



TRABAJO FIN DE GRADO

TITLE: US MIGRATION SECURITIZATION ON LATIN AMERICAN IRREGULAR WOMEN MIGRANTS IN THE US-MEXICO BORDER

The gendered impact of the change on the security paradigm and US migration securitization on Latin American illegal women migrants at the US-Mexico border

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ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to create a better understanding of the ongoing migration crisis at the US-Mexico border as a gendered practice through the emergence, spreading and management of borders. As migration continues to spread, derogative and vituperative activities assail irregular migrants, highlighting gendered differences. Women migrants face divergent hazards when attempting to cross the US-Mexico border, such as assault, sexual violence, abandonment, human trafficking, or even death. However, these abusive behaviors often remain undisclosed and hidden from the rest of the community.

For decades, women have been disregarded in migration studies. Migration theories simply assumed that women were merely codependent, stay-at-home wives that would follow their husbands. As a consequence, migration was portrayed as a male phenomenon and therefore these studies have always remained undisclosed and inconclusive.

The truth is that illegal migrants focus on staying out of sight due to the illegality of entering a country undocumented and uninvited. This thoroughly makes them inconspicuous subjects, fully exposed to the difficulties and perils that pose human rights violations and unprotected by national jurisdiction. Therefore, the legal status of irregular women migrants often prevents them from reporting such crimes to the authorities for fear of deportation, or due to the fact that the authorities themselves are behind some of these abusive practices.

As a consequence, irregular migration is difficult to track and document, therefore most studies regarding illegal migration flows at the US-Mexico border are inconclusive and in a way, unreliable. Moreover, when considering the gendered differences in migration flows, these studies are even more uncertain.

On that account, the following study analyzes migration securitisation as a gendered practice in the US-Mexico border. By analyzing the recent shift in the security paradigm, this study brings to light how securitization procedures affect irregular migration flows in the US-Mexico border and enhance gender inequalities. The former borders that once separated external and internal security issues have now blurred in and international security policies have direct effect on society, to the level of the individual. The execution of border-making strategies have relocated to the human body itself, creating mobile and embodied “frontiers” easy to locate and eliminate.

The idea is that no one knows who the enemy may be, and therefore, it could be anyone and anywhere. As a consequence, this has developed an abiding concern and obsession towards national security matters and personal protection, that has been extrapolated to a constant irrational national fear that gives rise to new measures of securitization and social control.

Nevertheless, climate change and the ongrowing political instability of certain countries positions migration flows as a coarsening affair. The number of people seeking to escape threats in Central America has multiplied and unauthorized migration through Mexico toward

the United States constantly increases. This process of political instability and economic degradation has led to an abiding cycle of undocumented migration to the United States.

Correspondingly, migration securitization has become a public measure with the aim to avoid possible threats that may destabilize the national security and political system of the United States. The problem lies in the uncertainty when it comes to detecting illegal migrants and the corruption behind the securitisation measures. The national security strategy presents a discourse that shapes the mentality of the United States with intangible, cultural barriers as a result of years of racial segregation.

ABSTRACT

Este trabajo de investigación tiene como objetivo exponer un análisis de la actual crisis migratoria en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, a través de una investigación sobre las diferencias de género a la hora de migrar. A medida que la inmigración continúa expandiéndose, las actividades denigrantes y vituperantes asaltan a los migrantes irregulares, destacando las diferencias de género. Las mujeres migrantes confrontan diversos peligros cuando intentan cruzar la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México, como agresión, violencia sexual, abandono, trata de personas o incluso la muerte. Sin embargo, estos comportamientos abusivos a menudo permanecen ocultos para el resto de la comunidad.

Durante décadas, las mujeres han sido ignoradas en los estudios de migración. Las teorías de la migración simplemente asumieron que las mujeres eran meramente esposas dependientes que se quedaban en casa. Como consecuencia, hasta recientemente la migración ha sido retratada como un fenómeno masculino y, por lo tanto, estos estudios siempre han permanecido ocultos y poco concluyentes.

Lo cierto es que los inmigrantes ilegales se enfocan en permanecer fuera de la vista debido a la ilegalidad de ingresar a un país sin los documentos necesarios. Esto los convierte en sujetos plenamente expuestos a las dificultades y peligros que representan las violaciones de los derechos humanos y desprotegidos por la jurisdicción nacional. Por lo tanto, el estatus legal de las mujeres migrantes irregulares a menudo les impide denunciar tales delitos a las autoridades por temor a deportación, o por el hecho de que las propias autoridades están detrás de algunas de estas prácticas abusivas (Reichel C. 2018).

Como consecuencia, la migración irregular es muy complicada de rastrear y documentar, por lo que la mayoría de los estudios sobre los flujos de migración ilegal en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México no son concluyentes y, en cierto modo, poco fiables. Asimismo, al considerar las diferencias de género en los flujos migratorios, estos estudios son aún más inciertos.

En este contexto, el presente estudio analiza la securitización migratoria como una práctica de género en la frontera de México y Estados Unidos. Al analizar el cambio reciente en el paradigma de la seguridad, este estudio saca a la luz cómo los procedimientos de securitización afectan los flujos migratorios irregulares en la frontera y aumentan las desigualdades de género. Las antiguas fronteras que una vez separaban los asuntos de

seguridad externa e interna ahora se han conectado y las políticas de seguridad internacional afectan de manera directa la sociedad, al nivel del individuo. La ejecución de estrategias de creación de fronteras se ha reubicado en el propio cuerpo humano, creando fronteras móviles y encarnadas fáciles de localizar y eliminar.

La idea es que nadie sepa quién puede ser el enemigo y, por lo tanto, podría ser cualquiera y en cualquier lugar. Como consecuencia, esto ha desarrollado una permanente preocupación y obsesión por los asuntos de seguridad nacional y protección personal, que se ha extrapolado a un constante miedo nacional irracional que da lugar a nuevas medidas de securitización y control social.

Sin embargo, el cambio climático y la creciente inestabilidad política de ciertos países posicionan los flujos migratorios como un asunto de vulgarización. El número de personas que buscan escapar de las amenazas en Centroamérica se ha multiplicado y la migración no autorizada a través de México hacia Estados Unidos aumenta constantemente. Este proceso de inestabilidad política y degradación económica ha llevado a un ciclo permanente de migración indocumentada a los Estados Unidos.

Como consecuencia, la securitización de la inmigración se ha convertido en una medida pública con el objetivo de evitar posibles amenazas que puedan desestabilizar la seguridad nacional y el sistema político de los Estados Unidos. El problema radica en la incertidumbre a la hora de detectar a los inmigrantes ilegales y la corrupción detrás de las medidas de titularización. La estrategia de seguridad nacional presenta un discurso que moldea la mentalidad de los Estados Unidos con barreras culturales intangibles como resultado de años de segregación racial.

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KEYWORDS

Securitization, irregular migration, hard borders, gender, borderities, borderlands, US-Mexico border, migrants, Protection Protocols, mobile borders, border crossing, Migration Policies.

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ACRONYM	ENGLISH	SPANISH
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act	Ley de extranjería y nacionalidad
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	Código Federal de Regulaciones
USCIS	U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	Servicios de inmigración y ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos
TPS	Temporary Protected Status	Estatus Protegido Temporalmente
LPR	Lawful Permanent Residents	Residentes Permanentes Legales
CNMI	Northern Mariana Islands	Mancomunidad de las Marinas del Norte
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Services	Servicios de Inmigración y Naturalización
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act	Ley de prevención contra la violencia hacia las mujeres
MPI	Migration Policy Institute	Instituto de Políticas Migratorias
DHS	Department of Homeland Security	Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de Estados Unidos
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice	Departamento de Justicia de Estados Unidos
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services	Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos
ESTA	Electronic System for Travel Authorization	Sistema electrónico de autorización de viaje

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 RESEARCH SUBJECT AND JUSTIFICATION

1.1.1 RESEARCH SUBJECT

Irregular migration stands as one of the main problematics that shape the United States foreign policy and national security agenda. Migration securitisation has evolved from being an international issue to a public security measure that affects the everyday life of individuals. On that account, this thesis focuses on the ongoing migration crisis in the US-Mexico border and the effects of migration securitisation on women irregular migrants.

Climate change and the ever-growing political instability of certain countries positions migration flows as a coarsening affair. As migration continues to grow, irregular entry strategies have become more common, increasing the hazards both male and female migrants are exposed to.

According to the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, women and girls are more vulnerable to certain challenges and protection risks in transit than men. Some of these obstacles include sexual violence¹, human trafficking, assault, family separation, health complications, particularly for pregnant women, physical harm and injury, risks of exploitation, gender-based violence and even death. This makes the overall process a gendered practice, and although it is undisclosed by migration studies, it will not remain silenced.

1.1.2 SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF THE CONCERN

In order to understand this study it is imperative to fully comprehend the factors that turn a noncitizen into an illegal immigrant in the United States. According to the INA, "a noncitizen is in unlawful immigration status if he or she is in the United States without lawful immigration status, either because the noncitizen never had legal status or because it has ended" (INA 245(c)(2)). Therefore, noncitizens with unlawful immigration status include; those subjects that have crossed the border without the jurisdictionally required inspection, admission or parole; and those whose legal immigration documentation expired, was revoked or purposefully terminated (INA 245(c)(2)).

On that account, a noncitizen that was once admitted with an ESTA or any other non immigrant visa is also in an unlawful status if the subject violates any of the conditions of the nonimmigrant status. These conditions are specified in 8 CFR 212.1 (e)-(g) and establish the following terms; nonimmigrants are unauthorized to work or receive any type of economic retribution; staying in the country after termination of the employment or academic studies that sponsored the visa is illegal; failing to maintain a full course of study; and engaging in violent conduct that could jeopardize the balance and stability of the community. "The

¹ It is important to mention that male migrants are also subject to the aforementioned challenges such as sexual violence, human trafficking or assault. However, women and girl migrants tend to be more exposed, hence the objective of this investigation.

noncitizen’s status also becomes unlawful if the noncitizen remains in the United States after DHS terminates the nonimmigrant status under 8 CFR 214.1(d)” (USCIS, 2022).

However, in 2022 NBC News presented that “the number of undocumented immigrant crossings at the southern border in 2022 topped 2.76 million” (Ainsley, 2022). In 2019 the Migration Policy Institute tracked approximately 11,047,000 unlawful immigrants, out of which 46% were females. In addition to this, approximately 7,381,000 illegal immigrants were born in Central America. However, the countries that qualify as the top 5 are Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, India and Honduras.

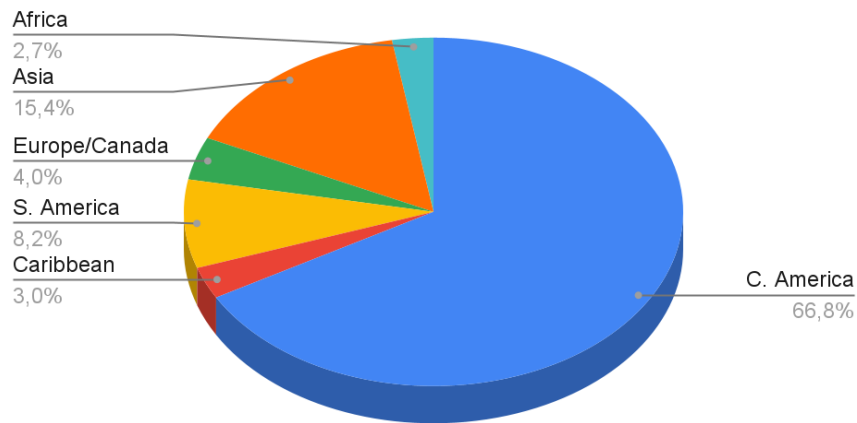


Figure 1: Regions of Birth (MPI, 2019)

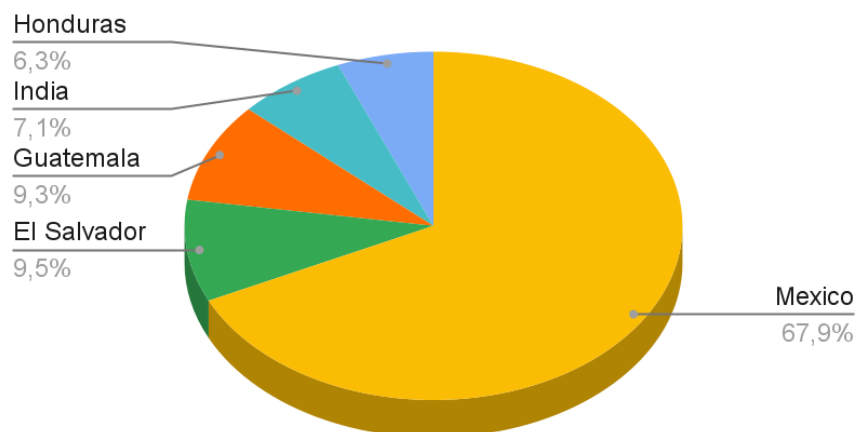


Figure 2: Top Countries of Birth (MPI, 2019)

As presented in the graphs above most illegal immigrants entering the United States unlawfully come from Central America. But the economic situation of most illegal immigrants is quite limited and so approximately 4,108,000 subjects don’t have a High School Diploma,

which represents 46% of the total, and only 24% have a High School certificate (MPI, 2019). As a consequence, 4,994,000 individuals don't speak English at all, this represents 46% of the 11,047,000 unlawful immigrants that currently reside in the United States. Although this number is a mere estimate as most illegal immigrants hide from the authorities and the total amount is expected to be higher.

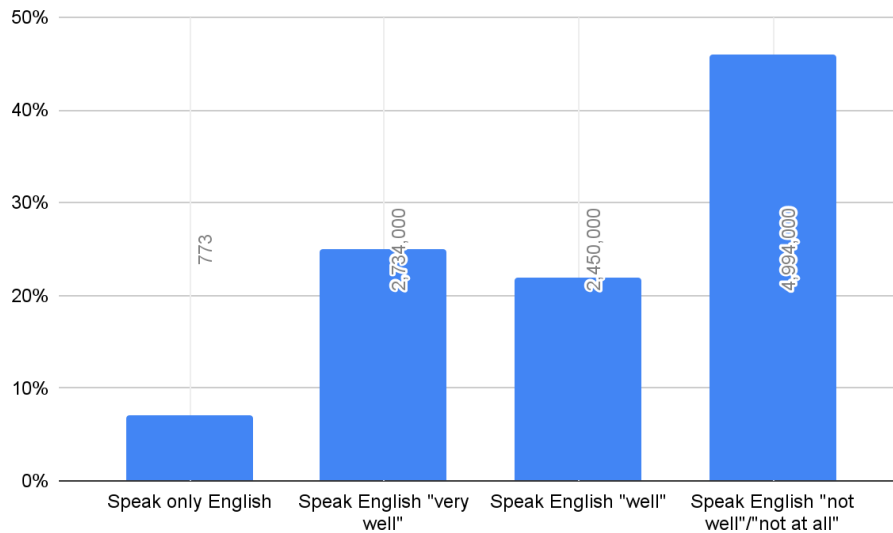


Figure 3: English Proficiency of illegal immigrants (MPI, 2019)

The language barrier generates an intangible mental wall between illegal immigrants and the local community, that nourishes cultural barriers, stereotypes, xenophobia and mistreatment from both ends. The language barrier also makes unlawful immigrants oblivious to the jurisdictions, laws and national discourse of the country, which thoroughly exposes them to human rights violations.

As presented in Graph 1, most illegal immigrants come from Central America and Asia, and so the main spoken languages are Spanish, English, Chinese, Tagalog and Portuguese. In addition, the following graph exposes the depth and presence of each of these languages.

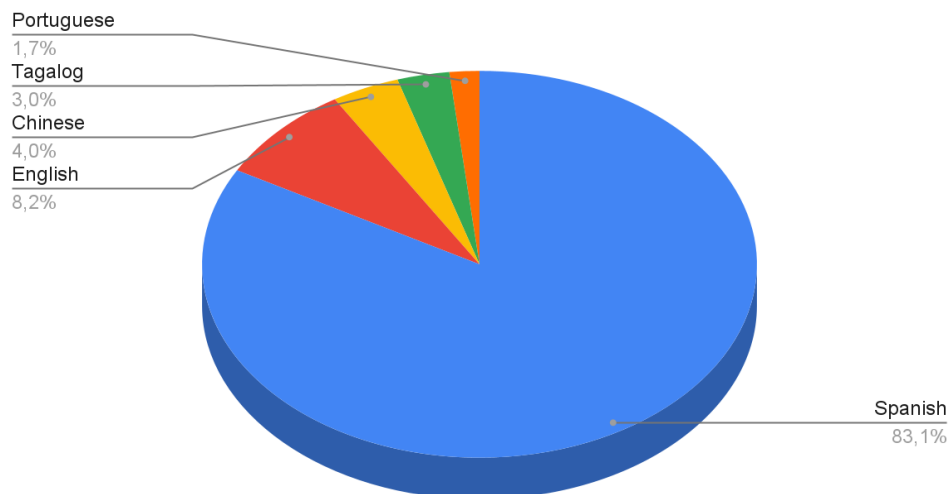


Figure 4: Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home (MPI, 2019)

Subsequently, when studying women migration flows it is crucial to take into account the marital and parental status, as it is a determinant factor in terms of which family member will migrate, when and how. Women tend to be more vulnerable to human rights violations when migration, as they usually travel with children and therefore, prioritize their safety and well-being over anything else. The following chart shows a visual analysis of the current situation of illegal immigrants crossing the US-Mexico border, in terms of family and marital status to further understand the current situation.

