

An Exploratory Analysis of Mexican Undocumented Immigrants' Smuggler Usage



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Research Question



- ❧ What factors contribute to the utilization of coyotes with regards to border crossing?
 - ❧ Relevance of the Study
 - ❧ A complete methodological approach
 - ❧ Change in migration policy

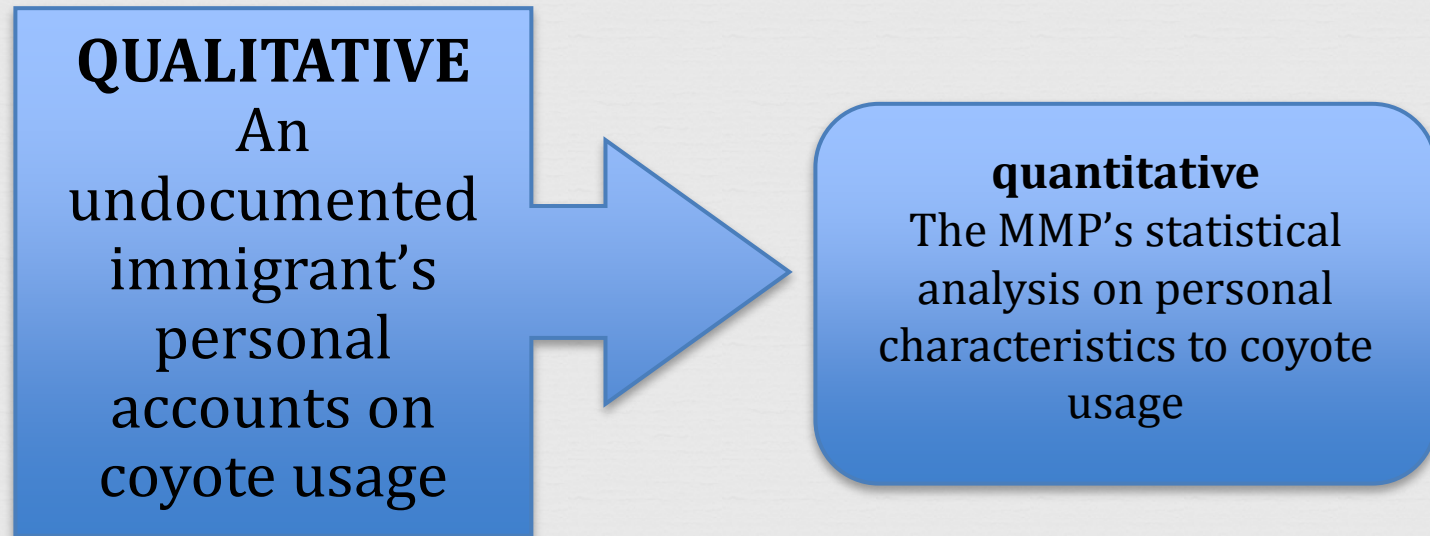
Historical Consideration



- ❧ Operation Wetback
- ❧ “migrant networks can facilitate migration in different ways...information on the migration process itself...information on destination and jobs” (Dolphin and Genicot 2006: 5).
- ❧ According to Gathmann (2003), a coyote has a better understanding of the migration because of his/her knowledge of where and when to cross the border.



Methodology: QUAL.→quant.



Exploratory Sequential Research Design

∞ Qualitative

- ∞ 31 Field interviews (Day-laborers)
- ∞ Three areas in Texas
- ∞ Mexican
- ∞ Males

∞ Quantitative

- ∞ Mexican Migration Project (mig.file)
- ∞ Sample size 5,466
- ∞ Human Capital Characteristics

Males who used a Coyote

❧ *I have been crossing the desert since I was a teenager, so I know it like the back of my hand. That is why people in my hometown always want to make the journey with me when I am coming back to the United States even if it is their first time crossing. They call me Don (Mr.) I know the routes and I am not as crazy as those coyotes [laughter].*

