

# Root Causes of Current Migration Crisis



**Omaha Together One Community (OTOC) and Institute for Public Leadership (IPL)**

**Cristián Doña-Reveco, PhD**

**Office for Latino and Latin American Studies (OLLAS)**

**University of Nebraska at Omaha**



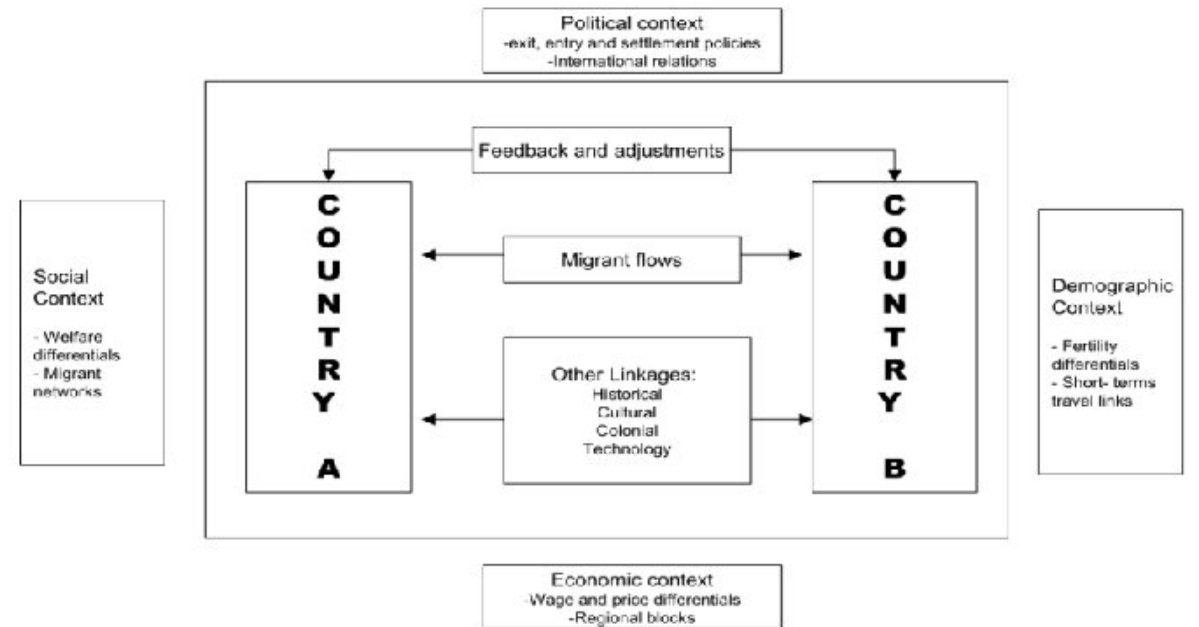
Omaha, Ne – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

# How to study migration?

2

- Four basic facts of international movement:
  - a) the structural forces in developing societies that promote emigration;
  - b) the structural forces in developed societies that attract immigrants;
  - c) the motivations, goals, and aspirations of the actors who respond to these forces by migrating internationally;
  - d) and the social and economic structures that arise to connect areas of out- and in-migration.