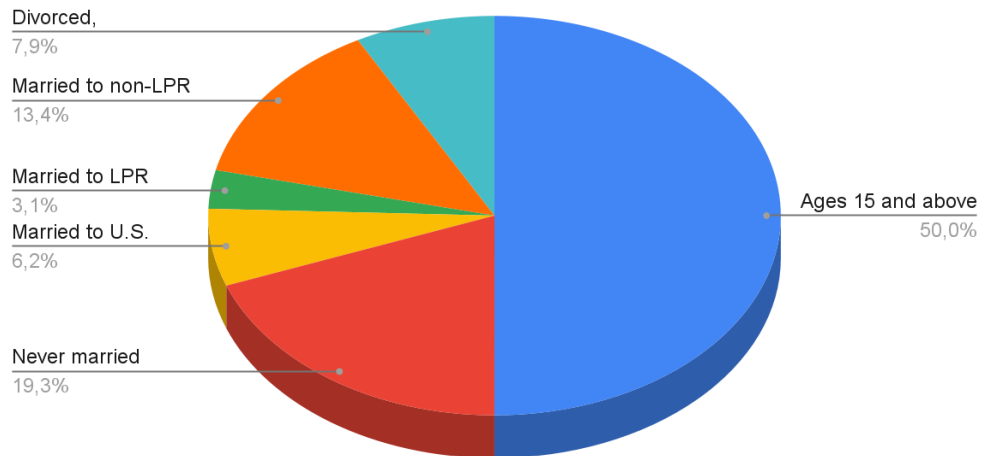


Figure 5: Marital Status of Illegal Immigrants (MPI, 2019)

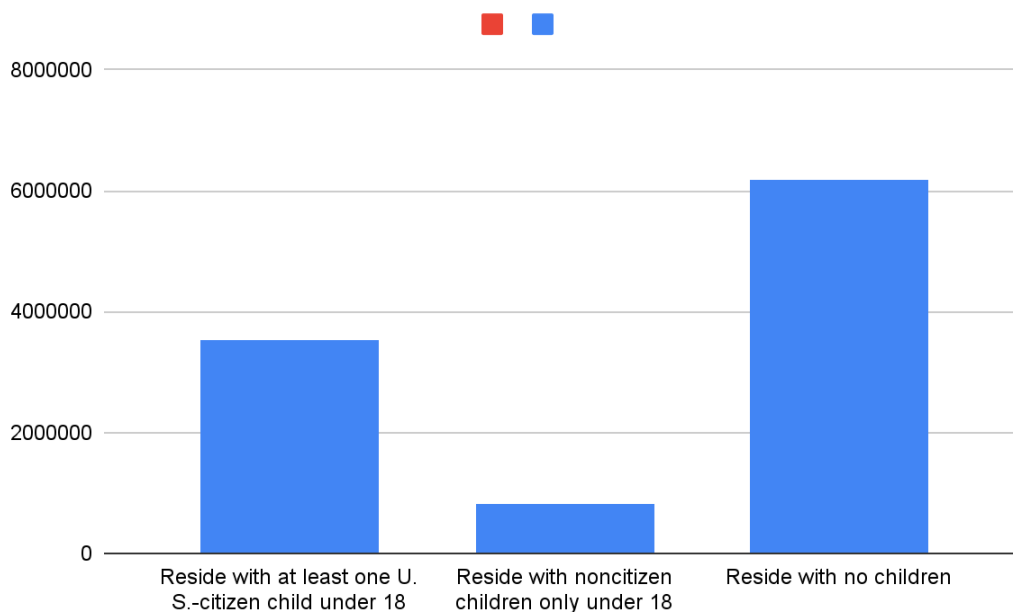


Figure 6: Parental Status of Illegal Immigrants (MPI, 2019)

It is easy to discern that most illegal immigrants travel and reside with no children. Furthermore, Graph 5 shows that more than 50% of the illegal population is more than 15 years old, almost 20% were never married, 13.4% are married to a non-LPR and only 3% are married to a LPR.

This brings into the table the concern that most illegal immigrants have a poor economy, with little to no money, and their unlawful immigration status only enables them to get jobs that are paid under the table. As a consequence, these subjects are forced to undertake jobs in the workforce, illegal Marijuana plantations dispersed in the mountains of California, prostitution or the drug business, among others.

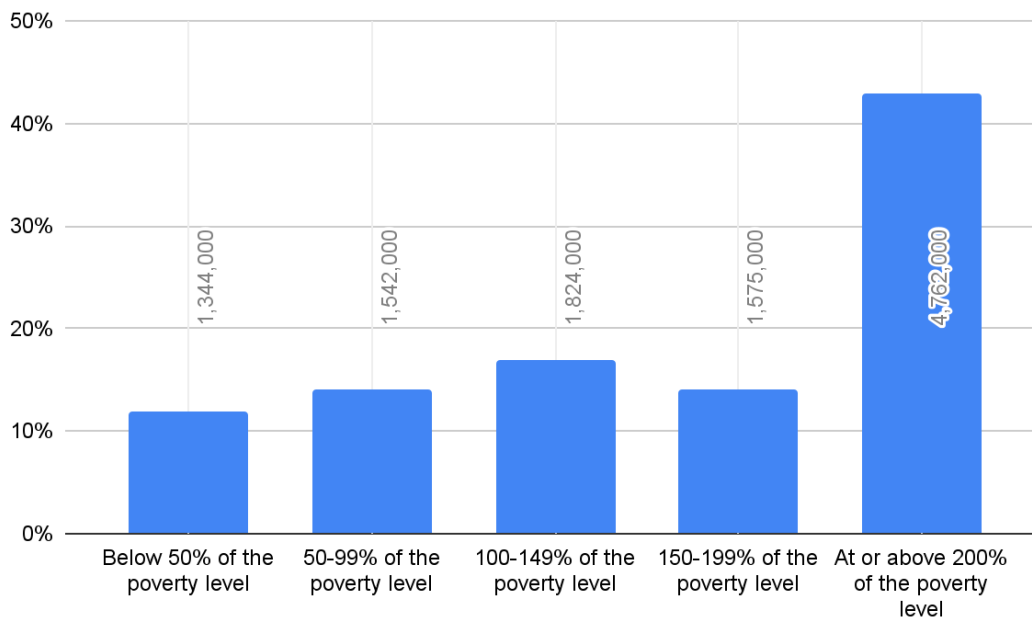


Figure 7: Economic situation and income (MPI, 2019)

The graph above presents an analysis of the economic situation and dimension of illegal immigrants in 2019 in terms of the poverty level. It is easy to discern that even though 43% remain 200% above poverty level, 27% remain within a 50% radius of the poverty level, and 31% are 100-199% above. This thoroughly affects the economy of the community as they take benefit of the public advantages, while not paying taxes.

Finally, it is important to mention that more than 60% of the unlawful immigrants are uninsured, which thoroughly poses a threat to the public health of the community and affects the buoyant problematic of homelessness. Additionally, approximately 3,069,000 non-LPR are homeowners in US territory that have simply retired or stayed after their visa expired. This still makes them unlawful immigrants that break INA terms and the aforementioned conditions stated under 8 CFR 212.1 (d).

1.1.3 RESEARCH JUSTIFICATION

The overall number of women migrating from the US-Mexico border to the United States is increasing at a fast rate, and nearly as many women as men currently decide to relocate (Denise A. S., Zavella, 2007). This gives rise to "...new social negotiations, which have not been well examined in migration studies" (Denise A. S., Zavella, 2007). All throughout history women have been obliterated by an unforthcoming society that would follow the national security discourse of the power of authority. Nowadays, even though society has evolved a long way and is no longer immature in many aspects, male and female roles are beginning to even out. And so it is imperative that women migrants are not disregarded anymore, hence the objective of this thesis.

"In an era of rapid climate change and escalating violence, migration flows unceasingly increase as means to escape a growing array of threats not covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention, which thoroughly needs to be updated. The current refugee protection regime and asylum system are ill-matched to the needs and vulnerabilities of today's migrants" (Solano, P. 2022)

Currently, the on-growing climate change phenomenon has made migration a buoyant problematic. There has been a recent change in the security paradigm that not only affects the United States, but rather the international society as a whole. As a consequence, this boosts both regular and irregular migration flows that altogether shape the relations between countries as well as the Foreign Policy of each State and the national security discourse. International security matters seem to be more and more connected to everyday personal security matters and migrant integration stands as a key factor towards success and evolution (Pompescu, 2015).

The ongoing migration crisis in the southern border of the United States is an on-growing problematic, that despite being known, it is victim of a system that assists itself. Both men and women irregular migrants searching for a better quality of life, end up victims of divergent abusive behaviors that break humanitarian law. The problem relies on the fact that when crossing the border illegally, these individuals are not protected by national jurisdiction and are therefore more exposed to the challenges posed crossing a border unlawfully. Additionally, these individuals attempt to stay under the radar and avoid authorities in order not to get caught, which leaves the door wide open for abusive behaviors.

The Interactive World Migration Report shows how the abusive behaviors that irregular migrants go through vary depending on gender and lead to recurrent human rights violations. However, most studies regarding irregular migration do not include gendered abusive behaviors, leaving this field as an undisclosed reality.

"Findings illustrate that female migrants are slightly more vulnerable at the intersection of social and physical factors than men" (McNamara-Marsland, 2022). It is important to highlight that female migrant death rates have increased in recent years and continue to do so at an exceptionally sharp rate. A study published by the University of Pennsylvania regarding how the recent changes in Migration Patterns and Gendered Physical & Social Attributes Affect the Crossing Experiences of Migrant Women in the U.S.-Mexico Border and

integration with the community proved that female migrants “...are more likely to die of harsh environmental effects” and human rights violations due to abusive authoritarian behaviors , “...with an especially strong difference between sexes in southern California, Arizona and Texas”. (K. McNamara-Marsland, 2022).

Additionally, migration studies also obliterate the sharp reality that these women have to face after crossing the US-Mexico border. However, this reality is very difficult to disclose. As a matter of fact, more than 70% of these women remain somewhat hidden and silent. The factors that influence this situation are the fear of the abusive behaviours of the national authorities and jurisdiction, embarrassment of being victims of sexual abuse or human trafficking in the past or even domestic violence situations that stops them from asking for help.

1.2 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This thesis consists of uncovering and further investigating the impact and after effects of US migration national securitization strategies on women illegal migrants. It thoroughly focuses on bringing into light the undisclosed reality that women irregular migrants face when moving into the United States unlawfully. The objective is to contribute to the theories of migration studies and research on the challenges posed by migration securitization procedures with a special focus on women illegal migrants.

Influential authors in the field of migration studies, such as Ibrahim Sirkeci, Everett Lee or Ernst Georg Ravenstein, the father of migration studies, narrow the investigations to broader research such as the Law of migration, borders and hard or soft power, or the most recent policy changes. However, few authors actually present migration studies with special focus on the individual itself where identity plays a key role.

Therefore, this research hinges on both big theories of migration such as that of Everett Lee or Hans Morgenthau, as means to understand migration global governance and its connection to the nation-state, as well as theories that study illegal migrants at a personal level by analyzing the identity and personal experience. In this context, it is important to highlight Amin Maalouf’s theory of identity and its key role in the act of migration, integration and open-mindedness of a country. The objective is to further explain the invisibilization of women in migration studies and especially those entering a country illegally.

Therefore, this thesis begins by taking a run down through history, US border securitization, the recent shift in the security paradigm and mobile borders, and migration flows as a gendered practice. The aim is to present a disclosure and delineation of the challenges women face when crossing the US-Mexico border illegally, the difficulties presented after crossing and the inconspicuous, but yet influential effects on legal migrants and the US society as a whole.

The analysis features the insertion of securitization measures with personal experiences that influence the US national mentality and treatment of newcomers, from the colonial past, to the emancipation process, the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001, the Drug Wars with Mexico and the outbreak of covid-19. Therefore, the analysis alludes to relevant amendments of the

Constitution of 1787, the origins of US-Mexico migration flows and its impact on US securitization measures and national security strategy, as means to further explain the foundations that shape the mentality of a protectionist society. This thesis also includes current migration policy concerns that affect women and pending regulations that leave illegal women migrants in a jurisdictional whole. The present study does not include securitization policies in European countries or any other country than the United States. Nor does it include the effects of such practices on societies outside of the United States.

2. METHODOLOGIES

In this thesis, irregular women migrants crossing the US-Mexico border are chosen as subjects of study. Therefore, the following research presents itself as an analysis on migration securitization as a gendered practice. In addition, it draws information upon both primary and secondary sources at the intersection of in-depth interviews and surveys, migrant death databases, border patrol records, human rights monitoring reports, USCIS regulations, migration policy concerns and US history.

This thesis stands as the beginning of an on-going, unfinished research that focuses on undocumented gendered migration flows, securitization in the United States, the change in the security paradigm at an international level, gender inequalities that pose human rights violations and mobile borders.

On that account, this thesis draws from primary sources such as 5 different interviews, the INA, INS, USCIS, official documents from the US National Archives, the DHS and the US government, amongst others. And so this mere study may occasionally be used as a secondary source in itself as it quotes and interprets the aforementioned primary sources. Additionally, it also draws upon secondary sources such as journal articles, university notes, histories, commentaries, encyclopedias or other research studies.

Therefore, this investigation presents comparative quantitative research through the interviews of 5 individuals during and after crossing the border, when connecting with the local community, their personal experiences and reality of the matter and their jurisdictional knowledge.

The interviewed immigrants were chosen based upon their legal status, form of entry into the United States, physical features (such as skin color and hair) and gender, as means to bring diversity into the research and study different experiences and ways of behaving. Finding subjects was extremely hard, as though most presented themselves unavailable and very scared either of the authorities or their own husbands. This is something I experienced first hand.

3. THEORETICAL APPROACH

3.1 THEORETICAL-CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

International Relations attempts to provide answers to the divergent problematics that the International Society faces, such as development studies, conflict resolution, migration flows, foreign policy or human rights violations. In 1914, in the context of World War I, International

Relations replaced the three imperative sciences that ruled the international society until then; history, diplomacy and law. Therefore, as “migration studies have remained an under-theorized field of social inquiry” (de Haas, H. 2021) due to the complexity of this phenomenon, the present thesis draws upon the aforementioned sciences that still today remain as main pillars of International Relations.

“A first essential step in our quest to achieve a more comprehensive theoretical understanding of migration is to connect migration theories to general social-scientific theories” (de Haas, H., Fransen, S., Natter, K., Schewel, K., & Vezzoli, S. 2020b). On that account, this research draws upon divergent theories that attempt to explain migration based on social, historical and economic differences between the countries of origin and the United States.

Therefore, migrants are contemplated in terms of large anonymous magnitudes, with special focus on the differences between males and females when migrating. Therefore, the main purpose of these large unidentified groups is to highlight the wealth, politics and power of the migrant’s countries of origin. Therefore, personal magnitudes will only be included as part of surveys and interviews in order to understand certain social spheres and get a broader sense of understanding. That is to say, the personal magnitudes will remain as impersonal figures, as means to further expose the migration crisis at an international level. Additionally, this thesis will draw upon the language of politicians, national and international security experts, philosophers, anthropologists, migration experts and history in itself.

Subsequently, this research focuses on the following theories as means to further explain the ongoing migration crisis as a gendered practice: Political Realism; the Labor Market Segmentation Theory; the New Economics of Migration theory; and most importantly, the feminist theory. Finding shelter in the voices of authority behind these concepts allows this thesis to make a valued judgment on the social impact of the aforementioned crisis and why there needs to be a change. Therefore, the arguments discussed throughout the following paper are based on the authors behind the aforementioned theories, rigorously avoiding personal opinion.

Before all else, this research falls back on the concept of Political Realism, as means to explain, model and prescribe political relations amongst States and the effects on society. This theory presents that “power ought to be the primary end of political action, whether in the domestic or international arena” (Antunes, S & Camisao, I. 2018). And although it criticizes the absence of a central authority above the state, altogether exposing the anarchic nature of the International Society as a whole, it will only be used as means to emphasize “humankind’s egoistic nature in the constraints of politics” (Antunes, S & Camisao, I. 2018).

When speaking of Political Realism, it is important to mention Hans Morgenthau, who gave this research enough perspective to argue that the migration governance at an international level is held back and obstructed by the nation-state centrism that rules foreign affairs. As presented in his essay *To Intervene or Not To Intervene* published in 1967, “there is nothing new in the contemporary doctrine opposing intervention or in the pragmatic use of intervention on behalf of individual nations’ interests” (Morgenthau, H., 1967). Hereby exposing the true egoistic nature of states foreign affairs.

