

EDITORIAL

Global Migrations: Methodological Challenges, Institutional Challenges, and Emerging Actors

[English version]

Migraciones globales: desafíos metodológicos,
retos institucionales y actores emergentes

Migrações globais: desafios metodológicos,
desafios institucionais e atores emergentes

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Abstract

The issue "Global Migrations: Methodological Challenges, Institutional Challenges, and Emerging Actors" brings novel research that shows a theoretical-empirical overview of the complexities of migration, the policies and institutions involved in the phenomenon, and the agents, called differently —climate refugees, resident migrants or unaccompanied migrant girls, boys, and adolescents—, share the same structural injustices. It shows the potential to move from discourse to action, the visibility of emerging actors, the agendas and policies around the migration phenomenon, the limits,

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expansion, and epistemological challenges to the growing complexity, transversality, and intersectionality of the migration phenomenon.

Keywords: migration; emerging actors; transnational voting; public policy; violence.

Resumen

El dossier «Migraciones globales: desafíos metodológicos, retos institucionales y actores emergentes» reúne trabajos novedosos que evidencian un panorama teórico-empírico sobre las complejidades de la migración, las políticas e instituciones intervinientes en el fenómeno; así como de los agentes, que si bien reciben diferentes denominaciones —refugiados climáticos, migrantes residentes o niñas, niños y adolescentes migrantes no acompañados—, comparten las mismas injusticias de índole estructural. En él se evidencia el potencial de pasar del discurso a la acción, la visibilización de actores emergentes, las agendas y políticas en torno al fenómeno migratorio, así como los límites, ampliación y desafíos epistemológicos ante la creciente complejidad, transversalidad e interseccionalidad del fenómeno migratorio.

Palabras clave: migración; actores emergentes; voto transnacional; política pública; violencia.

Resumo

O dossiê *Migrações globais: desafios metodológicos, desafios institucionais e atores emergentes* reúne trabalhos inovadores que apresentam um panorama teórico-empírico sobre as complexidades da migração, as políticas e instituições envolvidas no fenômeno, bem como os agentes que, apesar de receberem diferentes denominações — refugiados climáticos, migrantes residentes ou crianças e adolescentes migrantes não acompanhados —, compartilham as mesmas injustiças de caráter estrutural. O dossiê evidencia o potencial de transformação do discurso em ação, a visibilização de atores emergentes, as agendas e políticas em torno do fenômeno migratório, além dos limites, expansões e desafios epistemológicos diante da crescente complexidade, transversalidade e interseccionalidade da migração.

Palavras-chave: migração; atores emergentes; voto transnacional; política pública; violência.

Migration has been in man's DNA since it appeared on the earth, at the beginning, it is motivated by the need for survival, and currently is becoming a social phenomenon with multifactorial causes (Guadarrama & Andrade, 2019). International organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are forced to integrate migration into their agendas as a priority (ECLAC, 2018).

The *2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is the effort of 193 UN Member States, as well as several actors from civil society, academia, and the private sector, to achieve sustainable development. It integrates economic, social, and environmental dimensions, where the migratory variable cannot be ignored. Therefore, *Goal 10 Reduction of Inequalities*, in its goal 10.7: "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including the application of planned and well-managed migration policies" addresses the commitment to the mobility of people as an important element to achieve equality while reducing poverty and, in general, inequalities on sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion, and inequality of opportunities (ECLAC, 2018).

Unfortunately, progress in reducing inequalities and achieving migration governance has not been enough since

In 2022, at least 3,167 people died on sea and land routes to or through Europe [...]. It was also the deadliest year in America and Asia [...] 1,432 and 1,843 people lost their lives during migration [...]. These data show the lack of progress in reducing migrant deaths worldwide since 2015. (UN, 2023).

The commitment on the academic sector must be reinforced to highlight the new challenges, consolidate progress and put on discussion emerging issues and public agendas of the countries. This issue is part of that collective effort to humanize migration to achieve sustainable development.

The first paper is presented by Ospina and González "Acculturation Stress and Mental Health in Latin American Migrants: A 2010 - 2023 State of the Art Review". The authors highlight the phenomenon of mental health as a main aspect of migration experiences, especially the effects of acculturation by stress. Human mobility processes, issues related to physical survival, or material and legal aspects are prioritized, marginalizing those of a subjective nature, including interpersonal, social, and mental issues. To establish the relationship between migration and mental health, they highlight conditions that can generate a series of problems of an individual nature (subjective aspects) with structural aspects (economy, politics, and culture) that are reflected in negative conditions for mental health. The findings stand out that, although the research on the subject is based on Berry's model for acculturation and acculturation by stress, it is not conclusive or fully explanatory of the acculturation process: It only takes as a reference

point the attitudes and strategies of migrants to adapt to the environment of the receiving society, it does not include the integration processes or reception policies of the receiving society.

