

ANDRES' HANDBOOK FOR MEXICAN ALIEN/AMERICAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

*Lived in America all your life and never met an alien before?
Where you shocked by something I mentioned?*
THIS HANDBOOK WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU
A convenient guide to your friendly neighborhood alien

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Contents

1. Introduction	3
1. Why even write this?	3
2. How to handle sensitive topics	4
3. The sensitive topic iceberg	6
4. The people phase diagram	7
2. Hard problems for Latino Aliens at CMU	8
5. Lack of Work permits after graduation -> Extreme job uncertainty	8
6. Uncertainty/Economic Inequality	9
7. Border Crossing Problems for holiday visits	9
8. Inexistent Internships for Aliens	10
9. No scholarships, erasure of Latino status	10
10. Immigration and grades	10
11. Aggressive Healthcare insurance Bureaucracy	11
12. Lack of community/institutional support systems	11
13. Medical Discrimination	11
14. Getting a place to live when arriving	12
15. Addendum	16
3. My personal Journey by Monthly crisis	16
16. Why do I act differently/think differently?	16
4. Other important topics	19
17. Economic Inequality and Meritocracy in Mexico	20
1. My mom's and aunt example:	21
2. Professions in Mexico	22
3. Class Pigmentocracy in Mexico	23
4. Meritocracy in Mexico	25
18. Multigenerational Deportation / Opinion of the US	27
19. The Mexican Dream in America, shattered	30
20. The Drug War	33
5. How to deal with the drug war?	34
21. The SpaceX Apartheid	35

22.	The green wave	36
23.	Money.....	40
24.	My quest finding other LatinX Mexicans.....	40
25.	LatinX	41
26.	Tattoos.....	42
27.	Military service	42
28.	Insults	43
29.	Religion.....	45
30.	Food	46
31.	Dancing	47
32.	5 de Mayo.....	48
5.	What's before? What's Next?	49
33.	The VISA hierachy	49
34.	Green card country assignations and priorities	51
6.	Citizenship Options	58
7.	Marriage Presentation.....	60
8.	Race in America vs Race in Mexico and Race along the border vs me.....	68
9.	The Voyager Probe.....	75
10.	Wanna Help?.....	76
1.	Short Term	76
2.	Medium Term	76
3.	Long Term.....	77

1. Introduction

1. Why even write this?

Living in the US has been interesting. I have crossed the border +47 times. Yes they log every time you cross, it's called a I-94 [1], but they don't do this to *you*, they only log us aliens. According to the Homeland Security Website: *A Form I-94 is needed by all visitors except: U.S. Citizens, returning resident aliens, aliens with immigrant visas, and most Canadian citizens visiting or in transit.*

I worked in the US helping my family clean houses when I was a kid. I have seen American culture as an absolute outsider. I have read your books, seen your movies, followed your news. I have prepared myself culturally to become an American for most of my life, to become *a good, honest American*, yet I have only found closed doors so far.

I have lived in Japan, Arabia, and visited western Europe. Those places make at least some minimal effort to make foreigners feel like guests. We Mexicans built whole *cities* whose sole purpose is to make US citizens feel like guests in our country. We open wide our cities and country to American expats (we may well be the #1 country with most Americans living abroad [2]).

My hometown is as close to the US Mexico border as Houston Texas. You could draw a line between those cities and the border would be a perpendicular line closing the midpoint. Our lives are inextricably linked to American companies, trade along the border, and our immigrant families.

In the US on a good day I feel like a visitor, and on a bad day I feel like a disease, but never in my life have I ever felt like a guest. I guess Americans are decent human beings, so I suppose this happens because most Americans have no idea about our alien experiences.

I know the term *alien* sounds horrible and dehumanizing, but it's the legal term we must use on Tax Forms, Social Security, Immigration, job applications etc. If you don't like the term, call your congressperson, as we don't have any say about it. American citizens in 2022 recoiling from this term look like 1850's white Americans recoiling from the term slave. It's a dehumanizing term for a dehumanizing reality.

I don't use the term *international* because I want to emphasize the legal aspect of citizenship/non-citizenship. Some examples of people I know:

- Someone can be born in the US, but live their whole life in another country (e.g. Dubai), never learn English and have no idea how American culture works. Is this person not international?
- Someone can be born in a foreign country (Mexico) and live their whole life in the US embedded in America, never learning their mother language or mother culture. Is this

person international? (This is the case of most Dreamers, and I do believe Dreamers are American)

Imagine this is your Wiki/Doc/API guide for dealing with an alien, more specifically a Mexican alien. You buy a new robot that can run ROS and it has an associated Lidar package. You have to read the documentation to make it run properly. Well, you just got a new acquaintance, and here's the alien documentation to *understand* what's happening.

If you are reading this, you are probably an educated middle-class American professional. You very probably have had Western European, Middle Eastern, Indian and Chinese alien coworkers. Here's the thing, if you are curious about their experiences, you can ask one person about it, then another person about it, then another person about it. You have met and will meet many of them in your lifetime. But I may be the first Mexican alien you meet on "equal terms", maybe the last. Someone who is living, working, studying with you; not cleaning your toilet or cooking your food. This handbook is a compilation of documents I have written to help people like you understand hard topics. These conversations are hard, so this guide will help.

2. How to handle sensitive topics

During our interactions, I may need to mention unfamiliar, odd details about myself and my background. This is a handy conversational guide on how to handle those sensitive topics with me.

After a dozen interactions in which people felt ashamed, overwhelmed, disturbed, or even started crying, I decided to make this guide as a multi-level trigger warning. Your background is different from mine, and of course you want to be informed about stuff outside our bubble and that's awesome. But (for me) your emotional well-being is way more valuable than your empathy. If you are out of your depth in the iceberg, and don't feel ok, we can stop and leave it for another day. The bottom of the iceberg is open to everyone, but it may be extremely hard to handle/process.

REMEMBER YOUR EMOTIONAL WELL BEING IS A PRIORITY. That said, my relationship with you will be tested by how well you can handle the deep parts.

1. If we have similar backgrounds on deep levels but we don't share opinions, I may kindly agree to disagree with you, honoring your experience but disagreeing with your interpretation. I will avoid those topics but may still exploit our shared commonalities for our relationship. **E.g. if you are a Norteño@ and disagree on drug war policies, I will disagree, but Carne Asada may happen.**
2. If we have dissimilar backgrounds, your opinion differs from mine, **your opinion puts a group I belong in a disadvantaged position**, and you **are clearly on the more privileged side of the divide**: I will avoid you. I will warn my people about you. I will silently observe

you from a distance to ascertain your weaknesses. I will never use violent means, but I will surpass you, and help my people surpass you. I will gather the groups you put down, we will resolve our petty differences, and obliterate the structure of privilege that gave you unfair advantage.

3. If you come from a different, more privileged background, informed yourself on how to solve my group's problems, developed humane opinions, and act on that: I will see you as **an ally**. If you are active, you can be a co-conspirator. Your allyship will overcome our differences. If your allyship is deep enough I will name you an honorary member of my group and defend your honorary membership in front of (1).

4. If we have similar backgrounds and share opinions, thanks for existing, I have been very lonely here. If I ever self-deprecate our group in front of others, I am sorry, I do it as a mental crutch, I promise I am working on it. **E.g. I will say “these freaking Mexicans don’t pay taxes”, while I pay 500\$ extra federal tax or think “Mexican being lazy AF” while leaving the lab at midnight.** Your existence grounds me and I’ll slowly stop doing that around you.

These are the four quadrants of the “people phase diagram” which will follow shortly. But first there’s the “conversation topic iceberg”

3. The sensitive topic iceberg

Which topics are safe for you? I have had several conversations with Americans and sometimes they want to talk about sensitive topics. Based on my experience, this iceberg represents what topics are safe for who (generally).



4. The people phase diagram

This is the “people phase diagram”. The y axis represents how close your background and lived experiences are to mine (language, culture, status, wealth, etc.) The x axis represents how empathetic someone is to me and my group. you are reading this, you probably are in the bottom right quadrant.



I made this diagram because there have been times when I am not comfortable in a group, and I leave that group. There may be people who I still like, and this diagram has helped me explain why I may not enjoy the company of some people and leave or not have much contact with a group.

2. Hard problems for Latino Aliens at CMU

Problemas duros que enfrentan los Aliens Latinos en CMU

This was a list which I presented Feb 2022 in the first CMU Latinx meeting that sought to address the problems we face as Latinx. I was the only person who spoke Spanish during the meeting, and I was the only Mexican alien in the room. The meeting was one hour long, and before my turn, other topics covered were:

- A Mexican-American CS student did not have other Latinos in his clases and felt isolated.
- A Chilean Ph.D. student didn't like to be associated with the "short brown ugly Mexican stereotype", he felt that association with our stereotype was unfair for him.
- Another student felt LatinX undergrads didn't get as much help with financial aid as other students

This lasted 15 minutes and the whole exchange (like all exchanges in the LatinX group) was in English, then I read the following points and took 45 minutes. I read the following list in Spanish, after the meeting I proofread this to my 2 alien Latino friends, and finally I translated this to English a week after.

1. Falta de permiso de trabajo después de graduarse -> Incertidumbre Laboral Extrema por Discriminación Legal

5. Lack of Work permits after graduation -> Extreme job uncertainty

El entorno de CMU está diseñado para que los egresados encuentren trabajo en Estados Unidos. Skill training, job interview preparation. Los aliens no podemos acceder a un trabajo en Estados Unidos en el futuro y no existe ningún camino para que obtengamos la ciudadanía, excepto el matrimonio lo cual es ilegal y difícil y la sponsorship por compañías grandes de tecnología, para las cuales no tenemos un support group como los Asiáticos. Es mucho más difícil conseguir un trabajo en México que en Estados Unidos, y en este momento post'covid es imposible conseguir trabajo digno y estamos extremadamente sobrecalificados/entrenados de manera diferente para la línea de trabajos que existe ahí.

The CMU educational environment is designed so that graduates and postgraduates find jobs in the US. Skill trainings, job interview and preparation are

all geared toward domestic options for citizens with work permits. Aliens do not have an explicit path to apply to jobs in the US when they graduate. There is no path to citizenship via education and training. For a Latin American Alien with no connections paths to citizenship are reduced to fake illegal marriage with a US citizen and legal H1B1 sponsorship Visas. Nevertheless we lack the support networks Asians have to get these Visas. Due to Covid its almost impossible to obtain a decent job in Mexico, and we are overqualified/trained in different fields for factory jobs at Mexican companies.

2. Incertidumbre/Desigualdad Económica

6. Uncertainty/Economic Inequality

El hecho de no tener trabajo y venir de países latinoamericanos con poco poder económico hace que el llegar a Estados Unidos sea muy difícil. Las diferencias económicas se reflejan como segregación en diferentes actividades. Los Latinoamericanos que venimos venimos de condiciones de trabajo precarias sin ahorros mientras que los Latinoamericanos Legales usualmente vienen con ahorros y experiencia en la industria.