Therefore, the concept of Political Realism stands at the core of the US-Mexico border migration crisis. Studies show that US authorities and border patrol are aware of different irregular entry strategies that illegal migrants often undertake and lead to violations of human rights. However, irregular migration brings cheap labor into the United States. As illegal workers attempt to stay out of the legal radar, they are not protected by national jurisdiction and therefore are often subject to forced labor, often leading to mental and physical abusive behaviors, enhanced by gender. Drawing upon Morgenthau's essay *To Intervene or Not To Intervene*, the United States could do something about this situation to protect human rights but rather ignores it for personal benefit.

Subsequently, this leads to the Labor Market Segmentation Theory which separates the labor market into different levels and supports that not everyone can go into all of them. According to this theory, the labor market is divided into two levels:

"the primary sector, that offers higher salaries and good job conditions; and the secondary sector that offers precarious, poorly paid, difficult, and even dangerous jobs, which are not covered by the natives but rather irregular migrants" that are not protected by national or international jurisdiction" (Cubillo, 2006).

When speaking of irregular migrants in the US-Mexico border, it is important to mention that they are far less educated than legal migrants or natives. This altogether forces them to undertake jobs in the secondary sector level due to a lack of capabilities. As they are often in precarious situations escaping from economic deficiency, political instability or hazardous situations, irregular migrants often take what they get in order to earn enough money to get by.

On the other hand, it is important to highlight the New Economics of Migration theory, that comes hand in hand and adds to the Labor Market Segmentation Theory, while adding some contrast. Although this theory focuses on the income the migrant will be able to make in the receiving country, it brings to light that the overall decision to migrate is influenced by the family itself (Cubillo, 2006). "This theory defends that migrations are not a matter of solitary or uprooted individuals, but that they take shape and are decided in a context of relationships" (Cubillo, 2006). If the migrant is young and single, the parents play an important role and they are the ones who decide who will emigrate to help the family (Antunes, S & Camisao, I. 2018). However, nowadays if the migrant is married, the decision will usually be made as partners and they will decide who emigrates first. In this scenario, if the family is not in a hazardous situation, the woman tends to travel first as the entry door to the labor market for women is broader than the entry door to the labor market for men (Cubillo, 2006). However, this also exposes them to unsafe, illegal situations that often conclude in personal abuse and human rights violations.

Nevertheless, what the aforementioned theory does not include is the fact that women often travel with children or during pregnancy, which puts them in more vulnerable situations. Studies show that "children and youth ages 5 to 17 accounted for 5 percent of immigrants and 18 percent of the U.S born" (Ward & Batalova, 2023). As a consequence, these women migrants become more desperate to earn money, regardless of the means. This leads them into looking for jobs in the secondary sector of the Labor Market Segmentation Theory,

which often leads to precarious situations of mental & physical abuse, human trafficking, sexual abuse or even death (Ward & Batalova, 2023).

Furthermore, when speaking of such matters it is important to highlight the term *feminisation of migration*. This “refers to both the increasing number of women migrating on their own and the gendered roles that women typically fill as migrant workers” (Center for Migrant Advocacy, 2014). In December 2021, Border Patrol Agents recorded 221.000 irregular entry apprehensions crossing the US-Mexico border through official entry ports and along the US southern border, out of which 51.65% are women (IOM, 2018).

“While women used to predominantly migrate for the purposes of reunification with their families or to accompany their husbands and kids, the majority of women now migrate independently” (Center for Migrant Advocacy, 2014). It is common for female migrant workers to “be employed for reproductive labor or within the service sector” (Center for Migrant Advocacy, 2014). As a consequence, lower wages and higher vulnerabilities often emerge as a result of the gendered roles that female migrant workers fill (Cubillo, 2006). This altogether “gives rise to specific problematic forms of migration, such as commercialized migration of women and girls as domestic workers and caregivers, often resulting in the trafficking of women for labor and sexual exploitation” (Caritas Internationalis, 2022).

That being the case, this thesis draws upon the feminist theory that “aims to interrogate inequalities and inequities along the intersectional lines of ability, class, gender, race, sex, and sexuality”(EKU, 2022). Moreover, it altogether supports that women have been victimized and their bodies used as a battlefield all throughout history. A key phenomenon that still today delineates the migration crisis at the US-Mexico border.

Furthermore, it is important to mention the historical-structural theory, which despite not being one of the main theories, also played an important role in the construction of this thesis. This theory supports that “migration occurs from countries that have been colonized or have been affected by the economy of a more powerful State, towards metropolitan countries” (Cubillo, 2006). This helps understand and visualize the US-Mexico migration crisis.

Ultimately, besides the main aforementioned theories it is important to briefly mention four different types of migration theories that also took part in the research development; Ravenstein's Laws of Migration; the Gravity Model; Stouffer's Theory of Migration; and Everett Lee's theory. These theories are key as means to further comprehend the concept of migration as a gendered practice and contrast the big voices behind migration theorization.

To begin with, Ravenstein's Laws of Migration identified generalizations concerning inner-country migrations. It established divergent “migration laws” that determine this phenomenon as a highly selective practice with distinct differentiation between males and females. It also states that the “volume of migration increases with the process of diversification of the economy, and improvement in transport facilities” (Woods, 1979:191).

Subsequently, in 1966 Everett Lee proposed a theory of migration that thoroughly studies the “spatial mobility of population in a certain area” (Cubillo, 2006). As a result, he suggests

four different factors that every migrant (both regular and irregular) takes into account and therefore, determines the overall action of migration itself; “factors associated with the place of origin, factors associated with the place of destination, intervening obstacles and personal factors” (Cubillo, 2006).

However, the reality of the aforementioned factors vary when it comes to men and women. “The relatively equal shares of women and men in migration flows hide significant differences in the circumstances of movement and the opportunities available” (Caritas Internationalis, 2022). Females tend to be more exposed to different kinds of risks, including sexual violence or human trafficking. However, let’s not forget that the aforementioned hazards also affect male migrants due to the lack of jurisdictional protection and liability.

3. 2 HISTORICAL AND SOCIOCULTURAL APPROACH TO THE USA

Understanding the ongoing migration crisis in the southern border of the United States, the effects of securitization measures and the never-ending feeling of insecurity is not easy. Therefore it is crucial to make a rundown through the history that shaped the society, foreign policy and national security measures of the United States as a whole. The overall objective of this section is to foreground the historical evolution of the United States, imperative when analyzing migration flows in the US-Mexico border and the effects of national securitization.

The United States stands as the third biggest country on earth, with an overall surface of 9.833 billion kilometers. In 2021, it had a total population of 331.9 million inhabitants, out of which 61 million were hispanic, which represents 18.9% of the total U.S. population. As a consequence, this group is “considered to be the nation's second largest racial or ethnic group after non-Hispanic whites” (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2021).

However, US-Mexico migration flows have been taking place since 1821, when Mexico went from being a colony of the Spanish Empire, to an independent State of its own. Subsequently, in 1846 as an immediate effect of the Mexican-American War, migration flows were immediately enhanced. In 1948, the conflict concluded with Mexico losing 55% of its overall territory in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, “including parts of the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming” (National Archives and Records Administration, 2023).

Nevertheless, the first official outbreak took place in the 1900s in the context of the Mexican Revolution. During that time, the United States had already become a powerful nation with a strong economy. As a consequence, this altogether led to a significant increase in Mexican immigration rates, from individuals trying to find a more stable economy and a better quality of life. As a matter of fact, from 1910 to 1930, the number of Mexican immigrants went from 200,000 to 600,000, without taking into account irregular undocumented migrants due to the complexity when tracking them.

Since 2021, “a greater demographic diversity of southwest border apprehensions have been noted” (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2021). Official governmental records show that the US Border Patrol detained more than 1.7 billion irregular migrants crossing the US-Mexico border in that same year (MPI, 2023). However, studies show that many of the

apparent regular migrants crossing the border bribed their way into the United States by paying border patrol officers or a professional specialized group.

3.2.1 COLONIAL ORIGINS OF THE UNITED STATES

Notwithstanding, it is important to highlight the importance of immigration in the formation and evolution of the United States as a whole. Undeniably, it is a country created by migrants and nations. The first British settlers arrived in 1580. However, it was not until 1607 when the first permanent settlement was established in Jamestown, Virginia, by the London Company. This marked the origins of the Thirteen Colonies that would condemn the British Crown (King George III) and sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Originally, the British colonial territories of North America were a place of freedom for all ethnicity, culture and religion. A place where cultural and social white European outcasts would move trying to find a new life with better economic opportunities, while avoiding political or religious pressure. This was the case of Penn State .

However, the British Colonial Empire sheltered itself within two main ideas that stood as the main pillars of the British mentality for several centuries: freedom and trade. Certainly, such ideals of freedom were based upon English cultural traditions of representation that established social limits and guaranteed a very limited list of civil liberties for the colonies (Campos Yuste, J. 2022). This idea was imperative for the establishment of the English Empire as the ideological base of the English society as a whole, including the colonies as a matter of course.

Furthermore, the second pillar of the British Colonial Empire was trade, which shaped the mentality of the colonial territories until the present day. The commerce of North American agricultural products became the main source of wealth in the colonies as well as the most important financial resource for the Empire. The main idea was to do a two-way trade where raw materials were transported from America to London, where they would get manufactured and subsequently return to Boston where they would be sold for a much higher price. However, this set the prices of mainland manufactured products far too high to the middle class colonial citizens, whose economy was based on agriculture. As a consequence, the two-way trade concept somehow evolved into a triangle of trade that would bring slaves from Africa directly to the United States and be sold as workforce. This became one of the most common practices in the British colonial territories due to its affordability; it stood as a much cheaper force of labor.

Additionally, it is important to highlight the British colonization enterprise and its focus on campaigns of conquest against Native American nations. This stood as aggressive campaigns directed towards powerful European rivals that were also present in the North American continent, such as the Spanish, Portuguese and the French.

When speaking of this, it is crucial to mention two fundamental processes: the imposition of English rule through the conquest of the former European colony with violent wars between the natives and the English; and the assimilation process (Campos Yuste, J, 2022). Through the process of imposition, the colonial territories made transformations based on the forced

replacement of its own elite through a campaign of conquest and the establishment of an English political and cultural system. On the other hand, through the assimilation process a new ruling elite was presented. This brought new socio-cultural patterns that thoroughly gave rise to new social and political institutions (Yuste, 2022).

At this point, both the colonies and the native nations were divided into two different patriarchal societies that pose military threats to one another. This altogether led to the conquest of lands and native populations through a process of extermination and expulsion. The operation began with the Royal Proclamation Line of 1763 that settled a border in the Appalachian Mountain range and prohibited settlers from “establishing lands acquired by the French as a consequence of the French and Indian War” (McCutchen, J. 2023). However, this process was followed by the extension through the Great Plains and cession of territories to the highest bidder for future colonization.

The final process of the colonial conquest was the establishment of a slave economy that shaped the mentality of the British settlers until the present day. As a consequence, this practice led to the origins of racial inequality and segregation in terms of race and attributes that are socially attached to inherited characteristics such as skin color, amongst others.

Subsequently, the conquest of French territories in North America led to a reorganization of the borders of the British Empire and its integration into the colonial territories. As the different wars against France in Europe affected the colonies, this situation led to the British conquest of most of the French territories in America, east of the Mississippi and north of the Great Lakes, as well as the acquisition of Florida after the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) through the Treaty of Paris (Yuste, 2022).

From 1763 until 1776, the suffocating reforms implemented by King George III led to great social dissatisfaction (Yuste, 2022). Amongst the main issues, it is important to highlight the military pressure, in main colonial cities such as Boston and New York, that remained after the Seven Years War. The permanent military presence together with the constant feeling of insecurity and abuse by the British Empire led to the constitutional right to weapons as a securitization measure in order to avoid future abuse by the power authority (Kenedy, 2019).

However, the inflexion point came with the pretension of the metropolis to establish a taxation system in the colonies as means to contribute to the general expenses of the Empire. This altogether led the colonial society to a state of unhappiness and rebellion (Kenedy, 2019). As a consequence, diverse insurgent groups arose as means to undermine and expel British rule. Thereafter, it is important to mention the Sons of Liberty, “a well-organized Patriot, insurgent, paramilitary, political organization shrouded in secrecy and responsible for carrying out different events such as the Boston Tea Party” (Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, 2023). As a consequence of their religious beliefs they established the motto One Nation under God, that once shaped the minds of the British colonial societies in America, and still does, giving a sense of identity to the inhabitants of the United States.

3.2.2 THE PROCESS OF INDEPENDENCE AND EMANCIPATION PROCESS

During the emancipation process arose the Dominance Theory by John Adams², very important in shaping the colonial mentality towards getting ready for independence. This concept defended that the colonists had the ability to manage their own foreign policy, which was until then fully controlled by British sovereign power (Yuste, 2023). This establishes for the first time a common colonial rejection towards the British Parliament, its jurisdiction and authority.

The Dominance Theory established the concepts of life, freedom, happiness and propaganda as fundamental rights. These concepts still shape the modern mentality and political approach of US Society. However, just like the British Colonial Empire's two main ideas of freedom and trade, these values were based upon the colonial cultural traditions of representation that shaped the settlers mentality and therefore, established social limits towards ethnic minority groups (McCutchen, J. 2023).

On July 4th, 1776, a newly drafted Declaration of Independence was adopted in Philadelphia. The first draft was written by Thomas Jefferson and signed by the 56 representatives of the new states that would make up the republican nation. The declaration was presented as a historical actor with appeal to natural rights and appellation to the Natural Law as means to justify the conditions for obtaining independence (McCutchen, J. 2023). It was influenced by writers from the French Enlightenment, such as Montesquieu, Voltaire and Rousseau, and addressed three levels of opinion: the settlers; the sympathy of liberal public opinion in England; and served as proof of the colonies' actions before international public opinion.

These conditions were based on Liberty and Equality, the main ideals of the Revolution, and would focus on the social and political assimilation capacity of newcomers. "Given the existence of slavery in the colonies and the brutality with which the colonists treated Indians who posed obstacles to their land grabs, the Declaration's insistence that -all men are created equal- could not have been viewed as more than gross hypocrisy" (Cohen I., W. 2018).

However, the ideals of Freedom and Equality posed two different problematics that had direct impact on the mentality of the settlers. The first was the opposition between Liberty and Equality against Racism. This opposition was based on the needs for social equality between the different white strata and the reality of slavery and destructive attitudes towards the Native American population (Yuste, 2022). The Revolution changed the effects of servitude on poor estates and made native americans work just as hard as black slaves and under similar conditions. This end thoroughly increased racial segregation in societies where the economy was based on day-to-day hard labor (the South and the western border) and led to an imminent evolution in those regions isolated from these problems, the North, deepening the division between the North and South (Yuste, 2022).

Subsequently, the second problematic highlighted the ideals of integration and segregation in white societies. "During colonial times, integration was perceived as the ability to gain prestigious status in the metropolis by the colonial elites or to obtain political prestige" (Cohen I., W. 2018). Even though independence focused on the social and political

² John Adams happened to be the first president to live in the White House.

assimilability of newcomers, a differentiation arose between the white population and the 5 million European immigrants who arrived on US shores until 1845 (Yuste, 2022). This is determined as Nativism, a mentality that still shapes the US behavior towards immigration.

Subsequently, the War of Independence fueled the need for a written constitution. At the beginning of the war, each state had its own constitutional text. And so, from 1777 to 1788, the 13 territories adopted the Confederation Articles as means to collect the interests of all 13 States. These articles established the name of the Confederation as *The United States of America*; that the executive power would be exercised by a Committee of 13; and that Congress representation would be done by States, with the need of acquiring 9 votes out of 13 to make any determination (Cohen I., W. 2018).

On September 17th, 1787 a new federal Constitution was drafted at the Philadelphia Convention. However, it was not ratified until June 21st, 1788 (Burger, W.E., 1992). The newly written Constitution presented a balance between the national and federal plan by dividing the legislative power into a bicameral institution, as means to establish a balance of power. Therefore, the legislative power was divided into the Chamber of Representatives (the national plan) and the Senate (the federal plan) (Burger, W.E., 1992).

However, despite the attempts to achieve a balance in power, the racial segregation that remained from the past and delineated the mentality of the national society, was portrayed in the creation of this new political system. The problem was that influential, rich men of the Southern States would vote for themselves ³ (Cohen I., W. 2018).

The new system was undoubtedly created and fueled by social segregation. It was a well created system that assisted itself with amendments such as the Elastic Clause. In this context, it is important to highlight Article 1a, Section 8 that “gives Congress the power to “make all laws necessary and proper to execute future powers” (Art 1 (a), sec 8, Elastic Clause).

In 1861, the situation concluded in a civil war that would continue until 1865 as means to abolish slavery, deal with economic policies and delineate the reach of the Federal government (Yuste, 2022). This armed conflict confronted the Union troops that represented the northern states, against the Confederate troops from the southern states of the United States. Ultimately, the Civil War concluded with the abolition of slavery. However, racial segregation did not end there.

