PROPOSAL: **THE EVOLUTION OF THE DOCUMENTED AND UNDOCUMENTED POPULATION OF MEXICAN MIGRANTS TO THE US**

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The first objective of this research project is to describe the evolution (over the period 1960-2000) of the characteristics of the documented and undocumented population of Mexican migrants to the US. That is, the goal is to recover a collection of distribution functions (one for each time period) of migrants' characteristics. Characteristics of interest are, for instance, the age of the household head (henceforth head), the age of the head at his first migration, the education of the head and his skills, the location of the head and of his household, the documentation of the head, the documentation of the head at first migration, the household composition, etc..

Availability of these distributions allows us to answer questions such as: (i) Have the skills of Mexican migrants to the US changed over time? Are there differences in this respect between migrants with documentation (temporary visa or green card) and without (undocumented)?, (ii) How do Mexican migrants who are in the US with their dependents differ from those migrants whose household is in Mexico? Is it the case that the type of migrant - with respect to the two categories of lone-migrant and of family migrant - has changed over time (e.g. in terms of the number and ages of offspring)? (iii) Have (and if so how) the characteristics of those migrants who cross the border undocumented changed over time? Are migrants engaging more or less in undocumented crossing of the border? How do those who cross the border without documentation fare in the US labor market?

The descriptive task is not straightforward. First, the task is very demanding with respect to the data it requires (both at the micro-level and along the time dimension). Indeed, no Mexican or US national survey (or census) collects such wealth of information, at such high frequency (yearly), over such long period of time. Second, the data that contains the rich (longitudinal) information needed (i.e. the data originating from the Mexican Migration Project, henceforth MMP) presents multiple challenges to the user. Specifically, the MMP data (i) is not a representative sample of the population of Mexicans (at any point in time), (ii) is collected in a retrospective fashion, and (iii) excludes (by construction) those Mexican households that at the survey time are in the US in their entirety.

In this project we use the MMP data as the main source of household-level longitudinal information. We supplement this data with data from several other sources: (1) (community level) Mexican Census data (INEGI and CONAPO, 2000 and 2005), (2) Current Population Survey data (CPS, 1972-2000), (3) World Heath Organization data