Not having jobs and coming from a low-income country makes the US transition extremely hard. The economic inequality is reflected in social segregation of Alien students, as we cannot afford the social activities as our US peers. Aliens come from their countries with virtually no savings and no support network in Pittsburgh, while citizens have savings from industry jobs, family and support networks to get appliances, furniture etc. .

3. Problemas Migratorios para cruzar/regresar

7. Border Crossing Problems for holiday visits

Aunque los Latinos vivimos muy cerca de nuestros países nuestras visas restringen nuestro regreso para vacaciones, y Pittsburgh es una ciudad muy mal ubicada para visitar a la familia en Estados Unidos para los Mexicanos. Los Asiaticos aqui tienen support groups para irse de vacaciones juntos y ustedes los Latinos legales regresan a sus casas porque tienen el dinero para hacerlo. No hubo orientación por esto.

Even though Latin America is geographically close, our visas restrict our return to our home countries to visit. Pittsburgh is a particular bad location for Latin Americans who want to visit their families in MExico and the Caribbean. Asians in CMU have support and friend networks to go on domestic holidays across the US, while legal latinos can go to their US hometowns because they have the economic and legal means to do it. Due to immigration restrictions and paperwork I could not attend most of my

orientation. Even when our situation is good, I know I will be detained and interrogated for being single, young and crossing the border as an alien.

4. Inexistencia de Internships

8. Inexistent Internships for Aliens

Sufrimos la misma discriminación laboral que el resto de los Latinos, pero debido a las restricciones laborales dle punto 1 los Latinos Alien no podemos ni siquiera aplicar a internships, esto nos pone en desventaja económica, laboral y para conseguir experiencia.

We suffer from the same workplace discrimination as our legal citizen brethren, but due to immigration job restrictions Aliens are heavily discouraged and restricted from applying to internships. This puts us in an experiential, workplace and economic disadvantage.

5. Inexistencia de Becas/ Negación de estatus Latino

9. No scholarships, erasure of Latino status

En el proceso de aplicación a universidades y Becas se nos considera internacionales. Solo los latinos americanos pueden ponerse como americanos en las aplicaciones a universidades y becas.

When we apply to universities and scholarships we cannot check the Latino/Mexican box because we are not citizens, we have to check the "international" box. This steals our national identity from us, deprives us of needed resources. All my citizen friends have access to Latino scholarships which I cannot access, and Mexico scholarships are inexistent, and have unfair terms.

6. Migración y Calificaciones

10. Immigration and grades

Los aliens debemos reportar nuestras calificaciones de midterm a las agencias migratorias de nuestros países, debemos dar de baja clases para no ser deportados mientras nuestros hermanos legales pueden llevarlas.

Aliens must report their midterm grades to their agencies and in some cases have to keep a certain GPA, while our US peers can just do well on the final we have to drop classes or else be deported.

7. Burocracia agresiva para seguro médico

11. Aggressive Healthcare insurance Bureaucracy

Tenemos que llenar una serie de papeles completamente innecesarios para tax purposes si tenemos el sistema de Health Care de Carnegie Mellon.

Due to inhuman US laws that seek to restrict immigrant access to health, we have to fill more paperwork compared to US citizens)even though we pay the same or more taxes)

8. Falta de sistema de support comunitario/insitucional

12. Lack of community/institutional support systems

Las otras etnias tienen grupos de apoyo para enfrentarse a los problemas anteriores. En CMU existen enormes redes de apoyo creadas por los estudiantes asiáticos, pero es difícil para los latinoamericanos integrarnos a dichas redes de apoyo.

A diferencia de los países asiáticos que concentran sus apoyos académicos en tecnología y ciencias, México concentró su apoyo material y logístico para sus estudiantes internacionales en ciencias políticas.

Other ethnicities and nationalities at Carnegie Mellon have huge support networks to face the problems above. In CMU there are great support networks for Asian students, buit its hard for Latin Americans to enter these communities.

Unlike Asian countries that place huge cultural value and monetary investments in science and technology, Mexican institutions place their monetary value on their political science international students. We have no support groups back home or here.

9. Discriminación Médica

13. Medical Discrimination

Legalmente la sangre de un americano vale más que la de un Mexicano. Ante la CDC el estatus de ciudadanía afecta mágicamente la calidad de la sangre ante Malaria

Legally the blood of an American is worth more and considered “clean” vs the blood of a Mexican or a student from a tropical area. American citizens born in the US only have to

wait 3 months to donate blood after coming back from a Malaria Endemic country, non-born people have to wait 3-4 years. Let's imagine a hypothetical case:

- Juan is a Mexican citizen, he has lived in Monterrey, a non-malaria risk area all his life. Juan has never traveled to malaria-risk regions, nor has he come into contact with people with Malaria, nor has he ever received a blood transfusion. He donates blood frequently and has tested negative in Malarial tests all his life. He has been in CMU for three months and wants to donate blood, his blood will be denied because of his birthplace. His blood will be denied even if he shows his travel history and negative malarial tests. His blood is tainted because of his birth.
- John is an American citizen. During spring break he traveled to a beach that was under a temporary Malaria outbreak. He camped in a public lagoon and got Malaria. Due to his birthplace, he only has to wait 3 months to donate without a test. His US birth makes his blood immune to Malaria.

10. No tener una voz Política

No political voice

Pese a informarnos a través de noticias, libros, pláticas comunitarias y pagar más impuestos que ustedes, no tenemos derecho a votar o participar políticamente en nuestras comunidades a nivel local. Nunca pudimos participar políticamente en nuestros países debido a la violencia, entonces estamos acostumbrados.

Even though we read books on american politics, watch news, pay taxes and experience american life for years on end, we don't have a right to vote or politically involve ourselves at any level. We came from countries where we could not involve with politics due to violence, so we may never have a political voice during our whole lives.

Extra

14. Getting a place to live when arriving

Landlords ask for a social security number. This is not a problem for American citizens. Unlike other universities (Rice) CMU does not have grad student housing. This may be more convenient to CMU and to local students, but some landlords ask for a social security number to sign a lease. If no SSN is provided, then students have to add an extra deposit.

Problemas Suaves

Soft Problems

- **Invisibilización:** Los ciudadanos americanos tienen un capital social y tienen la capacidad de apropiarse culturalmente, esencialmente tienen los beneficios culturales que nos tocan a nosotros pero ningún problema migratorio.

Invisibility: Latin American US citizens have the social capital and economic to culturally appropriate. They get the cultural benefits of being Latino without the legal hardships of non-citizenship.

E.g. There is a Mexican masters student. Her group of friends goes for Tacos every Tuesday. She is not a citizen, came from a Mexican university, and came here without a Mexican support group. There is a 2nd gen Ecuadorian-American student in her friend group and he is the de-facto taco authority (non Latinos ask him about tacos). The Mexican student does not have the social capital to defend her culture, this went on and she does not go to Taco Tuesday anymore.

- **Rechazo a la Latinidad:** Es preferible identificarse como cualquier otra cosa antes que como latino o Mexicano. *Los sudamericanos que pueden identificarse con la blanquitud prefieren identificarse como white. Los Filipinos prefieren identificarse como asiaticos.*

Rejection of Latinidad: Almost any other ethnicity/country is preferable to being a Latino in CMU. South Americans with European roots prefer to identify as white. Filipinos prefer to identify as Asian. We have been erased.

- **Privilegio merecido?** Existen personas en Carnegie Mellon que aluden a que todo lo anterior es justo y que ellos se han ganado su privilegio Americano por el hecho de salir del útero correcto en el suelo correcto.

Deserved Privilege: There are students in the CMU student body who point out that everything above is fair and that US citizens gained these rights "not privileges". How did you earn it? You came out of the right uterus in the right geographical coordinates. We pay taxes as you, yet we cannot vote or access social security. America was built by immigrants like us, for you citizens to reap the benefits of our sweat and tears. This university was not built by an American, it was built by an Immigrant, but Andrew Carnegie did not face deportation or work authorization.

- **Español como un lenguaje pobre y estúpido:** En los contextos sociales de Carnegie Mellon y en Estados Unidos, el Mandarín y los idiomas del sudeste asiático son los idiomas usados para discusiones técnicas. Esto es una barrera para que personas en Latinoamérica accedan a las herramientas tecnológicas necesarias en comparación a los estudiantes de Asia. Asiáticos sobre redes neuronales en mandarín, mientras que los mexicanos las discutimos en inglés.

Spanish as a blue-collar language for unskilled poor people: In CMU academic/technical contexts, and in US tech industry, Mandarin and other Asian languages are used for technical discussions of complex subjects. This is good because it lowers the barrier for Asian recent immigrants, but this represents a privilege Asians have over Hispanics. If a recently arrived hispanic wants to discuss a technical topic (e.g. Network Backpropagation for their ML homework) with a Hispanic US citizen, they have revert to English. This creates a hierarchy of languages in our academic community and Hispanics who learned english as adults are at the very bottom of it.

- **Ser hombre Mexicano sin ciudadanía en la era Trump:** Toda nuestra vida, nuestros padres y abuelos fuimos expuestos a racismo de Estados Unidos y problemáticas de choque cultural. La era Trump amplificó en extremo esta situación. Desarrollamos mecanismos de defensa subconscientes
 - Mirar al suelo.
 - Evitar contacto social con personas anglosajonas.
 - Interiorizar racismo/ciudadanismo/clasismo y sentir que somos ciudadanos de segunda clase, una casta más baja
 - El movimiento Trump invisibilizó la violencia que viven las mujeres Mexicanas y Latinas en Estados Unidos y utilizó a los hombres mexicanos (inmigrantes económicos sin ciudadanía) como monstruos a los que echar la culpa, somos animals, rapists, criminals.

The experience of being a single, male-identifying non-citizen immigrant during the Trump era and the Post-Trump era: All our lives, we have been exposed to racist systems in our home countries and racism when coming to the US and other cultural shock problems. We developed subconscious defense/survival mechanisms:

- Looking to the floor when walking next to white-asian people
- Avoiding social contact with Anglo-Saxon people
- Internalizing the racism/citizenshipism/ classism and feeling we are second-class citizens, the bottom rung caste, animals
- The Trump era made the violence felt by Mexican latino immigrant non-citizenship women invisible, and at the same time used Mexican young single men as boogymen for all of America's problems. We are monsters, we are animals, rapists, criminals, vermin, invaders.