In 1865 the Congress ratified the Reconstruction Amendments , also known as the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments of the Constitution. These set of rules abolished slavery and established political equality (citizenship & voting rights) to all Americans.

“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction” (13th Amendment, US Constitution, 1865)

³ This brings the question of the amount of seats that would correspond to those who have a higher amount of black population.

Nevertheless, racism, xenophobia and racial segregation were too entrenched within the cultural values and views of the United States' society as a result of having slavery as the economic core of the nation since the colonial origins of the country.

As a consequence, a collection of laws were enforced lasting from 1876 until 1975 as means to marginalize once again African Americans and other non-white ethnic groups. These local statutes were known as the Jim Crow Laws and found shelter behind the motto "separate but equal". The main objective "focused on racial segregation in all public facilities that applied to African Americans and other non-white ethnic groups" (History.com, 2018). This altogether led to the enhancement of racial segregation and avoided reinsertion of immigration. The Jim Crow laws could be considered as one of the first securitisation measures that prevented migrant integration by assisting racial segregation.

Additionally, as a consequence of the abuse of power and authority by the British Empire, the "right to people to keep and bear arms" (Burger, W.E., 1992) was drafted as the Second Amendment of the new Constitution. This article stated that "a well regulated Militia is necessary to the security of a free State, and therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed" (US Constitution, 1787). In this context, "the Constitution allows Congress to call forth the militia to execute the laws of the United States, repel invasions, and suppress rebellions" (Campbell, J. , 2009)

3.2.3 THE EFFECTS OF THE HISTORICAL ORIGINS ON MODERN SOCIETY

It was not until the end of World War II when the country sought development in the civil rights spectrum by President Lyndon Johnson. In 1954, under his rule the Supreme Court established educational segregation as unconstitutional. In 1964 the Civil Rights Act was signed, "which legally ended the segregation established by the Jim Crow Laws" (History.com, 2018). Subsequently, in 1965 the Voting Rights Act was ratified as means to outlaw discrimination voting behaviors (History.com, 2018)

However, despite the implementation of these rights that certainly assisted the evolution of human rights as a whole and even though the Jim Crow rules were officially abolished, the behavior of a bygone segregative society still remained in the pillars of the US community. As a matter of fact, the after effects of centuries of apartheid still remained.

As a consequence, in the 1940s, the U.S. INS built a 14 mile chain barrier along the San Diego-Tijuana border to try to control and mitigate migration flows within the United States. The project was approved by the U.S. President George H. W. Bush and set the outset of the famous wall that would turn this borderland into a *hard border*⁴.

⁴ Borderlands are categorized into soft and hard borders. While soft borders include open and regulated frontiers, hard borders focus on wire fenced, walled, and militarized frontiers (Vogeler, I, 2018). Bearing this in mind, it is important to highlight that the 1951 mile US-Mexico border has both types of borderlands. the open space free of border patrol and any security measure, makes it a soft border, while the militarized, walled area makes it a hard border.

In order to eliminate race discrimination activities towards immigrants, in 1965 the Immigration and Nationality Act was ratified. During that time 84% of US migrants came from Europe and Canada, 6% from Mexico, 3.8% from South East Asia, 3.5% from Latin America and 2.7 percent were from other parts of the world (Kennedy, 2019). In addition, up to today, Chapter 3, segment A, of section 245(i) of the INA establishes as non-citizens with lawful immigration status the following individuals: noncitizens, refugees, asylees, parolees, noncitizens in TPS, LPR including lawful temporary residents and conditional permanent residents; and “noncitizens lawfully present in the Commonwealth of the CNMI⁵ between November 28th, 2009 and November 27th, 2011 based on a valid, unexpired, and lawfully obtained period of stay authorized prior to November 28th, 2009 that remains valid” (INA, 1965).

Furthermore, in 1990 began the construction of the current wall, under the authority of president Bill Clinton. However, the project only accomplished the construction of the first few miles. As to this matter, there have been four imperative votes in Congress until today; The Secure Fence Act (2006); The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S 744) (2013); The 2018 federal budget; and the 2019 federal budget.

Subsequently, the second Amendment still shapes the mentality of the US community. As a matter of fact, “the Supreme Court recognizes that the Second Amendment is compatible with strong firearm regulations and safety at home” (Kennedy, 2019). But the overall concept of “needing” to be protected establishes the thought that there is something to be protected from, which leads to the creation of a common enemy. But what or who does the US community need to be protected from?

Certainly the concept of enemy or menace has changed throughout the years. It all depends on the international interests and interstate relations of the United States, often included in the Foreign Policy strategy of the country. First were the blacks and other non-white ethnic groups living in the United States, as a consequence of the global migration that moved to the United States and the divergent international wars that formed the overall territory.

Then came the fear of far-left movements, such as communism, and those supporting such political ideals in the 1920’s which brought the first Red Scare. Subsequently came McCarthyism and, once again, the fear and political prosecution of communists as a consequence of the Soviet expansion and the Cold War. During this time, “Senator Joseph McCarthy repeatedly told the public that they should be fearful of subversive Communist influence” (University of Virginia, 2023).

This began another prosecution campaign known as the second Red Scare that created a constant national fear towards an enemy that lived amongst the US community and therefore could be anywhere. Finally the misassociation of Arabs with terrorists was introduced as a consequence of the 9/11 attacks that changed the US national security strategy, foreign policy and overall sense of protection to the level of the individual. This re-brought the concept of a constant intangible enemy that could be anyone, anywhere, and

⁵ The CNMI covers the 14 northern islands of the Mariana Archipelago. However, the southern island known as Guam is a different territory of the United States.

putting individuals in the position of having to declare themselves innocent on a constant basis.

3. 3 THE SECURITY PARADIGM, MOBILE BORDERS AND MIGRATION

According to CBS News Outlet, in the year 2022 more than 853 migrants passed away when attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border unlawfully, making it the deadliest for migrants recorded by the U.S. government (CBS News, 2023). As a consequence, this has led to a change in the security paradigm at an international level. For the first time, national security issues have become connected to everyday life of individuals, who have become codependent of securitization measures to feel more protected.

However, the shift of borderlands and territorial limits currently puts in demise the figure of the State as a sovereign power. Taking into account the three key elements that make up a State: a government or power of authority, population and a clearly delineated territory. This thoroughly leads to a recent change in the overall concept of war, strategies and modus operandi. The economic and human costs of military wars have become too expensive and new international security strategies have arisen as means to avoid and replace armed conflict.

Since the establishment of the concept of State Sovereignty with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, “the security of a country has been seen in territorially fixed terms as a primarily military and geopolitical issue that revolved around the protection of the institution of the state” (Popescu, G. 2015). Until recently, there was a dual distinction between securing the State’s territorial sovereignty and the day-to-day safety of the citizens at the level of the individual. However, globalization and mobility imperatives have altered this security function (Popescu, G. 2015), leading to an overall shift in the security paradigm at an international level.

The phenomenon of globalization and the development of free trade have brought a change in the focus of contemporary borders, developing a new understanding of national societies through mobility processes. As a consequence, this ushers a paradox in the contemporary concept of borders and international security. Even though the “liberation of trade has developed a frictionless movement of money and goods, it has simultaneously led to a restricted movement of goods and people without enough economic sources” (Amilhat Szary, A. & Giraut, F. 2018).

Moreover, the paradox relies on the fact that “globalization, facilitated by time-space compression technologies, has moderated some of the ties that bind cross-border regions, while concurrently inciting the resurgence of nationalisms, regionalisms, and localisms” (Amilhat Szary, A. & Giraut, F. 2018). As a consequence, this has thoroughly increased social, technological, economical and political interdependencies due to an increasing strength of western-based multinational corporations and the power that economic supremacy brings. This paradox “questions the view of borderlands as peripheral spaces of liminality and hybridity” (Anzaldúa, 1987).

Furthermore, it is important to mention that “borders allow for the society to sustainably

categorize its members (ethnic, social, religious, cultural..)" (Strauss, 2015). According to Anthony Giddens, the modern state acts as a 'power container' and therefore, territoriality is used as a mere device for sovereign States to achieve a desired outcome. Up until now, borderlands have acted as "power, wealth and cultural vessels" (Giddens,. Through power, the state used its borderlands in order to intensify the sovereign power and control over the citizens. However, the end of World War II brought a change in the ethos of states themselves, which thoroughly led to a transition of the Sovereign State as a power vessel into a wealth container. Subsequently, the development of the Mercantilist State in Europe, during the XVI, XVII, XVIII centuries, fueled the evolution of a state-like behavior that revolved around the profitable revenue for national wealth accumulation. In addition, borderlands act as cultural containers, by setting physical and mental barriers that assist nationalisms. As a consequence, these nationalisms are used as a tool to create national identity. People make up nations due to common cultural and historical values as well as the need to feel connected to a community.

That being said, borderlands present three different social universes of operation that make border controls operate in three levels; the *military–strategic field*; the *internal security field*; and the *global cyber-surveillance social universe*. The first social universe include geopolitics of enmity, such as the US-Mexico wall, and other physical measures of containment. Furthermore, the second social universe in border control manages population flows when crossing the borderland, with special focus in the separation of irregular migrants from those crossing legally. Ultimately, the third universe pivots around the visualization of borders and the "practical aspects in terms of mobility and real-time traceability. The main objective is to follow the data as means to predict anticipated acts and movements in the name of a preventive agenda" (Taylor, P. 1994).

Nevertheless, the aforementioned phenomenon of globalization and liberalization of trade have fueled an increase of irregular migration flows that have subsequently led to a change in security concerns. Currently, the thin lines that once separated national and international security issues have blurred in. As a consequence, this has led to the "penetration of security policies and practices deep into the fabric of society to the level of the individual" (Popescu, G. 2015). Security matters are "now captured by social security⁶ and human security⁷" (Popescu, G. 2015), thoroughly increasing the personal connection between security threats and the individual.

As a consequence, security matters have become detached from the institution of the State and are directly connected to everyday life and individuals themselves. As a consequence, this leads to a thorough "transition from a territorially fixed to a territorially mobile approach in security" (Popescu, G. 2015). This has thoroughly developed securitization measures of everyday life, instead of State territoriality first as means to attempt to establish a constant feeling of safety and peace at a personal level.

Additionally, this leads to the imposition of national security strategies that secure the national group, while simultaneously securing the individual. However, this gives local

⁶ Social security includes a transnational phenomenon that altogether poses existential identity and protection threats to a specific community.

⁷ On the other hand, human security is the protection of the individual on a daily basis.

policies that once had the sole objective of securing the individual self, a much broader denotation as they also focus on securing the national group. Therefore, mobility has made security become the risk supervisor on daily life threats that could oppose change to the political, economic or social environment of the community.

As a result, “the execution of border-making strategies have relocated to the human body itself, creating mobile and embodied “frontiers” easy to locate and eliminate (Popescu, G. 2015). However, this creates a constant feeling of personal unsafety and fear towards foreign, intangible threats that “could be anywhere”. Everyday life is seen as an object that needs to be secured and regulated. And on a daily basis these border-making strategies make the individual self prove it's not a menace to society.

As a result, Governmental sovereign powers have incorporated these concerns into their security discourses. They establish policies and institutions that maintain an overall feeling of national security and peace, “far away” from possible threats that could damage the overall system. This is the example of The Department of Homeland Security in the United States, where the word *Homeland* is used to confort population, by giving it a familiar, direct association to “home”.

However, “many securitization practices adopted in the borderlands lead to the deaths of hundreds of individuals while attempting to cross the border into the United States” (Taylor, P. 1994), often violating human rights. As a consequence, this leads to a justification when “discussing the legitimacy of these border control policies. While masking the situation of the tens of thousands who are detained and sent back, as well as the millions of people who are otherwise prevented from entering the United States” (Amilhat Szary, A. & Giraut, F. 2018).

The ever growing migration flows have positioned mobility as a key concept in the foreign policy and national security strategies of the United States. As the “threat of military aggression from other states has diminished security discourses have reframed national security threats in terms of transnational phenomena” (Popescu, G. 2015). A new set of arrays However, this newly embedded mobility securitization measures have different effects on male and female migrants, positioning the overall practice of migration as a gendered practice.

3.2 THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF US NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGIES

“America is at war. This is a wartime national security strategy required by the grave challenge we face, the rise of terrorism fueled by an aggressive ideology of hatred and murder, fully revealed to the American people on September 11th, 2001. This strategy reflects our most solemn obligation: to protect the security of the American people” (Bush W., G, 2006).

“An America that is safe, prosperous, and free at home is an America with the strength, confidence, and will to lead abroad. It is an America that can preserve peace, uphold liberty, and create enduring advantages for the American people. Putting America first is the duty of our government and the foundation for U.S.

leadership in the world. A strong America is in the vital interests of not only the American people, but also those around the world who want to partner with the United States in pursuit of shared interests, values, and aspirations” (Trump, D. 2017).

These are some of the outsets of different National Security Strategies from the Bush Administration in 2006 and the Trump Administration in 2017. It is easy to discern the state-centric, nationalist perspective that both discourses project as means to maintain a protectionist society. Since the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the National Strategy of the United States has been rooted in a protectionist nature as means to shield and separate (rather than protect) the values and ideals of the so-called American people⁸. In it, the word alien is used repeatedly as part of the national security strategy’s discourse to mislead and create a negative connotation for all migrants and newcomers.

Certainly in order for a National Security Strategy to work, the Federal Government needs the support of the people, whether it comes in a direct or indirect way. The community itself needs to have a sense of national identity, believe in the aforementioned separation of “*us versus them*” and have a common enemy. Furthermore, this common enemy is easier to establish with it being of foreign origins.

Politics are based on popular vision and ideologies. Certainly, since the 9/11 terrorist attacks there has been a change in the discourse of national security and protectionism. This discourse is somehow connected to the aforementioned sense of insecurity and nationalism that thrived in the creation of the United States Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Therefore, clear connections with different statutes and regulations still remain deep within the cultural identity and political tissue of US society, such as the 2nd amendment and the right to weapons.

American politics have an aggressive, protectionist approach. However, these outdated statutes and regulations that constitute the political pillars of the US society cannot be eliminated because it would be an unpopular measure that would make people rise against whomever carried out the change. It is entrenched too deep within the cultural tissue. Instead, it is constantly used as propaganda to keep feeding US national identity and therefore, try to shape political elections towards one direction or another.

As a matter of course, it is important to draw upon the aforementioned “Dominance Theory” by John Adams that once established propaganda as one of the four fundamental rights of US society during the emancipation process. This did not only set the preface to the creation of the Declaration of Independence, but rather carved the mentality that shaped the creation and future of the US political pillars and social identity.

After months of studying the US National Security Strategies from the year 2000 until 2017, it is certain to depict the use of a simple language and discourse made for the masses as a simple yet highly influential form of propaganda. The objective is to sell certain ideals that conform to the overall mentality of a protectionist society. In other words, National Security

⁸ America is the name of the continent, yet it is commonly miss-used to refer to the country of the United States.

Strategies are made for the people to feel secure and remain content with the sovereign power.

The aforementioned quotes were chosen for the extreme approach and discourse they depict, as means to show the objective that the government attempts to share. In them, it is easy to discern the theoretical ideals that politicians are trying to depict and sell to the “American people”. Certainly, every government needs the legitimate population to carry out the different national interests, governmental approaches and overall objectives. Therefore, on the subject of social security measures, such as the US-Mexico border wall or segregation policies, not only is it crucial for US inhabitants to want them but also to ask for them. In other words, it is imperative for these measures to be legitimized within the individuals that make up the community, hence the objective of the speech.

In order to achieve this, it is imperative to give away fear and spread it through the media, social networks, etc. The objective is to make the sense of fear and unsafety so strong that the community asks the ruler to impose an iron fist, regardless of the fact that those measures often diminish the freedom of each individual. Ironically, this thoroughly contradicts the main discourse that shapes the minds and common thought of the United States community.

Which brings us to question the overall notion of Freedom in the United States. Maybe the United States is not so Free, but it is rather used as part of the political discourse to shape the minds of the US population, make them feel free, while they actually remain constrained and hidden behind the fear of the unknown. The populist and biased discourse of Freedom has modified the beliefs of the people projecting fear over those international political matters that affect the national interests of the United States, highlighting a series of stereotypes that ask for the implementation of protective laws and measures.

Therefore, it is important to highlight that the change of discourse affects the perception of the US community to the level of the individual. A clear example of this is the influence of the Second Amendment on the population. As mentioned beforehand, it cannot be eliminated or changed as it would be an unpopular measure and people would go against whomever changed it. This shows the dependence of politics on the popular vision and common thought.

3.3 MIGRATION POLICY CONCERNS AND PENDING REGULATIONS

To begin with, the sake of this research is to mention the term legal egalitarianism, the (often unfollowed) principle that all individuals must be equally protected by the law. Additionally, when speaking of such matters, experts bring into the table the concept of deductive logic. In 1919, Lucas Nicholas defined this concept in the article Logic and Law as the science of reasoning from a general rule to a particular instance (Nicholas, 1919), making it fundamental to the practice of Law as a whole.

