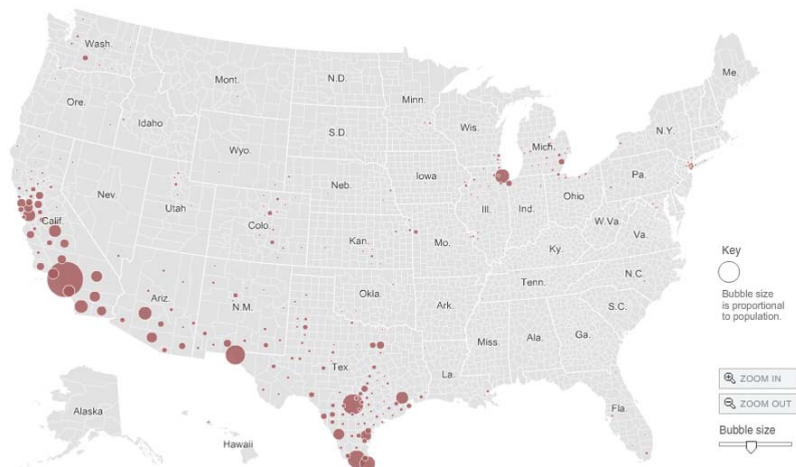


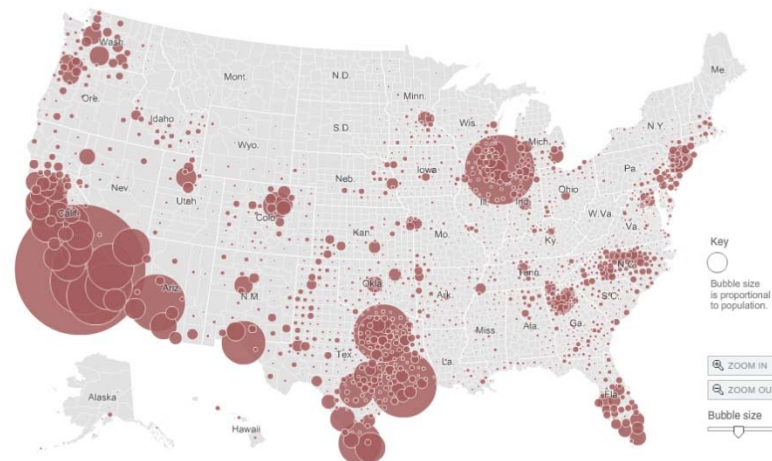
Latin American Migration to the U.S. Heartland: Reshaping Communities, Redrawing Boundaries



Note: Due to limitations in the Census data, foreign-born populations are not available in all areas for all years.

Sources: Social Explorer, www.socialexplorer.com; Minnesota Population Center; U.S. Census Bureau

Matthew Bloch and Robert Gebeloff/The New York Times



Note: Due to limitations in the Census data, foreign-born populations are not available in all areas for all years.

Sources: Social Explorer, www.socialexplorer.com; Minnesota Population Center; U.S. Census Bureau

Matthew Bloch and Robert Gebeloff/The New York Times

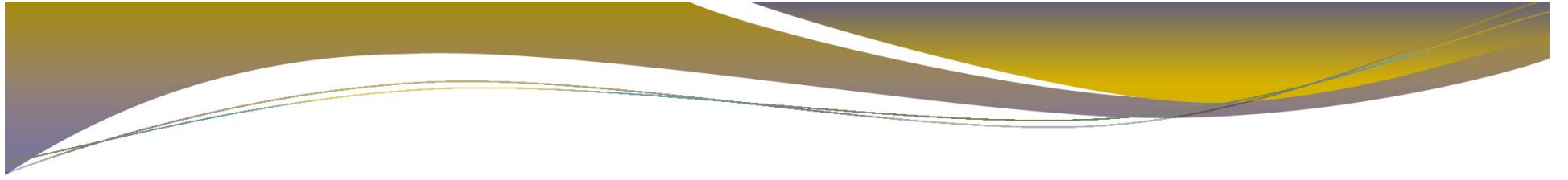
László J. Kulcsár
Kansas State University

The menu for today

HEARTLAND
— *cafe*



- The big picture
 - Background, numbers, obvious things that people usually already know (or they think so)
- Latin American immigration to the Heartland
 - Trends and dynamics
- Case study: Emporia
- Conclusions and food for thought