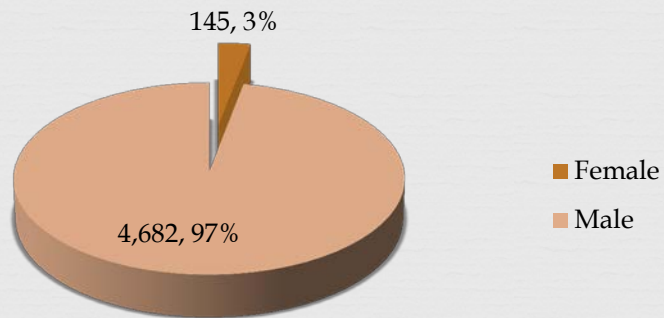
❧ *Tampico*



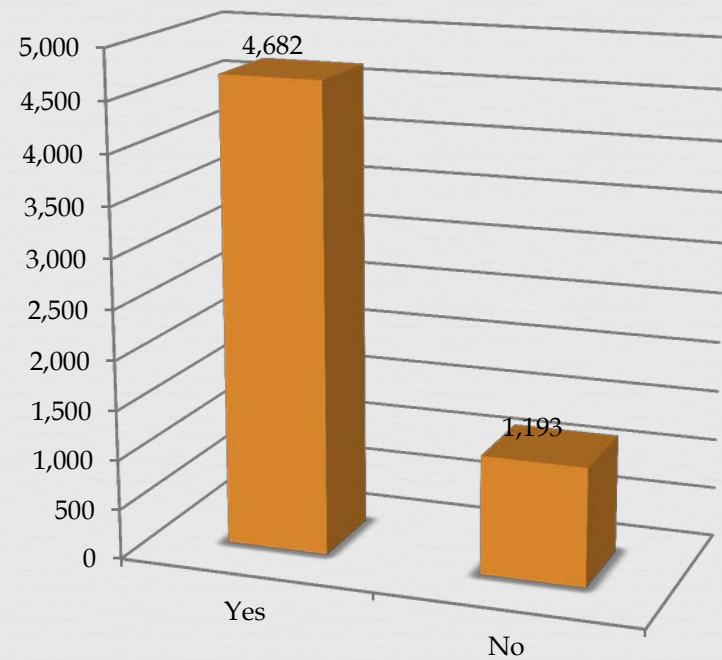
IV to DV



Gender to Coyote Usage



Male to Coyote Usage



The Rightful Age



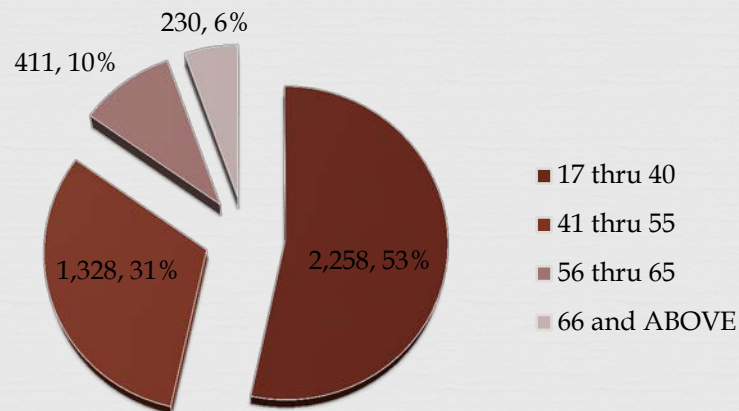
❧ *We (referring to his family's farm) could not compete with the large farm industry. As a result, I had to leave my community to find work elsewhere. For the amount that my parents were producing and the return versus expenses, those of us who were young and able to work had to leave.*