## A Migration System



Source: Kritz & Zlotnik 1992: 3

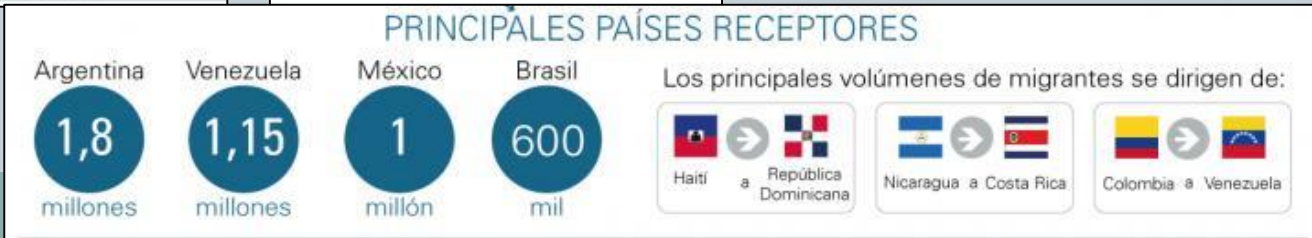
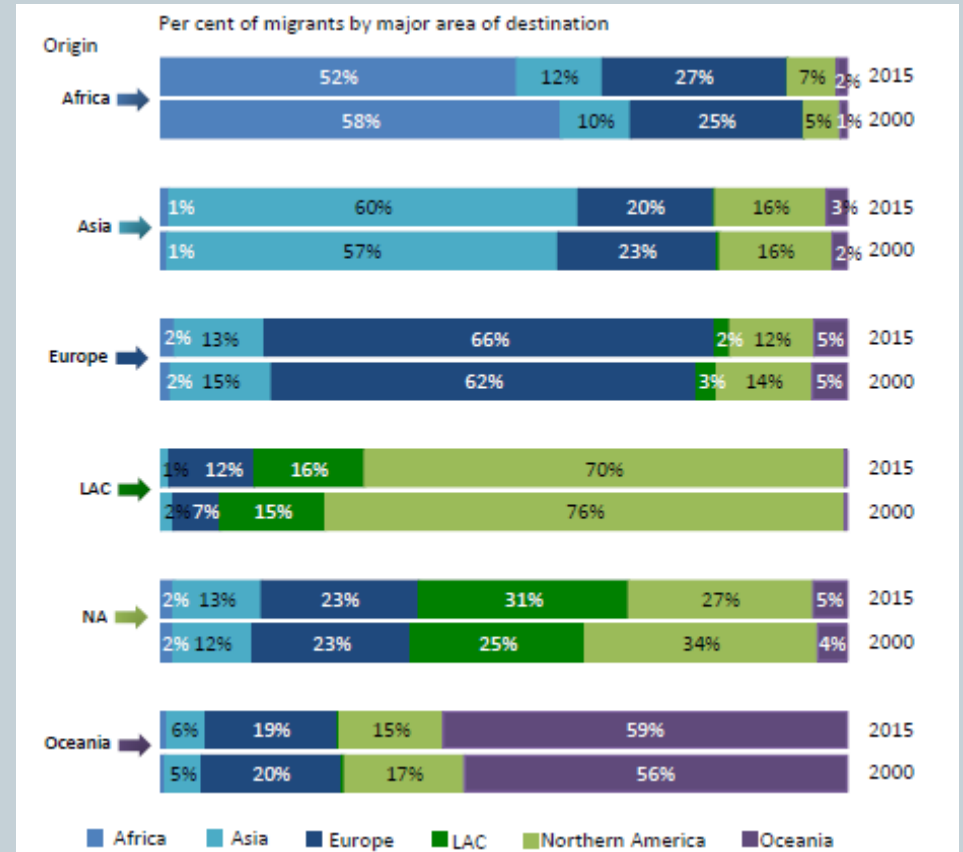
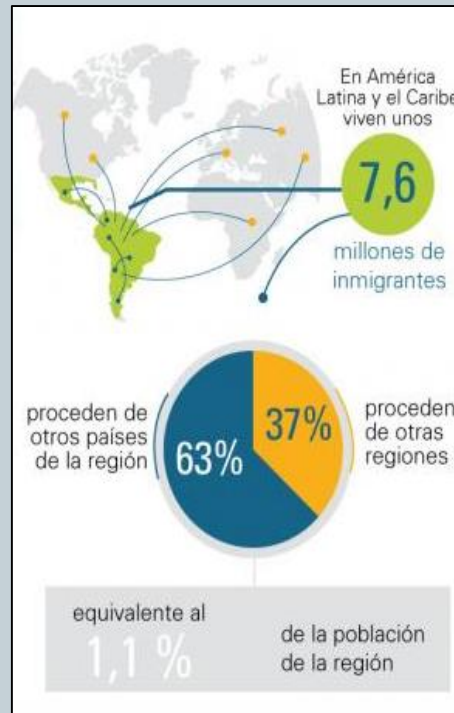
# US and Latin America relationship status: It is complicated

3



# History is destiny? LATAM - US Migration today

- Neither History, nor demography is destiny, but they inform current conditions.

