Immigrant Integration & Sustainable Rural Development: Linking Receiving & Newcomer Communities

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Objectives

1) To develop acculturation profiles of receiving communities and Latino newcomers;

2) To design, facilitate, and evaluate processes of community integration through action research;

3) To develop quantitative tools to assess outcomes of the community integration process.
Frameworks

- Assets – Livelihoods
- Ecological model - Context of Reception
- Human Agency – Acculturation
- Interactive Acculturation Model
- Theory of change – Appreciative Inquiry


Activities Phases & Process

13 Focus Groups men & women

6 Photovoice

240 Acculturation Questionnaire

Community Forums

Displays Community Forums

Information Shared with Communities Stakeholders Extension Professional Societies

Appreciative Inquiry Process Leading to Community Change Projects

Community Acculturation Profiles
Focus Group Interview Protocol

• Community
  – How did you end up in this community?
  – What is it like to live in this community?
  – What would you like us to know about your community?

• Relationships
  – Where do you find support?
  – How are these relationships helpful to you?
  – Tell us of opportunities you have had to interact with members of the receiving/newcomer community.
  – How would you like to see relationships develop between receiving and newcomer communities here?
Data Analyses

Read through transcripts by two independent coders (~2 hours/~25 pages each)

Divide the text into segments of information (~6-9 hours)

Label segments with codes based on theoretical frameworks (~10-12 hours)

Reduce redundancy of codes and compare between two coders (~4 hours)

Collapse codes into themes (~4 hours)

Creswell, 2008, p.251
Focus Group Themes Across the Three Communities

• Community Appeal

• Integration Attitudes

• Community Progress
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Long-time Residents</th>
<th>Community Appeal</th>
<th>Integration Attitudes</th>
<th>Community Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Economic opportunities</td>
<td>• Attitude toward Change</td>
<td>Ideas for integration</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Educational opportunities (#2, 3)</td>
<td>• Perceptions of Immigration/Immigration Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Small town atmosphere</td>
<td>• Perceived supports &amp; barriers to integration (#2, 3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Natural landscape</td>
<td>• Perceptions of “Other” Community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Attachment to community</td>
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<tr>
<th>Latino/a Newcomers</th>
<th>Community Appeal</th>
<th>Integration Attitudes</th>
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Photovoice Questions & Process

• Photovoice Questions
  – Where are those places in the community that promote interaction with people who do not look like you?
  – Where are those places in the community that represent barriers to interaction with people who do not look like you?

• Six Photovoice panels of 8 people each (3 with receiving communities & 3 with newcomer communities)

• Each consists of three sessions
  – Session 1: Orientation & first question
  – Session 2: Review First question & second question
  – Session 3: Review third question

• Community forums to share results & launch appreciative Inquiry process
Acculturation Profile Questionnaire

- Developed receiving community & Latino/a newcomer instruments (Spanish & English)
- Constructs assessed include acculturation, context of reception, capital measures
- Pilot tested
- IRB approved

In preparation: Valdivia et al, Sustainable rural development: acculturation profiles and immigrant integration;
Outcomes

• Focus group & forums in English and Spanish:
  – Differing perceptions of community; both communities experience language barriers; recognize difficulties, want to address these and learn from each other
  – Changes happening, desire to increase contact, need help with this; lack understanding of what it would take
  – Ideas revolve around youth, creating awareness, access

• Cambio de Colores Panel: exchange of experiences, building networks in the Midwest

• NCERA Webinar: outreach / methodologies
Outcomes

Sharing with Peers:


• Immigrants’ perceptions of the community: A scale development study. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the National Latino/a Psychological Association, New Brunswick, NJ

• To integrate or separate? Acculturation processes across diverse Latino populations and contexts. Symposia. National Latino/a Psychological Association, New Brunswick, NJ.

Sharing with Stakeholders:

• Community Forums on Focus Group Findings

• Advisory Board

• Cambio de Colores 2012. Community Voices and the Welcome Mat in Mid Missouri.

Training:


• 3 graduate students; 4 faculty; content analysis methodologies
Thank you!

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• Project’s Website: The Integration Project: *Immigrant Integration & Sustainable Rural Development: Linking Receiving & Newcomer Communities*  
  [http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Integration/](http://www.cambio.missouri.edu/Integration/)
Interactive Acculturation Model

Policy Context

Government (State, National) Immigration Policies

Acculturation Strategies

Dominant Host Acculturation Orientations

Immigrant Communities Acculturation Orientations

Acculturative Outcomes

Consensual

Problematic

Conflicntual

Bourhis et al., 1997