

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND CRIME: A PERCEPTION STUDY
THROUGH THE LENSES OF MAJORITY AND MINORITY
CRIMINOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE
STUDENTS

by

ROBYN D'AMBERLY RIVERA

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of
The University of Texas at Arlington in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements
for the Degree of

MASTER OF ARTS IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

August 2007

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my Major Professor, Dr. Alejandro del Carmen, who guided me in the right direction through this process of graduate school. His words of encouragement for school, work and family life have given me a greater understanding of how dreams can come true. In addition, I would like to thank Dr. John W. Stickels and Dr. Rhonda R. Dobbs for their generous time and support.

I would like to also share this accomplishment with one very special person, my fiancé, Ruben, for his love and continuous support and understanding of my drive to succeed in reaching my goals and for sacrificing so many things so that I could focus my time on the completion of this thesis. I would also like to thank both my parents, Roger and Josie for providing their guidance and strength to me in order to strive for a better life through higher education. To my mother, whose love and faith as given me the opportunity to accomplish more than I could have ever dreamed. To my father, I thank him for his words of wisdom, which have made me a better person and for continuing to instill in me the tools needed to succeed in life. Without these three individuals in my life, this experienced would not be possible.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my family members and friends who believed in me. This is an accomplishment that I share with you all.

July 9, 2007

ABSTRACT

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND CRIME: A PERCEPTION STUDY
THROUGH THE LENSES OF MAJORITY AND MINORITY
CRIMINOLOGY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE
STUDENTS

Publication No. _____

Robyn D'Amberly Rivera, M.A.

The University of Texas at Arlington, 2007

Supervising Professor: Alejandro del Carmen

The purpose of this study is to examine the perceptions and attitudes of CRCJ and Non-CRCJ (Criminology/Criminal Justice) majority (White/Caucasian) and minority (Black, Mexican American/Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander or Other) college students towards illegal immigrants and crime in the United States. A survey was administered to criminology/criminal justice university students that examined their perception and knowledge of illegal immigration and their impression on whether illegal immigration and crime are correlated. It is found that the students'

overall answers to the survey showed that they did not perceive that illegal immigration is related to crime in the United States.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
Chapter	
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Statement of the Research Problem	2
1.2 Purpose of the Study	3
1.3 Significance of the Study.....	3
1.4 Definitions.....	4
1.5 Plan of Presentation.....	4
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 The History of Mexican Migration to the United States	7
2.2 Demographic Characteristics of Undocumented Immigrants.....	10
2.3 Crime on the U.S.-Mexican Border	12
2.4 Use of Public Resources	15
2.5 Attitudes Toward Undocumented Mexican Immigrants	17
2.6 Options to Legally Migrate into the United States	20
2.7 The Effects of Immigration on the United States	21
2.8 Current Proposals to Modify Immigration Policies	23

2.9 Border and Immigration Issues.....	25
2.10 Immigration and National Interest	27
3. METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN.....	29
3.1 Construction of the Self-Created Survey Instrument	30
3.1.1 Survey Instrument	30
3.1.2 IRB Review and Approval.....	31
3.2 Sampling Method.....	31
3.3 Data Collection Method	32
3.4 Statistical Manipulation.....	33
4. FINDINGS.....	34
4.1 Demographics.....	35
4.2 Majority and Minority Responses.....	37
4.2.1 Knowledge Items.....	37
4.2.2 Perception/Opinion Items	41
5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	48
5.1 Implications.....	50
5.2 Contribution to the Body of Knowledge	52
5.3 Limitations of the Research	52
5.4 Criminology/Criminal Justice Majority and Minority Students.....	53
5.4.1 Knowledge.....	53
5.4.2 Perception	53
5.5 Suggestions for Further Research	54

Appendix	
A. SURVEY INSTRUMENT	56
REFERENCES	63
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION	66

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	Demographics of Survey Respondents	35
2	Knowledge Based Differences among Majority Students and Minority Students.....	38
3	Perception/Opinion Differences among Majority Students and Minority Students.....	42

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

One would agree that a recent panic over illegal immigration has brought more awareness over the last couple of years with immigration policies becoming increasingly more abundant as crime on the U.S. and Mexican borders increases. Also it could be argued that it has become more difficult to avoid the perception and attitude that linked crime and illegal immigrants. It is possible that the presence of illegal immigrants in the United States creates financial problems for the criminal justice system. A relationship between illegal immigration and border crime might be expected for three reasons: illegal immigrants commit more crime; illegal immigrants are more likely to be victimized by crime; and/or illegal immigrants use smugglers to enter the United States who then commit more crime (Orrenius & Coronado, 2005). According to Orrenius and Coronado (2005) there was little empirical evidence that immigrants – legal or illegal – commit more crime than natives (apart from immigration related offenses which they are not considering here). When it come to the issue of immigration and crime, it does not seem to matter immigrants are legal or illegal for people to assume a connection (Orrenius & Coronado, 2005).

While the number of illegal immigrants entering the United States annually can only be estimated, data on apprehension are more reliably collected (Guerette & Clark, 2005). Hawley (1999) states that there exists widespread concern among many

Americans about the problem of illegal immigration. Some areas of the country particularly those Southern regions bordering Mexico, face a regular influx of foreigners coming into the country illegally (Hawley, 1999). Despite the fact that the border states of Texas, New Mexico, California and Arizona experience more illegal immigration than other states, the concern about immigration and crime are an issue throughout the United States. Guerette and Clarke (2005) state that undoubtedly the largest flow of illegal immigration into the United States takes place along the Mexican border.

According to Orrenius and Coronado (2005), the number of apprehensions is not an ideal measure of the number of illegal migrants successfully entering the United States or even of the number attempting to enter. In addition to counting the number of failed attempted crossings instead of the number of successful crossings, the data include repeat apprehensions for the same individual (Orrenius and Coronado, 2005). Also, it needs to be taken under consideration that many immigrant crimes are not reported and could be possibly in greater proportion than the crimes that U.S. citizens commit. One would agree that there are other factors for the underreporting. In fact, criminals that come from other countries, may cross over the border to commit these crimes and then return to their home country. It may be also that law enforcement may not keep records on the national origin of the perpetrator.

1.1 Statement of the Research Problem

There are two important issues in studying the impact of illegal immigration on crime (Orrenius & Coronado, 2005). According to Orrenius and Coronado (2005), first,

there is the question of the casual nature of the link and second, there is an empirical question regarding the measurement of illegal immigration, specifically the extent to which INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) apprehensions data capture changes in the volume of illegal immigration. It needs to be understood is that the United States has not yet integrated law enforcement response to immigration control.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to examine the perceptions and attitudes of CRCJ and Non-CRCJ majority (White/Caucasian) and minority (Black, Mexican American/Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander or Other) college students towards illegal immigrants and crime in the United States. In addition, this study aims to show the misrepresentation and misconceptions of illegal immigrants in the United States.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The author will discuss the findings of this study regarding the perceptions and attitudes towards illegal immigrants between CRCJ majority college students and CRCJ minority college students. This study will bring more awareness to the CRCJ college students regarding illegal immigrants in the United States and show what their perceptions and attitudes are towards illegal immigrants. Furthermore, the findings of this study are important to illegal immigrants who are in the United States and who are concerned with the misconceptions of their presence in connection with crime in the United States.

1.4 Definitions

For purposes of the study, several terms have been defined. **Attitude:** Attitude refers to the manner, disposition, feeling, and/or position with regard to a person or thing. **Perception:** Perception is the process of acquiring, interpreting, selecting, and organizing sensory information about a minority member and/or the environment that individual is surrounded in.

1.5 Plan of Presentation

In this study, the sample is derived from students enrolled at the The University of Texas at Arlington during the Spring 2007 semester. CRCJ and Non-CRCJ majority student(s) will be referenced as student(s) whose ethnicity is White/Caucasian. In addition, minority student(s) will be referenced as a student(s) whose ethnicity is Black, Mexican American/Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander or other.

It is not possible to generalize the results from this study to the general population due to the sample that was used in this study which was taken from university students in Texas. Their views may not be representative of other views of students in other universities across the United States. Texas is one of four border states of Mexico, so the opinions of the students may be more conservative than in other states where illegal immigration may not be as much of an issue. It is anticipated that this study will further the understanding of how knowledge impacts perceptions and opinions of illegal immigrants. Also, it will provide whether CRCJ and Non-CRCJ majors have a greater knowledge base regarding illegal immigrants and crime how that may impact their opinions.

In chapter two, the author will present a review of the literature separated into ten subsections beginning with the historical overview of Mexican migration to the United States. In order to understand the reason behind the misconceptions and attitudes towards illegal immigrants, there needs to be an understanding of the overall subculture of illegal immigrants. It is important to explain why there are misconceptions of illegal immigrants in the United States. Illegal immigrants tend to receive negative perceptions of their freedom due to the fact that they are in the United States illegally. And due to those perceptions, they suffer the disadvantages and consequences that come along with them.

