

Wednesday, 8 January / Miércoles 8 de enero

11:00-12:30: Salón Topacio

Human Geography III/ Geografía Humana III

Chair: Martin Danyluk

Latino Influence in U.S. Elections: A Demographic and Spatial Analysis of Latino Voters in U.S. Presidential Elections, 1992-2012

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In the United States the growing Latino population is often referred to as the “sleeping giant” of electoral politics due to the group’s significant size. After the 2012 Presidential elections some argued that the 'sleeping giant' had finally awakened. This work analyzes the validity of this claim by looking at national Latino electoral participation from the 1990’s to the present, concentrating on measures of electoral participation and influence of Latino voters. Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the ANES Survey at the national level, this paper will then focus on two states, Arizona and Nevada, to assess the changing influence of Latinos and Latino voters on state elections. I conclude that in the future Latino influence will grow considerably, which will cause substantial electoral and political shifts in the country favoring the Democratic Party and possibly influencing relations with Latin America.
Keywords: electoral geography, Latinos, U.S. presidential elections, Latin America

New Trends in Immigration Patterns and Policies in Brazil

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In part due to its upcoming mega-events, there is a rampant increase in infrastructure projects across Brazil. The country today finds itself attracting immigrants to various sectors of the economy. After decades of strict policies that have resulted in an extremely low foreign-born population, government officials are now seeking to attract ‘high-skilled’ workers such as doctors, engineers, and architects. With large-scale construction projects on the docket, construction workers from across the world are eyeing Brazil as a destination. In particular, thousands of Haitians have poured across the border in search of opportunities. Long a sending country, Brazil now finds itself in a new position of receiving immigrants from both high and low rungs of the economic ladder. The purpose of this research is to do a preliminary analysis of the public discourse surrounding the shifts in immigration policy in relation to Brazil’s long-term nation-building project.

Keywords: Brazil, immigration policy, low-skilled workers, high-skilled workers, mega events

Actividades portuarias y alcance regional de Ensenada y Cedros

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El propósito de esta investigación es revelar el alcance regional a través del estudio de las actividades que se desempeñan en dos de los puertos existentes en México uno insular el otro peninsular, Cedros y Ensenada, disímiles entre sí y al mismo tiempo importantes, además de su emplazamiento por una serie de características diferentes. Al realizar una revisión de las teorías referentes a la localización y su evolución se podrá observar y explicar la dinámica espacial no solo de los puertos como punto específico, también de las localidades, su población incluso actividades económicas. Una vez revisados los postulados teóricos acerca de la localización e interacción espacial, se observó que los puertos cuentan con características propicias para mantener su lugar dentro de un complejo mundo, ante las exigencias y demandas que hoy día deben satisfacer y más aun siendo lugares de distribución y conexiones.

Palabras clave: alcance regional, puertos

The Two Chinas in Latin America: A Case Study of the China-Taiwan Cross-Strait Struggle in Latin America

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This paper examines the nature of the recent Chinese Diaspora in Latin America in relationship to their places of origin, namely Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. This paper will review the scope of migration and investment from China and Taiwan to Latin America focusing on Panama, Peru and Brazil. In the last ten years, Latin America has seen a large influx of Chinese immigrants, in the case of Peru, having doubled in the last five years. In the case of Panama, Taiwanese investments have supported diasporic organizations such as the Federation of Chinese Associations in Central America and Panama. Similarly in Brazil, the growing Chinese Diaspora seeking work authorization has doubled in the last ten years. The communities in these countries are often divided between those from the mainland and those from Taiwan. Through a review of previous research, government data, and accounts from locals, this paper explores the different methods that the two governments approach their diasporic communities in Latin America and what it means for Latin American relations with China.

Keywords: Taiwan, China, Latin America

Phase Two of Autonomy: Nicaraguan Indigenous Territorial Governments

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This research analyzes consequences of 25 years of multi-ethnic autonomy in Northeastern Nicaragua and specifically assesses processes in the indigenous territories of Wangki Maya and Prinsu Awala. During 2013 fieldwork, my research assistant from a regional university and I completed 34 interviews with leaders and 90 public surveys. Our findings suggest self-determination has advanced considerably, particularly in recent years with the institutionalization of 20 Indigenous Territorial Governments. However, governance power and procedures vary widely between territories. *Caudillo*- style politics at national and regional levels have both contributed to and impeded local autonomy in complex and contradictory ways. Procedures for territorial *saniamiento* (cleansing) are being planned to defend indigenous rights and assure legal control, but there appears to be significant disconnect between state and public expectations for the implementation of this potentially controversial process.

Keywords: Nicaragua, Indigenous Peoples, autonomy, territory, regionalization

“One Big Port”: Producing and Contesting Logistics Space in Panama’s Transit Corridor

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As the narrowest part of the American continent, the Isthmus of Panama has for centuries occupied a strategic position in world trading networks. In the neoliberal context, this unique geographical situation has been parlayed into a joint effort by Panama’s corporate and state elites to position the country as a regional cargo distribution hub. But analysts warn that Panama’s long-term competitiveness in this crowded field hinges on its ability to integrate the shipping and logistics facilities clustered at both ends of the Panama Canal so that they function like “one big port.” The result has been a comprehensive program of infrastructure investment that is rapidly altering the physical and social landscape of the isthmus. This paper argues that strategic goals formulated at the level of a global architecture of maritime trade are shaping local urban trajectories and lived experiences in Panama in distinctive, uneven, and contested ways.

Keywords: Panama, urbanization, shipping, infrastructure