

## SCRIPT

I'm Annee , I'm Elizabeth, I'm Will and this is EVERYTHING THAT'S WRONG IN THE WORLD, a podcast about....well, everything that's wrong in the world.

Today we're going to talk about U.S.-Mexico Migration

So you guys, Why should we care? Well migration has been happening for as long as the U.S. has been a country and now under President Trump's administration it has been a huge topic. It's clearly a human security issue because the border presents a challenge to personal, economic, and environmental security. **Totally but before we get into that, let's back up for a second and look at the history of migration a bit to get a better feel for what's happening right now**

ANNEE:

- So this has gotten a lot of media coverage and I think that Daniel Chiquiar, a professor of economics at UC-San Diego, lays out recent migratory patterns really well
  - Now He looks at economic motivations to migration- so this is not to discount other reasons for migration
  - → data on documented and undocumented immigrants is inconclusive, **people may not say if they are undocumented due to fear or deportation. Families and individuals may move back and forth, too** - overall the data is not perfect
  - Identify three main periods of relatively recent migration patterns and the motivations
    - 1990-2000: High rate of migration
      - PEOPLE leaving Mexico bc of the economic crisis otherwise known as the peso crisis
      - Coming to U.S. bc of the high demand for cheap labor
        - NAFTA (1994) - and this was a huge deal
        - Policy shift in Mexico - privatization, decreased investment in public goods, formerly protected Mexican industries are hurt by lowering trade barriers- so a lot of U.S. companies and U.S. imports undermining Mexican markets and vdisplacing thousands of workers
        - **Relationship between NAFTA and deportations**
        - **1994 operation gatekeeper doubles border patrol and border barriers, leads to more clandestine crossings and deaths**
    - 2000-2007 stagnation of migration

- because capital-intensive sectors growing at faster rate than labor-intensive in the U.S. which employs large portion of Mexican immigrants
  - And I would also say he argues that stricter US immigration policy post 9/11 had a large impact on this pattern
- 2007-2010 lower rate of migration
    - Decrease largely due to effects of global economic crisis
    - Low performance of industries that employed a lot of mexican immigrants → right like the construction industry
    - Continue need for skilled labor (education, financial services) VS unskilled
  - See in 2014 wave of 70,000 unaccompanied minors that U.S. immigration system was largely unprepared for
  - “Feb 2019 had the highest number of undocumented immigrants crossing the border in 12 years” NBC news
  - So now the question is what do we do? You know we are partly responsible for this migration - through trade like NAFTA, economic crises, What’re are the policies we have in place?

WILL:

1.7 billion two-way trade each day

Current US Immigration system is broken

- Almost all immigrants seeking permanent access to the United States do not have a legal way to do so
  - Short summary of visa, refugee, asylum application process
    - Family visas: Only immediate family members are subject to family visas, the rest must wait upwards of 20 years
    - Work visas This isn’t my area of expertise so correct me if i’m wrong but are Work visas usually given to individuals who are sponsored by businesses in the U.S. to individuals who are considered to be highly skilled and highly educated workers Right which is absolutely necessary, but it excludes the vast majority of unskilled and uneducated workers that the US economy relies to heavily on
    - We have a way for high-skilled and highly educated individuals to get into the country, and yet we exclude unskilled laborers which contribute to a

significant portion of our economy--which is a really interesting precedent we're setting up here.

- Asylum seekers must set foot on US soil to apply for asylum
  - The third way you can get legal access to the United States is through applying for asylum, which we have seen so much on the news lately, but even this is very difficult to be approved, because you have to prove that you have a credible fear of persecution in your home country, and then be approved by an immigration judge to be deserving. In total, about 20% of asylum seekers are actually granted asylum
  - 76% get credible fear approved
  - 28% of those get accepted
  - Syracuse study suggests 70-90% of asylum seekers from Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Haiti are denied as opposed to only 20% of cases from China and Ethiopia.
  - And that's really interesting, since we don't really hear about the Chinese and Ethiopian migrants, we are entirely focused on Mexican migration, and in a securitized light.
  - This difference might be influenced by a recent agreement between the United States and Mexico where asylum seekers are granted a humanitarian visa so they can work/live in Mexico while they wait for their asylum hearing. But, US judges see that these asylum seekers already have a humanitarian visa, and deny their asylum applications because they have already established a stable life in Mexico
- Due process
  - 2016, 20% of cases were decided without representation. (4515 people)
    - 90% were denied
    - When represented, only 48% are denied
- So, aside from people with very unique circumstances or very special skills, the vast majority of people seeking legal entrance to the United States are not permitted to do so
- So because of this...migrants are seeking alternative methods and routes--one of which is through hiring smugglers or attempting crossings on their own, I presume.
- Despite this, statistics show that increased border security has by no means deterred people from attempting to cross.

