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[rpapeles@uaemex.mx](mailto:rpapeles@uaemex.mx)

Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México  
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Castillo F., Dídimo

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# Presentation

**G**lobalization caused substantial changes the Latin American international migratory panorama. Recent economic, social and political transformations made such phenomenon more complex and caused the appearance of new questions. Current migration is marked by intense contradictions: on the one side, by the unusual growth and diversification of the flows; and on the other, by the restrictions imposed to immigration in the destination countries. Migration goes everywhere nevertheless it goes towards the most economically prosperous countries or regions. Paradoxically, the very logics of the dominant economic model, which empowers labor market flexibility, outsourcing and liberty to dismiss laborers, promotes impassable restrictions to workforce's free mobility. Capitals free flow at world scale does not correspond to the barriers imposed to immigration from the underdeveloped peripheries. The restrictions to laborers' immigration can vary from legal dispositions to exacerbation of racism and xenophobia in the receptor countries, which perceive migrants' presence as a threat to their conditions of life and employment.

In Latin America, the international migration scenario has changed in its intensity, socio-demographic characteristics and the orientations of the flows. In recent decades, migratory flows have been intensified and have acquired new features, such as origin, which tends to be essentially urban, the broadening of the regions of origin and socio demographic characteristics of the migrants'. International emigration has been basically directed towards the United States. Nonetheless, flows with alternate destinations to the traditional movement have gained importance. The hardening of the migratory controls by the United States has propitiated the search of new migratory alternatives. The phenomenon has been, in a certain manner, a novelty; it is suggestive of the diversification acquired by the international migration in function of the possibilities of laboring insertion in developed countries. Latin American transcontinental Migratory contingents have amazingly grown and they tend to be diverse. Migration to Europe, particularly to Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Italy,

is twice-fold relevant: because of the magnitude and growth of the flows and because of the meaning it represents having had as a destination certain countries of the region some decades ago. In this sense, migration to such countries even if it is shaped up by native people from the region, has, at a certain extent, the migratory character of return or direct of distant descendants of several generations.

Latin American migration—particularly from Mexico and Central America—towards the United States is favored by the proximity and other strategies adopted by the migrants to cross the border. Yet, other factors of the social kind could favor immigration to Europe. In a certain manner, the United States are ceasing to be the «country of promises». The indicators of the internal deterioration of the United States society are diverse and contrast with the European society as for conditions and expectations of life of wide society sectors; particularly the access to better quality jobs, social and medical security as well as other goods of public interest distinguish both social models; the first centered on the individual, the exploitation of the personal work, and the other, founded on criteria of greater collectivity and social solidarity. The risks in employment opportunities, income, education and health are greater by the day for the United States' population, both native and immigrant. The «American Dream» is losing its validity in relation to the limited possibilities of social growth the current laboring model offers. Distance between poor and wealthy has become broader, the United States can not longer pretend to be recognized by having an ascendant mobility model at the reach of every single American, and a model to be followed by the rest of the countries in the world. Along the three recent decades, with the adoption of the Neoliberal economic model, the quality of jobs has been deteriorated, incomes have been polarized and there has been an increment in social inequality and poverty conditions of the population. It can be said the American model has lost its warranty and adepts.

The visions of the United States and Europe give place to projects with opposite foundations and divergent possibilities. The orientation of the European project does not only seem to be more accordant to the demands of the times, nonetheless, opposite to the American Dream, the European one turns out to be better positioned in the current society, highly globalized, connected and interdependent. The United States is a country in a clear social regression.

As for the possibilities of social mobility it is not any more the promising and trust-generating place. Their general conditions of existence, even if they can be superior to most of the countries, in several aspects have become stagnant or decadent in recent decades. The United States is a society in decadence. Social ascension has become more difficult for an important part of the native and immigrant population. With the deterioration of the employment qualities and the increment in the income inequalities, poverty has grown. Average salary has been deteriorated. In the country Latin American people face larger obstacles to access opportunities of social and economic improvement. In education, the percentage of Latin American people with university degree has not grown in recent years. Salaries' inequality is greater than that three decades ago. In the said framework, it is possible to foresee a social and laboring future scenario uncertain for migrants, especially for those with low schooling levels.

In the current issue, *Papeles de POBLACIÓN* includes a selection of novel works on diverse topics of academic relevance and social and political importance, developed in analytical and methodological rigor by specialist in the topic the articles deal with. The works are grouped in four thematic sections.

This issue's first section deals with recent Latin American international migration, in respect to the new migratory flows and the restrictions and strategies adopted by the migrants in the borders of crossing. The section opens with the article by María Cristina Cacopardo, Alicia Maguid and Rosana Martínez researchers from the Universidad Nacional de Luján, Argentina, on Latin American migration towards Spain. The article compares the socio-demographic characteristics and the forms of laboring insertion of the Argentinean migrants to those of the Ecuadorians and Colombians — principal Latin American countries with emigration to that country— in the Spanish labor market and identifies the laboring insertion spaces linked to educational profile, gender, and time of migration. The following work, by María Eugenia Anguiano Téllez and Alma Paola Trejo Peña, both researechers from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, analyzes the changes in the routes of the migratory flows due to the hardening of the control and vigilance measures in the Mexican border adopted by the United States' authorities.

The following section deals with poverty and its measurement. It is composed by two works: the first by Gustavo Álvarez, Alicia Gómez and María Fernanda Olmos, researchers from the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos de Argentina, it describes some of the demographic differential in relation to the poverty's heterogeneity of the country based on data from the 2001 Population Census and the application of the Índice de Privación Material de los Hogares, which enables identifying the intensity of the problem and the relative participation of the geographic country regions. The second article, by Araceli Damián, researcher professor from the Centro de Estudios Demográficos, Urbanos y Ambientales de El Colegio de México, refers to the comparability problems of the Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares and its effect in the measurement of poverty in Mexico. According to the authoress, said survey has serious deficiencies as for data capturing and comparability, which distorts poverty calculations in the country.

Two articles on scenarios of demographic growth in Mexico make up the following section: the first by Katja Kesseli and Carlos Galindo, both subscribed to the European Doctoral School of Demography, Max Planck Institute, the authoress to the University of Helsinki and the author to the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute, on scenarios of demographical growth in Mexico, performed with base on stochastic projections of the national population for the period 2001-2050; the second work by Isaac Azuz Adeath and Evelia Rivera Arriaga, the former researcher professor from the Escuela de Ingeniería de CETYS-Universidad, Campus Ensenada, the latter researcher from the Autonomous University of Campeche; their article deals with demographic growth of the Mexican coastal states, it is based on a theoretical model of demographic growth, Boltzian-Sigmoidal, constructed from the available censal information for each coastal state of Mexico.

The final section topics are fertility and reproductive health. It is composed by an article by Humberto González Galbán, Yolanda Palma and María de Lourdes Montes researchers from El Colegio de la Frontera Norte and the Autonomous University of Nayarit, respectively, the article features a regional analysis of the fertility proximate determinants in Mexico; finally, the work of Alfonso Mejía Modesto, researcher from the Population Research and Advanced Studies of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, on the current situation and future scenarios of sexual and reproductive health in the State of Mexico.

Dídimo Castillo F.  
*Director*