

# MANAGING TEMPORARY MIGRATIONS: CALIFORNIA, US AND THE WORLD

UC Davis  
IFHA Symposium  
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# Migration:

## A global and national issue...

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- “Migration policies should be guided by facts, rather than hunches and hearsay”  
(UN Secretary general BAN-KI-MOON, Oct 3, 2013)
  
- “Together we can build a fair, effective and common sense immigration system that lives up to our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants “ (US President Barak Obama, promoting S744)

# With very important local implications

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- “Gov. Jerry Brown signs a bill ... allowing immigrants in the country illegally to obtain driver licenses”

(ABC News, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013).

- “We need to bring the number of H-1B visas back to its pre- 9/11 numbers”

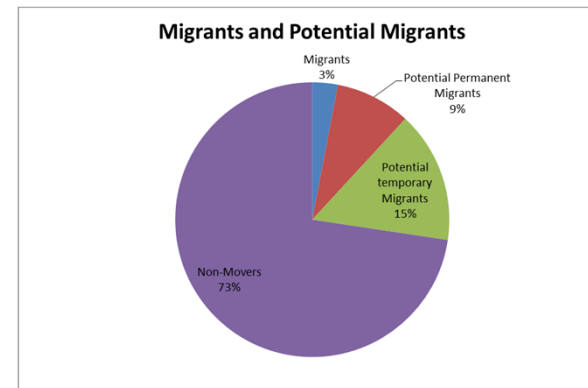
(Meg Whitman, president and CEO Hewlett Packard during her campaign)

# Some Global Numbers

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Current Migrants: 213 million (3% of world population)

- People with desire to migrate permanently (Gallup World Poll): 630 Million, 9% of world pop.
- People with desire to migrate temporarily:
- 1.1 Billion (15%)



- In OECD countries: 10% of population are migrants
- In the US: 13%. These percentages doubled since 1990.

# Numbers for the US and California

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- 20% of the world migrants (41 millions) are in the US.  
(US= 4.4 % of World population)
  
- 5% of the world Migrants (10 millions) are in California  
(Cal=0.5% of world population)
  
- 23% of the potential migrants would like to move to the US.
  - 253 potential temporary migrants to the US (from Gallup).

# Why This Research Cluster?

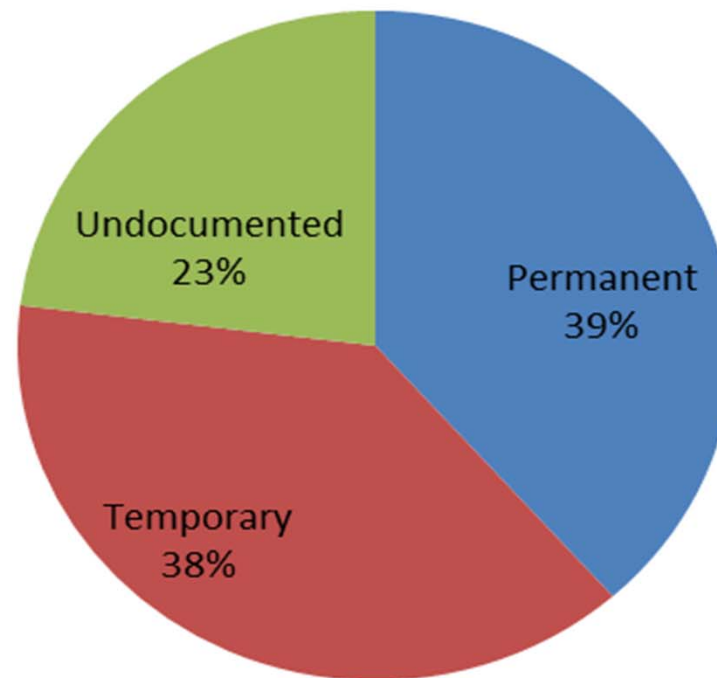
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- **Departments: Economics, History, Law, Human Development, Political Science and Sociology.**
- The forces driving migration and the consequences of migrations are economic, historical, demographic , social and political.
- The regulation of the inflow is legal. Laws are determined by Politics.
- Need understanding the different aspects and need high quality research to formulate innovative and effective policy proposals.

