

MEXICAN MIGRATION AND THE U.S. ECONOMIC CRISIS: A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Wayne A. Cornelius, David Fitzgerald, Pedro Lewin Fischer, and Leah Muse-Orlinoff, editors



Based on 1,030 survey interviews and more than 500 hours of in-depth unstructured interviewing, on both sides of the border, this volume is the first fieldwork-based study of how the U.S. economic crisis that erupted in 2007 has affected flows of Mexican migrants to and from the United States. Focusing on Tunkás, a migrant-sending community in Yucatán that they first studied in 2006, the researchers find that the lack of an assured job in the United States is driving decisions to postpone (not permanently forego) migration to the United

States, rather than tougher border enforcement. They also find that neither the economic crisis nor workplace raids and other forms of interior enforcement are inducing migrants already in the United States to go home. The authors predict that once the U.S. economy begins to recover, the northbound movement of Mexican migrants will rebound quickly. The researchers document the economic coping strategies of migrants and their dependents in Mexico, how migrants navigate the U.S. labor market, and how health, education, and community participation are being shaped by the economic crisis. A ground-breaking chapter shows how a “youth culture of migration” develops in a migrant-sending community. This volume is the fifth in a series based on the research of the Mexican Migration Field Research and Training Program at the Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego.

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