In chapter three, the author discusses the methodology of the study while in chapter four, the author discusses the findings that were derived from the methodology. In chapter five, the author offers discussion and conclusions about the overall findings as well as policy implications and suggestions for further research.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

One can agree that the growing concerns of undocumented Mexican immigrants entering the United States has been an issue in recent years. According to Rozek (2003) the number of undocumented Mexican immigrants in the United States has increased while there have also been an unprecedented number of people that are living in the United States illegally. It is important to keep in mind that the term “immigrant” is being defined as anyone who moved to Texas, whatever his or her place of origin (Rozek, 2003).

It has been suggested that illegal Mexican immigrants are encouraged to ignore the U.S. immigration laws and obtain employment in the U.S. The economy continues to absorb the increasing numbers of illegal Mexican immigrants into the United States as they dominate the agricultural labor force and also occupy many other low-end occupations and as this is occurring, so is the increasingly number of crimes on the U.S.-Mexican borders (Rozek, 2003).

In the wake of September 11, 2001, with U.S. military action abroad in the name of “fighting terrorism,” and the creation of new “national security” law and infrastructures within the U.S., we are witnessing the establishment of a national security state apparatus that threatens to undermine democracy within the U.S. and abroad (Jonas & Tataquin, 2004). Palafox (2001) states that it is especially intriguing

that increased U.S.-Mexican border enforcement has taken place as these economies are being integrated (e.g. NAFTA), leading to a “borderless economy and a barricaded border” (p.x). As part of the simultaneous “opening” of the border to trade and commerce, while “closing” it to undocumented immigration and drug trafficking, border policing has attempted to create the image of a controlled border in an era of massive and potentially cataclysmic change (Palafox, 2001).

2.1 The History of Mexican Migration to the United States

Mexican migration into the United States has occurred for hundreds of years. Officially, U.S. visitors have unhindered access to Mexican border cities, but Mexican visitors to U.S. border cities need crossing permits (Ortiz, 2001). In order to understand the attitudes that are associated with undocumented Mexican immigrants, it is necessary to provide information and insight to the historical background of immigration.

Certainly the situation, which creates the history of Mexican migration, is unique as much of the southwest region of the U.S. formerly belonged to Mexico (Skinner, 1987). Many would argue that the state of Texas has the most easily accessible borders with Mexico and thus has had the most increased labor population. The influence of the economy and politics has played an important role in the history of Mexican migration.

Skinner (1987) stated that during World War I, Mexicans were needed in the United States for agriculture and railroad jobs. Thus, in 1917, the government instituted the first bracero (Mexican labor) program to permit farm hands to work temporarily in the U.S. (Skinner, 1987). This was the beginning of the immigration policy that would

ultimately provide for the U.S. regarding the needs of the economy. After the bracero program was terminated, there was still a significant number of undocumented workers that were entering the U.S (Skinner, 1987).

Undoubtedly, the largest flow of illegal immigration into the United States takes place along the Mexican border (Guerette & Clarke, 2005). There has been a sharp increase in the amount of illegal immigrants from Mexico coming into the United States. It is estimated that the number of illegal immigrant reached 500,000 or higher during the late 1990s and may be as high as 11-12 million as of 2006. Martinez (1997) states that as Mexicans continue to migrate to the U.S., their experiences, interactions, and confrontations in the context of global capital bring new issues to bear upon the national stage. As such, those new issues need to be examined and discussed.

One might agree that there is a need to examine the history of the anti-immigration measures since the mid-1990s and the brief “political opening” for legalization just before September 11, 2001. Jonas and Tactaquin (2004) identify several important turning points in the history of immigration policies in the United States. The previous turning points were in the 1920s, with racially driven immigration quotas and instituted family reunification as a major criterion (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004). Signaling concern over the growing presence of undocumented immigrants, Congress passed the Immigrant Reform and Control Act (IRCA) in 1986, after more than a decade of political wrangling and the deliberations of a national commission on sweeping immigration reform (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004).

Jonas and Tactaquin (2004) state that a decade later, in 1996, following the 1994 passage and subsequent overturn of Proposition 187 in California (which would have denied all public services to undocumented immigrants), Congress passed a trio of three laws that went far beyond Proposition 187 in their attack on immigrants. They consisted of the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility of 1996, The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) of 1996, and The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWOA, more commonly known as the Welfare Reform Act) of 1996. These laws are in connection with the many complaints that have been reported that law enforcement officials have violated their human and civil rights (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004).

Huspek, Martinez, and Jimenez (1998) state that the violations of human and civil rights include illegal search of persons and their private property, verbal, psychological, and physical abuse of persons, child abuse, deprivation of food, water, and medical attention, torture, theft, use of excessive force, assault and battery, and murder. The complaints are directed at a number of law enforcement agencies located principally in Southern California, including the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Customs, U.S. Port Security, the Sheriff's Departments of San Diego's, Vista, San Marcos, Fallbrook, and Riverside, the San Diego Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the California National Guard (Huspek, Martinez, & Jimenez, 1998).

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), including the U.S. Border Patrol, is mentioned most frequently in the majority of the complaints (Huspek, Martinez, & Jimenez, 1998). Huspek, Martinez, and Jimenez (1998) stated that the

subjects responsible for voicing the complaints included 267 individuals who are highly diverse with respect to age, social class, gender, life ambition, and legal status. They also stated that many are undocumented immigrants, but many others are holders of valid border crossing cards as well as citizens and legal residents of the United States (Huspek, Martinez, & Jimenez, 1998).

2.2 Demographic Characteristics of Undocumented Immigrants

The demographic characteristics of undocumented immigrants need to be discussed in order to understand why there are such perceptions of undocumented immigrants and the issues that have become a topic for discussion in today's society. It is difficult to obtain accurate information regarding the size of the population of undocumented Mexican immigrants. Some might argue that it is clear that most undocumented Mexican immigrants that migrated to the United States were male. This slight excess of males may be due to them establishing themselves in the U.S. with the intention of later sending for their families (Skinner, 1987). Most of them were highly concentrated in the young-adult working ages in which they would be able to participate more in the labor force. Skinner (1987) stated that although undocumented workers can be found in all occupational groups and wage levels, certain occupations have concentrations of them. Most of these workers tended to have jobs in agriculture, food retailing, and construction, which tend to be lower wage jobs.

It could be agreed that economists believe that immigration is a net benefit to the U.S. economy. Immigrants fill jobs that U.S. citizens often reject and thus help the economy and provide job creation for a group of individuals that may be in a strained

atmosphere. Also employers ranging from small business owners to major corporations might choose to hire foreigners who often work harder for less pay than U.S. citizens.

Skinner (1987) stated that most undocumented Mexican immigrants tend to reside where there is a large population of legal immigrants thus making it more difficult to be noticeable as an illegal. Almost half of the undocumented immigrants counted in the 1980 census were in California (Skinner, 1987). New York had 11%, Texas 9%, Illinois 7%, and Florida 4% (Skinner, 1987).

Legal and illegal Mexicans have increased rapidly and are soon becoming the majority and not just the minority any longer. This group of individuals has risen to extraordinary levels and positions in politics and in the community in which they live. Currently, immigration accounts for an increase of about 1.5 million people a year, which represents more than half of the total U.S. population growth (Skinner, 1987).

Many might agree that Mexican immigrants command some of the lowest earnings of all U.S. workers. According to Catanzarite and Bernabe Aguilera (2002), Latinos are hired disproportionately into relatively undesirable positions and also that Latino representation tends to suppress pay in those occupations where they are prevalent.

Phares (2000) explains that it is important to note that the largest law enforcement agency in the country right now is the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), with its uniformed branch. Also according to Phares (2000) the U.S. Border Patrol with a budget of four billion dollars and it does joint operations with local (law enforcement) groups, as well as the military. According to studies by the Urban

Institute in Washington, D.C. although statistically only four out of the 10 undocumented people in the United States cross the southern border (the others come in legally through airports or seaports or at the Canadian border), 85% of the INS/Border patrol resources aimed at stopping undocumented migration are placed at the U.S.-Mexican border (Phares, 2000).

There were a number of changes made prior to September 11th with respect to law enforcement at the border. These changes, however, did not decrease the number of people who came across the border. Phares (2000) explains that people continue to come; the only result of border enforcement was the consolidation of the clandestine trafficking industry, including making the industry of coyotes or *polleros* or *pateros*, the smugglers, or the industry of false documents, more profitable.

2.3 Crime on the U.S.-Mexican Border

According to Green and Ciobanu (2006), they examined the number of immigration prosecutions in the four years (2000-2004) surged from 16,724 to 37,854, making immigration prosecutions the single largest category of federal crimes, surpassing even drug prosecutions. Although the U.S.-Mexico border region has had a long history of militarism and violence, only in the last few decades has increasing integration of U.S. military armed personnel with civilian law enforcement been documented (Palafox, 2000).

Crime that occurs on the U.S.-Mexican border is easily blamed solely on Mexican Immigrants. The “crime problem” must be defined with care, lest the poor, who are the principal victims of crime, be represented in mass as its perpetrators

(Binford, 1999). This has become a topic for discussion regarding illegal immigrants that cross the border into the United States.