- For example, I spoke with a hondurenan man during my visit to Tijuana and I asked him, what are you going to do if your claim is denied and you get deported back to honduras, and he answered me with no hesitation, “Ill start preparing for the trip back. I cant stay in honduras any more, thats not an option.”
- SO people are still crossing the border, which has gotten a lot of media coverage- but what is happening at the border?

ELIZABETH:

So we’ve set migrants at the border up to fail. We’ve pushed them into dangerous situations as they’re seeking safety, asylum, opportunity, and more.

So, we leave them no other choice other than to attempt crossing the border on their own, or to even seek the services of a smuggler--

--who, at this point is painted as an aggressor by popular discourse.

The smuggler is a man, non-white, probably part of a criminal syndicate.

Yeah, exactly. We’re painting a really particular picture that isn’t entirely true. This is one of multiple facets of discourse that need to change.

- Smugglers are often family friends, acquaintances even. Even then, it’s not just men.
- Women and even children in border communities facilitate smuggling through providing supplies, lodging, and guidance along the hazardous route.
- Something else that’s distorted if not forgotten by the security discourse is the fact that these individuals facilitating are completing a form of informal labor. The commonality between women and children is in the emotional labor component, too.
- Facilitators are gaining migrants’ trust, they’re counting on gaining it to do their jobs.
- They’re not just coerced victims fleeing poverty and gangs in border communities.
- Right, the victimization narrative, I feel is toxic. Gabriella Sanchez at UT El Paso wrote a selection of great pieces suggesting that It’s a way of gaining agency, economic power and legitimacy within their communities.
- This is where we see the need to change the discourse. Our focus on national security, while valid, misses out on the humanity of the ordeal. Here we need to really think about the dignity part of human security.
- Right. By thinking of the smuggler as an enemy, as a trafficker, we erase the agency of migrants and the informal workers relying on the smuggling effort to help others find their own security, but also in getting a stake in their own. And that’s really important in these communities.

- So Elizabeth, i agree that we need to change the rhetoric we use to discuss immigration. Do you think that this would be effective in changing immigration policies that are impacting the human security of migrants at the border as we speak?
- This is a point Sanchez makes, too, suggesting the reframing of the discourse and policy to consider all the moving parts and craft a more effective plan to combat clandestine crossings, to approach it from a more human side.
- This would definitely be more effective in terms of respecting human rights, as it would change the image of the migrant from a threat, and bring this perception to the level of the human being seeking to stabilize their existence.

So I hope the listeners leave today with a better understanding of the reality at the U.S.-Mexico border.

And that what you've heard today has inspired you to critically reflect on your own perceptions, and just where they come from, and what you can do to reshape your understanding.

Most importantly, seek to gain more perspective from migrants themselves, because we cannot truly understand these complex issues if we do not know the people themselves and the realities they are experiencing.

Thank you for listening to the migration edition of, "Everything that's wrong in the world" a podcast about everything that's wrong in the world.

**END**

### CITATIONS

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## EDITING NOTES

### RECORDING 1:

- Fine intro/why do we care
- Not first part intro DAN
- 1:30 start with 1990
  - Not my fave
- 2:30 stagnation
  - Fine but comment back to elizabeth
- 2:50-3:00 talk about how we see policies shifting
- Like the last part 3:00-3:30 on lower rates of migration
- Good unaccompanied
- 4:00- fine - asking the questions!
- 5:03 -5:23 WILLS question- fine
- 8:50-9:00- despite attempts crossing what is actually happening at border- fine
- 9:20-30- explain smuggler- fine
- 11:09- not my best- dignity of HS
- Ending fine

### RECORDING 2:

- Good intro of names
- :15-:18 - GOOD QUESTION- why should we even care
- 40- 1:10- good intro to daniel
  - Can you cut out "very" before inconclusive, so its just is inconclusive
- 1:20-1:40 - intro 1990 -DO NOT LIKE
  - 1:40-1:54 KEEP- laughing about NAFTA
- 2:13- policies in mexico- OK :/ kinda like tho

- DONT keep 2:50-3:00- say deterring
- 3:08 -3:20 stagnation fine
  - 3:30-3:37 shifting policies keep
  - Take out “this is the last part chiquiar outlines”
- 3:43 2007-2010
  - DO NOT USE THIS ONE
- 4:11-4:20- KEEP
- 4:47-5:00- maybe keep- question about policy
- 6:20-6:40 - not my best - but ok? Good question at end
- 10:43-54 good question
- 11:15-11:19 GOOD
- 12: 24-12:39 OK
- Ending is fine