“When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems to us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists”

Esto fue diferente a las generaciones anteriores, mis padres y abuelos interiorizaron el estereotipo de Latin Lover, y a mi me toca este estereotipo. Me han llamado rapist en Boston y Pittsburgh si uso algo Mexicano en público. Hemos desarrollado conductas especiales:

This was totally different from past generations, as our fathers and grandfather could still hold to the "Latin Lover" stereotype (which was also bad) while now we have to deal with the rapist stereotype. I was called a rapist in liberal US cities, in Texas and In Pittsburgh just for wearing a mexican facesmask or speaking spanish. I have been called those names and felt that violence by whites, asians, and Latino citizens. The only two groups I feel safe around in this context are jewish people and black people, I cannot even trust my fellow Latin Americans.

Ya no me duele que me llamen wetback o spick, mejor eso a que me llamen rapist. Being called a wetback, wall climber, or spick is not hard anymore. I have friends/family who crossed the river, being a wetback and surviving is a badge of honor and determination for a desperate feat. I know spick comes from "no speak english" and it makes sense as I am not a native english speaker, I had to learn the language as a teenager and adult but I am working on it. I AM an amateur rock wall climber, I try to get better at it every day, I can laugh that off. But rape is a horrible crime, so this new insult hurts the most and I see now way in which we can deal with it, e.g. I consciously sub-consciously keep 6ft away from people who identify as women and this has hurt imapiored my relationships in the US.

En conclusión las barreras de privilegio por ciudadanía son tantas que hacen que en este momento sólo hay ciudadanos cis hetero hombre de clase media-alta, mujer cis hetero de clase alta. Un ser humano no podría superar esta barrera y otra, por eso no hay presencia de aliens indígena, ni LGBT, Afrolatinos. Como Alien ya tuve que superar una barrera gigantesca, es sistemáticamente imposible? superar dos barreras similares.

To conclude the privilege barriers for non-citizenship are so hard that in this moment in CMU only cis-men women non citizens from the high-middle income brackets can handle the burden. A human being only has some emotional grit. This and other systemic causes may be the reason why there are no Alien indigenous, LGBT, Afrolatino presence in CMU. Aliens have to overcome these barriers, but overcoming this barrier and another huge systemic barrier seems impossible

15. Healthcare Continued

I am not going to explain the Healthcare system to Americans, nor could I. As a Mexican alien we have Universal healthcare through some institutions but not others.

We instinctively fear using US Healthcare, why? wealth disparity. We would rather risk our health than our livelihoods.

Thankfully CMUs healthcare plan has been good so far, but when you encounter a recently arrived alien that has had no experience with US healthcare, they may instinctively shy away from using the most basic health services or calling an ambulance.

Unlike some European aliens, whose instinct is to call ambulances, our first reaction will resemble the reaction of uninsured Americans.

16. Addendum

06/14/22 I was dressing in a locker room, and I hear this conversation:

“Why the fuck was it in Spanish?”

“Don’t know, you know how everything is also translated to Spanish. It was written in English and Spanish.”

“Who the FUCK speaks Spanish? No one speaks Spanish here, we are engineers”

“Yeah, having it in Spanish is stupid they should change it to Mandarin”

Then I saw a Caucasian and Asian walk and exit the locker room

3. My personal Journey by Monthly crisis

17. Why do I act differently/think differently?

On March 2020 I was living a pretty normal life for a Mexican student. I had a job as a lab technician in my undergrad lab, I applied to several grad schools, and I was already accepted in KAUST University in Saudi Arabia. I was an average person in my social circles. What follows is a series of events, sometimes interlinked, that is hard to explain to American citizens, who had a totally different Covid Experience

Covid pre-CMU April 2020- March 2021

- Rejected from grad schools (didn’t apply to CMU)
- Lost my job as a lab technician in my undergrad University, many university staff were fired due to Covid closures. Lots of my friends lost their jobs too. Many returned to their parents houses, jobless. No company was hiring, even extremely overqualified people. [3][4]
- No jobs available, economic downfall in our region and all Mexico. We did not get stimulus checks. [5][6]

- I had previous savings from a KAUST internship, but I was just out of undergrad. I had to work with friends on their start up part time just to make rent, lived in a friends basement for a while.
- Parks were closed, Covid closures everywhere. Spent months without human/animal contact in a windowless apartment. [7]
- Couldn't go back to parents' home, parents had no spare rooms in the house, they gave classes from home, and there were no jobs in our city. My parents had risky previous health conditions and taking a bus ride home and then actively looking for jobs from there was too risky.
- On April 2020 I tried getting a job at a particular company Xlabs, but I did not even get an interview. Sent them a couple of mails. I was ghosted

Selection April 2020- March 2021

- Had to drop KAUST courses, because there's no easy way to transfer stipends from Saudi to Mexico.
- On January 2021 Xlabs founder offered me a job because he saw my work at the startup. This was hilarious, but sad at the same time (I would have loved that job on April)
- I was accepted in 5 American PhD programs. Toured Universities on a dime (plane tickets were at its lowest and I flew Spirit, also Airbnb's were extremely cheap), non-US citizens had to test negative when travelling, unlike Americans. Also, I was repeatedly told I should not vaccine, as vaccines are "for Americans". [8][9]
- Fell into clinical depression, used a couple of prescription medications, there was an anti-depressant shortage on our city

Fulbright Pre CMU April-July 2022

- Got 5K instead of the expected 25K with my "Fulbright Award". My PI had many Fulbright grantees but this was the first time this happened to him. My case is shameful for Fulbright and Mexico. My P.I. is not taking Fulbrighters anymore. Mexicans are less valuable than every other nationality.

With only 5K per year, the 2-year rule for going back does not make economic sense, nor is it fair, nor is it practical. I can go back to Mexico 2 years, but I can help Mexico way more by sending money to my family vs being unemployed in Mexico. Unlike my Chinese or Indian alien peers, my options for employment back home doing cutting edge advanced manufacturing are very limited.

- Arrived on Pittsburgh Thursday before classes. Lived on the edge until November. Had to do extra work with another lab to cover my stipend with a grant.

- Immigration DS2019, Comexus Fulbright threatened federal prison if I went to the US without their permission to start my classes.

Coming to CMU

- Fought with parents, stress, money. Parents expectations vs reality (look at the Mexican dream in America section). Parents always used money for control.
- Came here with 300\$ USD
 - Had to sleep on the floor the first couple of days
 - Bought a sleeping bag on my first Saturday
 - Ate from CMU pantry my first 5 weeks. People at the Ph.D. suite thought I was vegetarian because I only ate potatoes from CMU pantry.
 - Couldn't pay for my first conference. All my lab mates were able to afford the 500\$USD registration, but I needed special help

Initial CMU Fall Semester

- Fell in with the wrong crew (Indian international software Masters students)
- No money/ had to get, borrow build everything from scratch.
- Dropping out of 10701
- CMU Pantry didn't have cooking utensils.
- Lone Thanksgiving in the office

Christmas season

- I am legend phase, no roommates, no classmates, no friends in-person. Spent a whole winter in Pittsburgh with no social interactions. Visited parks, museums, played videogames.
- Denied blood donation, Birthday, Christmas, New year emotional crisis. Sought CMU help.
- Suspended from CMU with no notice because of lack of healthcare payments
- Healthcare: Aliens don't get the same healthcare tax breaks as Americans, I forgot a form (W-4) and owed CMU 1K\$. They suspended me without ever telling me, had to call department head.

Spring Semester

- I was roofied by a CMU student (I was not the intended target, and no one was sexually abused that day and I reported this to title IX)

- Taxes, I owed extra 500\$ because tax treaty retentions are different for Mexicans and Chinese and Indians. And I am the only Mexican alien Ph.D. student doing taxes then so I had no clue.
- Roommate owning 1K
- Started selling plasma
 - *Once I went to deposit my plasma cash on an ATM. The ATM ate my money so I rushed to the bank to ask for help. The person who helped me told me it would take 5 days to get the money and I told him I needed the money for groceries. He saw my bank account and movements and started crying.*

Summer

- Kicked out of my apartment. Was plannign to remain at my apartment during my Ph.D. but landlord rented out my apartment without ever planning to tell me
- Not going back Home during summer.
 - Cancelled Trip to Boston
 - Looked for apartments
- Previous crisis, 5K became 17K (not 23K)

Spent 32 emails and tens of hours discussing this with CMU's legal team.

" El monto de la beca no se asigna según lo que lxs becarixs pidan, sino que se determina contrastando costos totales vs awards totales. "

4. Other important topics

These are topics which Mexican Americans know very little about and other Americans have never heard of them. Some of these are the issues that drove their parents to come to the US, but parents don't speak to their American children about them. This is a glimpse of the bottom of the iceberg.

First let me break the "immigrant in America from rags to middle class myth". This is not real anymore. This was not real for nonwhites in the XIX and XX centuries. White and Asians come from middle class and become professionals. Mexicans and refugees will never make it to middle class.

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name*

*Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

The New Colossus
Poem by Emma Lazarus

Just like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With colonizing limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our white-washed, gentrified gates shall stand
A mighty girl boss with an iPhone, whose flash
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Yuppies. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide fuck you; her hateful eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.

"Give me, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your white collars, your rich,
Your oligarchs yearning to breathe duty-free,
The lazy landlords of your teeming shore.
Send these, the rich, business-class tost to me,
I lift my tiki torch beside the golden door!"

The Fake Colossus
Poem by Emma Lazarus, adapted by Andres Garcia

18. Economic Inequality and Meritocracy in Mexico

The US is a highly unequal society, but Mexico and most Latin American countries are also highly unequal, in similar and different ways. I guess this means you are worth based on your income. I have only lived embedded in unequal societies so I am like a fish trying to describe water. Social Mobility is now virtually impossible in Mexico. Well, social upward mobility, because my whole generation experienced social *downward* mobility. This is like what's currently happening in the

US, but the weird thing is social downward mobility is more widespread in Mexico among academic elite-STEM graduates compared to our US counterparts.

We are getting STEM bachelors degrees and masters, but our overall living standards, working hours and quality of life are significantly lower than our parents with bachelor's and high school degrees, and theirs are significantly lower than our grandparents with middle or elementary school degrees. Education is not the path to wealth anymore, as least as our parents were led to believe.

Both my parents worked two jobs each as M.D. College Professors, yet we just climbed from low-middle class to high middle class (during my lifetime). My friends only got homes of their own years after marrying and having two jobs in American offshore corporations (e.g. John Deere). Professional jobs in Mexico require years of work to attain middle class incomes.

1. My mom's and aunt example:

My mom went to public university med school in Mexico and married my dad, also an M.D from that university. I would say both mom and dad came from low middle class backgrounds. Both of them got master's and PhDs:

- Mom was a practicing M.D. in E.R. at a public hospital on weekend shifts and teaching classes in their Med school on the weekday
- Dad was a full-time researcher and taught classes at two different universities.

