

Martin Moreno
Penn State University
Department of Sociology and Demography
211 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802
jmm801@psu.edu

1301, Other Topics
1302, Poster Sessions

A socio-demographic comparison of the Peruvian Diaspora in four selected destinations

In absolute terms, Peru has experienced a sustained increase in the size of migration streams. Between 1997 and 2005, the annual net migration flux, that is the total number of Peruvians who left the country minus the number of Peruvians who return in a given year, increased from around a hundred thousand to about half a million individuals in 2005 (DIGEMIN, 2006). These figures add to the stock of Peruvians currently living abroad, broadly estimated, in the lower bound, in about 1 million individuals or approximate 3.5% of the total population of the country.

Some economic centered explanations have been proposed to understand the reasons of the migration. Thus, Massey and Capoferro (2006) suggest that some of the migration streams during the mid eighties is the consequence the economic policies of structural adjustment initiated by the Peruvian government in 1987. One relevant finding was that the number of destinations the Peruvians migrate increase. United States became not the only destination, but also countries in Europe like Spain and Italy as some neighboring countries like Chile and Argentina. They argue that, consistent with the new household economics theory, Peruvian households used migration as a strategy to maximize of income under a situation where the labor market deteriorated, and the earnings are depressed. However, once the economy becomes stabilized a cycle of positive economic growth has been observed during the last decade, and

coincidentally, the migration streams rather than reduce have increased.

Regarding the characteristics of the migrants, Feliciano (2005) found that Peruvians showed a positive selection by education among cohorts of individual who migrated to the United States during the 1990 decade. Analysis on the risk of migration for selected communities in Lima, the capital of the country, suggest that positive selection by education and negative by occupational status among male household heads (Massey and Aysa, 2005). Despite of these findings, little is known about the demographic characteristics of the old and new Peruvian migration stocks. In this paper I intend to cover the gap on the knowledge about the Peruvian Diaspora. I will provide an answer to the question on how different is the demographic composition of the Peruvian migrants stocks in four selected countries of destination (United States, Spain, Chile and Argentina). To accomplish that goal, I will build a demographic profile to compare each subsample and then against non-migrants still residing in Peru. The profile will include age/sex composition for individuals in each country, ratios of women by age group, proportion of men and women; marital status and proportions of married individuals according to sex and specific age; differences in proportions married by age group and comparisons against other immigrant groups; age of arrival, proportion of arrivals within a specific period, educational achievement, occupational status, household and familial arrangements, and spatial distribution. When the data allow, the results will be presented by migrant generation.

An advantage of studying immigrants from the same country of origin is that it allows isolating the effect of heterogeneity in the profile of the immigrants when taken as a group. However, anecdotic evidence suggests that migration streams differ according to the country of destination. It could be the case that migration stream might be gendered, educational or occupational biased. If that is the case, it could become a particular find of this research.

To address each research question I will use different datasets. First, information about Peruvian immigrants in selected destination will come from the IPUMS Standardized Samples. The IPUMS provides homogenized microsamples of the Peruvian migrants in the United States, Spain, Chile and Argentina. My main objective will be to focus on the 2000 round censuses because the 1990 does not have a sizeable sample of Peruvians. Comparison with the non-migrants in Peru will be done using the 1993 Census microsample, and the Encuesta Nacional Continua, ENCO, of 2006. The latter is a large dataset (more than 500 thousand individuals) and provides information on the members of the household who are living abroad. It also provides the sex, and year of migration of each member who has migrated.

References

- DIGEMIN. 2006. Dirección General de Migraciones y Naturalización. Estadísticas del Movimiento Migratorio en el Perú. Available in: <http://www.digemin.gob.pe/estadisticas.asp>
- Feliciano, Cynthia. 2005. "Educational Selectivity in U.S. Immigration: How do Immigrants compare to those left behind?" *Demography* 42(1): 131-152.
- Massey and Aysa, 2005. "Social Capital and Internacional Migration From Latin America". Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Population Division. Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- Massey and Capoferro. 2006. "Salvese quien pueda: Structural adjustment and emigration from Lima. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Vol. 606. no. 1: pp116-127.