The big picture



International migration

- International migration is connected to globalization and uneven development patterns
- It has three major dynamics:
 - A response to push and pull factors
 - Facilitated by social networks
 - Influenced by policies and institutions
- About 13% of the US population is foreign born
 - This is ~40 million people (of which 17.5 million is naturalized)

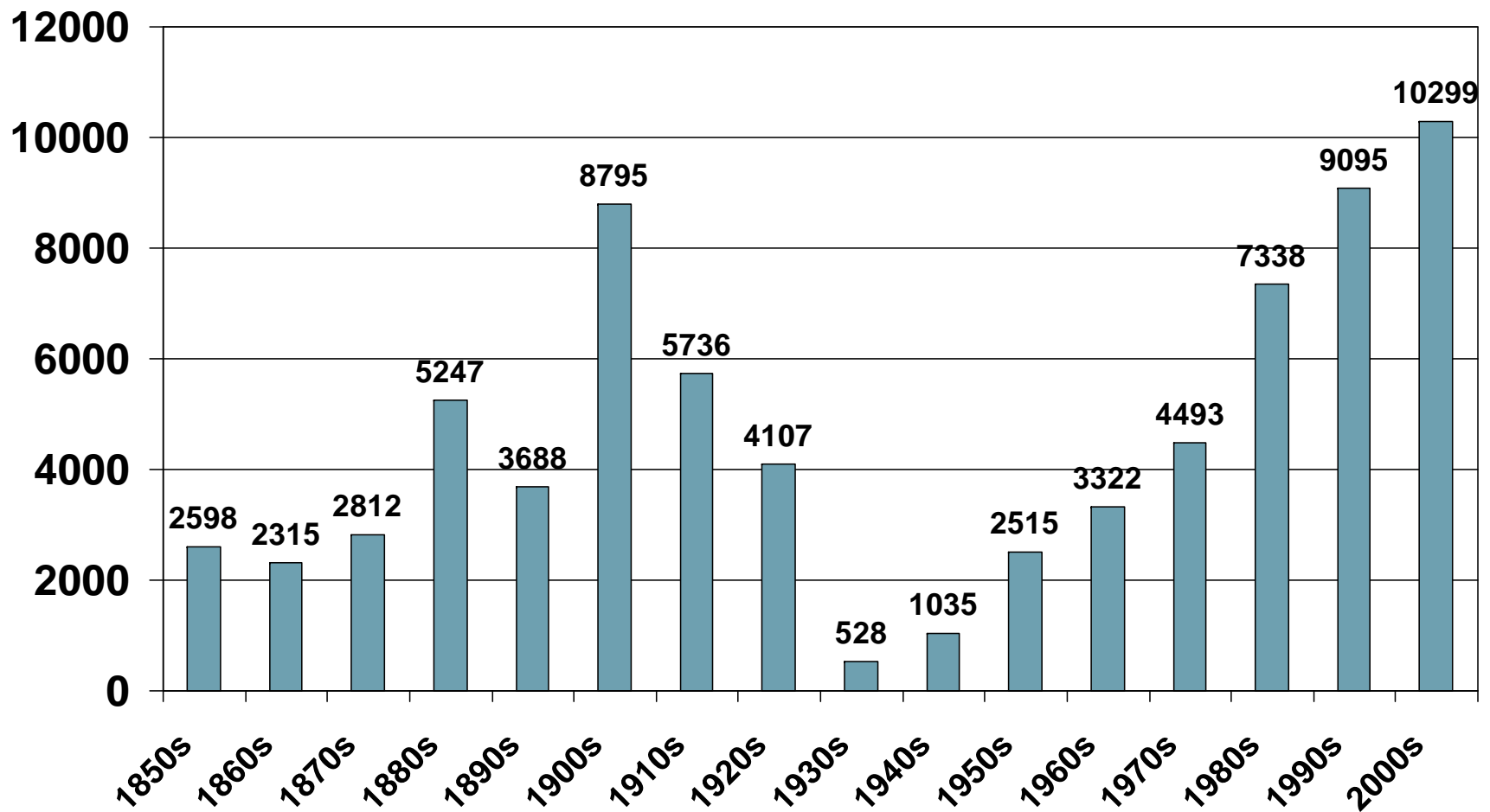


U.S. terminology

- *Foreign Born* – Anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth, including immigrant citizens, legal nonimmigrants (temporary migrants), humanitarian migrants, and people illegally present in the United States.
- *Immigrant* – Aliens admitted to the U.S. for lawful permanent residence, as defined in the Immigration & Nationality Act.