Bottom line, both my parents had 2+ jobs fulltime each and 90-hour workweeks. I am my mom's only child. Guess what? We are still middle class, all this just got us in the TOP of the middle class in Mexico. This is still not accurate enough, as there is no middle class in Mexico as it is conceived in America[10], we are the top of the professional class (see later section on Mexico's economic pigmentocracy).

My parents have severe aftereffects from chronic burnout, and I am a raging workaholic because that's what I saw on my household and all my friend's households. My parents did not have hobbies, or exercise, much less did they have time for me. My first memories are of a 1 bed 1 bath house where I slept on the couch and there was no shower, there was a tap and a bucket room. My mom has told my psychologist she and my father couldn't even afford a house so when I was a newborn I actually lived in my grandma's living room.

No matter how hard you work in Mexico, you will never escape middle class. You need inherited wealth, investments, land ownership, and connections to break the middle-class ceiling. This is what drove blue collar Mexicans to America, the parents of the current Mexican Americans.

I would happily live in our Mexican professional class like my parents, I am not ashamed of it and we are privileged vs other more unfortunate people. Nevertheless, Mexican "middle class" comes

with the eternal specter of sudden poverty due to external factors, extreme workweeks, sub-par work tools, and no possibility of advancement.[11]

Meanwhile my mother's younger sister studied information systems in a public university, top of her class. On her senior year she was the manager of a famous bar (she also installed their computer billing system). She ran away with the barman to the US.

My uncle and aunt worked cleaning houses in Houston, 50-hour workweeks. My aunt never learnt fluent English, but my cousin and I learned to translate for her. It was back-breaking work but now they are WEALTHIER than my mom and dad. I have heard my mom sobbing with rage about this when she thinks she is alone (see the multigenerational section for more of why mom dislikes America). My mother loves her sister, but deep down, feels both their education, talent, and extra work was financially meaningless, especially now that my aunt and uncle are in a much better position to help me in the US.

My uncles are extremely worried about me, because they saw my parents workaholicism, and they fear I will live a very miserable life if I follow their lead. So much for the myth of the invincible American work ethic.

Let me repeat. A hard-working maid in the US has more savings and a higher living standard than a workaholic Mexican doctor. This shattered our meritocratic ethos. Mexican engineering graduates move to the US to be babysitters and get green cars through marriage[12]. There's no more work/talent based meritocracy (if there ever was), we now live in a race to get a green card.

2. Professions in Mexico

The US is a free country in the sense that family connections do not matter much in job searching and decisions. Children whose parents are medical doctors decide to become lawyers and vice versa. Children of writers decide to become engineers, The individual decides [13].

In Mexico and other countries choosing a profession is different. To get into a profession you need special knowledge and connections, it's very similar to a medieval guild system. So, people go on career paths that resemble their parents'. I am a researcher in the biomedical field, like my parents. Out of 10 uncles, every one of them is a Mechanical/Electrical/Civil engineer or MD. All my friends from school are MDs or engineers. I have never been friends or shared a social circle with a lawyer or someone doing liberal arts in my whole life. People seldom explore different professions from their parents.

One could say we are different castes. There are lawyers in Mexico who have never met engineers, and there are artist/writers and humanities scholars who don't even know what an engineer does. We study in different schools, have different habits, have different hobbies and marry people from our groups.

My mom wanted me to become a diplomat, because I am good with languages and can adapt extremely swiftly to different cultures. But I do not have the right skin, face, friend circle and last name to become a diplomat in Mexico. When I was a kid, I also wanted to be a detective, I love observing people and making inferences based on small details, but it was out of the question (see Drug War). I guess being a researcher in an international setting lets me live both of those professions on a small scale.

Also, my small provincial city had a very clear pipeline, which most of my friends followed:

- Competitive High School with excellent teachers but low resources
- Bachelor's in engineering at the local university
- Engineering job at tractor/dairy/silver refinign U.S. offshore company technical/management

Monterrey, Mexico's industrial capital, offered a similar pipeline, but included car manufacturers on a national level. There's no pipeline for nanotechnology, automation, biotech or software jobs, or any advanced tech. We manufacture stuff, we don't design it.

- Competitive High School with excellent teachers but low resources
- Bachelor's in engineering at the local university
- Engineering job at a car manufacturing company, steel foundry

Escaping from both of these pipelines has taken an insane amount of effort, and I just don't fit in the CMU pipeline because of my alien status.

3. Class Pigmentocracy in Mexico

Race in the U.S. was binary affair until recently (80's?), you were black or white. Now there's Asians and Hispanics, but it's still a discrete system. People identify with a discrete class.

In Mexico our system is continuous in a hierarchical economic-racial system with different barriers[14]. The caste system is still alive (yes, Mexico had castes_[15]). I can speak for the industrial north.

- An elite group with European last names and extreme inherited wealth, they are usually conservative. These people own stuff. They appear in T.V. commercials, movies, politicians at the federal level etc. They own old businesses and intermarry a lot¹. [16]

¹ In Latin America, rich people have inbreeding health problems and low-income/rural/indigenous people are extremely diverse genetically, it's the opposite of the US "sweet home alabama" stereotype[65].

Barrier: this is the glass ceiling I haven't broken during my lifetime. These people will not treat me as an equal.

- A trained professional class who is extremely over-educated. We manage and run stuff that needs to work. We are engineers, doctors, but not lawyers or business owners or investors. This is me.

Barrier: this is the glass floor we can break. The only difference between us and them is educational privilege. Our skins, last name, familiar language, customs and work ethic is similar. I don't want to make this distinction, but I do have to recognize I have enjoyed pigmentocratic/economic privilege which I did not deserve,

- The blue-collar class they make everything work. Factory Workers, taxi drivers. "La Raza" "El Pueblo". This was my grandparents; they raised me gave me my blue-collar ethic. As professionals, we must protect the livelihood of blue-collar workers, and help their children reach the professional class. We must break the glass floor for them.

Barrier: I have not experienced this, but having a job, parents at home, a roof, speaking Spanish instead of a native language is part of this barrier

- The bottom rung. These are the people who struggle with homelessness, joblessness. "Los jodidos" (sorry for this word). Blue collar workers and professionals wake up each day fearing to fall here. They survive on the crumbs of the informal market.

My parents were born in the blue-collar class, and literally clawed their way meritocratically to the top of the professional class. All my friends have similar stories, and we are the crème de la crème of the professional class. I am a well-oiled, efficient work machine, all my life revolves around education, work and efficiency. Just look at this, I added references and graphs to this document. We are extreme workaholics, focus oriented, organized, and competitive. This is the world I grew up in.

I am a Mestizo (mixed) and it's hard to identify with an American race label. I know I am not white because people who identify as white in Mexico have decidedly and publicly told me I am not one of them, and that's ok with me. My dad was called "Chino" *Chinese* [17] and my mom was called "Negra" *Black* [18]. Yet, having spent all my life among the elite, I have learned the necessary social unwritten rules to survive, and lead my group/caste. Yet even after perfect decisions, 100 hour workweeks, there's no way to break this glass ceiling. They own the factories and hospitals, we are the engineers and doctors who manage them. We will never have the capital to make our own decisions.

We use the term *whitexican* to make fun of the elite. If they are particularly nasty with me, and they have stepped beyond usual class rules, I will call them inbreeds. But this is a dangerous public accusation, and I only do this when they really hurt my people (see the insults section).

I am a Lagunero, Norteño and embrace my mixed culture, I do an active effort to recognize the privileges I have had over other people [14](see the last section).

How do I break this chain of privilege personally? I consciously remind myself every day I am not better than anyone, and people in Mexico who have a tougher lives than me don't deserve those tough lives. I can't shatter the glass ceiling above me but I can shatter my glass floor, fall to the lower rungs of the pyramid and uplift everyone who didn't have the privileges I had. I don't have capital, but I should share the educational resources and privileges I was given and live a frugal lifestyle.

Anyways, there's many good sources on this that you can read further.

4. Meritocracy in Mexico

When I was a kid I got a 90% merit scholarship (via admission exam) to attend my elementary school and Middle School. I got an 85% merit scholarship to attend high school and college.

When I tell this to non-Mexicans they are impressed, but Mexico is not close to an educational meritocracy like India or China. No one will praise you for your grades or education. Like in America, your parents income is your greatest social status determinant. So, I have never felt proud of my academic accomplishments. Research is fun though, and I am lucky to be where I am.

My main takeaway is that for most of my life, I have been the poorest person in the room, this is real hard. Other times I am "average" in the poorest half of the room *los becados*. *Scholarship recipient* has been a derogatory term during my elementary, middle, high school and college years, directed at us form people who "pay" our education. Now I am an *alien* and the term is used by people who *allow* me to be in the US.

I don't really want to be rich because I could not understand how "being rich" feels like, and I feel having an extreme consumer lifestyle is dangerously destabilizing our planet. I just aspire to be of average wealth relative to my social peers. My dream is to live in a social environment where money is not a barrier that differentiates people. I want to live in the utopia that Americans dreamed of when they built the 50's white middle class (minus the racism and xenophobia of course).

My dream is not an uncommon theme in human history, nor is it impossible. 40,000 years ago it didn't matter much where you were born or your social class. A Lagunero hunter gatherer in Mexico, a proto-Celtic hunter in Europe had very similar quality of life. Now in 2022, the biggest deciding factor on your type and quality of life is which country you were born and who you were born to. *Citizenship* is the main differentiator between humans, more than race, sex, sexual orientation disability or other attributes [19][20].

I know that last sentence was shocking. I acknowledge that there are other differentiators which give people like me privilege over others. I have thought about it long and hard, read many books, introspected about my experiences, asked others about their experiences. Maybe that sentence is only true for me. Here's how I see it:

- **Gender:** I have seen raging Mexican feminists become docile conservative traditional archetypes in front of sexist white American and European men, marry those white men by playing into their white savior complex, and live comfortable lives in the US and Europe. I not only agree with them, I wish I was them. If I was a woman I could play into the white savior complex of some racist southerner guy, I have seen my friends doing it and could describe this process step by step.

I would also prefer to be a white/asian American woman (I am still meeting black women and observing their experiences) vs a Mexican alien man, any single day. The gender income gap pales in comparison to national income gaps. The fact that white American and Latin American feminism split (see La Ola Verde section) should be enough. I guess I may be missing the other side. If you are an American woman reading this, *would you trade places with me?*

- **Race:** Black people in America are not burning their passports and going to Africa. Instead, Ethiopians (a country which was never colonized) are immigrating to America, a country where the police can publicly execute black people on the street. The counterexample is Chinese Americans going back to China, but China is now a wealthy country[21], or at least my Chinese alien peers have better job opportunities in China than me in Mexico. Also, I recognize being black or indigenous in America is extremely hard.
- **Sexual Orientation:** I know LGBT people who have re-closeted for an American citizenship. I know people who lived in very LGBT+ friendly paradises in Mexico City who moved to central Texas. I would marry a man to get American citizenship, so at least I would forfeit my cis-het privilege to become American. I cannot think of a good counterexample (LGBT people leaving America for a 3rd world country)
- **Disability/Health:** My psychologist tells me several of his patients have gone into dangerous clinical studies in America because they need money to survive while they wait out their Visas. They are willing to risk potential disability for a job permit. There may be counterexamples in the future, as the American health system crumbles and Americans cross the border?
- **Class:** Look at my mom/aunt example in a previous section. People will easily trade their class for citizenship.

