

# **PHOTOVOICE: Exploring the Effects of Migration in Sending and Receiving Communities**

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**XI Binational Policy Forum on Migration and Global Health**

**San Antonio, Texas October 4, 2011**



# What is Photovoice?

- Photovoice is a process for:
  - engaging and empowering individuals,
  - enhancing community participation efforts, and
  - encouraging public policy change (reach policy makers).



“When one of the parents described emotional memories, it was sad and happy at the same time.”  
“Everyone was learning from each other.”

# Methodology

- Introductory Session
  - Introductions, consent/assent
  - Project purpose
  - Confirm meeting time/location/frequency
  - Camera use---training---practice assignment
- Sessions 2-5 (or more)
  - Ice-breakers, check-in
  - Sharing photos & meanings
  - Building toward key messages
- Sessions 6-7 (or more)
  - Develop and create exhibit
  - Practice presentations
- Session 8
  - The Exhibit!

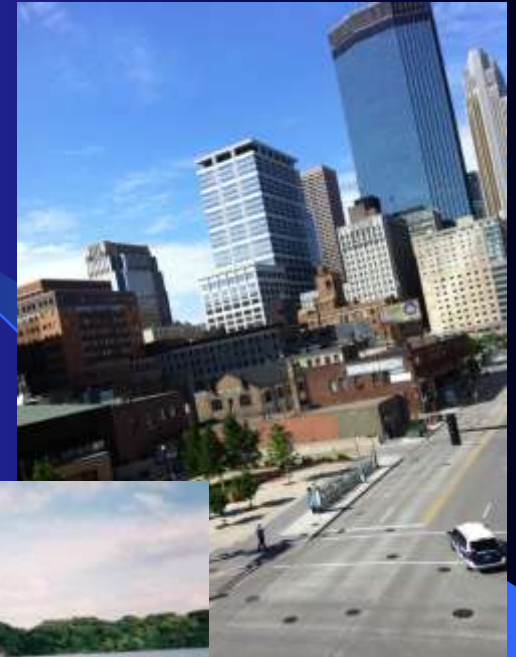


# Objectives & Participants



- To describe transnational perspectives from Mexican parents and adolescents on migration, family and emotional health as presented at the photovoice exhibitions.
- 4 groups formed, MX- EUA, 48 participants
- México: 8 moms and 4 dads; 12 adolescents
- USA: 9 moms and 3 dads; 12 adolescents

# Morelos & Minnesota





**CROPS**



# HOMES



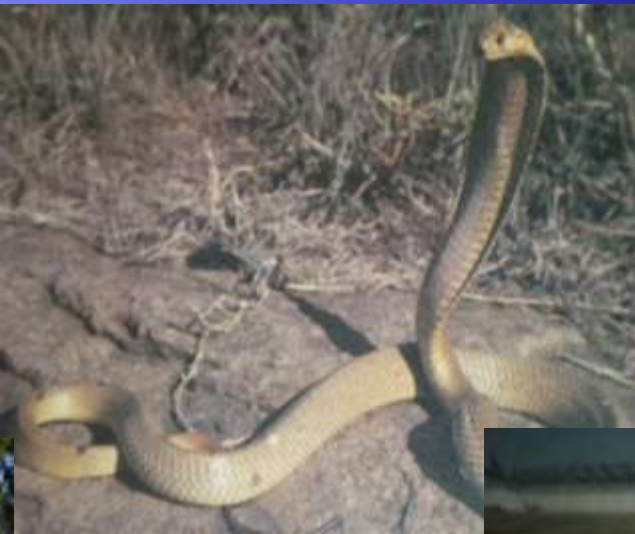


CHILDREN,  
ELDERS





CRIME



# Mexico Themes...



- ~ Abandonment
- ~ Unusable resources
- ~ Neglected elderly parents
- ~ Family disintegration
- ~ Disrupted childrearing
- ~ Dependence (on those in U.S.)
- ~ Need for legal pathways to U.S.
- ~ Change of identity
- ~ How poor immigrants in U.S. are treated