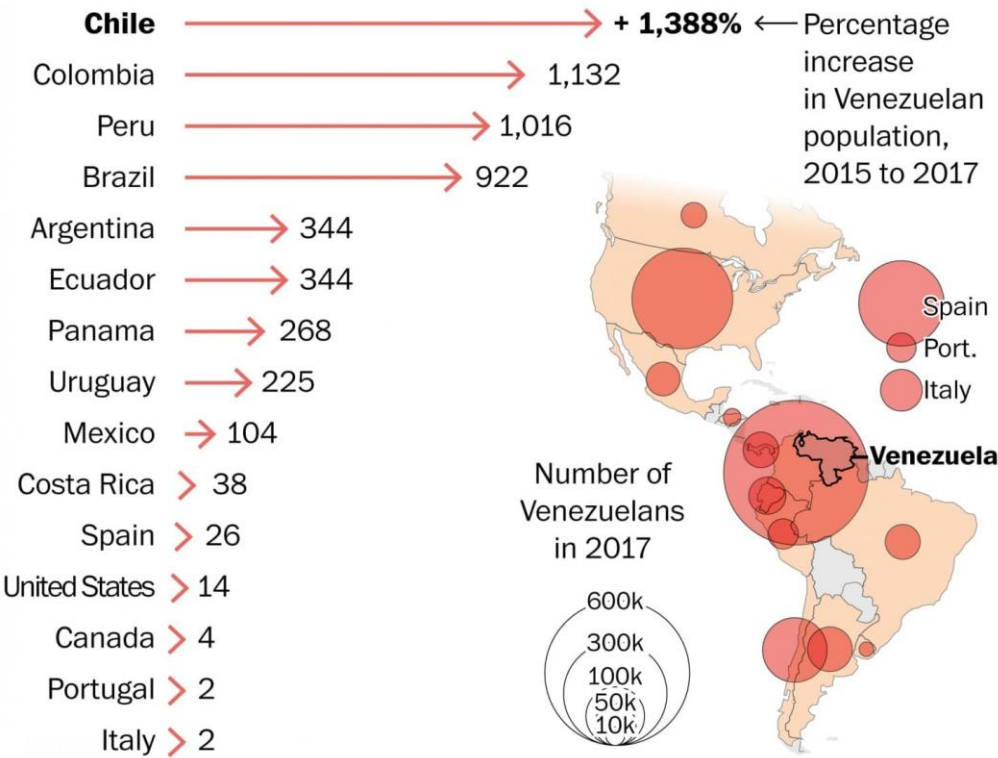


# What constitutes a crisis?

5

## Venezuelan migration

Thousands of Venezuelans are fleeing their country every day, causing surges of more than 1,000 percent in some places compared with 2015.