However, as presented by John Rawls in the book *The Law of Peoples* (1993), the modern law has no egalitarian distributive component (p.13). As a matter of fact, in order for it to be of egalitarian purposes, national justice would require that political institutions maintain “...

the fair value of the political liberties, so that persons similarly motivated and endowed have, irrespective of their economic income and social class, roughly equal chances” (Rawl, J. 1993, p 41-82) to gain economic growth and to influence the political decisions that shape their lives (pg 225).

Therefore, despite the original idea that Law is egalitarian, it is not. In this context, if law is not equal, then it goes against its own nature and essence, making it illogical. As a consequence, when Law is not logical then it stops being a law and becomes a forced rule or imposition towards those minorities that it does not cover.

This concept stands as a key element when exposing and comprehending migration policy concerns. The loose ends in migration policies at an international level make this an explosive and highly contradictory field, full of holes that need to be addressed for the protection of individuals.

This being said, on April 6th, 2023, the Council on Foreign Relations announced that the US Congress currently fails “to agree on how to address immigration challenges, leaving many policy questions up to the courts and executive branch” (Blake, M. 2023).

When speaking of this it is important to highlight the previously mentioned INA. The matters disclosed in section 245 (i) used to allow irregular immigrants to undergo a Green Card⁹ application by paying \$1,000 until recently. However, it is important to highlight that giving permission to apply does not mean approval for a Green Card, as other matters are taken into consideration. “Applications have to be screened for criminal and medical history, and the likelihood that the applicant will become dependent on welfare” (Camarota and Vaughan, 1997). As a matter of fact, a Green Card was and still is extremely hard to receive.

However, according to INA, section 245(c)(2), an applicant is ineligible for adjustment of status if the subject is in “an unlawful immigration status on the date of filing the adjustment application”. This already presented an incongruence and loophole that needed to be addressed. However, the ban does not apply to:

“...Immediate relatives; VAWA-based applicants; noncitizen doctors and their accompanying spouse and children; certain G-4 international organization employees, NATO-6 employees, and their family members; special immigrant juveniles; certain members of the U.S. armed forces and their spouses and children; or employment-based applicants who meet the INA 245 (k) exemption” (INA, 1965).

Nevertheless, the INS 245 (i) has been subject to an adjustment of status. As a consequence, any person who has lived in the United States unlawfully for six months or more, is banned from reentering the country lawfully from 3 to 10 years, depending on how long the illegal stay lasted. In other words, when the visa comes to an end, illegal immigrants are forced to leave the United States from 90 days to six months, depending on the visa.

“According to a recent analysis by the INS, in 2000 roughly 25 percent of legal immigrants were 245(i) recipients” (Camarota and Vaughan, 1997). This is equivalent to about 230,000

⁹ A Green Card is the official authorization to fully work and live permanently in the United States as a permanent resident.

individuals. Nevertheless, the State Department still estimates that “...perhaps 1 million people on visa waiting lists are residing in the United States illegally. Clearly, such a system encourages illegal immigration” (Camarota and Vaughan, 1997).

The truth is that illegal immigrants have become the manpower of southern states. The phenomenon of migration in the US-Mexico border has led to a shift in the working roles and social class pyramid of the southwestern states such as California and Arizona. Illegal immigrants have taken over the manpower and working class; the lower class has become the LPR and US citizens with no studies that represent 12.7% of the total population in the state of California (The State of California Education Attainment Charts, 2023); the middle class is now covered by legal immigrants out of which 60% are descendent of illegal immigrants or have illegally worked at some point; and the higher classes remain white US citizens, that tend to live in secluded neighborhoods far away from the other three realities, but yet extremely codependent of them. This shift has created a new social and economic dynamic that assists itself. And so if those illegal immigrants that have currently undertaken the working class and manpower labor activities were to be deported, it would have an unassailable impact on the economy of these southern states.

In addition to contributing to illegal migration, section 245(i) brings a conflict of interest for the INS and Department of State. In 1996 studies show that the INS benefited from the money their fines generated and that's why they kept letting illegal immigrants into the country. However, nowadays the economic benefit that these subjects bring into southern states is much higher than that. And so migration policy concerns and regulation loopholes will most likely remain to a certain extent.

Certainly, this policy avails the entry of illegal migrants. According to the MPI, there are currently 11,047,000 illegal immigrants in the United States. “Ample research indicates that the presence of illegal aliens depresses wages for other workers who are forced to compete with them for low-wage jobs and the underground economy” (Camarota and Vaughan, 1997). Which brings up the question whether Congress places a higher value on effective and fair immigration enforcement procedures or rather on the convenience of illegal immigrants that overall assist the economy of the United States (Camarota and Vaughan, 1997).

Furthermore, it is important to distinguish the Title 42 of the Trump Administration¹⁰, the 1951 Refugee Convention, that needs to be updated, as well as the gender based asylum claims, sexuality based asylum claims, detention and deportation matters, T Visas and U Visas.

On February 21st, 2023, the DHS established a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking¹¹ in anticipation of the culmination of the US government's COVID-19 public health emergency and in relation to the expiration of Title 42 Trump Executive Order. The proposed rule encouraged migrants to either avail themselves of lawful pathways into the United States, or to seek asylum or other protection in countries through which they travel (US National

¹⁰ Title 42 is an Executive Order passed by the Trump Administration.

¹¹ According to the Federal Register in the US National Archives, a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is passed “...in anticipation of a potential surge of migration at the southwest border of the United States following the eventual termination of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (“CDC”) public health Order” (US National Archives, 2023). It is administered and enforced by the following agencies; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; Executive Office for Immigration Review and the Department of Justice.

Archives, 2023). It was implemented in advanced realization of a burgeoning stream of migration as means to reduce “...reliance on human smuggling networks that exploit migrants for financial gain” (US National Archives, 2023).

Conversely, returning to the inaccuracy in the asylum seeking policies such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, the draft rule thoroughly denies the legal right to seek asylum to many migrants who passed through other countries on their way to the U.S.-Mexico border and did not first seek asylum in those countries (Borbolla, S. 2023).

As a consequence, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking partially bans “the right to seek asylum upon reaching U.S. soil, a legal right that was laid out in Section 208 of the INA and in the 1951 Refugee Convention” (Borbolla, S. 2023), that still needs to be updated.

The Biden Administration’s alternative pathways and transit bans of 2023, lead to asylum limitations that highlight the holes in the aforementioned migration policies. In this context, according to the Washington Office on Latin America, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking poses the following problematics: the rule would violate U.S. asylum law as it foresees only two scenarios in which asylum seekers are forced to return to another country where there safety could be in danger; the asylum ban, together with the newly promoted removal process, will fuel mass deportations of people who could otherwise qualify for asylum (Borbolla, 2023). This thoroughly leads to refoulement¹², which stands as a human rights violation, breaks international law and affects the US national economy.

Furthermore, regarding CBP One and Humanitarian Parole¹³, the proposed rule’s alternative pathways are inadequate to protect endangered communities as it has loopholes that deny shelter to substantial groups of people in need of protection. Additionally, if Mexico agrees once more to accept substantial groups of immigrants from third countries, then the transit band would lead to the expulsion of thousands of endangered individuals to northern Mexican border cities, where they would be left homeless (Borbolla, 2023). Some of these cities are Tijuana, Tecate or Mexicali, located on the US-Mexico border. And so, these cities would be subject, once more, to the predation and increase of organized crime.

The rule supports that, rather than crossing the U.S.-Mexico border by land, migrants should “take advantage of opportunities to apply for a two-year humanitarian parole status or, once in northern Mexico, use the CBP One app to schedule an asylum application appointment in the U.S.-Mexico border port of entry” (Dib and Deslandes, 2023). However, the rule does not mention that neither of these options are adequate to protect those fleeing danger.

Moreover, “the revamped asylum ban will block asylum seekers at the border from entering the United States for five years unless they obtain an appointment through the cellphone application CBP One” (Human Rights Watch, 2023). However, it is important to highlight that the current pathway to protection through humanitarian parole only allows a total of 30,000 people per month to apply online for a two-year documented status in the United States (Borbolla, 2023). Certainly, the endangered individuals seeking protection surpass that

¹² Knowingly returning a threatened person to danger.

¹³ Humanitarian Parole is a status granted by the USCIS to a foreign national to temporarily enter the United States due to an imminent humanitarian emergency. That individual would be otherwise inadmissible in the country.

amount, but the United States has to set a contingency plan to reduce the number of people entering the country both legally and illegally. According to 8 US Code Section 1182 (d) (5) (A) regarding Inadmissible Aliens, "once approved, applicants may enter the United States by air, without having to come to the U.S. land border".

However, studies show that this situation encourages the entry of illegal immigrants. By trying to over reduce the number of legal immigrants, they are forcing individuals that are trying to escape from hazardous situations in neighboring countries, to undertake illegal entry modes. And so, once again, the subjects face the perils of entering illegally, are often victims of human rights violations and undertake the low-wage jobs that belong to the working force.

In addition, the overflow of regular migration combined with the recent increase in the restrictions to request political asylum has left thousands of women unable to transit through regular entry strategies and are forced to undertake illegal entry modes that often lead to diminishing practices that pose human rights violations. Some of these violations include exploited domestic labor, human trafficking, sexual abuse and organ trafficking.

While not all of the aforementioned acts are gender-specific, all would have a notable impact on undocumented immigrant women.

"Undocumented immigrant women would be more likely to be able to pursue higher education and find a path to citizenship if the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) were to pass. Lesbians would be able to sponsor their immigrant partners if the Uniting American Families Act passed. On a more negative note, undocumented immigrants would be at more jeopardy of deportation and would be less able to obtain help from the police if the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal (CLEAR) act were to pass. These acts are all pending at the federal level" (Clifford, E. & Pearce, S. 2012).

On this note, it is important to mention the VAWA, ratified in 1994¹⁴, reauthorized in 2022 by President Joseph R. Biden and administered by the DOJ and HHS. This act creates responses to sexual abuse, domestic violence and stalking (NNEDV, 2017). According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the VAWA allows undocumented immigrants who suffer from various forms of abuse by their U.S. citizen or LPR relative to self-petition for legal protections and immigrant classification without the abuser's "...consent, knowledge or participation. This allows victims to seek both safety and independence from their abusers" (US Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2022). If the VAWA self-petition is approved by the USCIS, the subject may seek legal permanent residence and obtain a Green Card.

However, it is important to mention that the response of each state that comprises the United States, differs when dealing with undocumented immigrants. Every state is a sovereign entity with constitutional power to generate laws and supervise them. Therefore, each State has different regulations that change the procedures and outcome of each situation. So

¹⁴ A curiosity of this is that in 1994 the VAWA was accepted by Senator Joseph Biden, who recently renewed and updated the Act, but this time, as President of the United States.

depending on the state the response and action taken towards undocumented immigrants will be completely different.

4. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

4.1 MIGRATION SECURITIZATION AT A PERSONAL LEVEL

In order to further understand the impact of migration national security strategies, it has come to the attention and scope of this investigation to make face-to-face interviews that stand as one of the main primary sources used. The following sections present an analysis of 5 different interviews to further understand the view and effects of migration securitization from the eyes and voice of 5 immigrants, both male and female, as means to contrast information and create a better understanding of the concern.

The subjects depicted are 5 strangers with no correlation to one another and different personal profiles. However, for security reasons their identities will remain anonymous as means to respect and protect their liberty and life.

4.2 GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE INTERVIEWEES

General Information	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
Language Proficiency	Spanish, basic English	Spanish, no English	Spanish, basic English	Spanish, speaks decent English	Spanish, no English
Place of birth	Santiago, Chile	Argentina	La Habana, Cuba	Santiago, Chile	Mexico
Residency	Miami, FL	Marijuana Plantations, CA	Miami, FL	Mammoth Lakes, CA	Los Angeles, CA
Age	31	29	34	28	25
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Female
Immigrant status	Legal but lived and worked illegally for 2 years	Illegal	Refugee	Illegal	Illegal
Civil status	Married	Single	Single	Single	Single
Studies	High School Diploma	High School Diploma	University Bachelor's degree in Social Communication	University bachelor's degree	High School Diploma

Table 1: General information of the interviewees.

As depicted on the first box of Table 1, two subjects spoke no English whatsoever, which happened to be women, while the two males have basic knowledge and are able to have a broken conversation, and the last female has a decent level of English and is able to engage and somewhat connect with the local community.

This shows the reality that most illegal women migrants have little to no knowledge of the English language, and is usually the male figure of the family household, the one that commutes with the local community, thoroughly improving their language skills. This creates mental intangible barriers with the local community and jurisdictional reality.

Furthermore, the ages of the interviewees range from 25 to 34 years old, depicting the realities of fully grown adults who have already finished their basic studies. Out of the five interviewees, three are currently irregular immigrants, one is a refugee and another one is a legal immigrant but worked and lived illegally for two years in the United States. And so this gives the research a very rich and varied approach due to the diversity in the backgrounds and experiences of the subjects.

In addition, only the refugee and one of the illegal immigrants have a College degree. Therefore, 60% of the interviewees only have a High School Diploma, out of which 66% have no knowledge of English and no further desire to keep studying.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONS

The following section includes an analysis of the questions answered by the interviewees in the order by which they were made. However, for the sake of the research, as a response to the reaction of some of the interviewees, a few questions had to be updated or deleted because they were either too direct, violent or invasive. Nevertheless, all of these small modifications are stated in the following section and help the reader create a better understanding of the subject disclosed.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
1. Personal experience: How did you end up in the United States and why did you decide to come? Tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience as an illegal migrant.	Male moved because of his family. His wife found a job. Arrived with an ESTA by plane, and stayed illegally for 2 years.	My boyfriend is working as an illegal immigrant in California in the Marijuana business. And so I decided to come to the US, specifically to California because I had heard that I could make more money than in Chile	I crossed the border in August 2022 and turned myself in as a refugee to the border patrol.	I usually travel for snowboarding purposes. I ended up in the United States as an irregular immigrant because my country was dealing with an economic and social crisis that made me realize that	I came to the US to find better job opportunities, quality of life and personal safety. Where I am from in Mexico is not safe anymore and I'm constantly at risk. I crossed the border with an ESTA and

		<p>by working in marijuana plantations.</p> <p>I arrived from Argentina to Miami, and then took a flight to San Francisco since I knew that it was suspicious to go directly to California through the US-Mexico border.</p>		<p>leaving was the best option for me in order to grow personally and economically. I had been coming to the ski town in Mammoth, California, for 5 years already and knew it well, so it wasn't hard to choose where I wanted to move. Furthermore, I did not cross the US Mexico border. The way I entered the United States was by getting a two way ticket so my ESTA would get approved, but never used the one to return.</p>	<p>then stayed.</p>
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Table 2: Personal Experience of interviewees

As depicted in the Table above, the first male migrated for his wife with the purpose of creating a life in the United States. His objective all along focused on achieving legal documentation to become a LPR. And so when his ESTA¹⁵ expired, the subject decided to stay working and living in the United States until he was able to find a company that sponsored his visa. This is a very common scenario in the United States.

However, the second interviewee arrived in California to be with her boyfriend who works in the Marijuana business. She does not speak any English and is trying to get a social security number illegally in order to be able to opt for jobs that may offer higher salaries and less

¹⁵ ESTA's have a maximum duration of 3 months.

hard work. She does not worry about the local community but rather her personal economic benefit. Her boyfriend was present at the time of the interview but did not want to share his experience or be part of the research.

On the other hand, the third interviewee has a very dissimilar profile, clearly distinguishable in the following questions. Being from Cuba, he turned himself in as a refugee and was accepted and nurtured by Border Patrol and the authorities. This, however, makes us question if the treatment he received would have been the same as a migrant coming from a different country such as Argentina or Chile. The current hazardous situation in Cuba enabled him to benefit from asylum as a refugee.

While the fourth interviewee clearly comes from a wealthier family and background that has been traveling to the United States for ski and vacation trips for many years. She arrived in the United States in the same way the first and second subjects did, but her objective is rather different. She is currently working in a ski town to make money for herself and, even though she has lived in California for 5 years, she is planning on returning to Chile in a few months. She moved to California to find better job opportunities but did not run away from a hazardous situation. Her college degree and English level enable her to migrate to other countries and give her access to higher job opportunities.

Finally, the fourth subject also entered the US with an ESTA. However, even though she was also trying to escape a hazardous situation, she did not qualify for asylum due to the high number of migrants seeking protection. And so she did not find a different alternative than to become an illegal immigrant.

It is important to highlight that most interviewees used similar entry modes with the objective of finding better job opportunities. They crossed the border legally but when the visa expired, remained in the country illegally.

