

Emigration Policies in Central America

(Maria Isabel Rosales, doctoral student)

What explains the differences on emigration policies of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras?

International Factors (IVs)

- US / Mexico foreign policy
- Amount of migrants abroad
- Remittances flows
- Migrant organizations
- NGOs/IOs

Emigration Policies (DV)

Regarding:

- Development
- Migration Management
- Migrants Human Rights
- Circular migration programs
- Citizenship

Domestic Factors (IVs)

- Quality of democracy
- Quality of diplomacy
- Civil society
- GDP

Emigration Policies

Immigration policy and the role of destination countries have been one of the main academic debates in migration studies. So far, migration policies have been designed by destination countries and have included origin countries only at the implementation phase. However, research is now increasingly focusing on emigration policy of origin countries and its capacity and interest to manage population movements, establishing closer ties with their diaspora, extending political rights and lobbying with destination countries.

Method

Most Similar Systems Design: The three countries share a historic, contemporary context as well as social and economic characteristics such as inequality, high crime rates, illiteracy and discrimination, among others.

Most Different Outcome: El Salvador has more institutionalized programs and advocacy capacity. Guatemala has created a multi-sector institution, but has less legal initiatives. Last, Honduras shows little progress on legislation and government programs.

To identify the explanatory factors of these differences I will, first, use a policy analysis approach to examine the process of the agenda setting of emigration policies and, second, I will analyze the influence of international and domestic factors on the emigration policymaking of these three countries.

Puzzle

Although El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras integrate a region with high levels of human mobility, show similar migration dynamics and have long been characterized by the rejection of US and Mexican immigration policies, the three countries show fundamental differences with respect to their emigration policies.



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