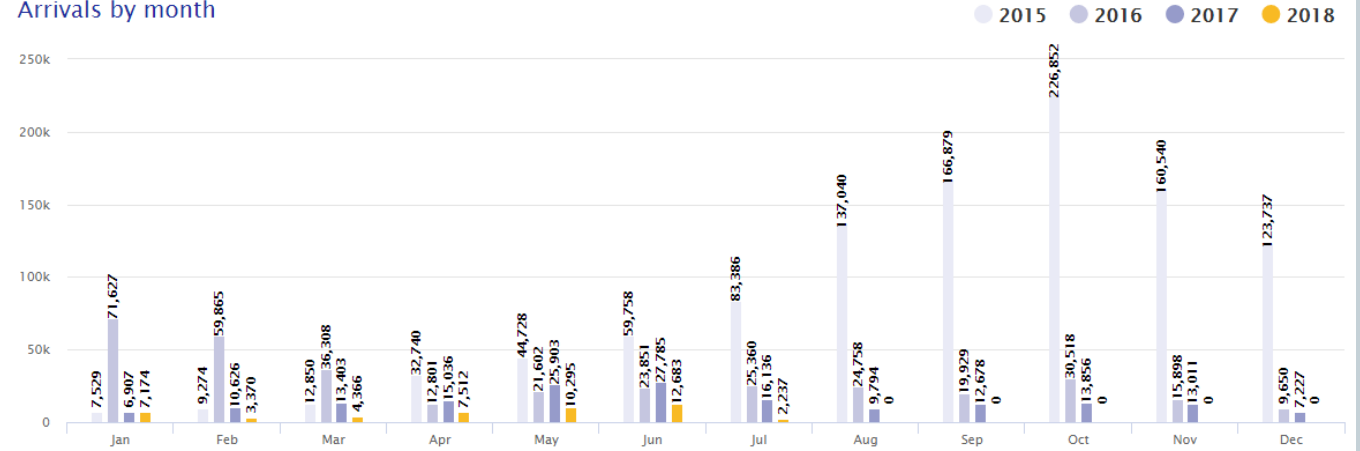


Data for the United States is through 2016

Source: International Organization for Migration

THE WASHINGTON POST

## Arrivals by month



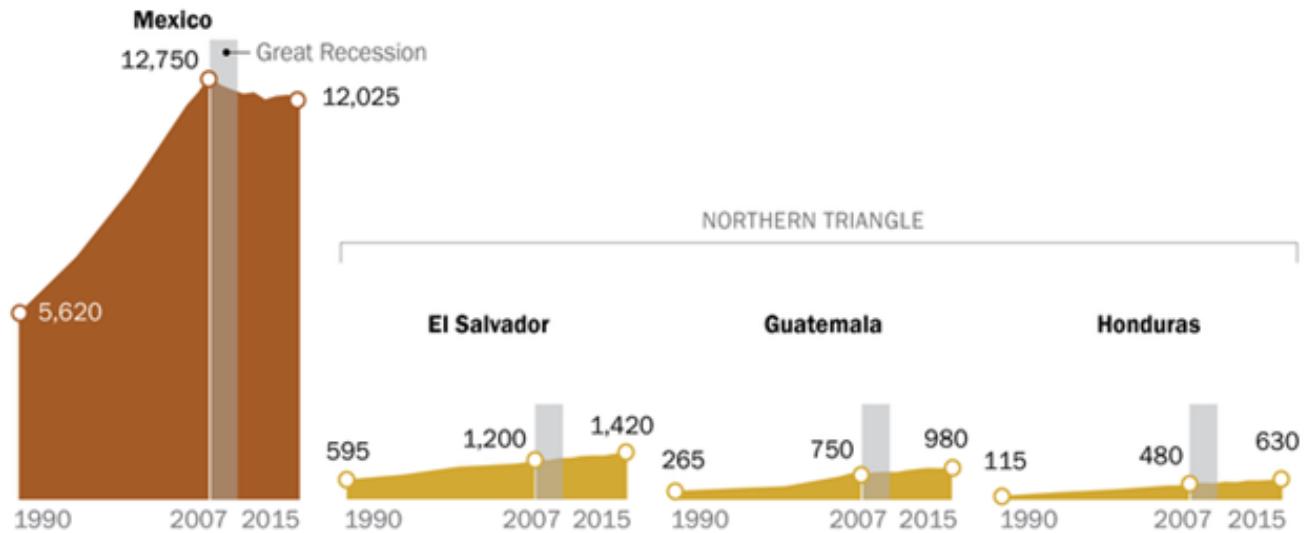
Note: Data sets on arrivals are separate from Missing Migrants Project data, and include information from Spain, Italy, Cyprus, and Greece. For more information on Mediterranean arrivals data and transit routes, visit the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Migration Flows Europe geoportal at [migration.iom.int/europe](http://migration.iom.int/europe).

# What constitutes a crisis?

6

## Since recession, U.S. immigrant populations from Northern Triangle rise as number from Mexico declines

*In thousands*



Note: All numbers rounded independently are not adjusted to sum to the U.S. total. See methodology for details. The Great Recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on adjusted 1990 census, augmented 1995 and 2000 Current Population Survey and augmented 2005-2015 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

"Rise in U.S. immigrants From El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras Outpaces Growth From Elsewhere"

