



Red Nacional de
Instituciones de
Educación Superior
en Trabajo Social



"El saber de mis hijos
hará mi grandeza"

1st Binational Conference

Experiences of Intervention with Migrants in National and International Levels.

Universidad de Sonora
Hermosillo, Sonora, México
November 14 and 15, 2016.

Presentation:

The National Network of Institutions of Higher Education in Social Work (RENIESTS – La Red Nacional de Instituciones de Educación Superior en Trabajo Social) which was formed in March 15, 2014, brings together 26 schools of social work located in 21 states of Mexico, serving 11,198¹ students, and includes the participation of professors and researchers. The graduates of these Network schools, engaged in different areas of social work, are serving more than 18 million people of all ages in Mexico.

At the 4th Assembly of the RENIESTS, which was held in Mexico City in the Escuela Nacional de Trabajo Social de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (ENTS-UNAM) on January 21st and 22nd of 2016, it was agreed to hold a major event to seek inputs and simultaneously project the social commitment of our network and the social work profession, to intervene, to influence, to participate and to generate strategies to help improve the human and social development, to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and strengthen the social fabric, creating collaborative and multidisciplinary work in the care of social problems that afflict our societies. It was agreed that the issue of migration would be the ideal focus for the event and that it would be important to organize the event in coordination with programs that are the result of the social commitment of our leading university, such as the Program for the Support of Mexicans Abroad, of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (PAME-UNAM). In addition, it would be optimal to coordinate with a nonprofit such as the USN North American Hispanic Education Foundation (USN-Foundation), which is an exemplary model of an institution affiliated with the Network.

¹ Agenda estadística RENIESTS 2015.



Introduction:

The mobility of people in the world is a timeless force which exerts significant influence upon nations and which cannot be changed. Issues related to migrants are an emerging area of intervention being studied in the field of Social Work.

We know that there are countless events organized by various public and private institutions and even our own schools, and yet important issues remain to be addressed. There are well-regarded events that have been organized with a specific focus on research or teaching, which can certainly serve to define, explain and measure the problem, but do not provide the tools, the intervention model or the methodology to assist and empower the migrant population. This event will intend to address this aspect, through which it will be necessary to establish links of communication and collaboration between experts from both countries involved. We also seek to achieve a better understanding of the aspirations and needs of the diasporas such that we can begin to change the paradigm in which many organizations currently operate, without having the necessary preparation. Oftentimes, assistance is offered in the name of charity, but the models lack strategies for empowerment and the encouragement of self-development, resulting in missed opportunities for the development of a better and safer way of life.

Another approach, which would be very useful for the purposes and goals of the Conference, is to consider the topics of adaptation, assimilation, contingencies and identity, seeking to modify theories and concepts with the goal of developing models of the relationships between the migrant identity and indicators such as: depression, aggression, abuse, injustice, anxiety, danger, despair, panic, revenge and discrimination².

Another example would be a focus on the human rights of migrants, seeking to establish a system of liberty, opportunity, capability and responsibility.

It is important as well to direct attention to migrants in transit and those seeking asylum or political asylum. In this regard, Mexico grants protection to migrants from different

² López de Nava Tapia, Sofía, Especificación de un Modelo de Identidad Migratoria en Revista de la ENTS, Época VII, No. 06, UNAM, 2014.



parts of the world, from countries within Central and South America as well as countries within Africa, the Middle East and Asia³.

The question we pose is this: How is it possible in having such an extensive and dynamic border in all senses, such as the one that divides Mexico and the United States, that we have not advanced in the communication of successful experiences for the care and empowerment of diasporas? To do so would allow us to intervene in one of the phenomena that characterize the societies of the world, in which Mexico and the United States are not an exception but rather, perhaps the most emblematic case study in the world.

The term "diaspora" refers to migrants and their descendants living outside their country of birth or ancestry, either temporarily or permanently while still maintaining emotional and material connections to their countries of origin. The common thread between these newcomers and members of long-established communities is that they identify with their country of origin or ancestry and are willing to maintain relations with it. These ties are potentially beneficial for development.⁴

How many millions of people are we talking about? How many in Mexico and how many in the United States of America? The exact figure is unknown but we can set it in the range of 95 million. No reference is made here to people of a specific nationality or socioeconomic status, nor to people in a particular place, or of a specific situation; we refer generally to the diaspora. Specific cases and statistics will be discussed at the Conference.

What kind of institutions, organizations or persons involved in the care of the migrant population are we are speaking of? We all know there are many. Of course the Conference, being a forum of the highest level in the field, will not only be centered on how to intervene in institutions of a specific type but rather on the construction of a new approach (paradigm) and a binational intervention model for the care and empowerment of the migrant population as a means of self-development that could be implemented in both countries.

³ Estos asuntos están siendo atendidos por la Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (COMAR), que depende de la Secretaría de Gobernación.

⁴ "Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development", 2012, elaborado por Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias y Kathleen Newland, publicado por el Foro Mundial sobre Migración y Desarrollo.



The expectation is that the conference will become an inexhaustible source of research subjects and also of the presentation of results in the use of this new approach and model of binational social intervention that could be utilized in both countries. From here forward, the RENIESTS is committed to opening a line of research for the construction of an intervention model for the care and empowerment of migrants as a factor of development.

