How effective are checkpoints? What is the percentage of drug interdiction versus other types of federal law enforcement activities, including apprehension of individuals without work authorization.

1. Internal relocation for Mexicans seeking asylum, withholding, and Convention against Torture relief. 2. The US federal government's use and abuse of informants -- ICE will use a person to get the information for criminal prosecutions, then place him/her in removal proceedings, and fight tooth and nail against any and all forms of relief from removal for the individual whose life is now at risk due to his/her cooperation with US federal and local government agencies. Corruption within the US DEA -- this has been a complaint from many clients who have served as informants.

Why are males who cross border with children not subjected to the "Family Detention" camps like the women? Where is the study of gender bias in this? It is not "Family Detention." It is "Women and Children Detention." A study of the impact on Detention to the "seniors" (tercer edad) who are caught in Detention.

the consequences of US involvement in other countries especially in Central

America

The need for comprehensive immigration reform

The effect of increased border security resources on border communities. How does all this money that's come in for various federal agencies impact the people who live here? It would also be interesting to examine the disparate treatments of Mexicans throughout the entire process. It's more difficult for them to access the right to claim asylum, more difficult to win, etc. How much more difficult? Is this due to formal policies or informal procedures or discrimination by individuals involved in the system?

How much money does CBP get for the southern border?

1. how much immigrants contribute to create and not take wealth for the whole society 2. the immigrant process of integration into society, even if they keep their culture alive. How in a few generations, the majority of immigrants become integral part of our society and culture.

Access to due process for migrants apprehended at the border.

Disprove fearmongers who say the unemployment rate will go up if out of status people are allowed to have work authorization and "take our jobs". Show how a state's economy improves when more people are allowed to get EAD and driver license. There are lots of measures you could use. Prove it statistically that when foreign nationals who are here in the USA are allowed to be productive, there is less crime, less poverty, more job creation, more purchasing power, more demand for goods and services, better community life. It is a fun and interesting pile of good news to show this truth.

What happens to UACs not permitted to stay in USA upon return to country of origin?

Difficult to say - above list includes general and specific, some of which have or may be been addressed at least in part in existing research.

Exposing how individuals and groups benefit by scapegoating migrants.

The ones I pointed out above.

A closer examination of Central American migration (reasons for leaving, routes taken, experiences with authorities) and whether the significant uptick seen in recent years is going to be the "new normal".

At what point do we hit rock bottom in terms of diminishing returns on investments in border security?

The effect of enforcement policies, particularly deportations, on border families and communities.

Migration & Development - more concrete studies on how migration impacts domestic and regional economic development goals.

Family separation Criminalization of immigrants Asylum

Predicting future migration pattern by children and families from Central American, including seasonal differences and cycles of migration.

Border-security metrics and data collection at checkpoints, on roving patrols

Over the long-term, I think we would benefit the most from a nationwide, consolidated database of CBP/ICE abuse documentation reports. Given that such reports could not be expected to have the same methodology, this would mean

figuring out how to collect metadata on these reports in such a way as they can be searched and the results meaningfully used together. Such a database would allow better comparison over time and between different regions of the country to look for patterns of abuse/changes in patterns of abuse.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	37