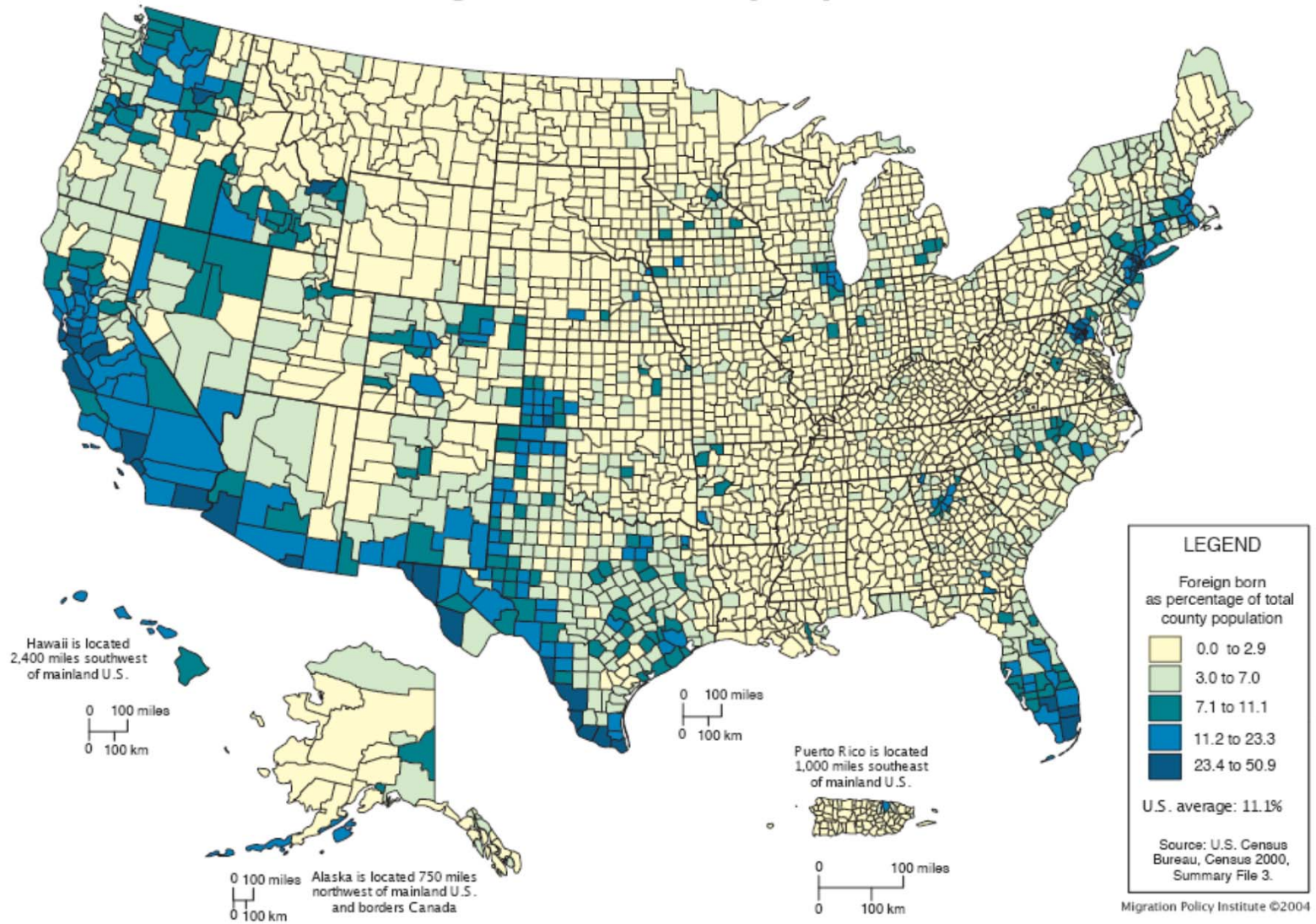
Number of immigrants, 1850-2010

(LPRs, thousands)



Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2010

The Foreign Born in the United States As Percentage of Total County Population, 2000





The impact

- The impact is complex with both national and local aspects
 - These two are connected by the public discourse
- The labor market impact is mostly local as immigrants are not evenly distributed
 - Determined by the number of immigrants, their comparative skills, and the economic structure of the given locality
- The cultural and demographic impacts are both national and local
 - Identity, values, diversity, melting pot, salad bowl etc.
 - Demographic composition and population growth
- The political impact is mostly national, but partisan interests often push it down to the local level

Themes in the public discourse

- Immigrant nation
- Cheap labor vs. expensive aliens
- Demographic blessing vs. security threat
- Illegal immigration and birthright citizenship
- Assimilation and the American culture
- Diversity mantra



"THEY SAY THEY'RE BUILDING A WALL BECAUSE TOO MANY OF US ENTER ILLEGALLY AND WON'T LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE OR ASSIMILATE INTO THEIR CULTURE..."





Latin American immigration to the Heartland

Three major periods

- 1. Before WW2
 - Mostly seasonal migration to work in agriculture and the railroads
 - Determined by the performance of the US economy



Three major periods

- 2. The Bracero years (1942-64)
 - Wars (draft) and upward White mobility created a demand for immigrant farm laborers
 - Bracero visas were exempt from the racist immigration quota system of the time
 - At its peak, 400,000 Bracero visas were issued in a year, with a total of 2 million Mexicans participating



Mexican Workers Wanted in October

Farmers and orchardists in Washington state have placed orders for approximately 6000 imported Mexican workers for the month of October, according to reports sent to

Figure 14. A description of the demand for Mexican laborers (Source: Northwest Farm News, September 9, 1943).

Three major periods

- 2. The Bracero years (impact)
 - Farm work became associated with foreign labor
 - Social networks emerged based on the Bracero experience
 - Mexican household strategies were increasingly connected to work in the US
 - Legacy of dealing with unauthorized immigrants



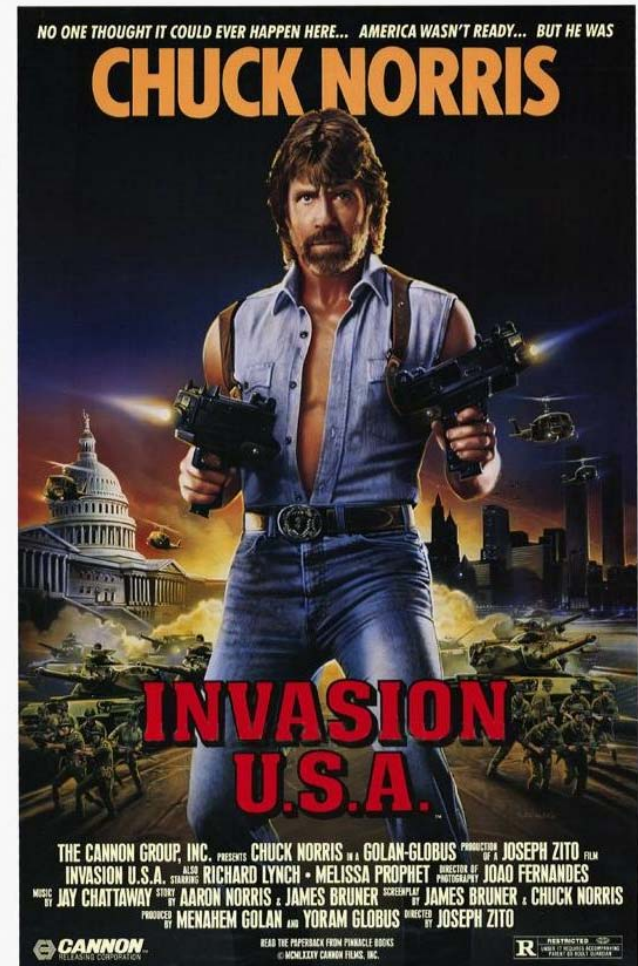
Three major periods

- 3. The current global regime
 - Immigration as a global issue
 - Increasing contradiction between economic interests and cultural/security concerns
 - Rapidly increasing illegal entries
 - Hispanics become the dominant immigrant group; dispersion to the rural hinterland

