

Symposium Presentations Summarized

100 Years of U.S. Involvement in the Americas (45 minutes)

Monroe Doctrine followed by Manifest Destiny
Mexican- American War (1846-48)
Territorial expansion: Cuba, Caribbean, Philippines
The Spanish American War and Cuba
José Martí vs. “A splendid little war”
The U.S. creation of Panama and the Panama Canal
Central America incursions: instability and banana republics/ oligarchy and the military
“Communism” vs. Capitalism/ Martí and Sandino
United States Fruit Company, land reform, and Arbenz
The Dulles brothers and the CIA-facilitated coup of Guatemala (Ché Guevara)
U.S. involvement and the Guatemalan civil war: 10 years/ 200,000 deaths; evolution of these structures
U.S. involvement in the Salvador civil war: nuns’ murder/ Bishop Oscar Romero
Similar patterns and legacy in Honduras
U.S. contribution to current insecurity, under-development, oligarchy, and militarization
Current Immigration data and the gangs (which started in Los Angeles), drug trade, other

100 Years of U.S. immigration law (55 minutes)

“Undocumented” as a proxy battle with racist motives
Mexican migration patterns by 1930
National quotas in 1924 laws: 150,000 maximum, except for Mexican ag. laborers
Great Depression brought increased hostility to immigrants
The 1930s Great Repatriation—40% of them were U.S. citizens
The “Bracero” program (1942-1967) (400K/yr.) vs. Operation Wetback (max, 1 million in 1954)
1965 Immigration Act: national quotas restructured [20K max]/ family visa system established
100 years of fluctuation in immigrant population: “laborers not people”
Selective inclusion (1966-1990)
Increasing restrictions in immigration (1990-2017)

Selected Economic issues of Hispanic Immigration (40 minutes)

44M foreign-born – 25% Mexican/25% other Latino/25% Asian; 12M undocumented
A “U” shape to the immigrant population: 14% now, returning to historical patterns
Who comes?: “negative selection” theory vs. “positive selection” theory
Effects on domestic wages? Based on hard data: basically no effect at all.
Why?: Imperfect substitution (lang. /management); local spending benefits (1.2 job creation per immigrant); reduced flight of offshore job creation
Fiscal effects? Increased tax base; increased contributions to Social Security; \$11.7Bn in additional taxes paid by undocumented people/ \$7Bn increased sales taxes/ \$1.1Bn increased in income tax
Overall, Hispanics are a huge part of the US economy and economic benefit seems universally beneficial

Cultural Contributions of the Hispanic Community (30 minutes)

What does culture” mean?: ... a way of life, values, beliefs, customs, language, tradition
sense of belonging, how we empathize and relate to one another, and more
Far reaching encounter between two cultures that had no previous knowledge of the other
A common history between Latino Americans and Anglo Americans, who , like Jews and Arabs of the
Middle East, are cousins in constant conflict with one another
Profound differences between English settlers and Spanish ones, particularly in race/slavery and the role
of the Church
“Mestizo” is a powerful social construct in one culture and not the other
BTW: The first European language spoken in Virginia in 1573 was Spanish
School of “Castas” painting in Spain showing mestizo families contrasted to the story of Thomas
Jefferson and Sally Hennings
The “new” growth of minorities is not new
Hispanic (non) participation in the Virginia body politic
Street scenes from Richmond and Charlottesville
El Salvador has the highest percentage of the Virginia immigrant population
Demographics in Virginia: 732K population; 9% of the state; median age 27 yrs. old.
Mention of *Latino Leadership* by Juana Bordas

Health Disparities of the Latino Community (30 minutes)

Social determinants/ statistics,/ challenges
Nine domains that impact Hispanic health
Heterogeneity in the community
Income inequality —household wealth is one-fifth of the U.S. average
Low high school completion
High rate of Latinos with no health insurance/ in Virginia 45% of non-US born without (p.6)
Social health determinants : 1) physical environment 2) trust in public system 3) transportation biases 4)
education 5) high risk employment 5) health systems 6) housing
The UVA Latino Health Initiative
Leading causes of death
45% more obesity/ twice as much asthma/more
The Hispanic paradox (p.8)—live longer, fewer heart attacks and more. Due to a stronger social
network?? Which expires in 10 years!
Mental health —e.g. 33-60% PTSD in Central Americans
Preventing cardiovascular diseases
Emerging challenges
Equality Or Equity ... Or Justice?

Issues in Hispanic Education: Equity and Access (30 minutes)

Current Latino population, 57.5M, and growing quickly
Not a one-dimensional group; also great disparity in length of time in the U.S; first-generation is the
most affected
Disproportionately poor- many extra barriers brought about by poverty, culture and language
Hispanic high school completion rates significantly lower than other ethnic groups—only 55% in Texas
and California—unacceptable
(In our area, the situation is somewhat better, but still a ways to go.)
77% of English-language learners are Hispanic

Achievement Gaps are well documented.