I still need to live more and empathize with people who don't share my privileges, and in no way do I want to deemphasize their struggles. I just want to add *citizenship* to our societal

conversation. I am still reading on intersectional theory to get better at this, but I just want a literature or academic source to help me deal with my alien experience. I cannot find any book or resource on how to deal with alienhood.

19. Multigenerational Deportation / Opinion of the US

This is how my family (and region) has seen the US over the generations

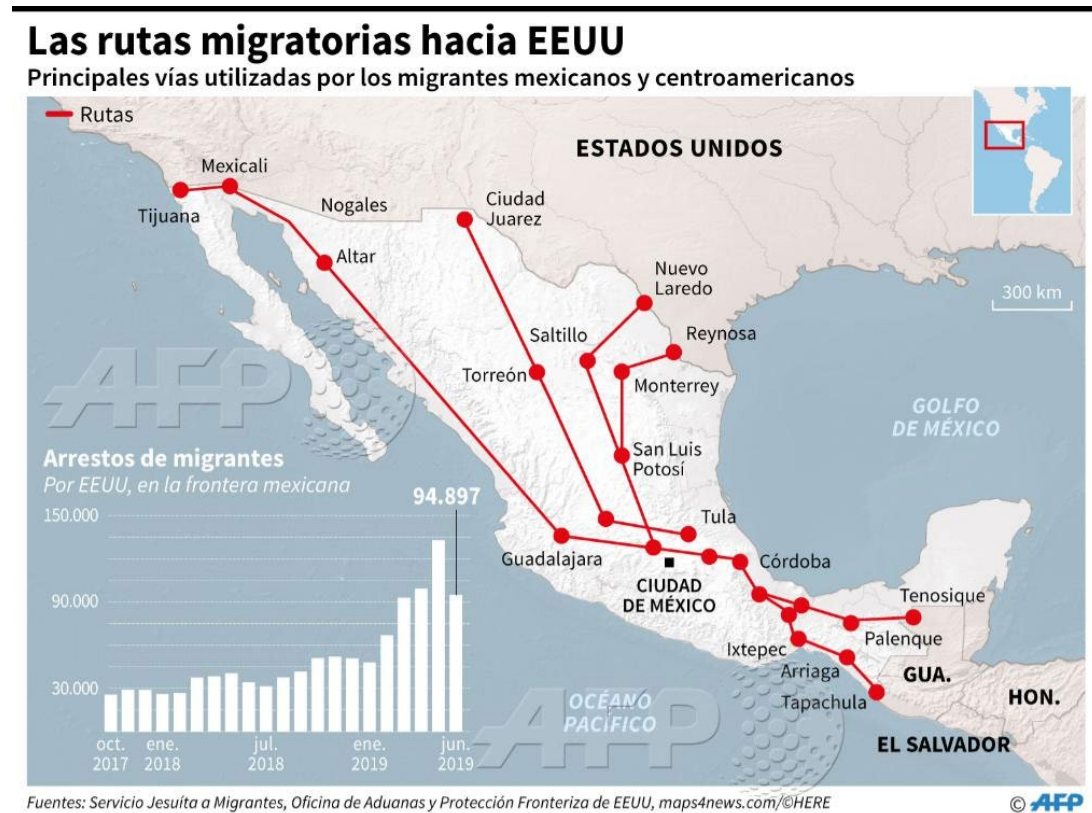
Year	Family side relation	Experience	Opinion on Caucasian Americans
1800's	Father's Side	(Grand^10)pa (fathers side) moved from China to the US to work at a railroad, he was deported during the chinese exclusion act	Greedy Scammers, cannot trust them
1820's	Mother's Side	(Grand^10)parentes were escaped black slaves from texas were taken in by Laguneros and Coahuilos, they had nightmares about slavery and monsters were white	Souless Slavers *We sing lullabies about black people escaping
1920's	Mexican Revolution	Ethical Americans will help us, Unethical Americans will help the elite	Mixed
1950'	Grandpa	Deported during the Brazero Program after workign in a factory during WW2	Pinches Gringos ²
1980	Aunt	Mistreatred by American citizens as a nurse	Pinches Gringos
1980	Uncle	Friends Deported Several times	Pinches Gringos
2005	Parents	Research collaborators	Friends
2015	Me	Trump Era, the ICE regime, Children Camps, Migrant Caravans	Souless Deporters
2021	Me	Post-Trump Era	I wrote this document for you

Essentially, we have lived under the shadow of the deportation regime for a long time, and it has gotten worse, not better, over time. I have half a dozen friends who have been deported all of them college graduates, and there's people who have been deported dozens of times. The LA times reported a case of someone who was deported 30+ times_[22].

² See insults section

5. The current Migratory crisis

Mexico as a country has created a migratory hell for central Americans[23]. History should not judge us kindly.



Here's a quick rundown/summary:

- All the routes that lead from **Guatemala - Mexico City** are hell on earth [24]. This is due to several factors, some of them being
 - Mexico using the Mexican army to stop migrants, because of US pressure under Trump (he did after all build a wall) [25]. The US public is somehow oblivious to this.
 - Locals not having the infrastructure or resources to help migrants or help them in a orderly fashion, but some of them try [26].
 - Cartels have stopped using drugs as their income source and switched to predatory practices on migrants (forced prostitution, extortion, and a long shameful etc)
 - People from southern states also migrated to the US, but they don't have such interdependence with the *process of immigration*. So most of them haven't discovered the virtuous cycle of helping immigrants my dad and city has put in place.

- **Routes Mexico-City to Tijuana and Mexico City to Laredo and Reynosa.**
 - These routes have the least natural dangers but MAXIMUM human dangers. They go through very established mono-cartel lands (Sinaloa) and places where there are extreme predators (Tamaulipas)
 - They go through major Mexican cities (Monterrey, Guadalajara and Tijuana) where the upper classes (see meritocracy in Mexico) fear people of “lesser colors”, and most importantly where the professional and blue collar class sometimes follow their examples, so racism and abuses are common [27]
- **Route Mexico City- Ciudad Juarez:**
 - This route has the absolute MAXIMUM natural danger of all the routes, migrants have to cross several deserts, including a desert so harsh and devoid of life our native Lagunero ancestors considered it the afterlife (Zona del Silencio). Crossing this route with low water supplies is suicide.
 - I guess to compensate, this route has the least human dangers and most humane resources for migrants. We don't tolerate discrimination/abuses in our city[28].
 - We have very vibrant and influential NGO's (religious and non-religious) helping migrants. The same NGO's that took back our city (see Drug war section) collect food, water, and money for immigrants.
 - When we do road trips on public highways, we try to leave water bottles under the shade.
 - I have lived among Monterrey's professional class, and some of them show aversion/racism/xenophobia towards Central Americans (yeah, I don't get this either). But there's not a single person I have met from my town like this. Here's an article by one of my high school friends[29]
 - As intra-economic migrants (migrating to wealthier Mexican cities) and international immigrants it would be extremely stupid and mentally dissonant from us to hate central American immigrants.
 - As successful? survivors of the drug war (see how we took back our city), our personality traits have changed enough to leave the old xenophobic/aggressive mindset behind? Maybe I am biased because of my father's influence and his hippie friends. Maybe it's a deeply ingrained cultural meme? Our ancestors were extremely peaceful after all.
 - We have never received immigrants in our city, and we are poor compared to other northern cities, so we have never had fear mongering campaigns like the US or other Mexican cities. *Immigrants can't take my job because there are no jobs, immigrants can't steal from us because we don't have many valuables to steal from in the first place.*

I have seen central American immigrants crossing my city since I was born. I just want to point out that my dad is a saint/hero. Here's how he treats migrants when approached on the street:

- Greets them. Asks them where they are from, what are their plans to reaching the US
- Gives them information about town, geographical data, maps, and money for a ride/food/water depending on needs
- Exchanges cell phone numbers so they may call with questions

He never talks about this. He just does it. I just wish Americans and the American government treated us the way my father (and other nonprofit orgs in my city) have treated central Americans.

Deportation is something that can happen, and right now is a problem to be *treated* by Mexicans (helping central American migrants) but it can only be solved ultimately by American citizens creating open borders. Americans are clearly ignorant about all this because there is an information wall. I still don't know if there is a moral wall that keeps Americans from acting. Central Americans coming here have much stronger reasons than me. Yet I know not all Mexicans are kind to central Americans (see insults).

We may be invaders, rapists, criminals, but deep in our hearts we know we have the moral high ground and that keeps us going. I know this was a very bleak picture of you, but in the section (Voyager probe) I will talk about how a liberal alien sees America. I know there are good citizens out there, there's just too many walls between us right now.

Anyways, Mexicans are not coming here anymore. This handbook explains many of the reasons why[30] [31]

20. The Mexican Dream in America, shattered

This is probably the most personal problem section of this handbook (other than my personal journey through crisis). My parents are researchers, and my father did his Ph.D. in London in person in the early 90's, and my mom's Ph.D. was done remotely in collaboration with John Hopkins in the 2000's.

They have never lived in America and their whole "living in America" know-how comes from my uncles and aunts from the 80's, who came during the Reagan era as blue collar workers. They refuse to believe the new realities I try to convey to them. My uncles are more receptive, yet they are totally oblivious to America's current academia-tech scene.

Here's some myths my parents still believe that are not true anymore. I guess their national pride/nostalgia/optimism blinds them. I am planning on writing a small handbook for them too:

- ***Mexicans born in Mexico are the most influential immigrant majority in the US on economics, culture, and politics***

This is a myth Mexicans and their Mexican American children believed in the 90's. Trump supporters still believe this. I just don't know how they ever believed this, probably because I grew up in the 2000's when this dream was shattered. Everywhere I go I see recently arrived Chinese Doctors, Indian Lawyers, and Mexican janitors and cooks. We lost the race for the American dream on the economical and political front. Our only advantage was geographical closeness (we could go home and bring stuff and have closer support groups), but the new militarized border has eroded that advantage.

E.g., AOC is Puerto Rican. My parents first believed that she was Mexican, we always thought the first influential Latina Senator would be Mexican American. This was a shock to them.