# 1. Why Focus on Temporary Migrations?

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**Average Entry 2000-2012**



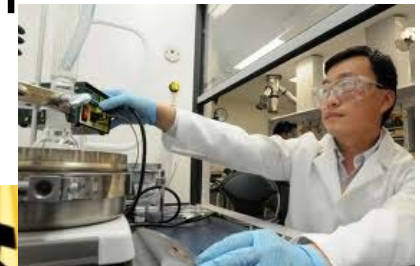
## 2. Why focus on Temporary migration?

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- Temporary visas organize immigrants in representative groups with different economic and social characterization.



- H-2A: Agricultural Workers
- H-2B: Other workers in mainly “Manual” jobs
- H-1B: High tech STEM workers
- F, J: Students/Scholars





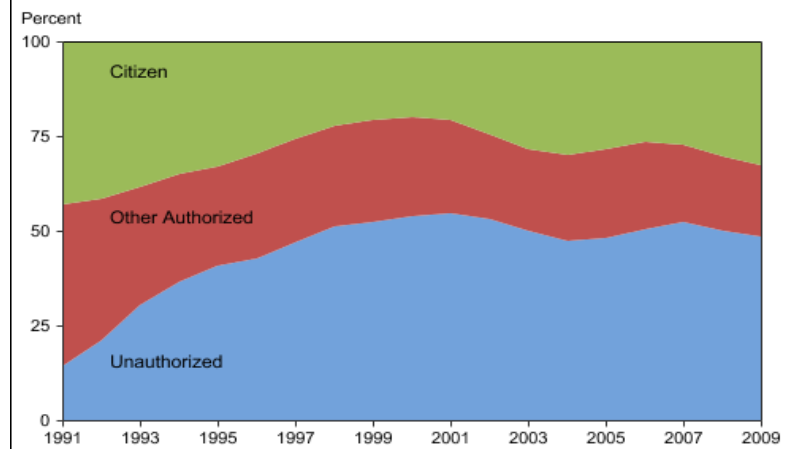
# Agricultural Workers

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- What is the economic future of US and California Agriculture with/ without immigrants workers?
- **Phil Martin** (Agricultural Economics) research will analyzes the consequences for the US agriculture (employment, production, prices) if the status quo is maintained, if the senate Bill (S744) is passed or if a limited reform.



Legal status of hired crop farmworkers, 1991-2009



Note: Values for each year are rolling averages of three years of data to smooth fluctuations. For example, the figures for 2009 are 2007-2009 averages.  
Source: USDA-ERS analysis of National Agricultural Workers Survey data.

# Manual workers and temporary visas

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- How will the guest worker program (W visa) in the new immigration reform proposal (S744) face workplace challenges?

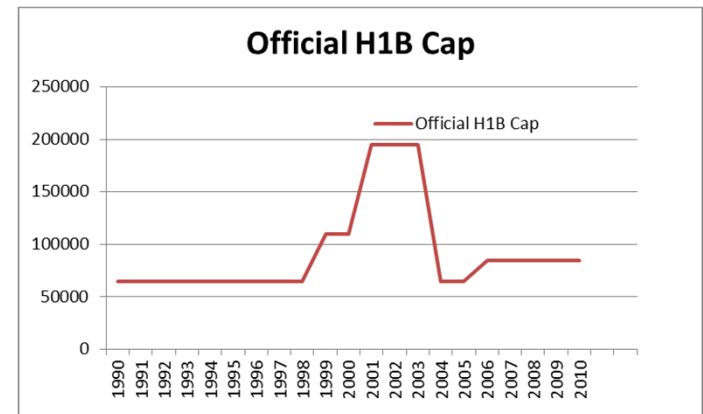


- How electronic verification is currently affecting economic and labor outcomes of foreign-workers?
- **Leticia Saucedo**' Research (School of Law) will analyze the legal and economic challenges in the current and proposed low-skilled immigration system.