❧ *San Luis Pototsi*

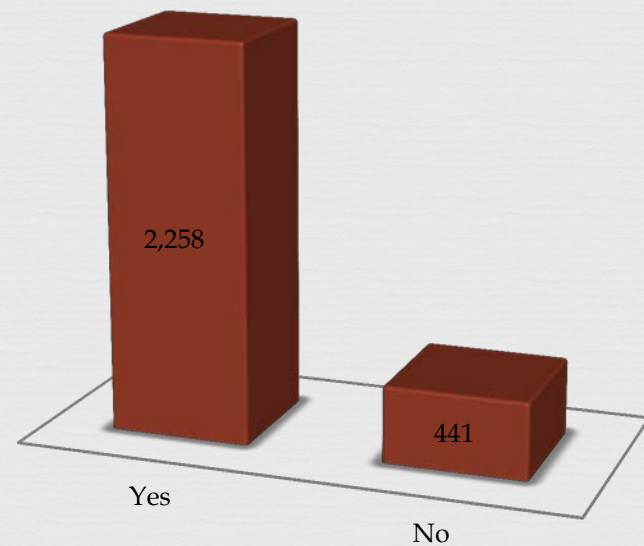
IV to DV



Age to Coyote Usage



Between Ages 17-40 to Coyote Usage (total 2,699)



Commitment to Others and the Migration Process



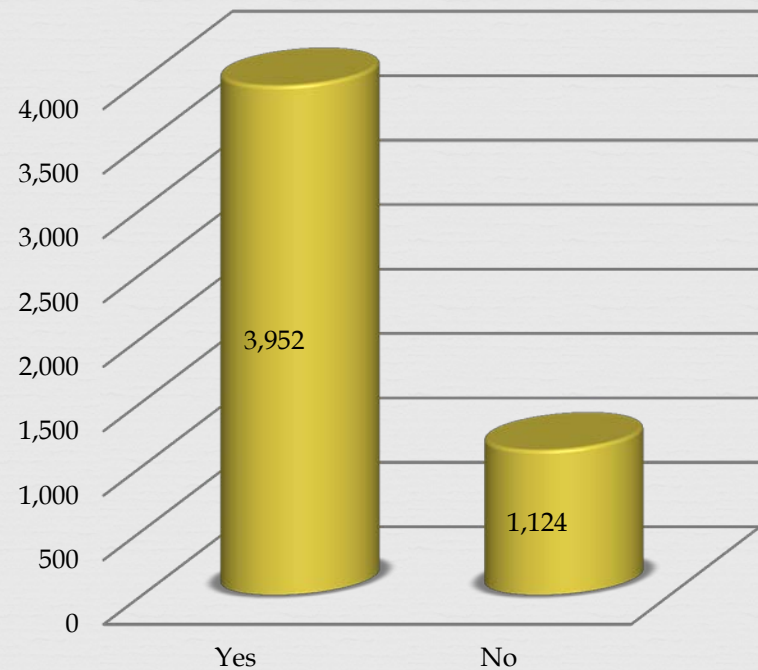
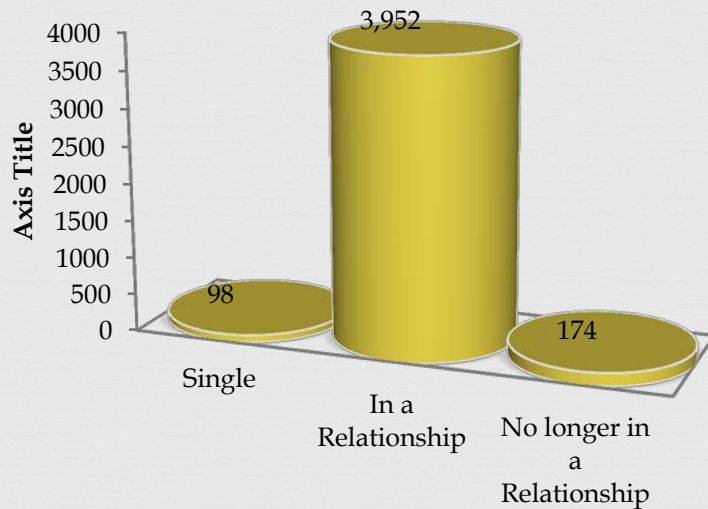
❧ *A young male is always trying to woo the women and a fundamental way to accomplish that is by immigrating, because he gains status and then everybody wants him. Girls will see you as a good provider. OR if he is married, he better immigrate, if not, forget it; in our community, he is not a provider, much less a man, and we will never let him forget it. If we [referring to the immigrant] are here away from our wives and land, then it is not fair that a bastard gets to stay home.*

