

Hispanic Economic Experience Session 1: Migration Process

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Trends in Poverty and Inequality among Hispanics

by Pia Orrenius and Madeline Zavodny

- Point out the difficulty of estimating poverty in Hispanic population due to self-reporting issues (Duncan and Trejo, 2009, 2011)
- They point to the fact that poverty maybe overstated due to the fact that it is based on pre-tax income and thus some of the social net provided by various cash and in-kind transfers not included. They ignore some of the literature arguing that these social nets are not reaching some Hispanic groups

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- They do point out that migrants can increase their income status “when the macroeconomy is doing well”
- Assimilation:
 - Rise of non-marital births among native-born Hispanics. “Unmarried women account for over one-half of births among Hispanics (Hamilton et al. 2010)
 - Will this impact the family net that allows many to receive assistance.
 - Are other choices being made that will increase the likelihood of poverty.

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- Elderly
 - Native Hispanic are not as likely to receive pension or Social Security.
- Immigrant Elderly
 - Earnings Suspense Fund
 - Will they retire in the US or in Mexico
- MINOR ISSUE
 - Gini Comparisons

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Brian C. Cadena and Brian Kovak

- During the Great Depression the movement back to Mexico of many immigrants was not immediate
- PEW Hispanic Data supports the current lack of movement back at these early stages but as time goes on and if there is no Economic rebound....

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Brian C. Cadena and Brian Kovak

- Creative construction of segregating the movement into the various channels
- Issue whether some of the error terms in (10) are correlated with each other
- This paper explains why migrants are weathering this recession better than unskilled native-born workers: Labor MOBILITY

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M. Anne Visser and Edwin Melendez

- Recommend looking at the work of Duncan and Trejo
- Why 2/3 of median wage to determine “low-wage” Comparison to 1/3?
- This paper does address the very important issue of Hispanic “diversity”
 - Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.

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M. Anne Visser and Edwin Melendez

- Puzzle, Cubans more likely to engage in low wages work than Mexicans.
 - Is this a result of the manner in which low wage is defined?
- Perhaps a Oaxaca decomposition is needed to understand the exception to the rule impact of language fluency for the Puerto Ricans

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