### Recording 3

- Fine entry
- 15-17 Good question “why should we even care”
- :40- 1:17 GOOD Dan intro
- 1:20-1:30 - high rate of migration- good
  - Take our 1;30-1:35 INTRO BUT maybe add the part that says trade agreement between U.S.-Mexico and Canada (1:37-140)
- Keep 1:37-1:40
  - Didn’t love description of NAFTA
- 2:28 -stagnation
  - Good
- 2:52- migration shifting good
- 2:52-3:00 keep
- 3:14-3:25 maybe take out - stuttering
- 3:25-3:30 - NO BAD TRANSITION TO UNACCOMPANIED MINORS
- Bad unaccompanied minor one
- 4:09-4:23 - GOOD Q
- 5:08-5:28 - good work visa description
- 9:08-9:14 OK question
- 9:38-9:43 ok :/
- 11:06-11:23 not my best
- 12:40-47 THIS ENDING

### ANNEE PARTS

- Recording 2 entry with names good (but not that important)

- Use recording 2 00:15-:18 (question)
- Use recording 3 00:40-1:17 (intro DAN/my section)
- Use recording 3 1:20-1:30 (1990-2000 cheap labor)
- Use recording 2 1:38-1:59 KEEP THIS (introducing NAFTA)
- Use recording 3 1:37-1:39 (said opened borders between U.S. Mexico Canada)
- Use recording 3 1:44-2:00 (description of NAFTA)
- Use recording 3 2:27-2:40 (stagnation of migration)
- Use recording 3 2:52-3:00 (policies shifting)
- Use recording 3 2:59-3:10 (lower rate migration), **3:14-3:25 don't use**
- Use recording 2 4:10-4:20 (unaccompanied minors)
- Use recording 3 4:09-4:23 (question about what do we do- policy)
- Use recording 3 5:08-5:27 (working visa)
- Use recording 2 10:44-10:52 (what's actually happening at border?)
- Use recording 2 11:14-11:19 (smuggler description)
- Use recording 2 12:25-12:39 (human dignity) Maybe recording 3 @ 11:06 if u think that's better
- Use recording 3 12:40-12:47 (ending)

## Will Recording 1

(4:15-5:03 for sure)

1.7 billion two-way trade each day

Current US Immigration system is broken

- Almost all immigrants seeking permanent access to the United States do not have a legal way to do so
  - Short summary of visa, refugee, asylum application process
    - Family visas: Only immediate family members are subject to family visas, the rest must wait upwards of 20 years

(5:20-5:42) work visas dont work for unskilled etc

(5:42) Asylum

- Seems long, lots of confusing stats
- Good tho

6:42-7:42

Syracuse study suggests 70-90% of asylum seekers from mexico, honduras, guatemala, el salvador, and haiti are denied as opposed to only 20% of cases from China and ethiopia.



This difference might be influenced by a recent agreement between the United States and Mexico where asylum seekers are granted a humanitarian visa so they can work live in Mexico while they wait for their asylum hearing. But, US judges see that these asylum seekers already have a humanitarian visa, and deny their asylum applications because they have already established a stable life in Mexico

7:42-8:34

Due process

2016, 20% of cases were decided without representation. (4515 people)

90% were denied

When represented, only 48% are denied

So, aside from people with very unique circumstances or very special skills, the vast majority of people seeking legal entrance to the United States are not permitted to do so

Round 2

Good intro!!

NAFTA joke funny (1:40-1:48 ish)

(2:34-3:06) 1994 operation gatekeeper doubles border patrol and border barriers, leads to more clandestine crossings and deaths

(4:20-4:45) Feb 2019 had the highest number of undocumented immigrants crossing the border in 12 years” NBC news

(5:45-6:18) FAM VISAS BAD

(6:38-7:05)

Work visas + elizabeth not bad

(7:38-10:00) Too long, not very structured

(10:15-10:34)

Honduras anecdote GOOD

Round 3

INTRO SUCKS, Totally but before we get into that, let's back up for a second and look at the history of migration a bit to get a better feel for what's happening right now

Annees part is good

(2:02-2:25) 1994 operation gatekeeper doubles border patrol and border barriers, leads to more clandestine crossings and deaths

3:41-4:09 “Feb 2019 had the highest number of undocumented immigrants crossing the border in 12 years” NBC news

4:30-5:08 Family Visas

5:28-5:46 Work Visas

6:04-6:40 ASYLUM GOOD

6:41-6:55 SYRACUSE STUDY

7:48-8:25 DUE PROCESS GOOD

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