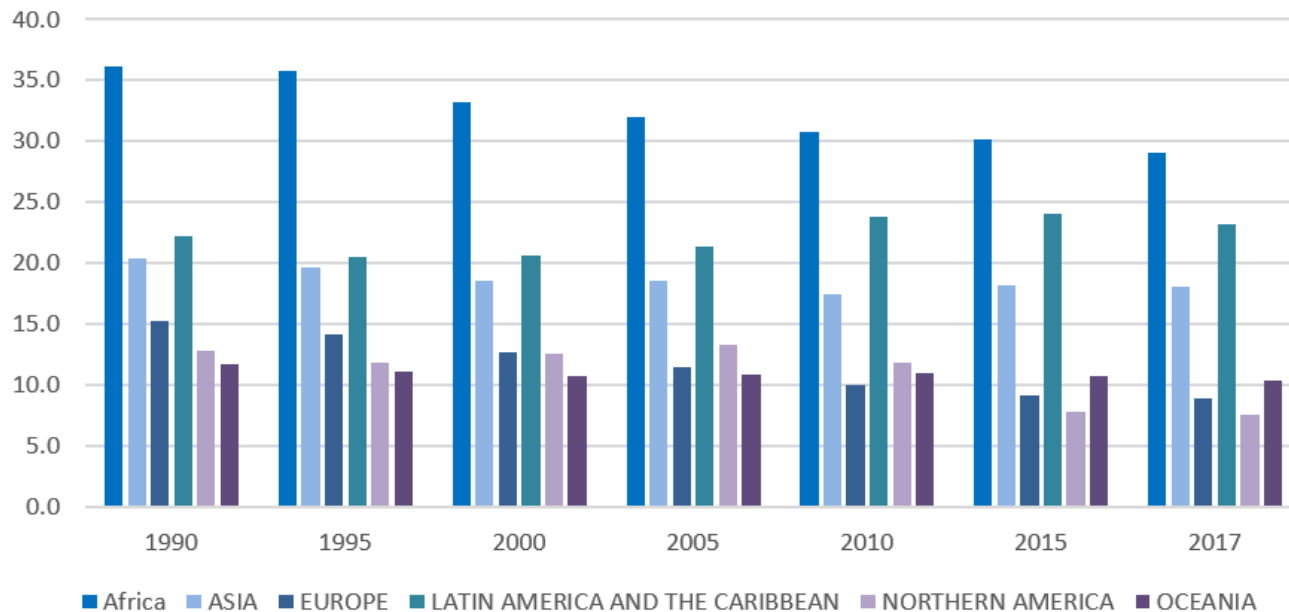
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

- Growth:
  - El Salvador 18.3%
  - Guatemala 31.7%
  - Honduras 33.3%
- With this I am not saying these migration flows are not relevant. But we need context.

# Migrant children and numbers

7

Children (19 years and under) as a percentage of migrant stocks  
by region, 1990-2017



- In recent years, according to UNICEF, the number of children migrating unaccompanied by guardians has increased. In 2015-2016, there were five times as many children estimated to be migrating alone than in 2010-2011.

- On the United States (US)-Mexico border, the US Border Patrol (USBP) apprehended nearly 69,000 unaccompanied children in 2014, 40,000 in 2015 and 60,000 in 2016. In 2016, 61 per cent of apprehended unaccompanied minors in that year were from El Salvador and Guatemala (IOM 2018)

# What can we conclude from all this information?

8

- Migration has several causes. The most macro is the relationship of sending and receiving areas.
- People migrate for many reasons: jobs, security, environmental. In addition children migrate due to increased vulnerability which leads to even more poverty.
- All I have mentioned is not a US President policy; is a US Government policy (ex. Support of Guatemalan 2009 coup).
- The problem is a decreased sensibility on the public to these topics, increase xenophobia globally, disregard for a state's responsibility, end of relevant policies, and the perpetual limbo migrants live in.



PROTECT UPROOTED CHILDREN FROM EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE



HELP UPROOTED CHILDREN TO STAY IN SCHOOL AND STAY HEALTHY



END THE DETENTION OF REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN BY CREATING PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVES



PRESS FOR ACTION ON THE CAUSES THAT UPROOT CHILDREN FROM THEIR HOMES



KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER AND GIVE CHILDREN LEGAL STATUS



COMBAT XENOPHOBIA AND DISCRIMINATION

Source: UNICEF, 2017