Many feel that illegal immigrants that come into the U.S. have increased the amount of crime along the border. Binford (1999) states that the print and broadcast media inundate the public with stories of documented links between narcotraffickers, politicians, and military officers, corruption and brutality in the Judicial Police, profiteering on the sale of state enterprises, and murderous intrigues within the ruling party.

Some might argue that crime is not occurring on the U.S.-Mexican border solely by Mexican immigrants, but is also being committed against Mexican immigrants. One might agree that the crime that occurs on the U.S.-Mexican borders is largely associated with drug trafficking, human trafficking and other illegal enterprises. This is true for the most part, but Mexican immigrants are not solely committing these acts.

Adding even greater controversy to Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, Congress expanded the list of deportable crimes, including such minor offenses as shoplifting, petty theft, drunk driving, and even low level drug violations which have been reclassified as aggravated felonies, a category that includes murder, rape, terrorism, and kidnapping (Welch, 2003).

The Border Patrol implemented several focused and later expanded operations in select border areas aimed at preventing and detecting illegal entry along the border (Guerette & Clarke, 2005). According to Guerette and Clarke (2005), there have been two unanticipated consequences of the border strategy – an increase in human

smuggling and in migrant deaths. As it is reflected, this is occurring against Mexican Immigrants.

Not all illegal immigrants are coming to the United States and committing crimes. They are simply coming into the United States to find jobs in order to provide for their families in Mexico. The population of workers trying to cross the border illegally is ever more diverse according to Rivera-Salgado (1999). The distinguishing socioeconomic profile of the new migrants from rural Mexico can be summarized as follows: the majority of the new migrants come from regions within states that were not traditionally characterized by out-migration of workers to the United States, many of them are indigenous, and there has been a substantial increase in the number of women and children (Rivera-Salgado, 1999). It goes to show that most Mexican migrants are coming to the United States for better opportunities. They simply want to be able to have the American dream and provide financially for their families back in Mexico. Mexican migrants come to the United States on a very low profile in order to work during the day and return to their homes in Mexico at night. They most likely try to avoid any focus on themselves in order to not bring any attention to themselves.

As the laws and immigration policies increase, Mexican migrants continue to keep a low profile. According to Welch (2003), looking at the crackdown on illegal immigrants and criminal aliens from the perspective of irony sharpens our view of how strict new laws have compounded the problem as well as created others (e.g., a massive increase in detained immigrants, racial discrimination, denials of due process, and various human and civil rights violations).

By June 1997, violence along the 2,200-mile U.S.-Mexican border, which had been escalating for years, had become so intolerable that U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-California) said from the House floor that portions of the border were more dangerous than Bosnia (Dougherty, 2004). Dougherty (2004) states that while America is being overrun by illegal immigrants it can not absorb, it is also being swamped by a sea of drugs for the same reason, thus the will does not exist in Washington to enforce America's legitimate borders. It should be understood that crime does occur by the means of illegal immigrants. What needs to be understood is that not all illegal immigrants are committing crimes along the U.S.-Mexican border. And not all crimes along the border are committed by illegal immigrants.

2.4 Use of Public Resources

It is in great debate that it is not necessary to provide public resources to illegal immigrants from Mexico. Many argue that illegal immigrants drain a significant amount of resources in social welfare and job displacement costs and that there is a need for termination of resources such as hospital care, schooling, and assistance thereby decreasing the negative impact of illegal immigrants on the economy.

Skinner (1987) stated that the direct costs included unemployment compensation, welfare, food stamps, and Medicaid as well as the indirect costs, which included tax evasion, balance of payments loss, and job displacement caused by undocumented immigrants. These undocumented Mexican immigrants do use public services such as public education and health services, but they rarely are recipients of such welfare services and food stamps (Skinner, 1987).

Long (1998) states that immigrants are eligible for food stamps and other welfare benefits, and illegal aliens attain them by fraud, and when not attained by fraud, by virtue of having born here a child who is automatically an American citizen and qualified for public benefits. It may be that the process of obtaining these services is more difficult due to their classification. One study by Harvard economics Professor George J. Borjas shows immigrants to the U.S. continue to use public welfare more than native born Americans, despite federal immigration laws that prohibit residency for aliens likely to become “a public charge” (Dougherty, 2004).

Many public hospitals in the United States, especially in the Southwest, are facing major financial difficulties because of the services that they are rendering to indigent alien patients (Dougherty, 2004). According to Dougherty (2004), besides the direct cost of providing medical care, there is another issue that is driving physicians and other health-care providers away from border areas: medical liability. This has become a major concern for many physicians along the border towns. According to an assessment by the Texas Medical Association (TMA), insurance companies are increasingly refusing to provide coverage to physicians who work in “high-risk” places.

This struggle continues to be played out in California around Proposition 187 and subsequent national legislation that would deny immigrants (documented and undocumented), the use of public services (Martinez, 1997). According to Proposition 187, for instance, illegals were not permitted to collect welfare benefits or food stamps, and much of the publicly funded Medi-Cal medical benefits systems were likewise placed off limits (Currie, 2000). In addition, the law banned the children of illegal

aliens from attending the state's public schools (Currie, 2000). It was thought by some that it was in the best interest of the state of California to not provide these services to illegal immigrants and their children.

Currie (2000) stated that other opponents argued that the measure, despite all appearances, was not in the best interest of American citizens and that they believed that the average illegal alien was attracted to California not by the promise of a handout, but rather by the hope of a job; therefore, the proposition would do little or nothing to curb the problem of illegal immigration. Proposition 187 never went into effect due to all of the negative opinions.

2.5 Attitudes Toward Undocumented Mexican Immigrants

“Plenty of American citizens fear the surge of Mexicans coming north is a threat to their society,” according to Laufer (2004). The attitudes and perception of the public is not what it once used to be. Currently there is a huge debate regarding undocumented immigrants here in the United States. Some would say that the attitudes of the American people are simply split down the middle. Some would agree that there has been an impact that these undocumented immigrants have had on the United States economy. Not only to the economy itself, but mostly to the U.S. citizens that feel that their jobs are being taken away.

Most often, citizens are ambivalent toward the plight of the immigrants. Skinner (1987) said that it is reasoned that while many Americans take a restrictionist attitude toward anonymous and unknown undocumented immigrants, they tend to act differently toward specific immigrants whose problems or circumstances that are known to them.

One might agree that the attitudes towards undocumented immigrants also come from organized interest groups who have a strong position on the issue and tend to be more elaborate in their views than the average person with an opinion. Nielson, Lee, and Martinez (2005) found that immigration or Latino presence might-on the basis of language barriers, increased population heterogeneity, conflict over conduct norms, or other processes-undermine collective efficacy and reduce solidarity and social trust. But there is concern on how undocumented Mexican immigrants are able to play by the so-called rules of this nation.

It can be argued that no one is publicly satisfied with the current situation in which millions of Mexican nationals are virtually encouraged to ignore the U.S. immigration laws and obtain employment in the U.S. It could be that it seems that more immigrants are coming to the U.S. with their families in hopes that there will soon be a new legalization process that they may take part in. But it is still notable to provide that the economy continues to absorb their numbers as they dominate the agriculture labor force and also occupy positions in many other low-wage occupations. Supporters of current immigration levels include corporate interests that profit from cheap foreign labor. This may be a key factor in some of the negative attitudes towards immigrant workers and to Latino communities.

First, Latino communities have suffered from the notable change in the U.S. public's perception of immigrants according to Jonas and Tactaquin (2004). The net effect of September 11 with regard to immigrants (including Latinos) has been a dehumanizing conflation of immigrants with terrorists, leading to a widespread

perception that capturing undocumented immigrants is somehow the same as capturing terrorists, or that exclusions, detentions, or deportations of immigrants somehow protect U.S. citizens from terrorism (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004).

Jonas and Tactaquin (2004) suggest that beyond citizens' obvious self-interest, the treatment of immigrants and non-citizens affects the quality of democracy in the U.S. It is unhealthy for the fabric of a society to have a rapidly and ever-increasing mass of undocumented or in-limbo migrants who are regarded with suspicion and excluded from its benefits (Jonas & Tactaquin, 2004). This is even true for politicians. According to Dougherty (2004), indeed, there is growing evidence that both major political parties are catering to Hispanics and that the leadership of neither party is willing to get tough on illegal immigration because it mostly involves Hispanics and they fear alienating potential voters.

The most important point about undocumented aliens is that they too have human rights, rights which result from one's humanity, not from one's citizenship (Brown & Shue, 1983). Brown and Shue (1983) have argued that governments who have aliens in their territories are obligated to uphold the rights of these persons, and in their view the same is true of undocumented aliens. Others, however, object to the contention that governments are obligated to uphold the rights of aliens present in their territories by claiming that aliens forfeit their human rights when they illegally enter a country (Brown & Shue, 1983).