A hallmark of this conference is the multidisciplinary and leadership of specialists in social work, who have been trained in this environment and are able to contribute to the knowledge and transformation of the subject and its relationship to processes for social development⁵. They have developed theories, approaches, methodologies (general and specific methods), models, techniques and instruments for the care of people of all ages and socioeconomic conditions. To this end, the Conference will receive contributions from people with other academic specialties and, above all, provide information to all of them, to facilitate appropriate intervention with the diasporas they serve.

Organizing Institutions:

The National Network of Institutions of Higher Education in Social Work (RENIESTS) and the guidance of the Division of Social Sciences of the Universidad de Sonora, through the Department of Social Work.

Co-Participant Institutions:

The Program for Support of Mexicans Abroad (PAME), the USN North American Hispanic Education Foundation (USN- Foundation), YWCA Southern Arizona and the National Commission of Human Rights (la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos - CNDH).

General Objective of the 1st Binational Conference:

To gather contributions of material encompassing social practices or intervention models with migrants that would enable the strengthening of capacity to empower these populations, with the ultimate goal of the recognition and respect of their rights.

⁵ Ver Plan de Estudios en Trabajo Social, UNAM, 1994.



Specific Objectives:

- ✓ To identify methods of social innovation with impact in migrant communities of both countries through protocols or methodologies of intervention with measurable results, which are capable of being implemented or replicated among transnational homes and families.
- ✓ To dialog, discover and identify a group of best practices of social intervention in national and international migrant communities, with special attention on the border between Mexico and the United States.
- ✓ To create the ideal forum for the promotion and development of binational collaborative actions in this field.
- ✓ To construct a binational social intervention model for the care and empowerment of the migrant population, as a factor of development that can be implemented in both countries.

Directed to:

The conference is aimed at leaders and specialists who can present results and/or advances in methodologies or models of social intervention with migrant populations, as well as institutions or individuals that carry out intervention practices with migrants.

It is also aimed in general at professors and researchers in the areas of social work, psychology, law, sociology, education, pedagogy, political science, public administration, communication sciences, nursing and medicine, among others.

And finally, to social activists, clergy, businesspersons and public servants committed to defending the rights of migrants.

Format:

- Three Keynote Lectures
- Four Work Groups with 5 Experts
- Presentation of Documentaries and Photography



- 1. Speaker or Specialist:** those who have worked with a team to develop a social innovation or intervention model of which they can discuss in detail including possible forms of application in other areas.

The keynote speakers will address themes of intervention according to the field of their specialization whether it is the field of Social Work, the multidisciplinary focus of a researcher, or from their participation as a member of a social service organization.

- 2. Work Groups,** 5 specialists and one recorder will participate. Within 20 minutes each specialist will explain the methodology of the intervention model, its results, and proposed applicability in other migrant areas.

The four work groups will include elements that will aid in the identification of the best practices of social intervention in the migrant population.

Work Groups:

Work Group 1. Intervention experiences with migrant populations.

Objective: In this work group the methods and instruments applied in work with migrant populations will be discussed. The results and discoveries will permit the identification of key elements for managing social innovation, for example in areas such as:

1. Entrepreneurship and business leadership (Management of independent businesses)
2. Social innovation business models (Success stories)
3. Advocacy of education for migrants
4. Inter-agency networking groups



Work Group 2. Research as a benchmark for intervention with migrant populations.

Objective: The attendees in this group will address the multidimensional aspects of migrations and the primary social problems, for example in areas such as:

1. The humanitarian crisis in the passage, deportation and repatriation of migrants
2. Migration of women traveling alone, and children
3. Mental health within transnational families
4. Methodology of intervention models
5. Evaluation of the social impact of public policy

Work Group 3. The voice of social organizations in intervention with migrants.

Objective: This group will feature the participation of Social Service Agencies, which through their work over time have produced structures and forms of collaborative help which act as formal and informal models of intervention, in examples such as:

1. Forms of social organizations
2. Open doors
3. Jesuit Refugee Service
4. Network of migrant houses
5. Latina Leadership Initiative – YWCA Southern Arizona

Work Group 4. Social Intervention Challenges from a Multidisciplinary Perspective.

Objective: The attendees of this group will contribute elements from their different disciplinary areas that raise awareness of the challenges that must be confronted in order to empower the migrant population. These insights will provide discussion points that aid in the design of successful social intervention, for example in areas such as:



1. Intervention models
2. New areas of research
3. Forms of participation and organization of Social Service Agencies
4. Binational professional practices
5. Funding plans and sources
6. Multiculturality and preservation of culture

Documentaries and Photography:

1. Documentaries and photography are welcomed from all members of the network.
2. Documentaries should be short films of 5 minutes in length. Each author will have 15 minutes to explain the significance of the intervention model that has been documented. A maximum of three authors per film will be accepted.
3. Photography should be in open format, and is limited to 5 photos per participant, in color or black & white, in 11" x 14" size.

Presentation requirements:

- Proposals and presentations should be submitted in either English or Spanish.
- Proposal summaries should be between 300 and 500 words maximum in length.
- The proposed theme, sub-theme, and Work Groups should be specified, along with the complete name of the author, institutional affiliation and email address.

Important Dates:

- September 15, 2016: Deadline for delivery of full presentations, which should be sent by email to the Technical Evaluation Committee (contact names and contact information including email addresses are on the following page).
- October 30, 2016: Deadline for Digital Record of the conference. All materials to be incorporated in the conference book must be delivered by this date.
- November 1, 2016: Selection of materials for coordinating the book of the 1st Binational Conference.



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Location: Universidad de Sonora, Hermosillo, Sonora, México.

Conference Dates: November 14 and 15, 2016.

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