ABSTRACT

Feliz Garip

There are about 12 million Mexican migrants in the United States, about half of whom are unauthorized. Who are these migrants? What brings them to the United States? On the Move is a book project that seeks to understand the shifting dynamics of the Mexican migrant stream, which, for more than a century now, has remained stable in its presence, but changed remarkably not only in its composition and origins in Mexico, but also in its destinations and settlement patterns in the United States. Using survey data from about 20,000 migrants and interviews with 150+ migrants and family members, the book identifies four migrant types with different configurations of characteristics. Each type is consistent with a specific theoretical account, and becomes prevalent in a specific period, depending on the economic, social and political conditions in Mexico and the United States.