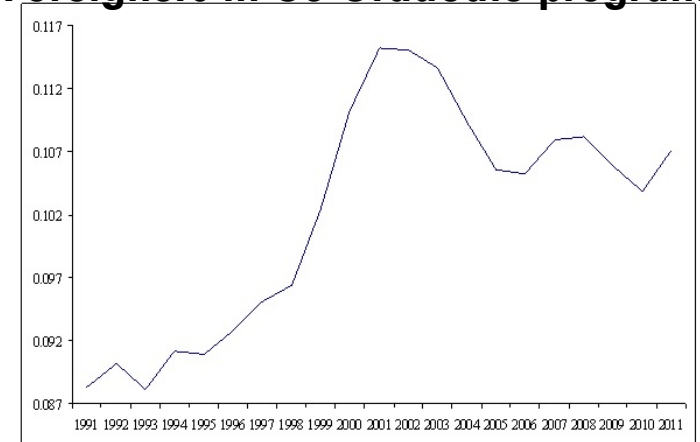
# Impact of STEM workers on US productivity and innovation

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- **Giovanni Peri (Economics)** research will measure the effect of H-1B-STEM immigrants on productivity of US cities: Wages, employment, job creation effects.
- **Peri and Shih (Economics)** research will measure the impact of foreign students on US STEM graduate programs and on US-born Students (F)



## Foreigners in US Graduate programs



# 3. Why Temporary Migration?

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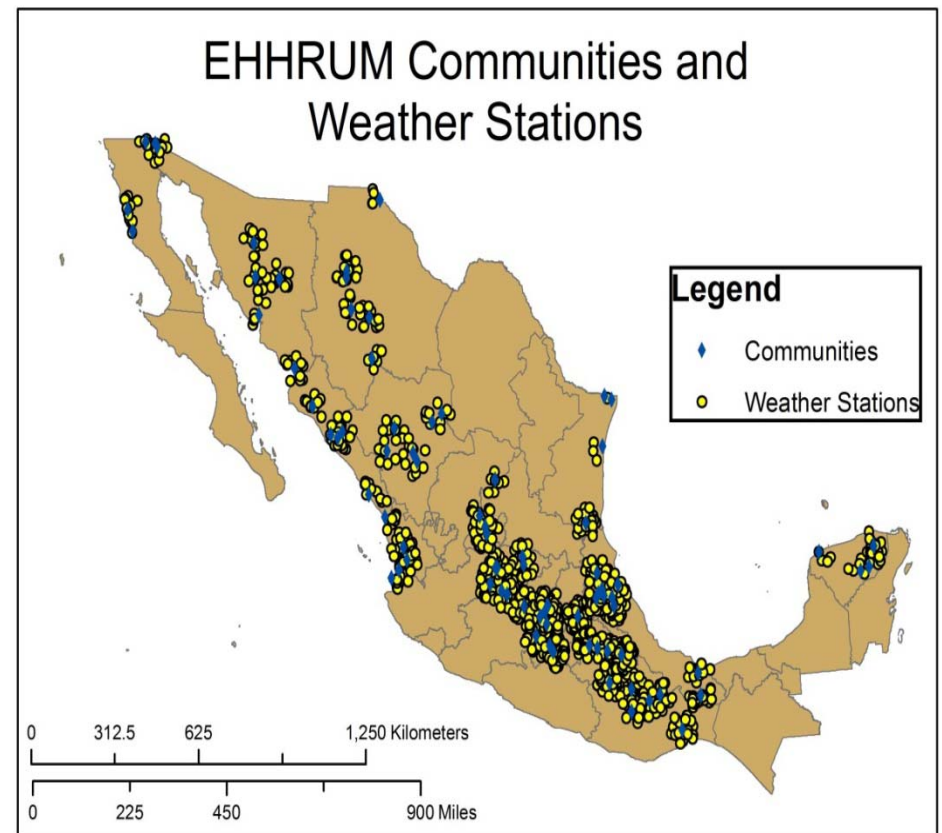
It creates circular connection with sending countries.