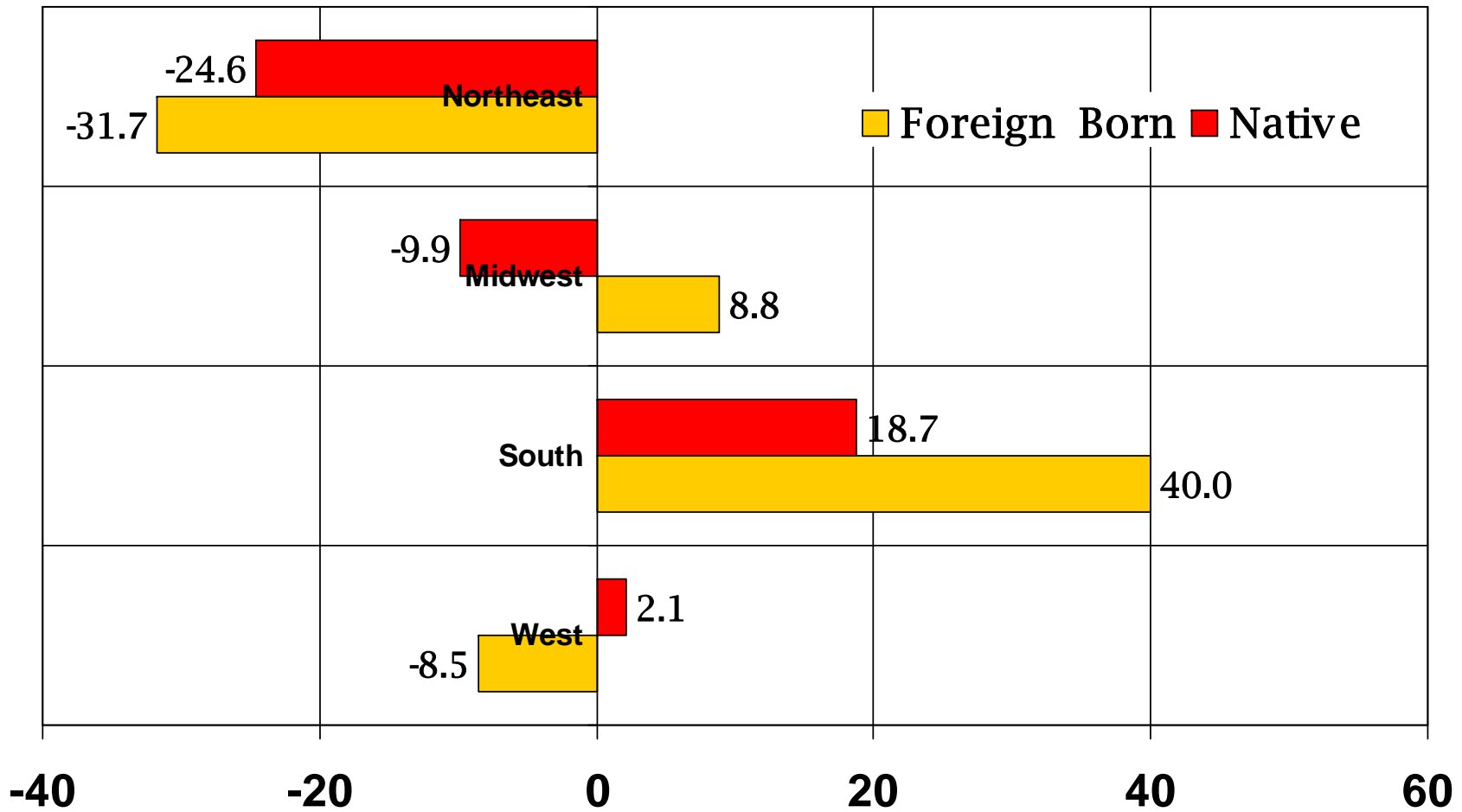


Three major periods

- 3. The current global regime
 - Redefining immigration as a security issue (esp. after 9/11)
 - IRCA and the amnesty of 1986
 - Political hysteria and courting the Hispanic vote
 - Federal deadlock in immigration reform; unconstitutional or mostly useless local efforts