2.6 Options to Legally Migrate into the United States

While many might argue that legal immigration has historically been good for America, the public continues to inquire on whether the country benefits from legal immigration today. There are several categories in which an immigrant may come into the United States. The first one is employment-based preference in which a limited number of individuals who possess job skills, which are in demand by the economy, are permitted entry. This is usually reserved for individuals with computer and engineering skills. The second one is family preference, which permits U.S. citizens to sponsor a limited number of relatives including, spouses and children of immigrants, and siblings. Then there is the third category, which is immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. This category permits citizens to sponsor an unlimited number of minor children, spouses, and parents. This has been the largest category. The fourth category is diversity. This category, which is authorized by recent legislation, allows a limited number of individuals to immigrate, based on past under-representation in the immigrant population. Lastly, there are refugees/asylees who are admitted on a limited basis based on political and humanitarian reasons. The President sets a maximum number of refugees/asylees to be admitted in any given year.

There is a difference between legal immigrants and citizens. Legal immigrants are basically entitled to the same rights as citizens although they are not allowed to vote or hold political office. In order to be a legal immigrant, one must go through a process called naturalization. In order to be naturalized, immigrants must reside in the U.S. for

five years. They also have to demonstrate proficiency in English and possess knowledge of U.S. history and government.

Most legal immigrants primarily come from Latin America and Asia. Many would agree that the overwhelming majority of illegal immigrants come from Mexico and Central America. Also it is important to note that the volume of migration to the United States by young adults from Mexico, the economic position of households in contemporary Mexico, and changes in the composition of migrant flows speak to the importance of understanding young migrants in their parents' households (Fomby, 2005). Based on the sociological and anthropological literature connecting settlement and the formation or reunification of families, the term "settlement" to describe what might be better called "family settlement" (Brownell, 2001).

In May 2001, President Bush asked Congress to revive an expired law that would grant amnesty to aliens who came to the U.S. on temporary visas – perhaps to work or attend school or as tourists – but then stayed to become illegal aliens (Doughtery, 2004). Doughtery (2004) stated that the notion of granting amnesty to the millions of illegal aliens residing in the U.S.- and the millions more family members they have living in Mexico – is favored by a number of powerful interests, including political, cultural and business interests, as well as the administrations of Vicente Fox and George W. Bush.

2.7 The Effects of Immigration on the United States

It would be agreed that immigration is the main reason for the U.S. population growth. American business leaders generally saw the unimpeded flow of cheap foreign

labor as necessary for both prosperity and continued economic growth (Grey, 1972). There are advantages of immigration. First, there is a greater supply of unskilled workers. Since most immigrants take low paying, low skill jobs, then this compliments their presence. The overall economy is stronger, thus the high concentration of undocumented workers in the agricultural industry keeps food prices relatively low. Second, the workforce is younger and thus will require significant adjustments in the Social Security system. Third, skilled workers are needed in sectors. Usually when immigrants are employed in the “employment preference” as mentioned above, they are usually occupying jobs that are of importance to the economy.

There are also disadvantages of immigration. First, there tends to be more poverty for immigrants. Since immigrants usually have the lower paying jobs, they are the ones usually that are effected by the hard times in the economy. This can include no health insurance, thus having them receive help from public assistance. Second, there are increased education costs. Immigration children and children of immigrants account for a disproportionate amount of public education costs due to the greater birth rate of Hispanics. Third, there are lower unskilled wage levels. Immigrants are usually only able to perform job duties of the occupation that are usually of low skill. Lastly, there is an increased danger of terrorism.

Some argue that by continuing to let immigrants come into the country, the United States is setting itself up for a terrorist attack. After September 11, there was much concern on how it would effect undocumented workers. Shortell and Smith (2005) stated that both legal and undocumented foreign workers and students were

subjected to heightened scrutiny by federal law enforcement and in many cases were detained incommunicado and without charge. According to Dougherty (2004), columnist Tom DeWeese states that the illegal immigration is about much more than fighting terrorism...the fact is, illegal Mexicans are pouring across our borders, and, as a result, American tax-paid services like education and healthcare are being pushed to the brink of collapse.

Many economic and labor market studies demonstrate that undocumented aliens do not take jobs from U.S. citizens but rather they actually create jobs and contribute to the growth and vitality of the U.S. economy (Rochin, 1996). According to Rochin (1996) it can be safely inferred that undocumented Latino aliens take jobs that very few U.S. citizens would ever consider for themselves, because of not only these unattractive potential earnings, but also reputedly poor working conditions.

2.8 Current Proposals to Modify Immigration Policies

Migration of Mexicans to the United States is increasing and is not likely to decline, despite official actions in both countries to discourage or control it (Jones, 1984). It has been suggested that there should be a limitation on the number of future immigrants that enters into the United States. There could be a greater emphasis on employment related to immigration. According to Jones (1984) the United States migration policies and enforcement practices have adapted to the changing labor supply-demand situation.

Generally, there is an allotment of employment related preference visas that have not been used because there has been a limitation placed on people entering from

certain countries. This could be where legislation could relax these provisions. Also there could be programs such as guest workers or even amnesty. In January 2004, the Bush Administration proposed a solution to the undocumented problem in the form of a new guest worker program. In order to qualify under this plan, the workers must have a job offer and the employer must show no Americans wanted the job. Under the plan, undocumented workers who gained temporary worker status can have the protections and rights of legal workers. As well, they could also apply for their green card and start their process for permanent residency. An advantage to the program was that the worker could go back and forth from the United States and their home country. The proposal does not have huge public support possibly due to the lack of knowledge regarding undocumented workers. In the meantime, the overall number of legal and illegal immigrants continues to grow increasingly contributing to a growing portion of the U.S. resident population. There is, however, little mainstream political opposition to the rate of legal immigration.

There are key problems with the current U.S. policy on immigration. Immigration clearly contributes to a downward pressure on wage levels and to decreased job availability in certain economic sectors. Stricter border controls have proved unable to stem illegal flows, leading instead to rising human rights abuses and victimization of border crossers.

“There have been many instances where the government including law enforcement has enacted strong changes to the enforcement sections. Activities involving joint INS and local police actions have been increasing” (Hawley, 1999).

While most operations are routine and successful, there is the potential for problems (Hawley, 1999). As Hawley (1999) explains, in July 1997 in Chandler, Arizona, the police cooperated in an INS roundup, which resulted in a strong public protest and a \$35 million civil rights lawsuit against the city. The roundup itself was successful, however, and resulted in the deportation of 432 illegal aliens, 429 of them to Mexico (Hawley, 1999). This is an instance where immigration policies added almost as much confusion as clarity to one of America's most troubling and difficult problems (Hawley, 1999).

According to Phares (2000) who interviewed Jimenez, U.S. policy have come under a Democratic administration that has been a deadly policy, in which at least 300 people a year, according to studies, die crossing the border. Also the Republican Congress developed all of the punitive legislation that has criminalized human mobility and made possible all of the interests that are new geared up to prosecute people for crossing into the United States (Phares, 2000). Phares (2000) states that it seems that the government at this point in time only responds to the needs of border communities when they become active, so the work needs to develop alternatives that reflect the need to decriminalize human movement and to have it recognized as a fundamental human right.

2.9 Border and Immigration Issues

The security of the United States and its citizens should be the primary focus when considering immigration policies. The attitudes that some individual citizens feel is that the government is to lenient on the individuals who are undocumented

immigrants rather than putting more restrictions on them in order to provide a safer country to its own citizens. Now that this country has lived through a time where September 11 has happened, there is a need for security and consideration for the citizens of the United States. Americans want to feel like first class citizens in their own country.

The immigration issue can also place a strain on those immigrants that are legal. If illegal workers are easily crossing the borders without any consequences, then it is basically mocking the legal immigrants that have waited for years to even be accepted into the process of the immigration world. Not only that, but many would agree that local law enforcement is forced to allocate their resources to deal with illegal immigrants as well as cracking down on human trafficking across the borders. This causes the local governments to not provide improved resources to its own citizens.

When the federal government fails to secure the border, immigration related costs to state and local governments and American citizens could increase drastically. One of the important things to understand about border crossers is that the impact of globalization and militarization does not happen just to immigrants. It really happens to the border community, particularly with the growth of the presence of the Border Patrol and other policing agencies (Phares, 2000).

According to Palafox (2001), the reduction of border incursions through infusions of border agents is less important than image management that creates the perceptions that the U.S. can control the U.S.-Mexican border. Further, Palafox (2001) states that for its part in creating and maintaining a new and more intimate cross border

economic relationship” between the U.S. and Mexico, Mexico has embarked on image projection policies and practices, mainly in the “war on drugs.

2.10 Immigration and the National Interest

Simcox (1988) states that with immigrants now contributing to nearly one-half of the nation’s population growth, about half of that immigration is illegal. The policy and academic communities have begun to ask if immigration as currently experienced and immigration policy as now feebly enforced serve the national interest (Simcox, 1988). Could national interest include sports? Currie (2000) stated that under current immigration rules, an American national may have his or her spouse apply immediately for immigrant and citizen status. This has occurred several times with athletes that the U.S. has tried to bring from other countries to be able to field the best athletic teams possible.

There are many categories in which immigrants may legally enter the United States. One category that may seem to be in the national interest is the category of skilled workers. As stated earlier in the chapter the occupational preference has also been controversial; indeed, it has been attacked from both sides (Currie, 2000). In recent years business interests have successfully lobbied for increases in the skills quota; still, it lags well behind the family preference category (Currie, 2000).

