On the Legal Auspices of Latin America – U.S. Migration*

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May 13, 2008 Migration in the Americas: Mexico and Latin America in Comparative Context
Motivation

- Relevance of legal status
  - Wages (especially after IRCA)
    - Donato and Massey (1993); Donato et al. (2003); Phillips and Massey (1999)
  - Health care usage
    - Chavez et al. (1992)
  - Cultural realm
    - Leisure (Stodolska 2006)
    - Even for those with ‘gray’ legal status (Menjívar 2006)
Motivation

- Yet, little knowledge of legalization circumstances...
  - Massey and Malone (2003): but conditional on LPR
  - Jasso and Rosenzweig (1986, 1989) on multipliers

- ...and, especially, international differences
  - Bulk of studies, on naturalization processes
    - Liang (1994); Woodrow-Lafield et al. (2004)
  - Some work on geographic settlement patterns of LPRs
    - Newbold (2000); Newbold and Achjar (2002)
    - ...or their emigration (Jasso and Rosenzweig 1982)

- The exception (Malone 2004), only on Mexican (heads)
  - Motivation, Access, Eligibility
Objectives

- Describe and compare processes of becoming a LPR among five LAC groups
  - Mexicans, Dominicans, Nicaraguans, Costa Ricans, Guatemalans
- Propensity to and timing of becoming LPR
- Sponsor types; relevance of social ties to migrants, LPRs
Figure 4.4. Immigrant Admissions by Year and Country


- Mexico
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
LPR admissions by country, year

- Mexico
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
Female U.S. migration prevalence ratios

- Mexico - traditional
- Mexico - new
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
Residents-to-new migrants ratios by setting

- Mexico - traditional
- Mexico - new
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
Male residents-to-new migrants ratios by setting
Female residents-to-new migrants ratios by setting
Age at obtaining permanent residence
Provisions used to obtain permanent residence

- Family
- IRCA - General Amnesty
- IRCA - SAW program
- Work
- Other

Countries included:
- Mexico - Traditional
- Mexico - New
- Dominican Republic
- Nicaragua
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
### Sociodemographic characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender (REF = Male)</th>
<th>0.111 (0.046)</th>
<th>-0.087 (0.070)</th>
<th>0.243 (0.057)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>0.055 (0.007)</td>
<td>0.055 (0.008)</td>
<td>0.045 (0.011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age - squared</td>
<td>-0.001 (0.000)</td>
<td>-0.001 (0.000)</td>
<td>-0.001 (0.000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational attainment (years)</td>
<td>0.051 (0.007)</td>
<td>0.065 (0.008)</td>
<td>0.048 (0.009)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Migration-specific capital:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous US experience</th>
<th>2.915 (0.097)</th>
<th>1.591 (0.117)</th>
<th>0.000 (0.000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individuals in HH roster previously in US</td>
<td>1.207 (0.115)</td>
<td>0.591 (0.117)</td>
<td>0.000 (0.000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals in HH roster as LPR</td>
<td>0.806 (0.094)</td>
<td>1.952 (0.117)</td>
<td>0.617 (0.111)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male U.S. migration prevalence in community</td>
<td>0.020 (0.003)</td>
<td>0.029 (0.004)</td>
<td>0.019 (0.004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female U.S. migration prevalence in community</td>
<td>-0.012 (0.004)</td>
<td>0.006 (0.006)</td>
<td>0.006 (0.006)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Male residents-to-migrants ratio in community | 0.010 (0.002) | 0.019 (0.002) | 0.006 (0.003) |

### Female residents-to-migrants ratio in community | 0.003 (0.002) | 0.006 (0.002) | 0.003 (0.002) |

### Contextual variables:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1965 - 1976</td>
<td>0.373 (0.151)</td>
<td>0.797 (0.144)</td>
<td>0.070 (0.204)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977 - 1985</td>
<td>0.637 (0.100)</td>
<td>0.788 (0.120)</td>
<td>0.507 (0.120)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986 - 1990</td>
<td>1.170 (0.085)</td>
<td>0.699 (0.112)</td>
<td>1.352 (0.096)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991 - 1995</td>
<td>0.158 (0.088)</td>
<td>0.385 (0.111)</td>
<td>-0.057 (0.101)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Country (REF = Traditional Mexican origins):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Mexican Origins</th>
<th>0.101 (0.099)</th>
<th>0.394 (0.128)</th>
<th>0.014 (0.103)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>1.448 (0.172)</td>
<td>1.266 (0.193)</td>
<td>0.989 (0.215)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>1.003 (0.131)</td>
<td>-0.165 (0.239)</td>
<td>1.174 (0.137)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>-0.214 (0.210)</td>
<td>-0.549 (0.314)</td>
<td>-0.123 (0.202)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Intercept | -10.807 (0.191) | -11.574 (0.230) | -6.255 (0.252) |

**Number of observations |** 1,713,238

**Log likelihood |** -12,779.4

**Number of observations |** 1,627,024

**Log likelihood |** -5,774.0

**Number of observations |** 86,214

**Log likelihood |** -6,771.8
Discussion

- Singular Dominican pattern of documented migration
  - Remains after some controls accounted for
  - At least from surveyed communities (but no IRCA bump)
    - Need to also use OIS’ LPR profiles
  - Less likely to have U.S. experience previous to legalization
  - More likely to be sponsored by family members
    - Legalizing when children (sponsored by parents)

- Explanations?
  - Selectivity, conditions of initial migration
  - Higher naturalization rates
  - A lower return propensity (related to family migration, or the other way around?)
Discussion

- Nicaraguans (Guatemalans?) leaving gray statuses after IRCA, **NACARA**
  - Except in terms of previous U.S. experience of course

- Mexicans from new origins, more likely to use family provisions
  - Fewer eligible for IRCA
  - Beyond that, internal migration/marriage links with traditional origins in some cases?