## Mexico Groups 1 and 2

### Photovoice Themes

Abandonment, loneliness (by those who emigrate)  
Unusable resources (land, houses, tools, vehicles)  
Neglected elderly parents  
Family disintegration  
Disrupted childrearing (Grandparents, aunts become 'mom')  
Dependence (on money from U.S. that does not come)  
Government can provide incentives to stay, not emigrate  
Change of identity (among those who leave Mexico)  
Need for legal pathways to U.S. (visas)  
How poor immigrants in U.S. are treated

### Policy Implications

Support community activities and festivals that foster healthy relationships.

Support migration policies that encourage circular back and forth between the U.S. and Mexico (work visas).

Encourage local authorities to support individuals and families affected by migration.



Why are there borders?

Neither from here,  
nor from there

Mentality change



# THEMES

They ask for  
workers,  
people arrive

## CAUSES



Illusion,  
Wish



Racism

“The American Dream”

Gangs

Discrimination



# Consequences

Addictions



# THEMES

Is it worth risking your life?

Tattoos



# THEMES

Balance: Not everything is negative...



Mutual cultural influences



Amusement



Shared celebrations



# Deportation



# U.S. Themes...



- ~ Nostalgia
- ~ Culture
- ~ Family Union
- ~ Education
- ~ Deportation
- ~ Economy
- ~ Driver's License
- ~ Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- ~ How to Defend the Rights of Immigrants



	<b>U.S. Group 1</b>	<b>U.S. Group 2</b>
Photovoice Themes	Family Union Culture Nostalgia Education	Education Drivers License Economy Deportation Comprehensive Migration Reform Know Your Rights
Policy Implications	<p>Support the Dream Act.</p> <p>Support deportation laws that don't separate families.</p> <p>Support Humane Enforcement and Legal Protections for Separated Children Act to protect children's interests when deportation does take place.</p>	<p>Encourage Comprehensive Migration Reform.</p> <p>Protect Migrant workers to protect and strengthen our economy.</p> <p>Propose and support laws that permit undocumented worker's rights and protection from exploitation.</p> <p>Support driving laws that protect migrants.</p>

# Example Quotes and Pictures from the U.S.



*The separation of families is not a healthy response to immigration in this country. It is worsening the conditions of life for families.*

*In these photos we want to express some things that we yearn for from our country and share them with the community. We mustn't allow that these customs be lost so that we don't lose our identity. Let's maintain our traditions alive, even though we are far from our country. Listen to the voices of our nostalgias!*





# Exhibit Day!



# Controversial Issues

## In Mexico

- *Negative general outcomes:* Higher costs.
- *Mentality change:* Racist treatment comes from the same Mexicans. Divide and conquer?
- *Family as a social control instrument:* “Why is it that moving to the US I carry good intentions, but once there everything changes and I am not conscious of my acts?”
- Naturalized consumerism in US.
- Emigration paradox: Looking to improve, you end up in the oblivion.
- “Seeing life without borders” and “We deserve a fair treatment.”
- Reproducing exclusion with agricultural workers (jornaleros).

## In USA

- *Immigrant rights:* We need to fight for our rights as immigrants in the U.S.
- *Work permits and licenses:* Without these how can we establish ourselves?
- *Economy:* Latinos contribute so much to the U.S. economy but are not recognized for this contribution.
- *Education:* Support the Dream Act, giving promising undocumented youth the opportunity to advance their education, and a pathway toward legal status in the U.S.
- *Deportation:* Protect family unity and stop deporting mothers and fathers of children who remain in the U.S.

# Photovoice is a rich tool...

Photovoice provides a unique opportunity for community members, parents and adolescents alike, to share their collective perspectives and inform policy change.

*Photovoice* provided a program that gave family members time to be together, to talk and address challenging issues, and to grow together.

Questions?  
Comments?

We thank PIMSA for funding this project.

We thank our participants for sharing their time  
and their perspectives.

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