Public opinion, in poll after poll in the late 1970s and early 1980s, showed that a majority of Americans opposed illegal immigration, supported the notion of punishing employers who knowingly employed illegal aliens, and opposed amnesty for illegal aliens (Simcox, 1988). Currie (2000) states that concerns about resources, population

density, and the environment, combined with questions about immigrants' effect on jobs and welfare systems, lead many observers to recommend that immigration levels be cut.

The current immigration issue continues to be a concern in the United States today. Not only regarding the national interest but also the many policies that need to be changed. The effects of illegal immigration will only progress if the United States takes a different outlook on how they are currently handling the issues. The debate of illegal immigration will be an issue with within out nation for decades to come.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

The purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions and attitudes of CRCJ majority (White/Caucasian) and minority (Black, Mexican American/Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander or Other) college students towards illegal immigrants and crime in the United States. The University of Texas at Arlington is the second largest school in the University of Texas system and is located in Arlington, Texas. The classes selected for administration of the survey included Criminology/Criminal Justice undergraduate and graduate classes. The researcher obtained permission from professors within the Criminology/Criminal Justice department to administer the surveys during a convenient class period. The sample was divided into majority (n=79) and minority students (n=63), with only 1 respondent not stating an ethnicity. The total number of participants for this study was 143 (n=143) students, with each sample set exceeding the minimum requirements needed in order to achieve statistically significant results.

This study was conducted in order to examine the possible differences in the perceptions and attitudes regarding illegal immigrants and crime in the United States among majority and minority students in criminology/criminal justice classes. Since the nature of the study was exploratory, a one-shot case study was utilized. A survey

instrument was the best method of data collection for this study because it could be self-administered and participants were allowed to respond to questions and were able to discontinue with the survey at any time. In this chapter, the author will discuss the survey instrument, IRB submission and approval, sampling method, implementation of the survey, and statistical manipulation used to analyze the data.

3.1 Construction of the Self-Created Survey Instrument

A five point Likert-scale was used to answer the questions on the survey instrument. Each question utilized a response set (agree strongly, agree, neutral, disagree, and disagree strongly). The survey asked questions on knowledge of illegal immigrants and crime, perception of illegal immigrants and crime, and general demographic information. The use of mostly close-ended statements was applied through the survey. In addition, questions numbered 1 through 10-measured knowledge of illegal immigrants and crime, while the remainder of the questions numbered 11 through 24-measured perceptions and opinions of illegal immigrants and crime. Questions 1 through 24 were presented as statements using a Likert scale. The remainder of the survey questions numbered 25 through 38 was general demographic questions. A copy of the survey instrument is located in Appendix A.

3.1.1 Survey Instrument

The survey instrument included a top page with the purpose of the study and stressed that participation was completely voluntary and anonymous (Instructions for Completion of the Survey can be found in the Appendix A). The survey followed next

after the instruction sheet with questions pertaining to illegal immigrants, crime, violent crime, property crime, crime rate, information and demographic questions.

3.1.2 IRB Review and Approval

In January 2007, the principle researcher submitted the IRB form 1A (Application for exemption of a research protocol to the Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subject (IRB)), a copy of the survey instrument, Instructions for Completion of the Survey and a copy of the Spring 2007 schedule that included the classes to be surveyed were provided to the University's Institutional Review Board for consideration. The University's Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (IRB) granted permission to begin research on February 2007.

3.2 Sampling Method

In this particular study, convenience sampling was used to gather data due to the proximity of the researcher, data availability, and time management. In addition, because this type of sampling was used, the results could not be generalized to the overall general public or to the entire student body. A total of 6 criminology/criminal justice classes were chosen randomly (3 undergraduate and 3 graduate) from 52 available courses offered during the 2007-spring semester. They included both day and evening classes. Participants chosen for this study were students (n=143) enrolled in one of the 6 criminology/criminal justice classes for the Spring of 2007. Participants were chosen from a population of nearly 25,000 students from the University of Texas at Arlington.

3.3 Data Collection Method

The researcher obtained permission from professors within the criminology/criminal justice department to administer the surveys during their most convenient class period. The self-report surveys were then give to each participant who was enrolled and who attended that particular class. The researcher explained to the class the purpose of the data collection by reading the statement of purpose that was attached to the survey instrument and asked if anyone had questions (the Statement of Purpose can be found in the Appendix A).

The researcher then assured the participants that their participation was completely voluntary and anonymous. In addition, the researcher explained that if at any time, any participant wished to no longer participate, they may discontinue the survey without any consequence. Participants were instructed not to participate if they had already completed a survey in a previous class. The researcher then instructed the participants to begin with the survey and informed the participants that the survey should take only twenty minutes to complete and upon completion, the researcher would collect them. Each survey was assigned a number in order to keep track of the total number of surveys distributed and completed. The total number of surveys handed out was n=143. The sample size for this study was calculated using *Cohen's Size Categories*. Cohen's Size Categories allowed the researcher to realistically estimate the sample size for which the study was being conducted.

3.4 Statistical Manipulation

The main purpose of the statistical manipulation was to examine the various differences in the perception and knowledge between majority and minority students enrolled in criminology/criminal justice classes regarding illegal immigrants and crime. A one-sample *t*-test was deemed the most appropriate statistical tool to compare the means and to determine if statistically significant differences existed among majority and minority students enrolled in criminology/criminal justice classes. The data that was received from the students was coded in the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 15.0. Any questions that were not answered or with two responses were labeled as missing and were given the code -1. In Chapter four, findings of the study will be displayed in tables and the author will discuss the statistically significant differences found. It was anticipated that the student's overall answers to the survey would show that they do not perceive that illegal immigrants are related to crime in the United States.

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS

The purpose of this study was to examine the perceptions and attitudes of CRCJ majority (White/Caucasian) and minority (Black, Mexican American/Hispanic, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander or Other) college students towards illegal immigrants and crime in the United States. Tables are included to show the comparison between the two groups. Descriptive statistics were utilized to analyze the data collected for this study. A t-test was appropriate for this study because two groups were being compared.

In this chapter, the author will describe and present the findings in three areas. First, the author will present the demographic findings of the respondents that were surveyed. Next, the author will present the knowledge differences among majority and minority students. And finally, the author will present the perception differences among majority and minority students. The data will be presented through a one-sample *t*-test comparison of the means of each group.

The survey instrument contained a total of 24 questions and had a total of 143 respondents. The instrument was designed to measure knowledge and perception of illegal immigrants and crime which was administered to both undergraduate and graduate students who were enrolled in one of 6 criminology/criminal justice courses during the Spring 2007 semester. The responses were measured in a Likert scale, which

was from agree strongly (1) to disagree strongly (5).

4.1 Demographics

As illustrated in Table 1, the majority of the respondents in the survey were male (54%), identified themselves as White (55%), and were single (81%). The majority of them were full time students (84%), with more than half of the respondents reporting that they were either junior or seniors (45% and 25% respectively). More than half of the respondents (64%) majored in criminology/criminal justice, with one-third reporting GPAs of 3.6 or higher (34%). The respondents reported to having completed 0-15 credits hours at UTA (16%) as well as 76-90 credit hours (16%). The most significant percentage of respondents was employed part time (33%).

TABLE 1. DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Variable		Percentage of Respondents
Gender	Male	54
	Female	46
Race	White	55
	Black	18
	Mexican American/Hispanic	18
	American Indian	1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	5
	Other	3

TABLE 1 – continued

Variable		Percentage of Respondents
Student Status	Freshmen	6
	Sophomore	23
	Junior	45
	Senior	25
	Graduate Student	21
Marital Status	Single	81
	Married	15
	Divorced	3
	Live-in Friend	1
Employment Status	Full Time Employed	33
	Part Time Employed	41
	Unemployed but looking for work	3
	Unemployed by choice	6
	Disabled	1
	Student	19
Credit Hours Completed at UTA	0-15 hours	16
	16-30 hours	15
	31-45 hours	11
	46-60 hours	5
	61-75 hours	13
	76-90 hours	16
	91-105 hours	7
	106-120 hours	11
Other	2	
Enrollment Status	Full Time	84
	Part Time	16
G.P.A Cumulative	1.5 – 2.0	1
	2.1 – 2.5	8
	2.6 – 3.0	27
	3.1 – 3.5	29
	3.6 – 4.0	34
CRCJ Major	Yes	64
	No	36

TABLE 1 – continued

Variable		Percentage of Respondents
Course Name & Number	CRCJ 2334	27
	CRCJ 3300	17
	CRCJ 3338	35
	CRCJ 5327	8
	CRCJ 5332	4
	CRCJ 5350	9
Knowledge of Ethnic Roots	Yes	88
	No	11
Ancestry	Middle East	2
	European	46
	Mexican	14
	North Eastern Asia	2
	South Eastern Asia	1
	African	12
	United States	8
	Other	8
Ancestors arrived in U.S. as legal immigrants.	Yes	57
	No	39

4.2 Majority and Minority Responses

4.2.1 Knowledge Items

As illustrated in Table 2, items in this section were presented within the survey in order to measure immigration and crime among majority and minority college students. There were six statements measuring knowledge regarding property and violent crime, while two seek to measure knowledge of illegal immigration and crime in the United States. The last two statements aimed at measuring the laws targeting illegal immigrants and if the media had influenced the community on immigration laws.