- ***Chinese international students are the poorest international students***

My dad still believes all Chinese alien students come from dirt poor backgrounds, and that Chinese Americans are the poorest demographic in the US. I guess this was true in the 80's and 90's before the Chinese economic miracle. I see a different reality in both educational and economic terms. This was an actual conversation:

Conversation about Chinese and Chinese Americans right before Christmas 2021

Dad: "Are they doing good? Do they have enough rice, you can lend them your rice cooker for the holidays, you can also tell them meat is cheap when its on sale on supermarkets"

Me: "Dad, the Chinese internationals always order Fantuan takeout, they have pretty good Chinese options here."

Dad: "Well, you can make friends with them and the Chinese Americans, I spent the holidays in London working on Christmas eve with the Chinese-brits and Chinese internationals"

Me: "Dad, my Chinese-American friends all went back to Florida and NY and California, one of them went to Mexico City, another to Cancun. I am the one who can't make it home"

Most of the conversations I have with my dad, I have to remind him I am way more poor than my Chinese friends.

- ***Mexico-US economic power parity is within an order of magnitude of difference.***

My aunt (who lived in the US during the 80's, but came back because she did not want to grow old there) gave me a farewell gift when I left to go to the US one year ago, this would be her secret gift. She gave me an envelope and told me to never, ever tell my parents, because this sum was so big, they would be worried I was being spoiled. She gave me 40\$ USD. She truly believes 40\$ can pay my monthly rent, because she is renting her second house at 30\$ per month.

My parents believe this myth too. They believe cafeteria meals in the US are 4\$ USD and an uber eats dinner is 12\$USD. They believe 20K\$ USD is such a high unimaginable sum for a bachelor, that I am struggling because I do not know how to manage money. They think 20K is enough for me to get a mortgage for my own house or an extremely good apartment (not studio) and a car. They believe my car leases are 50\$ per month.

- ***Mexican-Americans (Chicanos) are a small minority. Mexicans (aliens) are a majority.***

My parents don't believe there's more Chicanos than Mexicans. They believe there's 10 Mexicans for every Chicano and that THEY are the minority. I know a couple dozen Chicanos in CMU, but only 2 Mexican aliens (including me). I can safely assume most Latinx I meet are not aliens.

My parent's generation used the derogatory term "Pochos" to refer to them, as people below us culturally who had broken Spanish. But I just can't use it, I don't even see how. They have citizenship, they have jobs, they have stronger support networks, they have political influence, *who cares about speaking proper Spanish. Spanish is useless here.*

For my parent's generations, "Pochos" were a weak minority who forgot their cultural roots and had to get in line culturally with them, the trueborn Mexican leaders of the migratory wave. The tables have turned, I am below those "pochos" legally, culturally and economically. I am alone in the lowest rung now. I am drowning.

- ***US universities have a white majority and a panoply of equal minorities***

CMU has an Asian-white majority. Sorry for putting them together, but at this point, they occupy the same space in my head. Whites and Asian-Americans eat Chipotle, work/intern at FAANGs, play ultimate frisbee, and speak with the same accents. There are only trace amounts of other minorities. There is no Mexican international student club.

Essentially this difference in worldviews makes conversations with my parents very hard. It's like living in two different universes. My parents cannot believe I am selling plasma. My psychologist tells me I should get a job at a Mechanical garage or as a table waiter (see Money section)

- ***The Trumpian Hellscape***

I will not delve into current events because Americans are very well informed about this, thanks to the partisan divide. I will just say that before Trump, hate against Mexicans was a state sport. Racist Texans/Arizonans hated Mexicans. But now white racist *Pennsylvanians* hate Mexicans. The words "border" "illegal" were state news. Now they are national news. We lost the immigration game.

21. The Drug War

You can watch and talk about Netflix Narcos. I don't watch it because I know the plot, we lived it. Some important cities and states in which the drug war raged the hardest:

- Ciudad Juarez[32] [33]
- Torreon, my home, The city of Death*[34] [35] [36] [37] [38]
- Tamaulipas_[39]
- Monterrey, where I finished my undergrad [40]
- Chihuahua [41]
- Michoacán
- Zacatecas
- Guanajuato
- Sinaloa

This is Mexico Bárbaro, I don't even talk much about this with central and southern Mexicans. This handbook deals with just enough so you can interact with me, but the full scale of the drug war goes deeper in our national, regional and personal psyche. You can delve yourself into this gory rabbit hole. [42][43][44]

The shootouts were the main issue, but no one talks about the rest of the day. The drug war was very similar to Covid, it was not leaving home. Bars closed, restaurants closed, Movie theaters closed, no concerts, no travel. Here's a rundown of my most important experiences:

- Was in four dozen minor street shootouts. Half a dozen highway shootouts. A couple party shootouts. I have had the barrel of a loaded gun pointed at me hundreds of times.
- A couple of Molotov cocktail bombings
- I was there when the shot a fully packed soccer stadium
- Trash bags with human bodies
- Narcomensajes, hanged bodies with important message son them
- Shootouts at both my sister's weddings

The drug war left my generation with an extreme Fear of Missing Out. We always knew that normal people on normal places were living normal lives, we just wanted that. We wanted to go to parks, restaurants, bars, work. We wanted public spaces.

Many people left these cities. My family had no relatives in big cities, no job prospects so we could not move.

There are some thoughts living in my subconscious which may come to the surface.

- *Men's lives are worthless. Men dying (armed or civilians) is not a tragedy, this is something to be celebrated, as there are less trigger hands that can hurt women and children.*

This is what happens when your brain was shaped by the drug war and your social media echo chamber is the most radical section of la Ola Verde.

- *I am an NPC, I have no internal monologue, my sudden death means nothing.*
- *Our lives are not even expendable, they would be expendable if they had value, our lives are devoid of value.*

We have been thoroughly desensitized to violence in media. We value survival over emotions. During CPR training at CMU, I very calmly asked about what to do during an active shooter situation and I got many scared looks from the white crowd.

I know the thoughts inside my head and can emulate yours successfully most of the time, but sharing your whole worldview 24/7 is hard.

Most importantly, the future is something you *survive, you plan for, plans you execute to increase your safety*. The future is not something you look forward too.

As a city, this was a problem we had to solve, and we more or less solved it on a local scale [45], [46]. Many of my personality traits, and my friends personality traits, were shaped by how we overcame this.

- Non-violence
- Non-confrontation mediation solutions
- Avoidance of toxic masculinity tropes

Beware, other Mexican aliens may come from cities which have not solved this issue, or who lived in places that never experienced it. Some will even try to minimize or hide all this. I understand them, they hate the *Mexicans-are-blood-thirsty-monsters* stereotype, and by minimizing the drug war, they may lose the stigma of being Mexican.

6. How to deal with the drug war?

So what's the best way to talk about the drug war with a Mexican Alien?

The drug war was an important historical series of events in which:

- 200,000 people died according to official accounts [47], many among the dead were innocent civilians

- Civilians who lived through the conflict had their lives shattered by it
- The Mexican government was complicit with cartels and disregarded civilian casualties
- US gun companies provided weapons and US consumers bought Mexican drugs fueling the cycle of violence. The US supported the war on drugs because “it was necessary”
- Mexican cartels (and some army members) committed mass genocide, torture for sport, and unspeakable gory acts. Yet most of the top Capos were never arrested and instead civilians carried the brunt of suffering during the conflict.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were a historical series of events in which:

- 135,000 people died according to official accounts, many among the dead were innocent civilians
- Civilians who survived through the conflict had their lives shattered by it
- The Japanese government wanted to continue WWII and disregarded civilian casualties
- The US produced and deployed an atom bombs.
- The Japanese Army committed mass genocide, torture for sport, and unspeakable gory acts. Yet most of the top brass was never tried and instead the civilians on both sides carried the brunt of suffering during the conflict.

All this analogy leads to a simple strategy. When talking about the war on drugs with a Mexican alien from one of the cities mentioned above think “*what would I do/say if this person was from Hiroshima or Nagasaki, lived through it, and I was talking about WWII and the atomic bombings?*”

22. The deal with FAANGST?

Immigration process for getting a job at a FAANG or big american company

- *Indentured servitude*
- *Hard to get? It is not purely technical meritocracy in Mexico.*
- *The Mexican Rat race for top American companies?*
- *Special pipeline*

23. The SpaceX Apartheid

Going back to the work pipelines from a previous chapter, we had absolutely no preparation or role models or connections to work at an American company in my local university. Even being in a large university it was hard to find examples of people that made it, it was a combination of luck, citizenship, and hard work.

You have to be a citizen (or a citizen from an military aligned country) to work at any company with ITAR requirements, but also to work at some FAANGs [48][49]. So when we are looking for work or a citizenship there's a double barrier, work permit itself, and ITAR requirements for working at technology companies. This has been extremely isolating at CMU.

Almost every Latin American alien engineer dreamed to work at NASA at some point, but one day we discover being non-citizens is the biggest barrier towards that dream.

My most iconic experience with this was when headhunters from SpaceX and Tesla came to my university in Mexico. Every single American citizen got an interview (a dozen), and none of us potential aliens got an interview (a hundred of us). No matter our merits or experience, citizenship was the biggest barrier towards working on one of those companies.

As a Musk Fanboy (back then) and one of the valedictorians? (2nd or 3rd, anyway I was always the "wants to do research" person) in our 100 student cohort. I asked the interviewers during our big meeting what was needed to have an interview. I pointed out that the highest GPAs, people with research and industry experience, and other qualifications didn't make the cut. The person from SpaceX told us (sic) we had to get American citizenship first, and that wasn't his problem. Some of my friends had to hold back tears. We all were Musk Fanboys, we discussed SpaceX systems, played Kerbal Space program and discussed Tesla's autopilot on our free time. I repressed this memory, but my friends told me my voice broke. I am not a Musk fanboy anymore, I felt that day a door closed.

Is space closed for aliens? One of my favorite series is The Expanse, and humanity is divided between the inner planets and the belt. Inners are descendants of people from first world countries who had space programs and colonized Mars and the Moon.

Belters are descendants of third worlders who escaped to the belt centuries after that, on small ships they built for themselves, to get dangerous illegal jobs mining the asteroids without permission of earth's and mar's governments. I imagine this is the start of the rift between Inners and Belters in the real world. Your children will have access to great space technologies, tools and the privileges associated with an exponential wealth explosion, while economic desperation will push my children to do whatever to survive. We will eventually become two separate species. I feel like a proto-*Beltalowda*, and this is the first message from us to you *Inyalowda* [50].

24. The green wave

Latin American feminism is moving extremely fast compared to US feminism. As a man I should keep this conversation short, but you may never meet a female Mexican Alien, so I will show you a brief overview. Please read the literature if you can [51]. Here's some mails I had with an American Feminist after my Latinx talk from a previous section:

Hello Jane Doe:

Hope you are doing well. I am sorry I delivered that in Spanish, I misinterpreted the email for the meeting and I thought the "org representatives" would be internal subcommittees from LAGSA. If I had known there would be non-Spanish speakers I would have translated the points and rehearsed them. No worries about having to go early.