	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
2.What are the most relevant or impactful experiences you have had with the Border Patrol or US authority? How was their behavior?	Haven't had any.	I haven't had too many experiences with Border Patrol, since I only entered the country twice.. However, the questions they ask are always the same: how much money do I bring; how long do i stay; what do I	When I turned myself in as a refugee their behavior was excellent, very serious in their work, demanding but at all times they respected and cared for our rights. (Food, water, bath, health, etc.)	Fortunately I have not had a lot of experiences with border patrol. However, I have heard that their main strategy is to pressure.	Every time I return to Mexico I pay the border patrol and he stamps my passport with whichever date I want. Last time I left my passport said I had only been in the United States for 15 days, even though I had actually

		come to do.			<p>lived in California for 2 years.</p> <p>Their behavior is usually quite oppressive and disrespectful. However, it's just an act and all they care about is money. Not all border patrol officers are the same of course, but some of them, simply by paying, they let you cross. There are a lot of migrants crossing the border this way everyday. It is a very common and known practice, but it is only used to exit the country rather than entering it.</p> <p>The difficult thing is to enter de country, but once you are in, it is very easy to stay for as long as you want.</p>
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Table 3: Experience with Border Patrol

Certainly, the experience of each interviewee with the Border Patrol differ depending on their visa status, general background and objectives. While the first Chilean subject has not had

any as he has managed to undertake the legal pathway, the other 4 interviewees from Chile, Argentina, Cuba and Mexico have, with special impact on subject 4 when paying occasional visits to her country of origin, Mexico.

However, the experiences lived by the Cuban male refugee and the Mexican woman differ from one another. The lawfulness and background situation of the Cuban male gives Border Patrol a different role, outlook and behavior than to the Mexican woman, who is also running away from a hazardous situation.

Additionally, she discloses the reality of authoritarian corruption in the US-Mexico border.

“Every time I return to Mexico I pay the border patrol and he stamps my passport with whichever date I want. Last time I left, my passport said I had only been in the United States for 15 days, even though I had actually lived in California for 2 years”
 (Interviewee 5, Mexican, 25 years old)

However, as mentioned earlier, most subjects crossed the border legally with an ESTA and, when the visitor's visa expired, they stayed in the country. As a consequence, they do not have as much experience with Border Patrol and only know the abruptness and violent behavior they have experienced.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
3. Are you aware of the current migration security strategy OR policies of the United States?	Not much, I know the law changed where I live. Especially that one affecting illegal immigrants. As of July 1st, all illegal immigrants who do not have papers will be deported. Every LPR or US citizen who helps illegal immigrants to receive work, will be deported. The same citizen or resident who is already legal	No	Yes.	A little bit.	Only the ones that affect me personally and my status as an illegal immigrant

	breaks this law risks even jail. Do not fear the authorities. It doesn't scare him.				
3.1 How does it make you feel?	On the one hand it is good because a lot of bad illegal immigrants have entered with bad intentions and want to steal. On the other hand, most construction workers suffer from it because not everyone does that kind of work. The workforce is mainly done by illegal immigrants and it is necessary.	Did not ask this question.	I feel like they are trying to manage the serious border situation and issues. I believe they are doing the best job they can.	Did not ask this question.	Did not ask this question.
3.2 From 1-10 how far do you think your knowledge on this matter goes?	4	3	6	4	4
3.3 If yes, what is your perception about the migration security strategies in the US-Mexico border?	Did not answer.	Did not answer.	Did not answer	Strong but necessary	Hypocrite, as they are too strong in some places but not enough in others.

Table 4: Jurisdictional Knowledge

In addition, these questions show that all of the subjects interviewed have very little knowledge on the jurisdiction, national security strategy or even policies implemented. As a matter of fact, Interviewees 1 and 5 admit that they only research on the few policies that affect them and their immigrant status directly.

In a scale from 1 to 10, only Chilean Interviewee number 3 gave herself more than a 5 in regards to the overall knowledge of migration policies. This is very interesting as she is the

only one with enough English level to fully communicate and connect with the local community, which brings back the issue of the language barrier.

This proves that language is power, and without it individuals remain oblivious of basic and important concerns that could assist them at a personal level. Knowledge of the local language leads to a better understanding of the local regulations and national jurisdiction, which helps them be aware of their rights.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
4. What was the impact of migration policies when you crossed the border?	Did not answer.	Strong.	Positive, since I entered this great country they have respected my rights, given me the opportunity to have documents, aid (food and health)	Did not answer	Did not answer

Table 5: Impact of Migration Policies when crossing the border

Regarding question 4, most interviewees refrained from answering. However, Interviewee number 3, from Cuba, provided a positive outlook. This is thoroughly linked to his refugee status. On the other hand, illegal interviewee number 2, from Argentina, believes they are quite strong.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
5. What is the impact of the migration policies on your daily life?	Did not answer.	I'm scared.	Did not ask this question.	They definitely makes me a little nervous	Did not answer.

Table 6: Impact of Migration Policies on daily life

On this account, Interviewee number 2, a female from Argentina, is currently scared of the migration policies. This is linked to the poor English level and lack of jurisdictional knowledge. Meanwhile, subject 4, illegal female immigrant from Chile, is also anxious about them in her daily life.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
6. Do you feel like the US migration policies have an impact on the behavior	No, 80% of the population is immigrant. I have not had experiences with Americans	Absolutely, the current immigration policies of the United States cause and	Yes	I live in a really small ski town in California, where there	Definitely

adopted towards you by the community around you?	mistreating or discriminating against us for being an immigrant.	increase racism 100%.		are a lot of people that currently live and work illegally. And so the community has normalized the situation	
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Table 7: Impact of Migration Policies on local behavior

Furthermore, 30% of the interviewees believe Migration Policies have some kind of impact on the behavior adopted by the local community towards legal and illegal immigrants. However, Interviewee 1, from Cuba, and Interviewee 4, from Chile, believe there is no impact. This being said, it is important to mention that both of them reside in communities where more than 50% of the population are legal and illegal immigrants. And so the impact is not as noticeable.

“I live in a really small ski town in California, where there are a lot of people that currently live and work illegally. And so the community has normalized the situation” (Interviewee number 4, Chile, 28 years old)

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
7. Do you feel under control and with full knowledge of your migrant status and the possible repercussions of your actions and your entry mode?	Right now I feel good, I have had all this time to continue advancing in the documentation process. Next month I have an interview for citizenship. It is what I came looking for, to be legal and be able to get another citizenship than mine.	No	Yes	Yes, I do feel in control, apparently this is not necessarily normal but a common thing. I've heard a lot of opinions and experiences with getting in and out and if you follow the steps everything should be good to go	Yes, I do feel in control and safe as long as I do everything as I'm supposed, in order to not get caught

<p>7.1 Do you feel protected by the authorities and national jurisdiction or do you rather fear it? If so, what or why do you fear it? Please explain your answer.</p>	<p>I feel comfortable and calm that here in Miami, the laws work. I know that the police can be trusted in case of anything happening and I know that the law protects you in case they break into your house and you have the right to defend yourself. That makes me feel calm compared to my country.</p>	<p>It strikes me compared to other countries. I take the police into account, but being white and having several passports from other nationalities, I have never experienced racism and don't think I will. Sadly towards people with another skin color if it is.</p>	<p>Yes, I feel very protected.</p>	<p>Yes, I do feel protected. In California as an immigrant you still get protection from the government.</p>	<p>I'd rather not encounter them. I always try to avoid the authorities, no matter what.</p>
<p>7.2 Do you feel in danger regarding US national jurisdiction?+</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Did not answer</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No, I do not, worst case scenario I simply can't come back into the country in 5 years. It's worth a shot.</p>	<p>Not in California, in other states it may be different</p>
<p>7.3 Are you scared of the authorities? If so, why?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>I take it into account, but because I'm white, I know the racisms and treatment would not be too bad.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>I don't feel super comfortable around them, but I'm also not scared.</p>	<p>Yes, they are oppressive physically and verbally</p>
<p>8. Regarding this situation, what are you most scared of?</p>	<p>Letting all the bad people from South America come into the United States and let what is happening in our countries happen. The strength of the left parties is</p>	<p>Did not answer.</p>	<p>Did not answer.</p>	<p>I guess right now, being my fourth year as an illegal immigrant in the United States, I don't feel scared anymore about my status. I think</p>	<p>Being mistreated</p>

	getting stronger. That's why I like living in Miami, rather than in California.			the worst scenario would be to be deported and that's still not terrible for me, as I have somewhere to go.	
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Table 8: Jurisdictional Knowledge, control and fears

In addition, despite the lack of jurisdictional knowledge that all interviewees confessed to have, all except subject number 2 feel under control and with full knowledge of their migrant status and the possible repercussions of their actions and entry mode. This thoroughly seems rather contradictory, but 80% of the subjects confidently declared they feel comfortable and believe to have full control of their situation.

However, only 60% of the subjects interviewed feel protected by the authorities and national jurisdiction. The same national jurisdiction that they had confessed not to have enough knowledge on. And yet, 100% of them don't feel in danger regarding national jurisdiction, even though 20% are scared of the authorities.

Even though subjects 2 and 3 did not respond to question 8, subject 5 agreed she is mostly scared of being abused, while interviewee 1 mentioned that what he is mostly scared of is the following:

"...letting all the bad people from South America come into the United States and let what is happening in our countries happen. The strength of the left parties is getting stronger. That's why I like living in Miami" (Interviewee 1, male from Chile, 31 years old).

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
8.1 Do you think immigrants would go out on the streets to protect this country if necessary?	Without a doubt, people would take the streets to defend the United States, so that the different situations currently happening in South America do not happen. People would fight to defend what's theirs	Did not ask.	Yes, although It would depend on the feelings and personal experience of each person.	Did not ask	Did not ask

	(their things, their family, their community...)				
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Table 9: Protection

On that account, Interviewee number one believes that both legal and illegal immigrants would gladly defend the United States if something were to happen. While subject number 3, refugee from Cuba, agreed but yet did not have such a strong sense of protection and nationalism.

“...people would fight to defend their things, their family, their community...” (Interviewee 1, male from Chile, 31 years old)

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Int. 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
9. Have you ever been subject/victim of any type of abuse, whether it being sexual, mental, verbal or physical?	Did not ask, felt too abrupt and the subject did not seem open to it.	Yes. One time while working on the marijuana plantation farm in the mountains of California, my boss got angry with my friend and me, and decided to lock us on the property for 24 hours. This clearly represents the power they believe they have over us.	No	Yes, once I stopped a fight in a women’s bathroom of a bar. I was not involved, simply trying to help	Yes, I’m a victim of domestic violence. My boyfriend, who’s from Kazajistán, has beaten me up several times, manipulated me mentally and verbally abused me. One time he beat me up so much he almost killed me. I know that if I were to go to the local police and filed an official report against him, even though he is a legal immigrant, he would get deported. All I need to do is show them the black bruises that cover my arms, from the elbow to the shoulder, my ribs, my neck bruises after he tried to strangle me, and the several bruises that today cover my face. However, I know that if I do so I would get deported before him due to my illegal status. I care for this country, I work as a maid and respect the neighborhoods and people that live here.

					<p>Now he's trying to get me pregnant. But if he does I know that I won't be able to escape. I was so scared that I started to take Plan B several times a week during a period of 2 months, until I found out you can't take more than 3 per year. Thankfully, I went to the public doctor and here in California they gave me a lot of contraceptive methods (condoms, plan b and birth control) for free, as they want to avoid illegal and legal immigrants from getting pregnant and having babies that would acquire US nationality. As you can understand he didn't want to use condoms but thanks to this I was able to take birth control.</p> <p>I still feel unsafe and don't know how to get out of this situation. The authorities can't help me. I think the only option would be fleeing the country.</p>
<p>9.1 If not, what would you do if you were? Would you feel safe to report it to the authorities?</p>	Did not ask.	No.	Yes.	<p>I never reported anything, I said that it was okay because I was scared. This was my first year in the United States as an illegal immigrant.</p>	<p>Never, even if I was a legal immigrant I wouldn't go to the police in this scenario. They are violent, verbally and physically; oppressive; and disrespectful. They have no empathy and in their behavior you can tell that they abuse their power of authority.</p>

					<p>I have a close friend who is a legal immigrant, also victim of domestic violence in Irvine, California. One time, her friends called the cops and when they arrived they were very violent and abrupt. They tried to force her to file a report against her boyfriend and when she denied, as she was too scared of him and of the possible outcome of the situation (he could kill her), the police officers called her stupid and crazy</p>
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Table 10: Victims of sexual abuse

In addition, only Interviewee’s 2 and 5, both females from Argentina and Mexico, have been victims of any form of sexual, physical or mental abuse. In fact, both women are the only ones who do not speak English, and are therefore subject to human rights violations. The aggressor benefits from the fact that the victims do not know their rights, have a very little jurisdictional knowledge, have reduced access to legal information and are not able to ask for help or fully explain the aggression that has taken place.

As a matter of fact 60% of the subjects interviewed declared they haven’t and wouldn't go to the authorities for fear of being mistreated or deported. And so this brings back the lack of jurisdictional knowledge and the language barrier. The only subject that said would take it up to the authorities is the Interviewee 3, male refugee, who’s current lawful migrant status offers open protection against human rights violations.

In addition, both legal and illegal women who have suffered sexual abuse try to hide due to embarrassment or fear, without realizing that there are agreements such as the VAWA that offer protection to all individuals, both lawful and irregular. However, interviewee 5 discloses a very common situation of social mismanagement and negligence by US local police officers.

“I have a close friend from Japan who is a legal immigrant, also a victim of domestic violence in California. One time, her friends called the cops and when they arrived they were very violent and abrupt. They tried to force her to file a report against her boyfriend and when she denied, as she was too scared of him and of the possible outcome of the situation (he could kill her), the police officers called her stupid and crazy” (Interviewee 5, female from Mexico, 25 years old)

This shows how if US authorities were to adopt a less violent and disrespectful behavior towards other human beings, maybe more women would seek help, both legal and illegal. And so this would help reduce human rights violations.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
<p>10. Do you feel identified with the national security discourse regarding migration? What do you think about it?</p>	<p>The knowledge I have is very little as I am not well informed. I simply inform myself about the things that I think will be useful to me and the most punctual ones. Undoubtedly the immigration part interests me.</p>	<p>I don't know.</p>	<p>It is a complex and delicate issue because each year the arrival of immigrants from all over the world grows in the United States and the situation must be managed and limited in some way. Although thanks to the reception opportunities I was personally able to be accepted in this great country.</p>	<p>No! I definitely do not feel identified.</p>	<p>No, I think it is very abstract and inconclusive. It helps nobody and does very little</p>
<p>10.1 Do you find it to be a populist and biased discourse, modified to the mere beliefs of the US inhabitants?</p>	<p>Did not ask.</p>	<p>Did not answer.</p>	<p>It has a little bit of everything.</p>	<p>It seems very populist to me</p>	<p>Yes I think it assists the growth of stereotypes</p>

Table 11: National Security Discourse

In addition, the interviewees agree they do not feel identified with the discourse adopted by the national security strategies. As a matter of fact, although they confess their knowledge of this matter is quite reduced.

On this account Interviewee 3 believes the following that the high number of immigrants crossing the border make national security strategies a very delicate matter.

“ It is a complex and delicate issue because each year the arrival of immigrants from all over the world grows in the United States and the situation must be managed and limited in some way. Although thanks to the reception opportunities I was personally able to be accepted in this great country” (Interviewee 3, male from Cuba, 34 years old).

However, female Mexican Interviewee 5, has a much more radical and negative opinion about it. While she believes the national security discourse regarding migration is “abstract and inconclusive”, she also finds it to be a populist and biased discourse, modified to the mere beliefs of the US inhabitants.

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
<p>11. Do you think the national security strategy highlights a series of stereotypes so that US citizens ask for laws and measurements and those in power remain in power? / Do you think the national security strategy highlights a number of cultural barriers that separate legal and illegal immigrants from the US community?</p>	<p>Undoubtedly, there are many people who agree and others who don't. I believe that the laws have to be respected and that is a good thing.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes (to second question)</p>	<p>I'm not aware (to first question)</p>	<p>Yes (to first question)</p>
<p>11.1 Do you think there are too many securitization measures when entering as an immigrant? Or</p>	<p>I think there should be more, for protection. We don't want the US becoming anything like Latin America.</p>	<p>Yes, too many.</p>	<p>I think that although it can always be improved, they are very strict</p>	<p>Too many.</p>	<p>Too many.</p>

do you think there are not enough?	It is very easy to live and work illegally in the country.				
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Table 12: Stereotypes and securitization measures

On that account, although Interviewees 2,3,4 and 5 believe there are too many securitization measures and 2,3 and 4 agree that they highlight a series of stereotypes, subject 1 has a different opinion.

“I think there should be more, for protection. We don't want the US becoming anything like Latin America” (Male legal Interviewee 1, from Chile, 31 years old).

Even though he once was an illegal immigrant himself, he does want protection against people who might want to destabilize the country's balance. And so he believes more security measures should be implemented.

“It is very easy to live and work illegally in the United States” (Male legal Interviewee 1, from Chile, 31 years old) .