Vargas-Chaves, with "Climate Refugees: From Recognition to the Invocability of the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities", addresses the humanitarian crisis of a new vulnerable group and of special protection through a reflective and proactive exercise that climate refugees face into two major phenomena: forced displacement for climate causes and the absence of mechanisms that directly impact them because they lack the status of refugees with the rights recognized by international environmental law, and the international system for the protection of human rights. This is done through documentary analysis, based on the principle of common responsibility, but makes a difference between developed countries and the most vulnerable countries to climate variations or sea level rise since they are the States that cause climate change from their process of industrialization and economic expansion. This situation demands a duty of greater and permanent cooperation.

To develop the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, it approaches the current climate crisis. Thus, it addresses the research of the social impacts of human mobility caused by climate factors. It reviews the cases of Kiribati and Tuvalu as States that are at risk of disappearing before the middle of the 21st century to finally approach the problem of recognition of the status of climate refugees that becomes a humanitarian crisis that must be solved by the international human rights protection system. It concludes that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility can be an opportunity for environmental protection, to jointly and coordinated overcome climate change and the problems of climate refugees, to guarantee a sustainable future and a habitable planet in dignity for all, so refugee status must also be updated and extended.

"Political Participation of Organized Migrants with Permanent Residency in Chile (1994 – 2024)" is the third paper. Luque *et al.* state and explain the production of political rights of immigrants in Chile. It is based on the analysis of the political participation of immigrants with permanent residence in Chile (1994–2024) from a qualitative-quantitative approach. They analyze the epistemological rupture that allows reforming national mechanisms to take them to the post-national and transnational dimensions because, despite Chile having one of the most advanced legislations related to the political participation of migrants, there are still limits that define political rights. The authors criticized the hegemonic liberal/neoliberal democracy model in Latin America, the effects of globalization, and the progressive decline of methodological nationalism as a unifying space for three institutions of political modernity: the State, democracy, and citizenship. Institutions in Chile have been reconfigured through two processes,

epistemological transnationalism, and epistemological post-nationalism, whose presence is concomitant with the globalization in dispute, neoliberal and that allowed to examine 2012 the reconfiguration of citizenship, separating it from the idea of nation and nationality, and distinguishing the political rights of citizenship. To achieve the goal, they resort to theoretical-epistemological references anchored to migration and the reconfiguration of the political citizenship of these populations in Chile, as well as legal and empirical references, and recover historical milestones of international migration in Chile and policies in the field.

The fourth paper by Cruset, entitled: "The Transnational Vote of the Diasporas of Sub-National States: The Case of the Autonomous Community of Navarre," aims to analyze the vote that Navarrese with Spanish citizenship makes from abroad to check their implications as international actors in the elections of 2015, 2019, and 2023. The research focuses on subnational states that do not have their own sovereignty and, consequently, cannot grant citizenship or the right to vote. The methodology is mainly descriptive, it takes data from the Central Electoral Board and the Ministry of the Interior of Spain to explain the participation of the group observed. One of the conclusions is that the participation of voters from abroad in the Navarrese regional elections has not been numerous or decisive, even though it has gradually grown thanks to the legislative reforms that have been developed. As the extent of participation increases, the interest in the foreign vote will also increase and will generate a virtuous spiral that will benefit everyone.

In "Political Philosophy and Migration: Contemporary Debates Within the Framework of Methodological Nationalism", León Rojas masterfully reconstructs several debates raised from contemporary political philosophy. The author appeals to the theoretical-argumentative structures that arise to the migration phenomenon. The dominant paradigm of methodological nationalism has deeply shaped the few reflections on international mobility. This explains the cognitive bias that moves between ignoring the phenomenon or reinforcing the idea of the nation-state as the unique and main framework of analysis. The methodology was based on a documentary review of different schools of philosophical thought on migratory flows. The author divides the study into three parts. The first is the different debates of philosophical theorists on the dilemma of closing or opening borders. The second is the discussions on migration developed from the cosmopolitan perspective of justice. The third is developing an interest in overcoming the sequels of methodological nationalism in the debates on the ethics of migration. It all leads to the conclusion that political philosophy has uncritically accepted the structural injustices of the migration governance regime. Thus, the approaches broadening by establishing a more fluid dialogue with the

social sciences would generate more fruitful discussions and differentiated effects of migration processes in several communities and their moral implications.

