

ECUADORIAN IMMIGRATION IN SWITZERLAND SOCIAL NETWORKS, TRANSNATIONALISM, AND INTEGRATION.

Raúl Burgos Paredes

Supervisor: Laura Bernardi

Introduction

Research Question: Understand structural and socio-cultural integration of Ecuadorian immigrants in Switzerland and what is the impact that social capital and transnational activities may have in it, paying attention to the interplay between individual action, life history, and structural embedding.

Structural Integration

Related to the position occupied by immigrants in the socio-economic stratification of the society such as position in education, employment, income, quality of housing, and political rights.

Socio-cultural Integration

Related to features such as the proficiency of the language of the host country, the amount of social contacts with the local population, acceptance of prevailing norms in the host country.

Integration as a dynamic process through the life course (Latcheva, Herzog-Punzenberger, 2011).

Theory

Social Capital

Social capital derives from the type and size of social networks. I will differentiate between *bridging social capital* and *bonding social capital*.

Social Networks

Social networks as source of social capital for immigrants. Type of resources accessed and mobilized. Emotional, informational, instrumental support. Furthermore, immigrants' networks may be spatially dispersed.

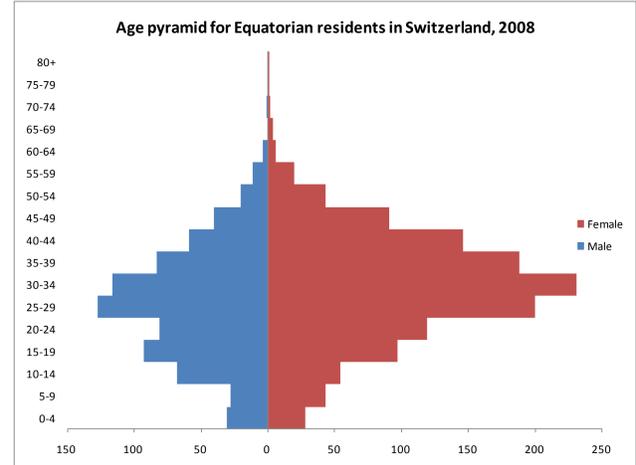
Transnationalism

Immigrants' engagement in economic, socio-cultural and political activities across borders. Empirical evidence regarding its relationship to integration is inconclusive.

The case study

The case study. Ecuadorians in Switzerland

- Growing migratory flow. From 626 in 1995, to 2036 in 2008. (Office Federal de la Statistique)
- Increased feminization
- Relatively recent immigrant community. Main destination: Lausanne and Geneva
- Mainly first generation immigrants
- Transit from Spain
- Many more Ecuadorians, amounting to 15,000, live without legal status (Montaluisa Vivas, 2007).
- Occupations. Construction, restaurant services, domestic services.



Research Design and Approach

Methodology and Sample

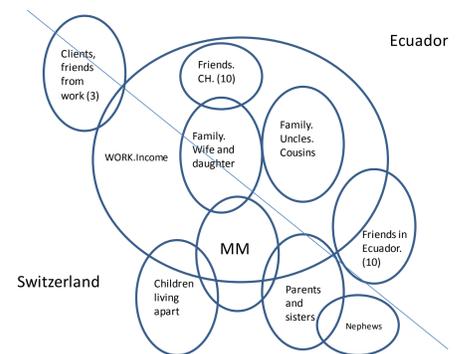
Qualitative study involving:

- **Semi-structured interview** exploring: decision to emigrate, sense of belonging, social networks, social network perceptions, transnational involvement, integration (objective/subjective)
- **LIVES-Life-calendar.** Useful to obtain, among others, the migratory and occupational trajectories of each individual and how the two may be related.
- **Free-style social network drawing**
- **Participant observation**

Sampling Strategy

	Documented		Undocumented		Total
	Duration of Stay		Duration of Stay		
	>6 years	<6 years	>6 years	<6 years	
Male	5	5	5	5	20
Female	5	5	5	5	20
Total	10	10	10	10	40

Example of social network drawing



- Grasps the importance given by the person to his social network
- Complements the guideline by providing details about the type of support received/given.
- Provides geographical location

References

Latcheva, R. and Herzog-Punzenberger, B. 2011. Integration Trajectories: A Mixed-Method Approach. In Wings, M.; Windzio, M.; de Valk, H.; Aybek, C. (Eds.). *A Life-Course Perspective on Migration and Integration*. Springer

Montaluisa Vivas, R. 2007. L'émigration équatorienne: ses causes et ses conséquences. In : Bolzman C., M. Carbajal et G. Mainardi (Sous la direction) . *La Suisse au rythme latino. Dynamiques migratoires des Latino-Américains : logiques d'action, vie quotidienne, pistes d'intervention dans les domaines du social et de la santé* , Les Editions IES, Genève.