TABLE 2. KNOWLEDGE BASED DIFFERENCES AMONG MAJORITY STUDENTS AND MINORITY STUDENTS

Variable	Means of Majority students	Means of Minority students	P-Value
Illegal immigrants has become a major topic for discussion in the United States today.	1.54	1.62	.392
Crime in the United States is a major concern for citizens today.	1.82	1.76	.520
Illegal immigrants are increasing the property crime rate that occurs in the United States	2.92	3.08	.183
Illegal immigrants are increasing the violent crime rate that occurs in the United States.	2.94	3.33	.002**
Property crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that work in those border towns.	2.89	2.89	.992
Violent crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that work in those border towns.	2.95	3.11	.135
Laws targeting illegal immigrants have increased in the United States in the past 10 years.	2.30	2.02	.003**
The media has significantly influenced the perception that the community has on immigration laws	1.77	1.78	.940
Property crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants.	3.72	3.75	.815
Violent crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants.	3.78	3.84	.539

* Statistically significant at the 0.05 confidence level

**Statistically significant at the 0.01 confidence level

Two questions in this section proved to be statistically significant at the 0.01 level. First, a mean of 2.94 for majority students and a mean of 3.33 for minority students were found for the statement “illegal immigrants are increasing the violent crime rate that occurs in the United States”. When measuring the means of these two values, a p-value was produced at .002, which was significant at the .01 level. When measuring the statement “laws targeting illegal immigrants have increased in the United States in the past 10 years,” majority students responded with a mean of 2.30 compared to 2.02 that was responded by minority students. A p-value for this statement was produced at .003, which was significant at the .01 level.

Majority and minority students offered a response to the statement “illegal immigrants has become a major topic for discussion in the United States today” that was similar with means of 1.54 for majority students and 1.62 for minority students, with a p-value of .392 with both tending to agree. Next, majority students had a mean of 1.82 and minority students had a mean of 1.76 in regards to the statement “crime in the United States is a major concern for citizens today”. The p-value for this statement was .520 indicating no significant difference with both tending to agree. A mean of 2.92 for majority students and a mean of 3.08 for minority students were found for the statement “illegal immigrants are increasing the property crime rate that occurs in the United States” having a p-value of .183, which is not statistically significant.

The responses offered by majority and minority students to the statement “property crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that work in those border towns” appeared to be the same with

the means of 2.89 for majority students and 2.89 for minority students, with a p-value of .992 with both leaning towards significant agreement. Further, there was not a significant difference by race for the statement “violent crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that working those border towns” a mean of 2.95 was found for majority students and a mean of 3.11 for minority students, generally neutral, with a p-value of .135. Also majority students had a mean of 3.78 and minority students had a mean of 3.84 for the statement “violent crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants” having a p-value of .539 with both groups disagreeing with the statement.

The responses offered by majority and minority students to the statement “the media has significantly influenced the perception that the community has on immigration laws” appears to be similar with a mean of 1.77 for majority students and a mean of 1.78 for minority students, having a p-value of 9.40 with both groups agreeing with the statement. Further, there was a similar response to the statement “property crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants” with a mean of 3.72 for majority students and a mean of 3.75 for minority students, having a p-value of .815.

The only statistically significant responses among majority and minority students were to knowledge regarding increasing violent crime rate and increasing laws targeting illegal immigrants. There were differences that were noted in response to the statement “if illegal immigrants has become a major topic for discussion,” but the differences were not statistically significant. The differences that were found in

response to the statement “if crime in the United States was a major concern” showed that it was not statistically significant. Although differences were noted in response to the increasing of illegal immigrants of property crime, the difference was not statistically significant.

On the responses as to whether property crime that occurs on border towns is increasing due to illegal immigrants on border towns, both majority and minority students’ responses were exactly similar as well as with the statement if the media has significantly influenced the perception on the community in regards to immigration laws. Similar differences were noted in response to the increasing violent crime on border towns due to the illegal immigrants that work on border towns. On response as to whether property crime in the United States was being committed mostly by illegal immigrants, both majority and minority students’ response were similar. Finally, differences were noted in response to the violent crime that is being committed by illegal immigrants, the difference however was not statistically significant.

4.2.2 Perception/Opinion Items

The perception/opinion statements outnumbered the statements regarding knowledge. Items in Table 3 were presented within the survey in order to measure the perceptions among majority and minority students regarding crime that could occur at UTA, home and the workplace. There were two statements measuring the students’ perceptions regarding property and violent crime committed on the UTA campus by illegal immigrants, while two other sought to measure the students’ perceptions of property and violent crime committed off the UTA campus by illegal immigrants.

There were also two statements that aimed at measuring the students' perceptions of property and violent crime committed in their home by illegal immigrants, and two others focused on the same types of crimes at the workplace. One statement focused on measuring the students' perception of fear of being a victim of a gang related crime committed by an illegal immigrant and another statement measured the students' perception regarding if an illegal immigrant will commit the next major terrorist attack in the U.S.. Finally, the last four statements measured the students' perceptions of violent and property crime in regards to illegal immigrants and border towns.

TABLE 3. PERCEPTION/OPINION DIFFERENCES AMONG MAJORITY AND MINORITY STUDENTS

Variable	Means of Majority students	Means of Minority students	P-Value
If you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?	3.97	4.10	.297
If you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrants?	4.24	4.21	.784
If you were walking to your car off campus at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?	3.94	3.94	.978
If you were walking to your car off campus at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?	3.94	3.94	.978

* Statistically significant at the 0.05 confidence level

**Statistically significant at the 0.01 confidence level

TABLE 3 – continued

Variable	Means of Majority students	Means of Minority students	P-Value
If you were walking to your car off campus during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?	4.09	4.10	.966
How likely do you fear that you could be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?	3.71	4.05	.006**
How likely do you fear that you could be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?	3.82	4.06	.042*
How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a gang related crime committed by an illegal immigrant?	3.80	3.68	.451
How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a property crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant?	3.94	4.08	.260
How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a violent crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant?	4.09	4.21	.328
The next major terrorist attack that occurs in the United States on homeland will most likely be committed by an illegal immigrant.	3.00	3.29	.101
If the United States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on the border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant.	3.06	3.59	.000**
If the United States controlled the illegal immigrations that occurs on border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant.	3.01	3.43	.003**

* Statistically significant at the 0.05 confidence level

**Statistically significant at the 0.01 confidence level

TABLE 3 – continued

Variable	Means of Majority students	Means of Minority students	P-Value
If you were to describe a violent offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant.	4.18	4.16	.858
If you were to describe a property offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant.	3.96	4.10	.252

* Statistically significant at the 0.05 confidence level

**Statistically significant at the 0.01 confidence level

There were four questions that produced statistical differences by race of perception/opinion. Regarding the question “how likely do you feel that you could be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?” the majority students’ mean was 3.71 and minority students 4.05 with both groups disagreeing but minority students disagreed more strongly. When measuring the means of these two values a p-value for this statement was produced at .006, which was significant at the .01 level. Second, the majority students’ mean was 3.82, while the minority students’ mean was 4.06. for the question “how likely do you fear that you could be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?” The statement produced a p-value of .042, which was significant at the .05 level were both disagreed but minority students disagreed more strongly.

The third question had majority students with a mean of 3.06 and the minority students’ mean of 3.59 for the question “if the United States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant.” This statement was significant at the .001 level given that the p-value produced was $p = .000$. Last, majority

students had a mean of 3.01 (neutral) compared to 3.43 for minority students leaning towards disagreeing in regards to the statement “if the United States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant”. The p-value produced for this statement was .003, which was significant at the .01 level.

Both groups were similar in response to “if you were walking to your car off campus at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?” with means reported of 3.94 for majority students and 3.94 for minority students with both groups disagreeing. There was a p-value produced of .978. Also, majority students had a mean of 4.09 and minority students had a mean of 4.10 to the statement of “if you were walking to your car off campus during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant with both groups disagreeing with the statement. For this statement there was a p-value of .966, which was not statistically significant. There was similar response to “if you were to describe a violent offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant” with means reported of 4.18 for majority students and 4.16 for minority students with a p-value of .858 with both groups disagreeing.

In the statement “if you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant”, the mean of majority students was 4.24, while the mean of minority students was 4.21 were both groups disagree. The p-value

of this statement was .784. Regarding if “the next major terrorist attack that occurs in the United States on homeland will most likely be committed by an illegal immigrant”, the mean for majority students was 3.00, neutral, while the mean for minority students was 3.29, tending to disagree but the difference was not significant. This statement had a p-value of .101.