Also, as a cis het man, there are issues I have seen but I have not experienced myself, so they were not part of my speech or document, but they must be very important to Femme and future non-citizen members of your club.

- *People under J-1 visas have to pay a 5-10\$K fine if they get pregnant.*
- *I have met several J-1 visa holders (in other universities) that suffered sexual abuse in the US but refrained from taking legal recourse not to endanger their citizenship.*

Sadly, I still do not know any female Latin American J-1 visa holders in CMU, I only know an F-1 visa holder. Most of my friends from home are afraid of living in the US (and my female friends would be vulnerable both for being Latina non-citizens and women) and prefer going to Canada or Europe for grad school. This is again an example of how systemic barriers not only oppress minorities but moreover prevent the mere existence of such minorities in the first place.

Also, I am on Femme Slack, your intersectional approach is awesome! I was kind of lost as I have witnessed/studied/supported/lived the 5th, 6th, and 7th? feminist waves going on in Latin America, and they had different wide-ranging views on men in feminist spaces, so I am not sure if Femme is ok with men like me witnessing their spaces/events, and that is why I have not gone to any event. I also have some books on the 5th and 6th wave, if anyone there is interested.

In the gender sphere, coming to the US from Latin America sometimes felt like taking a time machine back to pre-5th wave feminism times. This has put me in weird situations, as coming from a low-income country plus the "Latino man must be sexist" stereotype, everyone assumes my cultural background should be more chauvinistic than the US and I should be taught how to behave, but instead, I find the US to be shockingly different (backward?) in many issues. Some examples:

- *Women losing their last names after marriage*
- *No such thing as femicide in US law*
- *No "women's only" hours in the gym*
- *No national marches on femicide cases e.g. Gaby Petito*
- *No annual March 9th women's strike*
- *No women-only public transport*
- *No public anonymous denunciations on Campus*
- *No mandated training for March 10th, no day of shame/mourning*
- *Revenge porn laws in America seem very weak vs what we have back home.*

- And a long etc.

I just hope the stuff above is useful in case you ever want to hold a conversation with recently arrived Latinas/Latinx. Being a cis het man, I am a very imperfect source for all this, but I guess I can pave the way to make the transition for a future female Latina non-citizen easier.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions, or if you find a non-citizen Latino person that needs help!

*Best
Andres*

Good question!

- **Women losing their last names after marriage** > Hispanic women have kept their last names since medieval times. I have a combined surname from my father and mother (my legal name is Andres Garcia-Rubio and my mom is still Marisela Rubio). Soon, children will be able to choose the order of their surnames (so a mother's last name could be passed instead of the father's). On a personal note, I may do this, as my dad has other children from another marriage that can take his last name, but I am my mother's only child, so I could "save" my mother's last name. But this is a conversation I should have with my parents, whatever works best for them.
- **No such thing as femicide in US law** > Femicide laws in Mexico at the federal and state level have been enacted during the last decade, with special courts and sentences.
- **No "women's only" hours in the gym** > This was common in my university gym. Pre-covid, 5-6 PM on weekdays was women's hour.
- **No national marches on femicide cases e.g. Gaby Petito** > There are national marches and special groups that protest when a woman is killed, it's bigger than BLM here.
- **No annual March 9th women's strike** > Same, I don't want to compare but our March 8,9 and 10th marches are bigger in scope than BLM (and there are no public groups or counter-marches like Blue Lives Matter). All women on campus strike and most of them march.
- **No women-only public transport** > Mexico city subways have women-only sections, buses in major cities are starting to have designated seating for women. We have special taxi services run by women and which only women can use.
- **No public anonymous denunciations on Campus** > This happens on March 10th every year on university campuses and workplaces, there are public google docs are available for the denunciation of abusers, there are also "clotheslines" where women can leave anonymous denunciations on paper. Men are barred from the clothes lines. At the end of the day, the confessions

are read out loud to everyone, both men and women, while masked women dance and sing "[un violador en tu camino/el violador eres tu](#)", "a rapist in your way/you are the rapist"

- **No mandated training for March 10th, no day of shame/mourning** > On March 8th women protest on the streets, similarly to BLM, but these are women-only protests and university campuses and offices are also taken. On March 9th women strike (stay at home) and men attend mandatory training on gender violence led by men (it's a day of mourning where we must be conscious on our collective and personal failures), we also have to do all tasks women did e.g. I have to do my female colleagues' labwork. Women do not have to turn in assignments/homework/etc this day and stay at home, no shopping for groceries, or going outside. Women even leave social media, group or private messages between men and women are discouraged even if they are direct messages between married couples. Slack groups like femme have private women-only channels for March 9th. March 10th is a day of mixed-gender violence training for men and women, also mixed-gender protests happen on this day.
- **Revenge porn laws in America seem very weak vs what we have back home**> American revenge porn laws are directed at "distributors" and "producers". We had similar laws until, in the last 5 years Mexican revenge porn laws (ley Olimpia) at the federal and state level are now directed at all the members of a group that received such images, so if a friend in a group chat sends an image/video, everyone in that group chat that reproduced the media, irrespective if they filmed it or not, or if they know the person or not, is committing a crime and is liable to incarceration.

As for non-binary and trans folks, diverse groups in the 6th and 7th wave are discussing the validity of their statuses. We have groups called "colectivas" which organize women in regional areas and sometimes colectivas have different opinions on the matter. I myself believe trans women and non-binary women are women, but particular colectivas in the 7th wave may disagree, it's a complex subject, that changes by the day.

I will not be able to attend this GBM in person because I have a cell experiment programmed for today (keeping mammalian cells is like having pets). Today I saw a New York Times Article as abortion was just de-penalized on the federal level in Colombia. We just had our Mexican "Roe vs Wade" last September. Also, our federal laws are way stronger than US federal law vs state laws, so abortion was virtually legalized everywhere, as we do not have state court judges to appeal the laws in conservative states (what happened with the 6-week law in Texas would not happen back home).

So an international Latino female student may find themselves in a weird situation if the US Supreme Court repels Roe vs Wade, as their reproductive rights would be better protected in Mexico than in the US. Add this to the list of "cultural shockers". I do have friends who were

accepted into US universities and rather went to Canada or Europe for their grad studies, as they are afraid of living in the US for multiple reasons including the status of their reproductive rights.

*To add another tangentially-related cultural shocker, marijuana for self-consumption is legal in my home state in Mexico and was de-penalized at the federal level. My parents are huge hippies (M.D.s and university professors), so we grow a small farm legally at home and give it for free to our friends so that they don't have to buy it from unethical cartel sources. I am shocked at how CMU (*and American) students consume Marijuana, due to its illegal and marginalized status here in Pennsylvania, they just go crazy and literally "overdose" with very potent strains because they do not have expert medical guidance.*

25. Money

Limited Internships, Mexico-US economic disparity, and a competitive alien/unauthorized labor Market mean that getting money as an Alien is hard. Some things that have worked for me

- Selling Blood Plasma
- Shoveling Snow
- Getting an Underwater internship with an ally company.
Some companies are small enough and have decent owners, we can arrange an Internship with my J-1 sponsor. I did this in a makerspace giving Solidworks classes and fingers crossed I may do this as a climbing instructor.
- I would do prostitution, but Risk-reward due to STD's is not good enough.

My Undergrad university was so unequal there was a student led sex-work black market, in which poor students (usually studying an arts degree) could sell their services to rich students or outside consumers.

I am extremely stingy usually, especially with myself.

26. My quest finding other LatinX Mexicans

I have felt extremely lonely here. Here's the stuff I have done to find other Latinx people, especially aliens, and hopefully Mexican aliens:

- Go to Salsa meetings and chat with the undergrads
- Go to every LGSA meeting, ask around, observe, hear people's accents, etc

- Open up CMU mail finder with Spanish Last names and look up people
- Walk silently around campus or on the 61 line and have an ear out for Spanish conversations.

So far:

- Me
- 1 Master's student
- 2 Heinz student
- A couple which I believe studies at Heinz? *I am still looking them up.*
- Biomed Student? *I am still looking them up*

27. LatinX

As of June 2022, every Latin American alien currently in CMU (4 counting me) hates/dislikes/doesn't support this word, when the topic comes up. Here's the reasons:

- It's not related to Spanish at all
- Was coined by American citizens who would throw their Latin language heritage to fit in with the crowd.
- Fake as hell

There are no alien Mexicans who identify with the LGBTQ+ spectrum in CMU. I talked about this in my LatinX speech, but I believe this happens because a person can break a colossal systemic barrier, but not two.

**There was an alien Colombian student married to a Mexican (non CMU student) in a same sex relationship, I need to contact her to check the last statements, sadly she graduated. Anyways during the all hands meeting there was a fight over this term, and every alien disliked this word.*

To be fair, you can find many non-aliens defending the term.

What do I personally think of this word?

I don't hate it, nor do I like it. It's a useful a priori datapoint.

- If a Hispanic person uses this word I can very safely assume they are American citizens, their English is perfect, their Spanish may not be perfect, and are middle/upper class.
- If a Hispanic person tells me they hate this word, I know they are aliens from a more conservative background than mine (usually this also means they have a higher economic status than me). I assume they come from a whiter/more catholic Latin American country and I am usually right.

- If a Hispanic alien uses this word, I know they are aliens with more practical and liberal views, I will instantly befriend them and show them this handbook to proofread. This hasn't happened yet June 2022.
- If I find an LGBTQ+ alien using this word, and askign people to use this word. My whole set of priors will be changed and I will have to adjust my wordlview

I am a cis-het-male which tries to educate himself on the experiences of individuals on the LGBTQ+ spectrum on both sides of the border, yet I have only personally experienced the privileged spectrum of sexuality/gender identity, and the unprivileged spectrum of citizenship.

So, I will be respectful with LatinX people as I have a privilege that they do not have. But some of them do not recognize that they have a privilege that I don't have (citizenship). I am still doing research on intersectional theory, but there are no alien writers.

Which privilege is greater? All I know is I have LGBTQ+ alien friends who reentered the closet to get into heterosexual marriages and get American citizenships. But I don't know any Florida or Texas LatinX who has moved to liberal LGBTQ+ haven Mexico City neighborhoods (Coyocan, la Roma).

So without having experienced both forms of un-privilege, I will have to work based on my datapoints and I will assume citizen privilege is greater than cis-het privilege, until an Alien LatinX person on the LGBTQ+ gives me their lived experience and convinces me otherwise. I am still on the lookout for such a person.

I am sorry for "weighing" privileges. I just want people to consider citizenship privilege to the same club as other privileges progressives are fighting against.