Questions	Interview 1	Interview 2	Interview 3	Interview 4	Interview 5
12. What would you change about the current migration policies OR situation?	I think that I agree with the current immigration law, but as long as it is on the right legal path. I understand that there are people who flee their countries but among that group there are people who make the country dirty. It seems perfect to me that people come to change their lifestyle, as long as they respect the country and legal part to make everything	Did not answer.	I don't know enough on this subject	I do not know if I would change it, I'm not that aware of all the factors that come into play to say something coherent ... but for what concerns myself and my migrant status I'm comfortable because I can work and still have a life.	I don't have enough knowledge on the matter

	work.				
12.1 Would you put more security measures when entering the United States?	I think so, Chile is currently in danger of having the 3-year visa agreement taken away. An agreement that Chile has benefited from for a very long time. This is because many immigrants have come to steal and so they mess with all those who want to come to try to find a better quality of life.	Did not ask	Did not ask	Did not ask	Did not ask
12.2 Do you think it could change? If so, how?	Did not ask.	Did not answer.	I wouldn't know. I always like to back up my arguments with bases and facts, and I don't have enough information.	I don't know	I don't know

Table 13: Change

On this account, when asked what each of them would change about this situation, 100% of them answered that they do not have enough knowledge on the matter, when in reality the interviews show that they do. And so this brings up the concern that if illegal immigrants believe they don't have enough knowledge about the issues that affect them directly, then who does? As a consequence, the belief of lack of knowledge leads to a miss-belief of lack of power. And so if individuals believe they have no power over the issues that affect their own lives, then the situation and human rights violations wont secede.

When the subjects were asked direct questions about the overall situation they would get blocked and truly believe they have little to no knowledge on the matter. However, if the questions were rather asked about their personal experience and life, the individuals would openly talk about it, as if their brains unlocked a section that otherwise remains hidden within their memory and thought.

What's interesting is that 40% of the subjects that participated in the research support implementing a much stronger national security strategy as means to protect the United States from those that cross the border with the objective of bringing dishonorable actions into the country.

Amongst the interviewed subjects, there is a noticeable distinction between those that entered the country legally but stayed illegally while trying to get social security number and a working visa that would legitimize and regulate their immigration status, and those that crossed the border unlawfully and still remain as irregular citizens.

The study shows how the illegal women migrants have adopted a much more negative perspective when viewing national jurisdiction, authority, LPR and overall US community in itself. More than 60% of the women interviewed believe that migration securitization policies and the national discourse encourages racism as it assists cultural barriers, yet 40% of them want to implement more security strategies. This occurs as a consequence of the perils that they have had to face and those they are constantly exposed to.

The subject's living in Southern California expressed how the behavior of the authorities such as the local police and Border Patrol¹⁶, changes depending on the skin color and physical features of each person. On this note, it is important to mention that 20% of the illegal women migrants interviewed were white and, according to their personal experience, this makes them aware of the authorities but not afraid, especially taking into account where they grew up and the security holes in some places of Latin America.

On the other hand, the subjects that entered legally but stayed working illegally for a while trying to make a living, have shown deeper respect and appreciation towards national security strategies and the United States as a whole. As a matter of fact, they understand and applaud the necessity of strong securitization measures and want more.

In terms of identity, the illegal women migrants feel very disconnected and detached from the local community and the country in itself. While both interviewed males, due to their legal and refugee status, feel more identified with the citizens of the United States as they legally aspire to be a part of the community. The main observed distinction that brings behavior and identity differences is the overall objective when migrating.

Finally, it is imperative to highlight that not all illegal immigrants are the same. The study shows that there is a clear distinction between those who crossed the border trying to escape from a hazardous situation, but yet disqualify as refugees, and those who migrated from stable families as means to find better job opportunities and economic growth.

CONCLUSIONS:

The number of women migrating from the US-Mexico border to the United States is rising rapidly, and there are almost equal numbers of women and men choosing to migrate, which brings new social dynamics that have not been thoroughly explored in migration studies (Denise A. S., Zavella, 2007). The inaccuracies in migration policies need to be addressed

¹⁶ It is important to mention that border patrol is not only present in the border but rather throughout the entire State of California and south of Arizona.

so that women, such as Interviewee number 5, could request asylum or national protection through more effective procedures than the ones suggested. However, women like her see no other choice than to work and reside irregularly as means to escape a growing array of threats that pose human rights violations in their home countries.

In addition, the remains of a colonial society that based its commerce on racial segregation still shapes the pillars of a discriminative society. This thoroughly affects the migration security national discourse, that needs to be updated and more inclusive. In it, the word alien is used on a regular basis, which assists cultural barriers and fuels stereotypes and xenophobia.

As a matter of fact, the after effects of centuries of apartheid based on skin color and cultural features still shape the political environment and policies of the United States. The US Constitution, although open to change, still reflects the remnants of a racist, sexist, unstable society that once saw all immigrants as aliens who posed a menace to the local community.

In addition, unauthorized immigrants have become the primary workforce in southern states. The phenomenon of migration along the US-Mexico border has caused a change in the roles of workers and the social class structure. The labor force and working class have been largely taken over by unauthorized immigrants and the lower class now consists of LPR and US citizens. As a consequence, the higher classes remain codependent of this new system. And so this shift has resulted in a new socio-economic dynamic that reinforces itself. Therefore, if these unauthorized immigrants who currently fill the working class and labor positions were to be deported, it would have a profound impact on the economy of the United States.

The government is currently trying to solve this problematic by over implementing measures so the local community feels a little safer. Some of which include having a social security number in order to get wifi. However, in reality both local authority agents and Border Patrol officers know about this issue and do nothing to change it. However, if these illegal immigrants were to be deported, the economy would be highly impacted as there would be no people to do those jobs that no one wants to do.

In most cases, undocumented immigrants don't even speak the language. As a matter of fact, 60% of the interviews were made in Spanish. Although 100% of the subjects felt more comfortable doing them in Spanish, the sake of the study required studying the extent of their knowledge and fluency with the English language.

The cultural barriers are such that they don't put effort into learning the language, which enhances the intangible barriers, stereotypes and occasional xenophobia that separates undocumented migrants from LPR and citizens. This also affects lawful migrants that want to enter legally as it is constantly reducing the overall number of available visas that the government is able to hand out. And so this simultaneously assists the increase of illegal immigrants. Which limits the mentality and openness of the US community even more.

The truth is that some undocumented women that entered illegally don't pay special attention to the well-being of the community or the policies implemented, only the ones that affect them directly on a daily basis. And so this exposes them to human rights violations because

they don't know their rights or the fact that they could self-petition for protection under the VAWA, which would enable them to undergo a Green Card application process.

Certainly, the unlawful actions that some illegal migrants bring strengthen national security strategies. This makes it harder for legal migrants to get visas, forcing people to enter illegally and, therefore, assisting a never-ending loophole of cultural barriers, xenophobia, language barriers and criminality.

Therefore, the legal migrants that once worked and lived illegally as means to reach the legal path prefer closing off the country in order to protect it, rather than letting more people in that may bring unlawful practices into the community and could endanger the stability and safety of the community. As a matter of fact, all of the illegal interviewed subjects want to prevent corruption and criminality within the United States.

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ANNEX

Interview script and interviews:

This investigation consists of uncovering and further investigating the impact and after effects of US migration national securitization strategies on women illegal migrants. Therefore, interviews stand as a key tool.

Subsequently, are depicted the questions asked to a total of 7 strangers with no correlation to one another and different personal profiles. However, for security reasons their identities will remain anonymous as means to respect and protect their liberty and life.

In order to further understand the impact of migration national security strategies, it has come to the attention and scope of this investigation to ask the following questions.

Border patrol officer script

1. What are your thoughts regarding the US-Mexico border migration issue?
2. What are your thoughts about the migrants that cross the US-Mexico border?
3. Do you think there is a gendered distinction in migration? Are there more male or female migrants? In the female migrants are there more legal or illegal ones?
4. Are you acquainted with the migration US national security strategies? What are your thoughts about the current migration national security strategies adopted by the US government?

5. In your own experience, what is the knowledge that illegal women migrants have about migration policies and the after effects of their actions?
6. Have you ever experienced human rights violations or mistreatment of any kind towards a migrant whether legal or illegal?
7. What happens to illegal migrants when caught by the authorities?
 - a. What are the procedures taken?
 - b. What's your opinion about those procedures?
 - c. Do you think they should change?
 - d. What's your opinion on the treatment illegal migrants get? (Do you think it's fair, violent, unfair, too much, not enough...?)
 - e. Do you think it could be changed?
8. Do you think the current migration national security strategies should change or be updated?
9. Do you think that would change the situation?
10. In your own experience, do you think more security measures and transit bans bring a higher number of illegal migrants into the United States?
11. Do you think the migration policies and national security discourse influences the vision of the American people
 - a. What about legal migrants?
 - b. What about illegal migrants?
12. Do you see a gendered distinction in the treatment of illegal migrants when crossing the border?
13. What do you think are the weaknesses of the current migration national security strategies? What after-effects does it have on the American people? What about the newcomers?
14. What do you think could be done in order to deal with the current situation and improve the safety of migrants?
15. Do you, as an American, feel unsafe?
16. Do you think the treatment towards immigrants is well done? Do you think it could be improved?
17. What do you think is the biggest problem?

Final status overview of this interview:

The interview was unsuccessful as the border patrol officers were not open to talk about their duty.

Illegal immigrant's interview script:

The illegal migrants were asked the following.

Please answer the following questions. Don't forget to be yourself and express your own personal experience. We are trying to uncover the truth by giving light to the people who are suffering this. Your voice is what will make a difference and achieve change, and therefore, it's extremely important.

If there is anything you don't feel comfortable with or simply don't know please tell us by saying "I don't feel comfortable with this" or "I do not know". Who you are and your opinion matters to us.

We are trying to know the depth of your knowledge regarding this matter so some questions may be a little bit tricky, so don't be embarrassed to say you don't know!

Your identity will remain anonymous for your own safety.

If you feel more comfortable you can also answer the questions in spanish.

Thank you for your time!

Place of birth:

Residency:

Age:

Gender:

Migrant status (legal/illegal/refugee):

Civil status (married, single...):

Studies (yes/no/high school/bachelor's/master...):

1. What is your personal experience? How did you end up in the United States and why did you decide to come? Tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience as a migrant crossing the US-Mexico border into the United States.
2. What are the most relevant or impactful experiences you have had with the Border Patrol or US authority? How was their behavior?
3. Are you aware of the current migration security strategy OR policies of the United States?
 - a. From 1-10 how far do you think your knowledge on this matter goes?
 - b. If yes, what is your perception about the migration security strategies in the US-Mexico border?
 - c. What was the impact of migration policies when you crossed the border?
4. What is the impact of the migration policies on your daily life?
5. Do you feel like the US migration policies have an impact on the behavior adopted towards you by the community around you?
6. Do you feel under control and with full knowledge of your migrant status and the possible repercussions of your actions and your entry mode?
7. Do you feel protected by the authorities and national jurisdiction or do you rather fear it? If so, what or why do you fear it? Please explain your answer.
 - a. Do you feel in danger regarding US national jurisdiction?+
 - b. Are you scared of the authorities? If so, why?
8. Regarding this situation, what are you most scared of?
9. Have you ever been subject/victim of any type of abuse, whether it being sexual, mental, verbal or physical?
 - a. If not, what would you do if you were? Would you feel safe to report it to the authorities?

1. Do you feel identified with the national security discourse regarding migration? What do you think about it?
 - a. Do you find it to be a populist and biased discourse, modified to the mere beliefs of the US inhabitants?
2. Do you think the national security strategy highlights a series of stereotypes so that US citizens ask for laws and measurements and those in power remain in power?
3. What would you change about the current migration policies OR situation?
 - a. Do you think it could change? If so, how?

INTERVIEW 1

Language: Spanish

Lugar de nacimiento: Santiago, Chile.

Lugar de residencia: Miami, Florida

Edad: 31

Género: hombre

Estatus migratorio (legal, ilegal, asilo: Actualmente es legal pero vivió y trabajó de ilegal durante 2 años

Estado civil (casado, soltero...): casado

Estudios (sí/no/bachillerato/grado/máster...): Equivalente a bachillerato en Chile.

1. ¿Cómo llegaste/entraste a Estados Unidos y por qué decidiste venir? Cuéntenos un poco sobre usted y su experiencia personal como migrante que cruza la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México hacia los Estados Unidos.
 - a. Hombre se muda por su familia, su esposa consiguió trabajo.
 - b. Llegó con visado de turista de 3 meses en avión y se quedó más.
2. ¿Has tenido alguna experiencia con la Patrulla Fronteriza o la autoridad de EEUU? ¿Cuáles son las experiencias más relevantes o impactantes que ha tenido con la Patrulla Fronteriza o la autoridad de los EE. UU.? ¿Cómo fue su comportamiento?
 - a. No
3. ¿Conoce la actual estrategia de seguridad migratoria de los Estados Unidos?
 - a. No mucho, se que la ley cambió por donde vivo. sobre todo para los inmigrantes ilegales. A partir del 1 de julio todo inmigrante ilegal va a ser deportado, que no tenga papeles. todo residente o ciudadano que ayuda aun ilegal a vivir o dar trabajo va a ser deportado. el mismo ciudadano o residente que ya es legal infringe esta ley arriesga hasta cárcel.
 - b. No miedo a las autoridades. No le da miedo.
 - c. cómo te hace sentir? por un lado va a ser bueno porque ha entrado mucho inmigrante ilegal malo con malas intenciones que quiere robar. La mayor parte de trabajadores de construcción va a salir perjudicado proque no todo el mundo hace ese tipo de trabajos.
 - Del 1 al 10, ¿hasta dónde cree que llega su conocimiento sobre este tema?
 - 4 o 5
 - En caso afirmativo, ¿cuál es su percepción sobre las estrategias de seguridad migratoria en la frontera México-Estados Unidos?
4. ¿Cuál fue el impacto de las políticas migratorias cuando cruzó la frontera?

5. ¿Cuál es el impacto de las políticas migratorias en su vida diaria?
6. ¿Siente que las políticas migratorias de los Estados Unidos tienen un impacto en el comportamiento que adopta la comunidad estadounidense hacia usted?
 - a. No, el 80% de la población es inmigrante. No he tenido experiencias con americanos que te traten mal o te discriminen por ser inmigrante.
7. ¿Se siente bajo control y con pleno conocimiento de su condición de migrante y las posibles repercusiones de sus acciones y su modo de entrada?
 - a. Me siento bien, he tenido todo este tiempo para seguir avanzando en el trámite de los papeles. El mes que viene tengo una entrevista para la ciudadanía. es lo que vine a buscar, ser legal y encontrar otra ciudadanía.
8. ¿Se siente protegido por las autoridades y jurisdicción nacional o más bien le teme? Si es así, ¿qué o por qué le temes? Por favor explique brevemente su respuesta.
 - a. Me siento cómodo y tranquilo de que aquí en Miami, las leyes funcionan. Sé que se puede contar con la policía en caso de cualquier cosa y se que la ley te ampara en caso de que entren en tu casa y que tienes derecho a defenderte. eso me deja tranquilo en comparación a mi país.
9. ¿Se siente en peligro con respecto a la jurisdicción nacional de los EE. UU.?
10. ¿Tienes miedo a las autoridades? Si es así, ¿por qué?
11. Con respecto a esta situación, ¿qué es lo que más te preocupa de esta situación?
 - a. que venga todo lo malo de sudamérica y que pase lo que está pasando en nuestros países. la fuerza de la izquierda se está metiendo fuerte. por eso me gusta el estado de donde vivo.
 - b. ¿Crees que la gente saldría a la calle a proteger este país? Sin duda, la gente saldría a la calle para defender Estados Unidos y que no pase lo que está ocurriendo en sudamérica. la gente sale a defender sus cosas
12. ¿Alguna vez ha sido sujeto/víctima de algún tipo de abuso, ya sea sexual, mental, verbal o físico?
13. Si no, ¿qué harías si lo fueras? ¿Se sentiría seguro de denunciarlo a las autoridades?
14. ¿Se siente identificado con el discurso de seguridad nacional migratorio de Estados Unidos? ¿Qué piensa usted al respecto? (¡Si no lo conoce no pasa nada!)
 - a. Es muy poco el conocimiento que tengo y me informo poco. simplemente me informo en las cosas que creo que me van a servir a mi y lo más puntual. Sin duda la parte migratoria me interesa.
 - b. ¿Le parece un discurso populista y sesgado, modificado a las meras creencias de los habitantes de los Estados Unidos?
15. ¿Cree que la estrategia de seguridad nacional destaca una serie de estereotipos? ¿Para qué cree que es?
 - a. sin duda va a haber muchas personas que van a estar de acuerdo y otras que no. Creo que las leyes se tienen que respetar y eso es lo bueno.
 - b. ¿Crees que los ciudadanos estadounidenses piden leyes y medidas de seguridad y que aquellos que están en el poder permanezcan en el poder?
16. ¿Qué cambiarías tú de las políticas o de la situación migratoria actual?
 - a. Creo que la ley migratoria estoy de acuerdo pero siempre que sea por el buen camino legal. entiendo que hay gente que escapa de sus países pero entre ese grupo hay gente que ensucia el país. Me parece perfecto que la

gente venga a cambiar su estilo de vida, siempre por la parte legal para que funcione.