Both groups showed little difference in perception and opinion on the statement “if you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?” with the majority students’ mean of 3.97 and the minority students’ mean of 4.10 with both disagreeing. A p-value of .297 was found for this statement. Regarding “how likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a property crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant”, the mean of majority students was 3.94 and 4.08 for minority students with a p-value of .260 were both groups disagree. Majority students had a mean of 4.09 and 4.21 for minority students when it came to “how likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a violent crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant were both groups disagree. This statement had a p-value of .328.

In regards to “if you were to describe a property offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant”, the majority students’ mean was 3.96 and 4.10 for minority students with a p-value of .252 with both groups disagree. Majority students were less likely to agree with the statement “how likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a gang related crime committed by an illegal immigrant?” (majority mean of 3.80 and

minority mean of 3.68), but the finding were not statistically significant. This statement had a p-value of .451.

There were two statistically significant responses among majority and minority students in regards to their perception of being a victim of a property and violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant. In addition, there were two responses that were also statistically significant among majority and minority students to perception in regards to feeling safe of not being a victim of a violent and property crime committed by an illegal immigrant. In Chapter 5, the author will present the interpretation of the findings and provide suggestions for further research relevant to this topic. Also, the results from the survey will be explained.

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Illegal immigration is a very complex issue that is facing in the United States. The debate is continuing regarding illegal immigrants and is only becoming more heated. As the problems and issues with illegal immigration have become more present in society recently, there is now a need for the literature to be updated with current information in order to provide an opportunity to see if the perception of illegal immigrants has changed. One might suggest that the stigma that has been brought on illegal immigrants is an unfair view. The scope of illegal immigration can vary depending on the knowledge and perception of an individual who is placing judgment or opinion. The past literature that has been available prior to recent discussions and studies, may suggest that illegal immigrants may have a part in the growing crime rate in the United States.

Initially, one was led to believe that the issues of illegal immigrants in the United States was a major concern when discussing the increasing crime rate not only on the U.S./Mexican border towns but also in small rural towns and cities. But we are now living in a time when the increasing rate of illegal immigrants is becoming a part of our reality. And as the crime rate is rising with it, some would like to connect the two. However, from this study that was conducted, the knowledge and perception of the new

generation of individual's shows that illegal immigration is now viewed in differently than it has been in the past.

The author will discuss the findings found in Chapter four. The findings will provide an interpretation of the differences between majority and minority students in regards to the relation of knowledge and perception regarding illegal immigrants and crime. In order to obtain this information, knowledge and perception questions were measured through the use of a survey instrument. Also, there were demographic questions that were added to the survey instrument in order to measure the students and their backgrounds.

As illustrated in Chapter two, a review of the literature provided a foundation of how immigration in general had been seen throughout history. The author provided the history of the Mexican migration to the United States, as well as the demographic characteristics of undocumented workers. In addition, the author presented information regarding the crime that had occurred on the U.S./Mexican border as well as the use of public resources used by illegal immigrants in this country. The author discussed the attitudes that had been placed towards undocumented Mexican immigrants here in the United States.

In the review of the literature, the author presented the history of the options to legally migrate into the United States and the effects of immigration. It also provided the many current proposals to modify the immigration policies that are now being taking under consideration. The author discusses border and immigration issues as well as national interest to provide additional information and a different point of view.

A survey was then presented to 6 criminology/criminal justice classes. At the completion of the survey by the University of Texas at Arlington students, data was then analyzed by using SPSS and utilized *t*-tests to compare the means among majority and minority students.

5.1 Implications

It can be suggested by prior research that majority and minority students may feel differently regarding issues of illegal immigration in relation to the increasing crime rate. This may be due to the racial discrimination that minority students may have encountered. Not only are there social implications, there are also policy implications.

One may suggest that there are key problems with the current U.S. policy on immigration. As it was presented in the literature review, immigration contributes to a downward pressure on wage levels and to decreased job availability in certain economic sectors. But it is not possible to track the crime rate and the increasing rate of illegal immigrants coming into the United States.

There is a need of policy change as well as legislative change in the U.S. in respect to immigration. This could potentially provide a driving force for our social programs and services to be able to offer additional resources to immigrants. One may suggest that the availability of resources to illegal immigrants would provide options to various financial outlets. In regards to the crime rate that is increasing in the U.S., it is difficult to place the blame solely on illegal immigrants who are migrating everyday to the U.S.

There is evidence that suggests that the illegal immigrant that enters the United States does not have the skills and has poor education. Policy makers may consider creating social welfare programs for illegal immigrants with little or no education and/or poor job skills, such as providing public assistance, adequate education and job training which would allow them to become self-sustaining. Low levels of education among immigrants are evident in the existing literature. There needs to be efforts focusing on providing the adequate education so that it benefits not only immigrants but also the community and society as a whole.

Another area that needs to be addressed is the implications of law enforcement. Public policy makers need to consider policies that would restrict illegal aliens from entering the United States without inspection. The literature suggests that these individuals usually are incarcerated for criminal activity that they commit when they enter the United States. It is suggested that if policy makers created an efficient policy to reduce the number of illegal immigrants entering the United States without inspection at the border, then the amount of criminal activity that takes place on the would be reduced significantly.

Illegal immigration is an important issue for lawmakers today more than ever. They are under a great deal of pressure to satisfy the general public's needs as well as their own political views. However, the U.S. is currently striving to provide solutions to address the immigration policies that are now in place. Many would agree that there needs to be progress in the policy reform here in the United States.

5.2 Contribution to the Body of Knowledge

This research was conducted in hopes of making a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in the field of criminology/criminal justice. The author presented in the literature review that research has been done previously regarding illegal immigration and crime, but the research the author conducted compared the differences among majority and minority students at the University of Texas at Arlington. Also as the university is located in Texas, it was expected that there would be some students who would likely have ethnic roots tied to Mexico considering that Texas borders Mexico.

5.3 Limitations of the Research

The author does recognize that there were limitations that were present in this study. This study was conducted as one of convenience and not randomized. The survey was distributed to students enrolled in the 6 CRCJ courses, which were courses that were available to the researcher. Also the survey was distributed to a university that was located in Texas, which most likely would not have the same characteristics as other universities in the United States. Also, as the university was located in Texas, it suggested that these students would have a different knowledge base or perception of illegal immigrants than other university students in another state. And so, the results that are found in this study could not be generalized to the general population or the entire student body. This study merely provided exploratory findings regarding illegal immigrants and crime, thus the author acknowledges that there are limitations of the research.

5.4 Criminology/Criminal Justice Majority and Minority Students

5.4.1 Knowledge

Majority students agreed more with the statement that illegal immigrants were increasing the violent crime rate that occurs in the United States. Further, minority students acknowledged that laws have increased targeting illegal immigrants in the United States in the last 10 years. Majority and minority students seemed to appear to be the feel the same about illegal immigration becoming a major topic for discussion in the United States today. Majority students agreed more with the statement that illegal immigrants are increasing the property crime rate that occurs in the United States while minority students disagreed more with this statement. Both majority and minority students were almost equally as likely to know that the media has significantly influenced the perception that the community has on immigration laws. These results were expected by majority students considering their racial differences in comparison from the minority students.

5.4.2 Perception

Illegal immigration is a relevant issue that is being debated today in the United States. Therefore, the findings will provide an insight in regards to the perception of the students. Both groups reported similar knowledge regarding illegal immigration in relation to crime. Although in regards to perception, there were more items that produced statistically significant differences. Majority students more often expressed concern or fear of being a victim of a property and violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant in their home. Further, majority students viewed that if the United

States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on the border towns, they would feel safer of not being a victim of a violent and property crime committed by an illegal immigrant.

Both groups expressed that they did not have a fear of being a victim of a violent and property crime committed by an illegal immigrant if they were walking to their car off campus during the day or night. Also, majority and minority students viewed almost equally that they would not envision an illegal immigrant as a violent offender. Finally, there were seven other questions which did not reach statistical significance in regard of fear of being a victim of a violent crime on the UTA campus parking lot at night and day, fear of being a victim of a violent and property crime at the workplace, fear of being a victim of a gang related crime, and that the next major terrorist attack will be committed by an illegal immigrant.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Research

It is evident that illegal immigration is a major issue that is occurring in the United States today. Thus further research is necessary because illegal immigration is nowhere in sight of coming to an end in the near future. Further research could include data reported on students who attend universities closer to the U.S./Mexican border, which would provide a greater insight into the views of possibly first generation Mexican/Americans. With the continuing illegal immigrants that pass the river each day in search of the American dream and have American born children, it would be interesting to see the views of those children in respect to their knowledge and perception of illegal immigrants.

As the illegal immigration crisis is occurring and the population of illegal immigrants is rapidly growing, there is a need for additional information to the existing literature. Thus, the outcome to control illegal immigration has a primary responsibility to increase border control and produce a new legislation. There are problems with illegal immigration that affects all aspects of society. The current crisis that is happening in the United States today has become a part of reality and will ultimately become a part of the existing American history. The greatest implication that should be taken from this research is the search for the American dream from illegal immigrants that cross the U.S-Mexican border everyday.