❧ *Puebla*

IV to DV



Martial Status to Coyote Usage



■ In a Relationship to Coyote Usage (TOTAL: 5,076)

Here or There: the Work is the Same



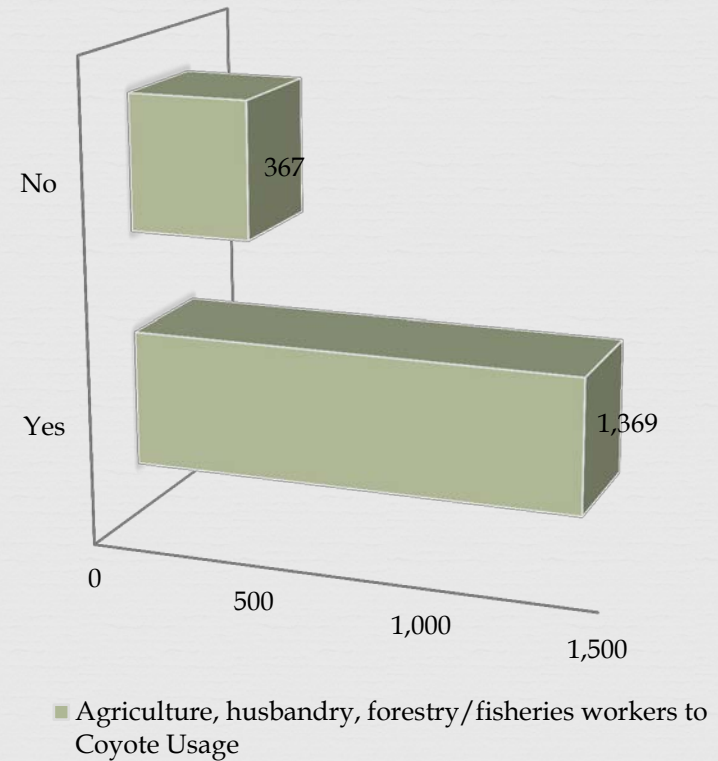
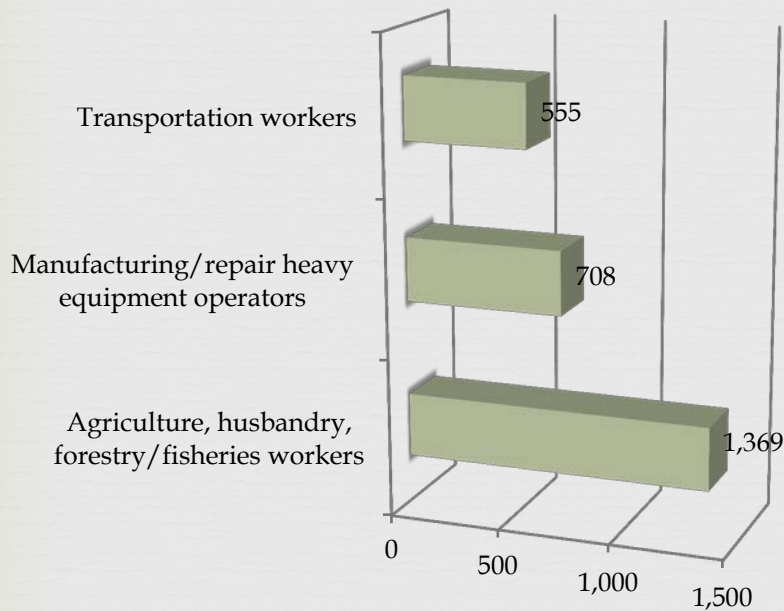
❧ *I do about the same thing here, putting up fences and/or moving heavy things around; you know, the type of work one does in a farm. The only difference is that I get paid more here. [He goes on to add how immigrating is a last resort.] People here think that the majority of us (undocumented immigrants) do not try to find work in our country, but those in the city do not want us there. They call us pinche indio (fucking Indian).*