Net migration rates, 1995-2000

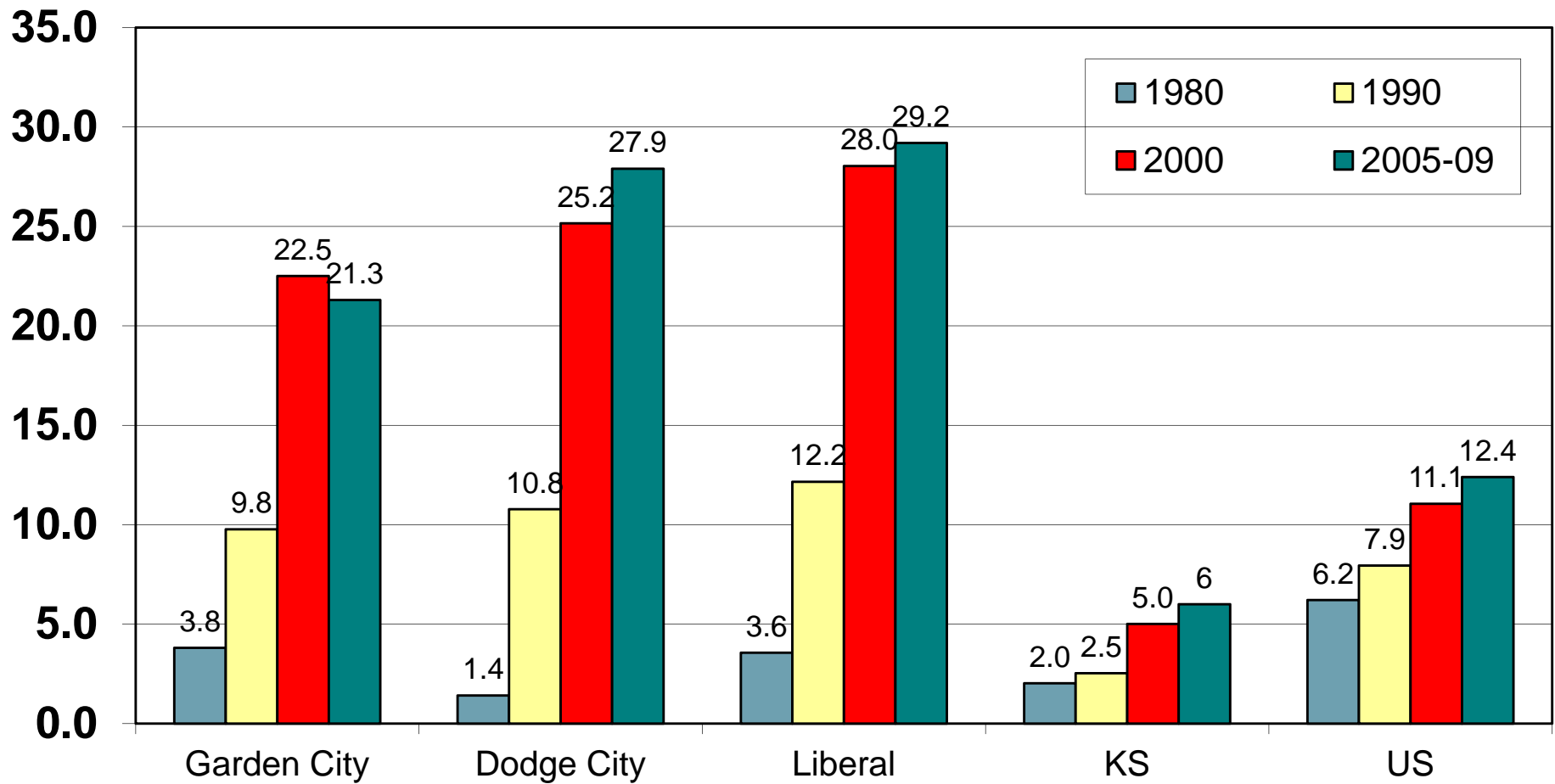




Foreign born in Kansas

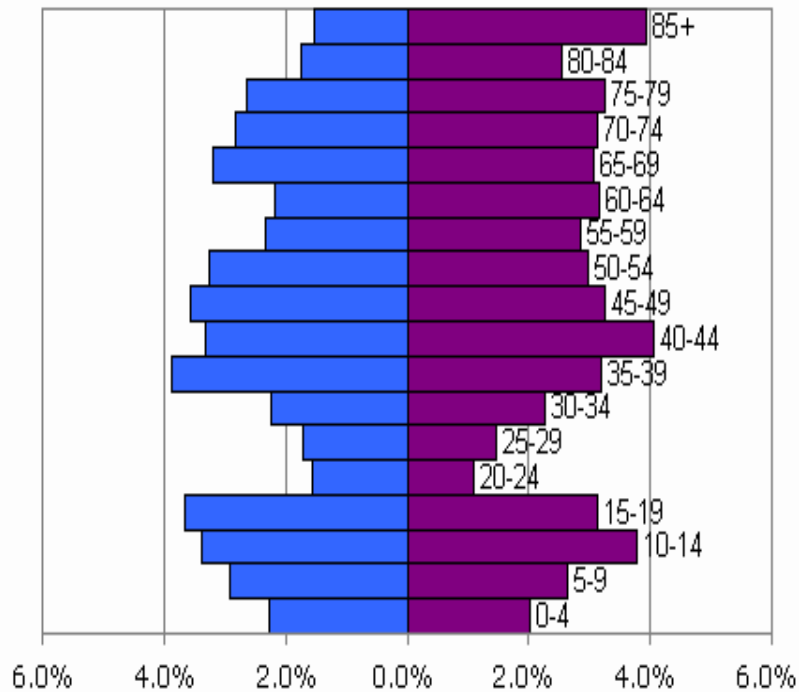
- Foreign born population grew from 63,000 in 1990 to 165,000 by the late 2000s (2005-09 ACS)
- 56% of the KS foreign born are from Latin America, 28% from Asia, 9% from Europe
- 33% of the KS foreign born are citizens (43% at the national level)
 - Recent Hispanic immigrants are less likely to be citizens
- 4 to 5 thousand green cards are given to KS residents each year
- FB population in KS is spatially concentrated