APPENDIX A

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Survey of CRCJ Majors/Non-Majors' Perceptions of Illegal Immigrants and Crime in the United States

The purpose of this survey is to capture the perceptions of illegal immigrants and crime in the United States. Your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. No questions on this survey will enable the researchers to directly identify you. You may choose not to answer any questions or choose not to participate in the survey without consequence. This survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. Thank you for agreeing to be a part of this important research project.

Instructions for Completing the Survey

Please answer each question by circling the appropriate answer and/or by printing the requested information in the space provided. Please complete the survey during class time and place the completed survey in the envelope that has been provided to your professor.

Please note:

Do NOT give this survey to anyone else to complete.

About Your Opinions

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about illegal immigration? (Circle one for each row)

1. Illegal immigration has become a major topic for discussion in the United States today.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

2. Crime in the United States is a major concern for citizens today.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

3. Illegal immigrants are increasing the property crime rate that occurs in the United States.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

4. Illegal immigrants are increasing the violent crime rate that occurs in the United States.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

5. Property crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that work in those border towns.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

6. Violent crime that occurs on border towns in the United States are increasing due to the illegal immigrants that work in those border towns.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

7. Laws targeting illegal immigrants have increased in the United States in the past 10 years.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

8. The media has significantly influenced the perception that the community has on immigration laws.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

9. Property crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

10. Violent crime in the United States is being committed mostly by illegal immigrants.

Agree Strongly Agree Neutral Disagree Disagree Strongly

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about illegal immigrants? (Circle one for each row)

1-Agree Strongly 2-Agree 3 4-Disagree 5-Disagree Strongly

11. If you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

12. If you were walking to your car after class in the UTA parking lot during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

13. If you were walking to your car off campus at night, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

14. If you were walking to your car off campus during the day, how likely would you fear that you would be a victim of a violent crime committed an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

15. How likely do you fear that you could be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?

1 2 3 4 5

16. How likely do you fear that you could be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant in your home?

1 2 3 4 5

17. How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a gang related crime committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

18. How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a property crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

19. How likely do you fear that you will be a victim of a violent crime at your workplace committed by an illegal immigrant?

1 2 3 4 5

20. The next major terrorist attack that occurs in the United States on homeland will most likely be committed by an illegal immigrant.

1 2 3 4 5

21. If the United States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a violent crime committed by an illegal immigrant.

1 2 3 4 5

22. If the United States controlled the illegal immigration that occurs on border towns, you would feel safer that you would not be a victim of a property crime committed by an illegal immigrant.

1 2 3 4 5

23. If you were to describe a violent offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant.

1 2 3 4 5

24. If you were to describe a property offender, you would envision an illegal immigrant.

1 2 3 4 5

Demographics Section:

Please circle the answer that best describes you.

25. Sex:

- a. Male
- b. Female

26. Race:

- a. White
- b. Black
- c. Mexican American/Hispanic
- d. American Indian
- e. Asian or Pacific Islander
- f. Other

27. Student Status:

- a. Freshmen
- b. Sophomore
- c. Junior
- d. Senior
- e. Graduate Student

28. Marital Status:

- a. Single
- b. Separated
- c. Married
- d. Divorced
- e. Live-in Friend
- f. Widowed

29. Employment Status:

- a. Full time employed
- b. Part time employed
- c. Unemployed but looking for work
- d. Unemployed by choice
- e. Retired
- f. Disabled
- g. Student (not working)

30. How many credit hours have you completed at UTA?

- a. 0-15
- b. 16-30
- c. 31-45
- d. 46-60
- e. 61-75
- f. 76-90

- g. 91-105
- h. 106-120
- i. Other: (specify) _____

31. Enrollment Status:

- a. Full-time
- b. Part-time

32. G.P.A Cumulative:

- a. less than 1.5
- b. 1.5 to 2.0
- c. 2.1 to 2.5
- d. 2.6 to 3.0
- e. 3.1 to 3.5
- f. 3.6 to 4.0

33. Are you a CRCJ Major?

- a. Yes
- b. No

34. If you are NOT a CRCJ Major, what is your Major? _____

35. What is the course name and number for the class in which you completed this survey?

36. Do you know your ethnic roots?

- a. Yes
- b. No

37. Your ancestry is from one of the following regions of the world.

- a. Middle East
- b. Europe
- c. Mexico
- d. North East Asia
- e. South East Asia
- f. Africa
- g. United States
- h. Other

38. Your ancestors arrived in the United States as legal immigrants.

- a. Yes
- b. No

Thank you for your participation on this survey.

REFERENCES

- Binford, L. (1999). A failure of normalization: Transnational migration, crime, and popular justice in the contemporary neoliberal Mexican social formation. *Social Justice, 26(3)*, 123-144.
- Brown, P.G., & Shue, H. (Eds.). (1983). *The border that joins: Mexican migrants and U.S. responsibility*. Totowa, New Jersey: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Brownell, P.B. (2001). Border militarization and the reproduction of Mexican migrant labor. *Social Justice, 28(2)*, 69-92.
- Catanzarte, L., & Bernabe Aguilera, M. (2002). Working with co-ethnics: Earnings penalties for Latino immigrants at Latino jobsites. *Social Problems, 49(1)*, 101-127.
- Currie, S. (2000). *Issues in immigration*. San Diego, California: Lucent Books, Inc.
- Doughterty, J.E. (2004). *Illegals: The imminent threat posed by our unsecured U.S.-Mexico border*. Nashville, Tennessee: WND Books.
- Fomby, P. (2005). *Mexican migrants and their parental households in Mexico*. New York, New York: LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC.
- Green, T.C., & Ciobanu, I.M. (2006). Deputizing – and then prosecuting – America’s business in the fight against illegal immigration. *The American Criminal Law Review, 43(3)*, 1203-1223.
- Grey, F.L. (1972). Restrictive immigration and American business: 1919-1929. Unpublished master’s thesis, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States.
- Guerette, R.T., & Clarke, R.V. (2005). Border enforcement, organized crime, and deaths of smuggled migrants on the United States – Mexico border. *European Journal on Criminal Policy and Research, 11*, 159-174.
- Hawley, D.L. (1999). Police action against illegal immigration: Where does it stand? *Police, 23(6)*, 28-34.

- Huspek, M., Martinez, R., & Jimenez, L. (1998). Violations of human and civil rights on the U.S.-Mexico border, 1995 to 1997: A report. *Social Justice*, 25(2), 110-130.
- Jonas, S. & Tactaquin, C. (2004). Latino immigrant rights in the shadow of the national security state: Responses to domestic preemptive strikes. *Social Justice*, 31(1/2), 67-91.
- Jones, R.C. (Ed.). (1984). *Patterns of undocumented migration: Mexico and the United States*. Totowa, New Jersey: Rowman and Allanheld Publishers.
- Laufer, P. (2004). *Wetback nation: The case for opening the Mexican-American border*. Chicago, Illinois: Ivan R. Dee.
- Long, D.K. (1998). The immigration debate in the southwest: An examination and analysis of arguments. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States.
- Martinez, R.L. (1997). Beyond Mexico's women: Negotiating gender and race in dominant narratives of nation. *Social Justice*, 24(2), 45-65.
- Nielson, A.L., Lee, M.T., & Martinez, R., Jr. (2005). Integrating race, place and motive in social disorganization theory: Lessons from a comparison of black and Latino homicide types in two immigrant destination cities. *Criminology*, 43(3), 837-873.
- Ortiz, V.M. (2001). The unbearable ambiguity of the border. *Social Justice*, 28(2), 96-112.
- Palafox, J. (2001). Border games and border thinking: A review of border games: Policing the U.S.-Mexico divide. *Social Justice*, 28(2), 149-154.
- Palafox, J. (2000). Opening up borderland studies: A Review of U.S.-Mexico border militarization discourse. *Social Justice*, 27(3), 56-72.
- Phares, R. (2000). The U.S.-Mexico border: A strategy of low-intensity conflict. *Social Justice*, 27(4), 32-36.
- Rivera-Salgado, G. (1999). Binational organizations of Mexican migrants in the United States. *Social Justice*, 26(3), 27-38.
- Rochin, R.I. (1996). *Immigration and ethnic communities: A focus on Latinos*. East Lansing, Michigan: Julian Samora Research Institute.

Rozek, B.J. (2003). *Come to Texas: Attracting immigrants, 1865-1915*. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press.

Shortell, C., & Smith, C.A. (2005). The institutional stability of the judiciary in the aftermath of terrorism. *Judicature*, 88(4), 172-177.

Simcox, D.E. (Ed.). (1988). *U.S. immigration in the 1980s: Reappraisal and reform*. Washington, D.C.: Westview Press.

Skinner, C.E. (1987). Social workers' perceptions of undocumented immigrants and immigration law. Unpublished master's thesis, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, Texas, United States.

Welch, M. (2003). Ironies of social control and the criminalization of immigrants. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 39(4), 319-337.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Robyn D'Amberly Rivera was born December 24, 1981 in Big Spring, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2004. Robyn earned her Master of Arts degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington in August 2007. She resides in Mesquite, Texas.