- Circular Migration and relation with sending country can be key for feasible policies.
- How do shock in sending countries, in particular climate shocks, affect migration from rural areas?

# Temporary migration from Mexico

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- **Ed Taylor** research (Agricultural Economics) analyzes Mexico and follows people from villages after weather shocks.
- How does this affect Migration to the US?



# Effects on local communities

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- **David Kyle** (Sociology) and his graduate students analyze indigenous communities in the forested mountains north of Oaxaca City a region with historical migrations to California.
- How does the social and human capital affect their entrepreneurship and probability to migrate as consequence of water scarcity?



# High Skilled Migration from Latin America

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- Using survey data and in depth interview **Luis Guarnizo** and his group (Human and Community Development) will study H1-B visa migrants from Latin America perspective (Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador) and analyze:
  - *The socio-economic determinants of their economic incorporation in the US*
  - *The likelihood of becoming permanent migrants*
  - *Their role, connection and position in the society of origin and their role if they return.*

# From Analysis to Policy Recommendation

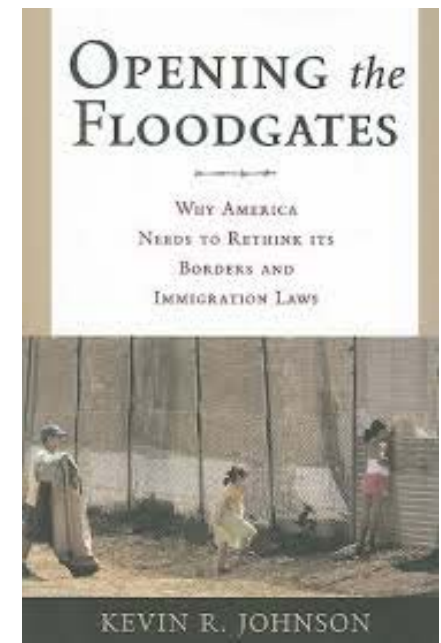
- Understanding the driving forces and consequences of immigration is the basis for managing the flows.
- Quantitative, case-study, quasi-experimental and ethnographic analysis are combined to have a complete perspective.
- Legal knowledge and policy creativity at the macro (federal), and at the micro (local) level is the next step needed to translate this into proposals.



# Free Borders?

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- This is why we have in the group **Kevin Johnsons** (Law School Dean) who has a visionary approach to breaking the gridlock on immigration policy discussion:
- By opening the border to free immigration.
- He will continue to develop his research and show how that this idea is reasonable, efficient and beneficial to the US.



# An International WTO for migration?

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- **Jeanette Money**' research (Political science) will analyze how migration tends to be *country specific* and *unidirectional*.
- Hence analysis of political interaction between countries suggests that possibility of bilateral agreements is more likely than a multi-lateral agreement.
- She will deepen our understanding of migration policies in the context of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

# Key insight from historical perspective

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- Deportation as policy?
- **Andres Resendez** research (History) analyzes the Forced Migrations of Native peoples along the U.S.-Mexico border through much of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Later forced repatriation of Mexicans (1929-1939) were informed by attitudes and practices that had a long history in the US-Mexico border region.
- His research shed light on the social, economic consequences of deportation and hence on the cost for local communities and for the country of such policy.

# Also Need to understand local and specific policies and consequences

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- Children of immigrants are twice as likely as children of natives to have no health insurance.
- **Erin Hamilton** (Sociology) research will analyze how Children's Health Insurance Program policies, that vary by state help, explain the gap in insurance coverage between children of immigrants and children of natives
- Effective policies make for more effective assimilation.

# So, Our Goal:

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- Analyze the driving forces and the consequences of temporary migration with high quality multi-disciplinary research.
  
- To inform and help design the right policies:
  - At the international level
  - At the federal level
  - At the local level
  
- Only a team as competent and as diverse as this can do it!

To connect your research to ours please email:  
gperi@ucdavis.edu