❧ *Colima*

IV to DV



Top Three Occupations to Coyote Usage



Education versus Reality



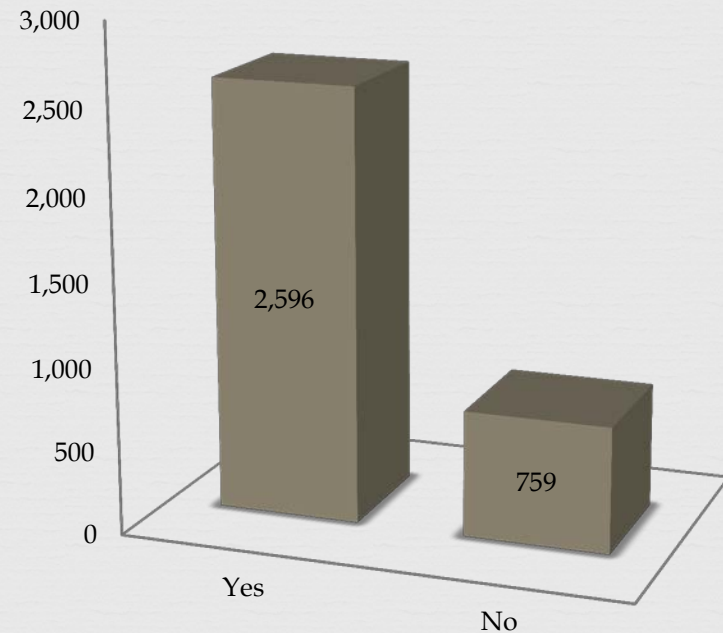
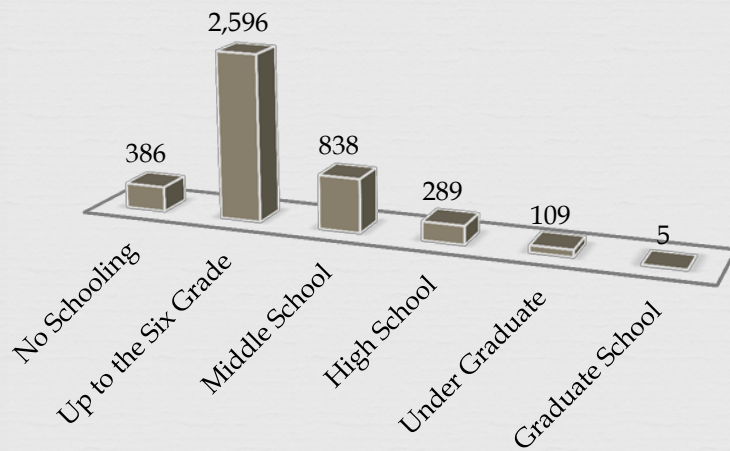
❧ *I, on the other hand, kept telling my parents it would be better if he came to work here (the U.S.), but my parents did not want that. He, however, has not been able to find work in Mexico after he graduated from college. I told him recently 'if by the time I visit, you have not found work, then you are coming back with me.' All the money I send for his schooling was for nothing. He is going to be doing the same job that I am doing [He began to curse].*

❧ *Tabasco*

IV to DV



**Level of Education to
Coyote Usage**



■ Sixth Grade to Coyote Usage (TOTAL 3,355)

Discussion



❧ Summary

- ❧ The migratory process is SELECTIVE
- ❧ Xenophobia
 - ❧ “their chicken-in-the-yard culture” (Moser 2006:11)

❧ Contribution

- ❧ Mixed Methods
 - ❧ Coyote Label
- ❧ Immigration Policy
 - ❧ *They charge you hundreds of dollars for the visa paper work. Then, you have to wait months for an interview. After several years of investing time, money, and energy, you can still be rejected. BUT, they keep the money.*

Durango

Reference



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