Percent foreign-born population

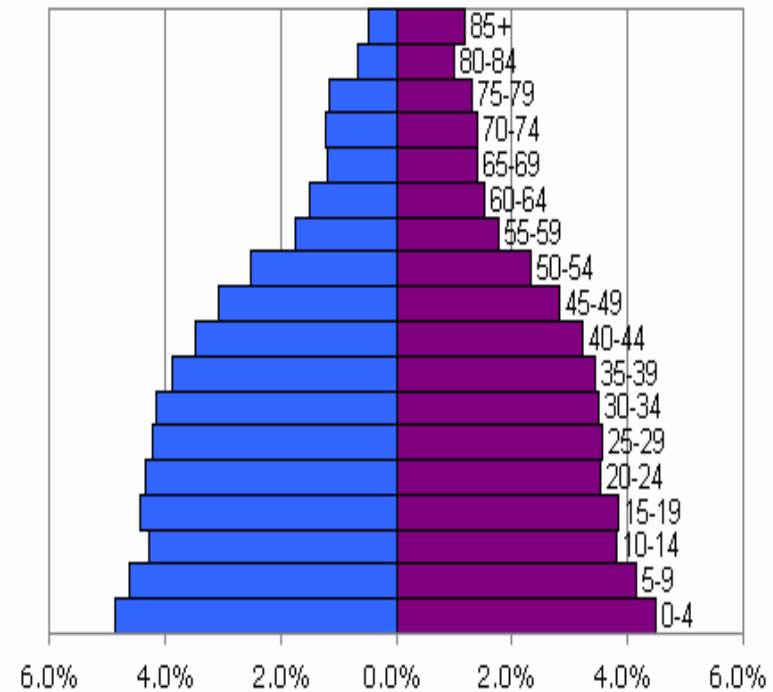


Age pyramids, 2000

Smith County



Ford County



Female
Male



Emporia, KS





Hispanics in Emporia

- A sizeable minority, but not as large as in SW KS counties
- Differences between old-timers and newcomers
 - “Model citizens”, “not Mexican enough”
 - Most of the Anglo criticism was directed toward the newcomers
- Differences between Mexicans and Central Americans
 - Social networks are mostly Mexican
 - Transporting status differences (Guatemalans)