- b. ¿Pondrías más medidas de seguridad a la hora de entrar? Creo que sí, nuestro país corre el peligro de que nos quiten el visado de 3 años, un acuerdo que tiene Chile con USA, porque mucha gente ha venido a robar y eso ensucia a todos aquellos que quieren venir para intentar encontrar una mejor calidad de vida.

Notes: The man didn't quite understand how he could help the situation and what he could do. He did not realize the power of his knowledge, he was simply flowing trying to get citizenship.

INTERVIEW 2

Language: Spanish

Lugar de nacimiento: Argentina

Lugar de residencia: Plantaciones de Marihuana, California

Edad: 29

Género: Femenino

Estatus migratorio (legal, ilegal, asilo: Ilegal

Estado civil (casado, soltero...): soltera

Estudios (sí/no/bachillerato/grado/máster...): Equivalente a bachillerato en Argentina.

1. ¿Cómo llegaste/entraste a Estados Unidos y por qué decidiste venir? Cuéntenos un poco sobre usted y su experiencia personal como migrante que cruza la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México hacia los Estados Unidos.
 - a. Decidí venir a EEUU, específicamente a California porque había escuchado que podía ahorrar dinero en las plantaciones de marihuana, llegue desde Argentina a Miami, luego un vuelo a San Francisco ya que sabía que era sospechoso llegar directo a California.
1. ¿Has tenido alguna experiencia con la Patrulla Fronteriza o la autoridad de EEUU? ¿Cómo fue su comportamiento?
 - a. Fue irrelevante ya que solamente entré dos veces en el país. De todas formas las preguntas siempre son las mismas:
 - i. cuánto dinero traigo .
 - ii. cuánto tiempo me quedo .
 - iii. a qué vengo .
2. ¿Conoce la actual estrategia de seguridad migratoria de los Estados Unidos?
 - a. No
 - b. ¿Cómo te hace sentir?
 - c. Del 1 al 10, ¿hasta dónde cree que llega su conocimiento sobre este tema?
 - i. 3
3. ¿Cuál fue el impacto de las políticas migratorias cuando cruzó la frontera y en su vida diaria?
 - a.

4. ¿Siente que las políticas migratorias de los Estados Unidos tienen un impacto en el comportamiento que adopta la comunidad estadounidense hacia usted o cualquier inmigrante ya sea legal o ilegal?
 - a. Absolutamente, las políticas migratorias actuales de Estados Unidos ocasionan y aumentan el racismo 100%.
5. ¿Se siente bajo control y con pleno conocimiento de su condición de migrante y las posibles repercusiones de sus acciones y su modo de entrada?
 - a. No
6. ¿Se siente protegido por las autoridades y jurisdicción nacional o más bien le teme? Si es así, ¿qué o por qué le temes?
 - a. Me llama la atención con respecto a otros países. Tengo en cuenta a la policía pero al ser blanca y tener otros pasaportes no es muy grave el racismo. Tristemente hacia personas con otro color de piel si que lo es.
7. ¿Se siente en peligro con respecto a la jurisdicción nacional de los EE. UU.?
 - a.
 - b. ¿Tienes miedo a las autoridades?
 - c. La tengo en cuenta pero sé que porque soy blanca el racismo no sería muy grave.
8. Con respecto a esta situación, ¿qué es lo que más te preocupa de esta situación?
 - a. ¿Crees que los inmigrantes saldrían a la calle a proteger este país?
9. ¿Alguna vez ha sido sujeto/víctima de algún tipo de abuso, ya sea sexual, mental, verbal o físico por ser inmigrante?
 - a. Trabajando en una granja de plantación de marihuana en las montañas de California, mi jefe se enfadó con mi amiga y conmigo, y decidió por un malentendido dejarnos encerradas en la propiedad durante 24h.
 - b. Esto claramente representa el poder que creen tener sobre nosotros.
10. Aunque no lo haya sido, ¿se sentiría seguro de denunciarlo a las autoridades?
 - a. No
11. ¿Se siente identificado con el discurso de seguridad nacional migratorio de Estados Unidos? ¿Qué piensa usted al respecto? (¡Si no lo conoce no pasa nada!)
 - a. ¿Le parece que tiene un discurso adecuado? ¿O más bien populista y sesgado, modificado a las meras creencias de los habitantes de los Estados Unidos?
12. ¿Cree que la estrategia de seguridad nacional destaca una serie de barreras culturales que separan a los inmigrantes legales e ilegales de la comunidad estadounidense?
13. ¿Cree que hay demasiadas medidas de seguridad a la hora entrar como inmigrante? ¿O crees que no hay suficientes?
14. ¿Cambiarías algo de las políticas migratorias actuales en Estados Unidos?
 - i.
15. ¿Qué cambiarías? ¿Pondrías más o quitarías?
16. ¿Añadirías algo a este cuestionario? Si quieres compartir algo más adelante:

INTERVIEW 3

Lugar de nacimiento: Cuba

Ciudad de residencia: La Habana

Edad: 34

Género: Male

Estado civil (casado, soltero...): Soltero

Estudios (sí/no/bachillerato/grado/máster...): Licenciado en Comunicación Social,
Universidad de La Habana

1. ¿Has tenido alguna experiencia con la Patrulla Fronteriza o la autoridad de EEUU?

¿Cómo fue su comportamiento?

- Si. Entré por la frontera en agosto de 2022 y me entregué como refugiado a la patrulla fronteriza. El comportamiento de ellos fue excelente, muy serios en su trabajo, exigentes pero en todo momento respetaron y cuidaron nuestros derechos. (Alimento, agua, baño, salud, etc)

2. ¿Conoce la actual estrategia de seguridad migratoria de los Estados Unidos?

- Si.

a. ¿Cómo te hace sentir? i.

- Siento que están tratando de controlar la grave situación fronteriza, creo que hacen el mejor trabajo posible.

b. Del 1 al 10, ¿hasta dónde cree que llega su conocimiento sobre este tema?

- 6

3. ¿Cuál fue el impacto de las políticas migratorias cuando cruzó la frontera y en su vida diaria?

- Positivo, desde que entré a este gran país han respetado mis derechos, me han dado la oportunidad de tener papeles, ayudas (alimentos y salud)

4. ¿Siente que las políticas migratorias de los Estados Unidos tienen un impacto en el comportamiento que adopta la comunidad estadounidense hacia usted o cualquier inmigrante ya sea legal o ilegal?

Si

5. ¿Se siente bajo control y con pleno conocimiento de su condición de migrante y las posibles repercusiones de sus acciones y su modo de entrada?

Si

6. ¿Se siente protegido por las autoridades y jurisdicción nacional o más bien le teme? Si es así, ¿qué o por qué le temes?

- Me siento protegido

7. ¿Se siente en peligro con respecto a la jurisdicción nacional de los EE. UU.?

No

8. ¿Tienes miedo a las autoridades?

No

9. Con respecto a esta situación, ¿qué es lo que más te preocupa de esta situación?

a. ¿Crees que los inmigrantes saldrían a la calle a proteger este país?

- Dependería del sentir de cada uno, pero en mi opinión, sí.

10. ¿Alguna vez ha sido sujeto/víctima de algún tipo de abuso, ya sea sexual, mental, verbal o físico por ser inmigrante?

No

11. Aunque no lo haya sido, ¿se sentiría seguro de denunciarlo a las autoridades?

Si

12. ¿Se siente identificado con el discurso de seguridad nacional migratorio de Estados Unidos? ¿Qué piensa usted al respecto? (¡Si no lo conoce no pasa nada!)

- Es complejo y delicado como tema porque anualmente la llegada de emigrantes de todo el mundo crece en los Estados Unidos y de alguna forma hay que controlar la situación. Aunque gracias a las oportunidades de acogida pude ser aceptado en este gran país
- a. ¿Le parece que tiene un discurso adecuado?
¿O más bien populista y sesgado, modificado a las meras creencias de los habitantes de los Estados Unidos?
 - Tiene un poco de todo
- 13. ¿Cree que la estrategia de seguridad nacional destaca una serie de barreras culturales que separan a los inmigrantes legales e ilegales de la comunidad estadounidense?
 - Si
- 14. ¿Cree que hay demasiadas medidas de seguridad a la hora entrar como inmigrante? ¿O crees que no hay suficientes?
 - Creo que aunque siempre se puede mejorar, son bien estrictas
- 15. ¿Cambiarías algo de las políticas migratorias actuales en Estados Unidos?
 - No sabría mucho más de este tema
- 16. ¿Qué cambiarías? ¿Pondrías más o quitarías?
 - No sabría, me gusta hablar con bases y no tengo toda la información adecuada
- 17. ¿Añadirías algo a este cuestionario? Si quieres compartir algo más adelante:
 - Esta Perfecto

INTERVIEW 4

Place of birth: Chile

Age: 28

Gender: Female

Legal migrant status : irregular

Civil status : single

Studies: University bachelor's

1. What is your personal experience? How did you end up in the United States and why did you decide to come? Tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience as a migrant crossing the US-Mexico border into the United States.
 - I usually travel for snowboarding purposes. I ended up in the United States as an irregular immigrant because my country was dealing with an economic and social crisis that made me realize that leaving was the best option for me in order to grow personally and economically. I had been coming to the ski town in Mammoth, California, for 5 years already and knew it well, so it wasn't hard to choose where I wanted to move.
 - Furthermore, I did not cross the US Mexico border. The way I entered the United States was by getting a two way ticket so my ESTA would get approved, but never used the one to return.
2. What are the most relevant or impactful experiences you have had with the Border Patrol or US authority? How was their behavior?
 - Fortunately I have not had a lot of experiences with border patrol. However, I have heard that their main strategy is to pressure.

3. Are you aware of the current migration security strategy OR policies of the United States?
 - a. From 1-10 how far do you think your knowledge on this matter goes?
 - i. 4 or 5
 - b. If yes, what is your perception about the migration security strategies in the US-Mexico border?
 - i. Strong but necessary
 - c. What was the impact of migration policies when you crossed the border?
4. What is the impact of the migration policies on your daily life?
 - It definitely makes me a little nervous
5. Do you feel like the US migration policies have an impact on the behavior adopted towards you by the community around you?
 - I live in a really small ski town in California, where there are a lot of people that currently live and work illegally. And so the community has normalized the situation.
6. Do you feel under control and with full knowledge of your migrant status and the possible repercussions of your actions and your entry mode?
 - I do feel in control, apparently this is not necessarily normal but a common thing. I've heard a lot of opinions and experiences with getting in and out and if you follow the steps everything should be good to go.
7. Do you feel protected by the authorities and national jurisdiction or do you rather fear them? If so, what or why do you fear them? Please explain your answer.
 - I do feel protected, in California as an immigrant you still get protection from the government.
 - a. Do you feel in danger regarding US national jurisdiction?
 - I do not, worst case scenario I simply can't come back into the country in 5 years. It's worth a shot.
 - b. Are you scared of the authorities? If so, why?
 - I don't feel super comfortable around them, but I'm also not scared
8. Regarding this situation, what are you most scared of?
 - I guess right now, being my fourth year as an illegal immigrant in the United States, I don't feel scared anymore about my status. I think the worst scenario would be to be deported and that's still not terrible for me, as I have somewhere to go.
9. Have you ever been subject or victim of any type of abuse, whether it being sexual, mental, verbal or physical?
 - Yes, once I stopped a fight in a women's bathroom of a bar. I was not involved, simply trying to help
 - a. If not, what would you do if you were? Would you feel safe to report it to the authorities?
 - I never reported anything, I said that it was okay because I was scared. This was my first year in the United States as an illegal immigrant.
4. Do you feel identified with the national security discourse regarding migration? What do you think about it?
 - NO! I do not feel identify
 - a. Do you find it to be a populist and biased discourse, modified to the mere beliefs of the US inhabitants?
 - It seems very populist to me.

5. Do you think the national security strategy highlights a series of stereotypes so that US citizens ask for laws and measurements and those in power remain in power?
 - I'm not aware
6. What would you change about the current migration policies OR situation?
 - I do not know if I would change it, I'm not that aware of all the factors that come into play to say something coherent ... but for what concerns myself and my migrant status I'm comfortable because I can work and still have a life.
 - a. Do you think it could change? If so, how?
 - Don't know

INTERVIEW 5

Place of birth: Mexico

Residency: California

Age: 25

Gender: Female

Migrant status (legal/illegal/refugee): illegal

Civil status (married, single...): single

Studies (yes/no/high school/bachelor's/master...): high school

10. What is your personal experience? How did you end up in the United States and why did you decide to come? Tell us a little bit about yourself and your experience as a migrant crossing the US-Mexico border into the United States.
 - a. I came to the United States to find better job opportunities. I crossed the border with an ESTA and then stayed. Every time I return to Mexico I pay the border patrol and he stamps my passport with whichever date I want. Last time I left my passport said I had only been in the United States for 15 days, even though I had actually lived in California for 2 years.
11. What are the most relevant or impactful experiences you have had with the Border Patrol or US authority? How was their behavior?
 - a. Their behavior is usually quite oppressive and rude. However, it's just an act and all they care about is money. Not all border patrol officers are the same of course, but some of them, simply by paying, they let you cross. There are a lot of migrants crossing the border this way everyday. It is a very common and known practice, but it is only used to exit the country rather than entering it.
 - b. The difficult thing is to enter the country, but once you are in, it's very easy to stay for as long as you want.
12. Are you aware of the current migration security strategy OR policies of the United States?
 - Only the ones that affect me personally and my status as an illegal immigrant.
 - a. From 1-10 how far do you think your knowledge on this matter goes?
 - i. 4
 - b. If yes, what is your perception about the migration security strategies in the US-Mexico border?
 - c. What was the impact of migration policies when you crossed the border?
13. What is the impact of the migration policies on your daily life?

14. Do you feel like the US migration policies have an impact on the behavior adopted towards you by the community around you?
 - a. Definitely
15. Do you feel under control and with full knowledge of your migrant status and the possible repercussions of your actions and your entry mode?
 - a. I do feel in control and safe as long as I do everything as I'm supposed, in order to not get caught.
16. Do you feel protected by the authorities and national jurisdiction or do you rather fear it? If so, what or why do you fear it? Please explain your answer.
 - I'd rather not encounter them. I always try to avoid the authorities, no matter what.
 - a. Do you feel in danger regarding US national jurisdiction?
 - b. Not in California, in other states it may be different.
 - c. Are you scared of the authorities? If so, why?
 - d. Yes, they are oppressive physically and verbally.
17. Regarding this situation, what are you most scared of?
 - Being mistreated
18. Have you ever been subject/victim of any type of abuse, whether it being sexual, mental, verbal or physical?
 - Yes, I'm a victim of domestic violence. My boyfriend, who's from Kazajistán, has beaten me up several times, manipulated me mentally and verbally abused me. One time he beat me up so much he almost killed me. I know that if I were to go to the local police and filed an official report against him, even though he is a legal immigrant, he would get deported. All I need to do is show them the black bruises that cover my arms, from the elbow to the shoulder, my ribs, my neck bruises after he tried to strangle me, and the several bruises that today cover my face. However, I know that if I do so I would get deported before him due to my illegal status. I care for this country, I work as a maid and respect the neighborhoods and people that live here.
 - Now he's trying to get me pregnant. But if he does I know that I won't be able to escape. I was so scared that I started to take Plan B several times a week during a period of 2 months, until I found out you can't take more than 3 per year. Thankfully, I went to the public doctor and here in California they gave me a lot of contraceptive methods (condoms, plan b and birth control) for free, as they want to avoid illegal and legal immigrants from getting pregnant and having babies that would acquire US nationality. As you can understand he didn't want to use condoms but thanks to this I was able to take birth control.
 - I still feel unsafe and don't know how to get out of this situation. The authorities can't help me. I think the only option would be fleeing the country.
 - a. Would you feel safe to report it to the authorities?
 - b. Never, even if I was a legal immigrant I wouldn't go to the police in this scenario. They are violent, verbally and physically; oppressive; and disrespectful. They have no empathy and in their behavior you can tell that they abuse their power of authority.
 - c. I have a close friend who is a legal immigrant, also victim of domestic violence in Irvine, California. One time, her friends called the cops and when

they arrived they were very violent and abrupt. They tried to force her to file a report against her boyfriend and when she denied, as she was really scared of him and the possible outcome of the situation (he could kill her), the police officers called her stupid and crazy.

7. Do you feel identified with the national security discourse regarding migration? What do you think about it?
 - No, I think it is very abstract and inconclusive. It helps nobody and does very little.
 - a. Do you find it to be a populist and biased discourse, modified to the mere beliefs of the US inhabitants?
 - b. Yes, I think it assists the growth of stereotypes.
8. Do you think the national security strategy highlights a series of stereotypes so that US citizens ask for laws and measurements and those in power remain in power?
 - a. Yes
9. What would you change about the current migration policies OR situation?
 - a. Do you think it could change? If so, how?
 - I don't have enough knowledge on the matter