Fernandez Tapia in: "Citizenship and International Migrations: Transnational Political Participation and Vote of Peruvian Immigrants, 1980-2024" implements a qualitative methodology and content analysis. It is based on official data and empirical studies that characterize the political participation of Peruvian immigrants in Spain, Italy, Chile, Argentina, and the United States. The significant growth in participation until the 2016 elections, and a significant decrease by 2021, was one of the main findings. It is replicated in the case of referendums. The absenteeism is high and the vote is preferably conservative. The participation of civil society and religious associations as drivers of transnationalism and transnational citizenship is highlighted. Another conclusion in the electoral activism of Peruvians has to do with the community in cyberspace; it has made it possible to enhance information through platforms such as YouTube and digital networks for communication and activism. Hybrid transnational citizenship also facilitates the exercise of rights and communication to what the author calls "digital transnational citizenship."

The last four papers present a unique opportunity to explore the complex realities by migrant children in Latin America.

Erika Tapia leads us to reflect on the violence by unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents in Mexico, who are in a situation of extreme vulnerability to organized crime. An exhaustive review of national and international documentary sources reveals factors such as economic precariousness and the lack of state protection that facilitate their recruitment for organized crime. The results are alarming: The minors are used for criminal activities because of their homelessness and the absence of effective protection policies. The author concludes that unaccompanied migration is a serious expression of social exclusion, and that it is crucial to strengthen protection and prevention mechanisms to guarantee their rights.

Munevar-Meneses and Giorguli Saucedo compare the educational results of young immigrants in Mexico with those born in the country with migrant ancestry. Three groups are analyzed: Generation 1.5 (migrants born in another country), generation 2.0 (children of foreign parents born in Mexico), and Generation 2.5 (descendants of mixed unions). From the 2020 Population data and Housing Census, significant inequalities in attendance and school lag among these groups are identified. Children in the 1.5 generation face the greatest barriers to school attendance and high levels of educational lag, while children in mixed unions show better results. The research highlights the importance of inclusive educational policies that guarantee the right to education of this

population, it highlights that migration and parental origin significantly influence school integration.

López Álvarez and Ocampo Castaño take us to Soacha, Colombia, where the assemblage of Venezuelan migrant children is analyzed. A qualitative approach based on the historical hermeneutic paradigm, narratives and artistic expressions are used to understand their migratory experience. The findings reveal that, despite the vulnerability inherent in the migration process, these children develop capacities for affiliation, adaptation, a sense of belonging, autonomy, and identity. The welfare perspective is questioned, and it is proposed to recognize children as agents of political and social change. It is concluded that it is essential to overcome deficit approaches and generate policies that promote children's participation in the construction of their environments.

Finally, Carvajal, López, Tabares and Dorado present a systematic review of the educational inclusion of migrants in Latin America in schools. A total of 72 scientific articles from databases such as EBSCOhost, Redalyc, Dialnet and SciELO are analyzed under the PRISMA protocol. The results reveal that, although access to education is facilitated, the permanence of migrant students is hindered by administrative problems, discrimination, social-emotional impacts and linguistic and cultural barriers. Teachers try to adapt their teaching methods to promote inclusion, although they are often limited. The need for comprehensive educational policies that address both academic achievement and the needs of the educational community is highlighted. It recognizes that education systems face challenges in ensuring the effective inclusion of migrant students.

These papers offer a comprehensive look at the complexities by migrant children in Latin America, from vulnerability to organized crime to educational and social challenges. They highlight the need for effective policies that address both the protection and educational inclusion of this population, promote an approach that recognizes migrant children as active agents in the construction of their own realities.

In conclusion, the papers of this issue in Revista *Ánfora* offer an enriching and fresh theoretical overview of the complexities of migration and its actors. It offers a critical and multidisciplinary analysis of topics such as voting, access to education, acculturation, and mental health, and the vulnerability of specific actors such as migrant children and adolescents or climate refugees, among others. Through this issue, research and reflections allow a more comprehensive understanding of the implications of migration and how to generate proposals for its approach from different areas.

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