Somalis in Emporia

- Obvious differences
 - Came as a group, significant cultural differences (being Black Muslims)
- Not-so-obvious differences
 - They were all legal immigrants, employment-ready, with health insurance
- No cooperation between Hispanics and Somalis
 - Immigrant social networks are unique and not transferable
 - Concern among Hispanics that the plant moves toward a refugee workforce
- Suddenly, Hispanics were viewed as hardworking, Christian people, *“at least from a neighboring country”*



Institutional actors

- Federal and state agencies
 - Following policies that reflect broad considerations about immigration
- Nongovernmental organizations
 - Mediate the arrival and integration of refugees
- Business actors
 - Provide jobs for refugees – but what is the extend of corporate citizenship?
- Local governments
 - Pick up the bill of the externalized costs

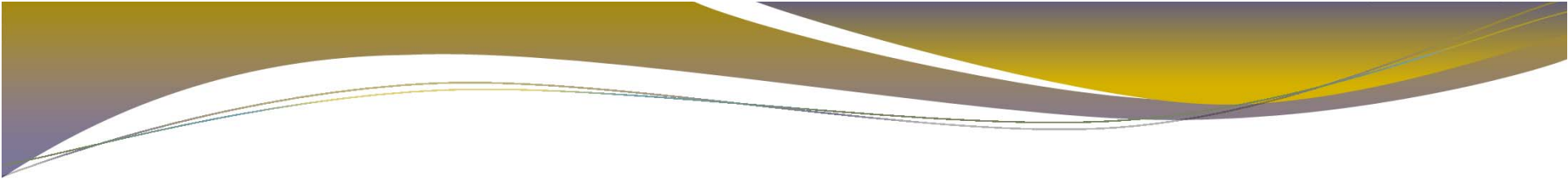


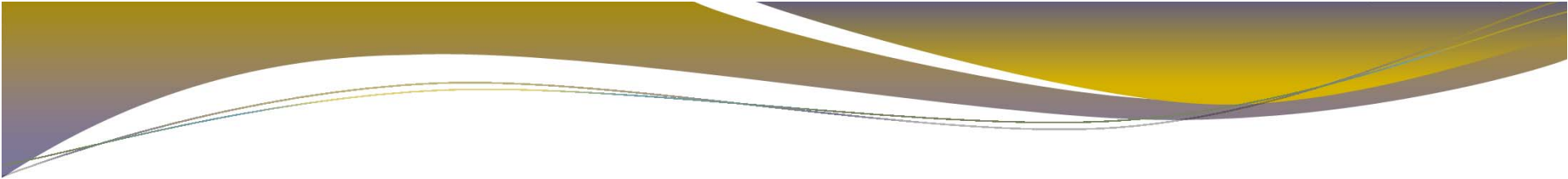
The community

- *“I think in all honesty, that the community for the most part did not think too highly of the Hispanic immigrants that came in - although they are generating money for the local economy - it was not necessarily a welcomed thing...”*
- *“The Latinos are hard workers. That’s why they take the jobs nobody else wants, and all they want is to provide for their families.”*
- *“Now that the problem with the Somalis has been resolved, Emporia can focus on the real problems at hand. Dogs riding in the back of trucks, the Mexicans, and continue to save the fairgrounds.”*



Concluding thoughts

- 
- Immigration is driven by broad social and economic currents that are outside of governmental control
 - We cannot expect immigration (or immigrants) to go away, therefore we have to work on their integration using policies, incentives and common sense
 - Policy mistakes
 - If the discourse on immigration is contaminated by partisan political agendas the failure is guaranteed
 - A policy largely based on law enforcement (border or workplace) will never be successful because it misses the underlying reasons why people move

- 
- Immigrant *integration* depends on both the national and local contexts
 - The national context provides the grand discourse that shapes people's opinions and perspectives
 - The local context provides the conditions that determine the success of integration
 - Heartland characteristics
 - Little tradition of ethnic diversity and non-White immigration
 - Strong spatial concentration of immigrants in relatively small towns
 - Long term rural depopulation which is a function of negative migration trends

So what do we need?



We need a heart to understand and accept others even if they are different



We need courage to plan beyond the next election, admit failures and take on interests that seem much stronger than ourselves



And some may need a brain to understand the complexity and internal dynamics of immigrant integration

Welcome, immigrants!



Any questions?