
CONTEXTUALIZING THE GRAY RHINO

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN "CYCLE OF VIOLENCE" AS A CATALYST TO MIGRATION

A MEDIA ECOLOGY & STRATEGIC ANALYSIS (MESA) REPORT



DEFINING A RHINO

- Jaye (2017) "a gray rhino is the two-ton thing that is coming right at you. You've a choice to do something about it or not. It's a metaphor for the fact that so many of the things that go wrong in business, in policy, and in our personal lives are actually avoidable."
- Our role is provide context so that the problem can be addressed, rather than being continually neglected until it runs us over.

HOW CONTEXT INFORMS IDENTITY AND ACTION

- Contextual structuring lets us co-create meaning and identity.
- The stability of the structures around us allows us to find common reference points to get to know one another.
 - To create meaning and community with one another.
 - To make evaluations about how our actions, and the actions of others, are reflective of identity.

THE EROSION OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS: THE RHINO TAKES FORM

- The “cycle of violence,” denoted as a repetitive and cyclical pattern of dangerous acts of violence.
- Violence is eroding the social institutions of Northern Triangle nations; mass scale migration is the foremost recognizable political and humanitarian cost.
- Meyer (2016) Soto (2018), the arrival of people to the US border from the Northern Triangle is now primarily composed of unaccompanied minors, women, and/or entirely displaced families.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- Discussions on migration in media across the region were treated by this research as a common reference point from which to contextualize the erosion of social institutions in the Northern Triangle.
- Migration as an issue of discussion serves as a useful common reference point because it highlights relational interdependencies, commonalities, and contrasts across the region.

NARRATIVE AS A TOOL OF CONTEXTUALIZATION

- Narrative aids in contextualizing actions related to migration because they contain the perspectives of those grappling with the social & institutional deteriorations directly.
- A total of 199 articles were examined from 10 news sources coming from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala using key words specifically related to migration.
 - Quantitative content analysis (examining aspects of violence, consequences, policy)
 - Strategic narrative analysis (examining act, agent, scene, instrument, & purpose)

FINDINGS-VIOLENCE

Forms of Violence Covered in Northern Triangle Media (N=199)

Undescriptive, General Violence	9% (n=18)	Domestic Violence	1% (n=2)
Gang Related Violence	8.5% (n=17)	Political Violence	0.5% (n=1)
Gender-Based Violence	3% (n=6)		

“The State has an obligation to guarantee national security and has not done so for more than 25 years, hopefully the new government, no matter what party it is, will take this seriously. And instead of a smear campaign, personal attacks, give better answers to this problem that is felt so vivid and deep, that tell us how they will solve the problem of violence, that's what the people want to know, because this violence can no longer be endured.”

“context that encourages a permanent practice of disrespect and violation of their rights to life, education, health, work, political participation, recreation and housing. In addition, they must face racism, discrimination, machismo, violence, trafficking in persons, migration, among others.”

FINDINGS- INSTITUTIONAL FAILURES

State System Failures Covered in Northern Triangle Media (N=199)			
Failure to Provide Economic Opportunity	20% (n=40)	Failure to Combat Institutional Corruption	10% (n=20)
Failure to Provide Adequate Physical Protection of Citizens	13% (n=25)	General Failure of State System	3% (n=5)
Failure to Provide Social and Educational Services	12% (n=24)		

“The massive migratory cycle that has been experienced in recent months will not be counteracted if the structural causes that feed it are not effectively addressed and basic conditions of a dignified life progressively ensured, freeing the inhabitants from fear and of the misery within their communities.”

Proceso Digital (1/26/2019). Coordinan acciones para fortalecer asistencia humanitaria y proteccion a migrantes.



FINDINGS- INCENTIVES FOR MIGRATION

External Incentives for Migration in Northern Triangle Media (N=199)			
Economic Incentives	15% (n=31)	Uniting with Family in Destination Nation	4% (n=8)
Safety Incentives	13% (n=25)	Healthcare Incentives	2% (n=4)
General Improvement in Quality of Life	7% (n=14)	Educational Incentives	.01% (n=1)

“Immigrant ‘catrachos’ met a group of students dressed in white that opened the doors of a new promised land. Mexico became, against all odds, the American dream of the new migrant caravan.”

Proceso Digital (2/5/2019). Hondureños cambian “sueño americano” por visa humanitaria en México.

“Tulio left with his family in the country looking for ‘a better opportunity’ that he hopes to find in Mexico, discarding the option of reaching the United States for now.”

Proceso Digital (1/17/2019). Primeros migrantes de nueva caravana inician solicitud para entrar a México.

FINDINGS- THE PEOPLE AND THE PATH THE ROLE OF THE US

Descriptions of Migration Journey and of Migrants in Northern Triangle Media (Scored as valence from -1 to 1)	
Presentation of Migration Journey (N=56)	m= -.64 (std= .61)
Presentation of Migrants (n=72)	m= -.31 (std= .70)

“He also reaffirmed the Honduran Government's call not to expose the lives of minors to the risks of the migration route, where, in addition to endangering their physical and emotional integrity, they are exposed to situations of kidnapping, trafficking or sexual exploitation, among others, whose responsibility falls in the first instance on the fathers and mothers... they have learned of cases in which the father has used his son or daughter as a ‘border shield’ to reach the United States, and that once in that country they will pay up to \$3,000 to return the child back to Honduras with a stranger.”

Proceso Digital (11/25/2018). Menores retornados reciben atención de Dinaf

Descriptions of the Actions and Role of the United States in Northern Triangle Media (Scored as valence from -1 to 1)	
US Actions Related to Migration (N=96)	m= -.49 (std= .60)
Role of the US in Relation to Migration (n=72)	m= -.18 (std= .52)

FINDINGS- CONSEQUENCES & SOLUTIONS

Consequences of Migration in Northern Triangle Media (N=199)	
Regional Central America & Mexico	22% (n=44)
Northern Triangle	17% (n=33)
United States	7% (n=15)

Policies Addressing Migration in Northern Triangle Media (N=199)	
Northern Triangle	42% (n=84)
United States	35% (n=70)
Regional Central America & Mexico	34% (n=68)

POLICY DISCUSSIONS RELATED TO MIGRATION

Discussed Policies to Address Migration in Northern Triangle Media		
<i>Policies/Proposal</i>	<i>Actors Involved</i>	<i>Description</i>
Alliance for Prosperity Initiative	US; Mexico	Promote prevention and employment generation programs that combat violence and migration through economic prosperity, governance and security in the Northern Triangle.
Safe Return Plan	Honduras; Guatemala	Safe return of caravan migrants back to their country of origin.
Global Migration Pact	Northern Triangle Countries; Mexico	UN-based framework; lays foundation for how best to address migratory cycles from start to finish.
Regional Security Plan	Security Ministers of Northern Triangle; National Security Secretary <u>Kirstjen Nielsen</u> .	Paves the way for a formal cooperation memorandum with four areas: the fight against human trafficking and illicit trafficking of migrants; to counteract organized crime and gangs; expand the exchange of information and intelligence; strengthen border security.

WHAT MIGRATION TELLS US ABOUT THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE GRAY RHINO

- Contextualizing Action
 - Regional Solutions required
 - Clarity on US positions in relation to the region needed
 - Multi-pronged, multi-staged approach should be considered over Iron Fist measures
 - Combatting corruption and offering economic lifelines needed.