

SUMMARY

Sebastian Serra, Class of 2011

The Evolution of the Documented and Undocumented Population of Mexican Migrants to the US

Professor Melissa Tartari

The research project consisted of two main parts, both concerning immigration between Mexico and the United States.

First, I had to make a summary of the immigration laws in the US for the 20th century. This required reading and conducting searches online and at the library. I created a table with the major changes and amendments that have been made to immigration law in the US in the last century. This will allow Prof. Tartari to see how legislation has changed the amount of immigration from Mexico in the past years.

Second, I had to try and map the evolution of immigration from Mexico to the US by using ArcMAP. Prof. Tartari gave me a STATA database with sex ratios at the locality level for all of Mexico since 1900. The idea is that sex ratios can give an idea of the amount of immigration from different parts of Mexico since more men migrate than women. I needed to find a way to graph this information for each year on a map of Mexico so that Prof. Tartari could make an analysis of how immigration has changed through time. This implied learning to handle a large database on STATA and using ArcMAP to graph the maps. I was not actually able to produce the maps but I did learn how to transfer the data from ArcMAP to STATA and what to do within ArcMAP to create the different maps.

My experience working on this SRO project was very positive. I learned how to use the relevant economic software including STATA and ArcMAP and also got a very good idea of what working in academia is like.