Also, Opportunity Gaps: disparity in access to enrichment programs (due to poverty, parents not being able to drive, language barriers, nutrition, acculturation, others.)

Actions that schools need to do better: interpretation, better access to available economic support, better access to pre pre-school enrichment, simplified materials, removing current barriers

We need to be better at acculturation, cultural responsiveness, parental engagement, unconscious biases,

Community Voices (20 minutes)

Jackie Cortés- originally from Mexico

Julio Quispe- originally from Peru

Current Law and the “Labyrinth” to Citizenship (48 minutes)

The labyrinth: “If this ... then that. If that then this.” With final outcomes never very clear....

Many different agencies involved—very complicated interrelationship

Key distinctions: “immigrants vs. non-immigrants” also different kinds of “undocumented”

Myth I: “*Why don’t you just become a citizen?*” (very narrow paths)

Unlawful presence: 3 yr. bar/ 10 yr. bar/ permanent bar

Myth II: “*Why don’t you just get in line?*” (There is no such line....)

Employment-based immigration is costly and for highly specialized skills

Sponsoring a cherished domestic employee, ‘Lupe’?—is almost impossible

Family-based immigration- some visas are immediately available; others have a 20 year wait.

Myth III: “*The Anchor baby:*” “No States-side waiver for children: ‘Debbie’ can’t be helped.

Humanitarian Options: different categories, sometimes a 10 yr. wait

Key distinctions between “refugee” and “asylee”

Summary requirements for 5 categories of asylum: the “*because of...*” is almost the most important.

Current Immigration Enforcement

Changes after 9/11/2001. Now under the Department of Homeland Security: USCIS/ CBP/ ICE
ICE Enforcement and Removal/ Office (\$3.8bn); Homeland Security Investigation \$2bn) ; Office of
Principal Legal Advisors; others

Recent changes: rapid-fire action and hateful anti-immigrant rhetoric are new

Elimination of targeted enforcement and prosecutorial discretions— previously mostly criminal
but now everybody is deportable, literally everybody.

No due process requirements for undocumented people

Not just convicted- but even “charged with...”

Detention centers abuses

Virtually zero regulations or standards for detention centers

Uptick in deaths/ unreasonable delays/ failed emergency responses/ hundreds of allegations of
sexual abuse (to people not owed legal representation)

Current ICE proposal to specifically exempt detention centers from the Prison Rape Protection
Act

The “ice boxes” (*hileras*) abuses- (likely done on purpose) lack of medical attention/ inadequate
nutrition/ over-crowding/ denied soap, towels and showers/ stripped of possessions never
returned/ others: “*a really dark scene.*”

New policies: “family separation” and “zero tolerance”

Maximizing criminal prosecution for border crossing (previously a minor misdemeanor)

By international treaty, it is not a crime to report to the border seeking asylum
Extremely dangerous conditions that people are fleeing from and a very dangerous journey
ICE trying to abolish the *Flores Settlement*. Birth-right citizenship under attack
The (Nov '18) Caravan: it is not illegal to do so.

New on the ground activities

USCIS now transferring files to ICE

Rhetoric- much of it racial-- is creating a culture of fear

Harming the immigrants and harming our country: local law enforcement perceived as an arm of immigration enforcement reduces crime reporting- we all are becoming less safe.

We are in a dark time and we need activism and education and a return to civic virtues

Wrap-up (10 minutes)

100 Years of U.S. Involvement

Earth-shaking changes as a result of the Mexican-American War

The CIA-led overthrow of the Guatemalan government

The U.S. -created these "Banana Republics"

"War on drugs" is only the most recent justification for our actions

100 Years of U.S. immigration law

Always for our convenience

What's going on now has happened dozens of times before

Selected Economic issues:

"There is NO negative economic impact of Hispanic employment"

Legalization of the undocumented would represent \$2.5 Bn extra income to our economy

Cultural Contributions

Juxtaposition of the two cultures in Religion and Colonization

Vast differences in the treatment of Race, Segregation and the Mestizo

Health Disparities

Horrifying that there is no health insurance for 50% of Hispanic families (and under-reporting means this is the minimum)

Sense of community produces better health results --- but only for the first ten years!

Hispanic Education

Extremely high Latino drop-outs from High School

"The kids AREN'T all right"

Community Voices

(Extremely useful)

How extra-challenged Latino adolescents are in Identity, who they are, where they are going

Identify is huge issue for them, really courageous people, and "how many are we **not** hearing from?"

The DACA kids are being favored by the parents because their future is better.

The Current Path to Citizenship

It is a veritable labyrinth: so many years.... who can wait that long?

Current Immigration Enforcement

The abuses in the Detention system

"It is a really dark time we are living in."