28. Tattoos

When getting your visa, if you are a male alien (also to non-white looking females) they will definitely ask you if you have tattoos. Depending on the consulate, you may need to take off your shirt. I would never get a tattoo because getting a tattoo would hurt my chances of getting in the US. This is part of the non-written rules of the border. I know someone is Mexican-American if they have tattoos.

29. Military service

All men need to do mandatory military service in Mexico. What this service is depends on your military region. My birth city was too full of cartels (see drug war) so my service was:

- Shaving my head
- Waiting in line for 6 hours (If the recruiting officer saw a tattoo or piercing or untucked shirt) you got thrown out of the line, beaten and sent to the regiment headquarters 200 miles away
- For 2 weeks I was kicked while doing an unending set of pushups, I vomited during the first two days, then vomited stomach acid. Second week I didn't vomit. Some of the officers' remarks:
 - My mom was a prostitute. (The military in my city was so violent, that they drove all sex workers away and were famous for murdering trans sex workers as a sport)
 - Asked if I had sisters. Remarked that my sisters were prostitutes and the whole regiment would fuck them
 - Told me I wasn't strong enough or had stamina enough to have sex. Told me my girlfriend was a prostitute and would probably leave me and fuck an officer. (LMAO I have never had a girlfriend)

Other friends had a 6-month training program on Saturdays which was slightly less sadistic (they lived in another military region)

I kept quiet to get my army card (you need an army card as a male to get access to some jobs and do paperwork in Mexico) but after this and Jorge and Javier's case [52], and other drug war related stuff, I don't trust anyone in an army uniform.

30. Insults

I think insults work as accusations, or reminders people use to direct their anger. Most insults throughout history were designed to strengthen existing social hierarchies. There's many homophobic, racist, and genderist insults that maintain social hierarchies.

Alien is an insult meant to maintain citizenship hierarchies. I have personally reclaimed this term in this text. Yes, I am an alien. Superman is also an alien (he wasn't born in the US after all).

I think insults can be used (and should only be used) as accusations of abuse of privilege. Here's how I use them:

- **Whitexican:** this is very slightly derogatory, see the pigmentocracy section
- **Mocho:** we use this for extremely conservative Mexicans and Mexican Americans, independent of race, citizenship and wealth.

E.g.: a homophobic, sexist Mexican is easily a Mocho. A Mexican man who doesn't let his wife work is a mocho.

- **Hijo de Primos:** This goes for very mean whitexicans who are inbred.
- **Gringo:** my parent's generation used this term as an insult to white Americans treating Mexicans badly. I have taken this term and given it a new meaning. *ANY* American citizen that uses his citizen/wealth/status privilege unfairly to put non-citizens down I will call gringo. And I will call them publicly if they attack us publicly.
 - If a white frat boy makes fun of my accent or citizenship status, that is a classic pinche gringo. *This has happened.*
 - If an Indian-American tells me publicly my family does not deserve to be in the US because they crossed the border with rapists and criminals, I will call him a gringo publicly. I don't care if he gets offended because he is not white, even if he retorts "you should not call Asian gringos that's racist". *This happened. I will break a friendship if this happens. For me it's a waste of time to mend it.*
 - If a Chinese-American tells me my clothes suck, and I reply "pardon, it's the best I can do" and he replies that "you are fucking broke" I will call him pinche Gringo. *This happened*
 - If Mexican Americans Harvard students make fun of my accent, my clothes, me not having a car I have decided to call them "Pinches pocos, ni así serán gringos", and will delight myself in the extreme cultural hurt they will. *This happened, I was still green and had to back off, but I am stronger now. This ties in with the next insult*
- **Pocho³:** I reserve this word for only two classes of people. More specifically to what are they when they do certain actions.
 - **Mexican Americans who heavily discriminate alien Mexicans** (see the above Harvard student example). This hurts their ancestral legacy, that's my point. I, as one of the bearers of the Mexican saga in the US, tell them they are not Mexicans anymore.

Mexican status is not about language, citizenship, or even culture, **it's about being kind to others, specially Mexicans. "Mexican" authority should come not from race, language, wealth, clothing etc. it comes from kindness.**
 - **Mexicans aliens who discriminate Central American unauthorized immigrants.** When I see Pochos discriminating central Americans (usually at bars, clubs, sometimes in stores), I immediately tell them they have forsaken their Mexican identity, based on the above criteria. If a central American tells me

³Mexican Americans reading this, I am sorry, and I promise I will never use this word with you, let me explain further

a Mexican discriminated them, I will immediately apologize for my people, then explain that that person is no longer a Mexican, they lost their Mexican card by using Mexicanes as a privilege, and tell my central American interlocutor to call those country-less people “**Pochos**” if it happens again, and please call a real Mexican if they require further help.

My ancestors defined the Mexicanes by taking in slaves and helping them. My father defined his Mexicanes by helping immigrants. I will define it this way, like my ancestors. I don't care if you are 5th generation Mexican-American, speak no Spanish, eat no spicy food. If you help Mexicans, you are Mexican. All my struggles have given me the right to be a gate keeper.

CMU Professor Paul Eiss lived a decade in Yucatán, studying, documenting and helping Mayan communities. He speaks perfect Spanish and teaches Mexican history at CMU. He could be legally Mexican because he married a Mexican woman. But I know he's Mexican because he is documenting the drug war from a human perspective, and because he helped me beat homesickness by letting me into his classroom, discuss Mexican history and make a Día de Muertos altar. I will defend “Professor Nieves” Mexican status anywhere, not because he knows so much about us, but because of the kindness of his actions.

If you hurt your fellow Mexican, you are not Mexican anymore. This is how I choose to define our nationhood. I don't care if you have Mexican citizenship and claim more Mexican culture than me. *My ancestors are smiling at me Pocho, can you say the same?*⁴

31. Religion

Mexico's population is majority catholic country, so statistically you can statistically assume Mexican aliens are Catholic, or at least they come from a Mexican-flavored Catholic cultural background [53]. Just keep in mind that Mexico is a secular state, and we are legally more secular than countries like Chile and Argentina. Also Catholicism is on the decline vs agnosticism and Protestantism. As a Mexican atheist/agnostic, I appreciate catholic traditions that bind me to my neighbors, but don't believe in them.

My family is ex-catholic and because of our complicated history with the catholic church, plus environmental concerns, we have very recently chosen to culturally resuscitate the animist religion of our Lagunero ancestors (we really are atheists, but let's keep this a secret). This is a long story, and most aliens don't do this so let's move on.

⁴ (yes this is a Skyrim reference)

Also, people usually have two weddings. A religious catholic wedding and a civil wedding. I don't think my parents had a religious wedding; therefore I am:

- A bastard and apostate in Catholic law.
- A normal citizen in the eyes of the Mexican secular constitution
- Protector of the turtle clan's, according to the old/new animist cosmovision we made up.

32. Food

Most people on CMU haven't met alien Mexicans and don't have many Mexican American friends, so their knowledge of Mexican food comes from living in former Mexican states (Cali and Texas). Let's quickly go over Mexican food from a satellite-eye view :

- Tacos (This food defines our country, hard shelled U shaped tacos are not tacos)
- Burritos (yes I eat burritos in Mexico, but they are not remotely like chipotle)
- Tortillas (Mexico is divided among a handmade, machine made tortilla fault line)
- Chile
- Frijoles (beans)
- Pozole, Mole, Discada, Carne Asada, Flautas, Huaraches.

*Btw we created Zucchini's, we call them Calabacitas and they come from Mesoamerica, like corn chocolate, etc etc.

Quesadillas:

Do they have to have cheese? This is a dumb discussion Mexicans will have. This discussion is the surface of the iceberg that underlies a bigger, deeper, cultural-economical-political fault line between Mexico City and the rest of the country. I don't care about your view, but your view and how much you defend it will show me how hard has this fault line impacted you.

We can keep this section short. Most CMU students have met or are friends with Chinese Americans and interact with Chinese international students. You don't need a Chinese version of this handbook because there will be always a dozen of Chinese international students you can befriend.

- Chipotle -> Panda Express
- Your local Mexican-run taco shop -> Your Chinese-run hot pot joint
- The Colombian Spot -> Fujiya Ramen (not Mexican cuisine and not Chinese Cuisine)
- Taco Bell -> there's no equivalent
- No equivalent Mexican food app -> Fantuan

Naturally, Mexicans become janitors and cooks instead of software engineers so it's going to be hard to find Mexican food in a gentrified, tech-oriented city like Pittsburgh. Yes, this makes me sad in many ways.

- Las Palmas is better than chipotle, but they are the lowest denominator for what I deign to call tacos
- La Palapa has the same drinks I would have at home, and they have a good selection, but they don't stand up to a good L.A. taqueria, which is not exactly the same as a Mexican Taquería.

Treat our food the same way you would treat Chinese food, the way I have seen you respect your Chinese and Chinese-American peers. That's all we ask.

33. Dancing

Americans show off too much dancing Salsa and Bachata "Hey look at me I can dance super good". "OMG they dance so well for a white person" uhm ok. If that's cool for you, and you like competitive dancing, and doing things perfectly, and enjoy the music, who I am I to judge? DO your thing.

Dancing in Mexico is more of a social activity, not a competitive one. It's ok if you never learn how to dance well. You dance your regional dances at weddings and big social events. Some people never dance sober and that's great. Dance is not competition or show of skill; dance is pure social enjoyment. We would rather dance clumsily with our friends and teach them slowly, than go dance with strangers just because the strangers dance well. Dancing super well is not that attractive in Mexico. I am surprised its super important here.

In my region we dance Cumbia. I have never pondered the musical or artistic qualities of this genre, but some songs may bring me to tears, because they are my people's song, my people's dances. [54]

My parents danced to this; all my friends danced to this. Cumbia is the sound of modern Laguneros rejoicing on our families, for our jobs, for our soccer team winning, for graduations just like our Lagunero ancestors thanked the spirits for rain, big fishes and healthy babies.

Cumbia is danced in fancy party halls to celebrate private school graduations, alongside American hit songs. Cumbia is danced in dirt soccer courts to celebrate rural small town weddings. Cumbia breaks the pigmentocracy and class barriers. I haven't seen a single genre of music like this in any US region.

I miss this music because I miss the community ties this music represented.

I feel like Latin dancing classes and events here in the US are too much about “dancing right” “following the steps correctly”. I don’t feel comfortable here, this is not like home. Worst part is this aura of “Dancing Latin stuff is super hard” keeps Americans from enjoying the social cohesion aspect of dancing.

34. 5 de Mayo

This is a very minor point. As a Mexican here’s my opinion on 5 de Mayo. I gave this response to a non-Mexican Latino person telling white people it was a “fake” holiday. A group of non-Mexicans discussing 5 de mayo without even having some Mexican input got me very angry.

The whole point of 5 de Mayo is to celebrate that Mexican soldiers, both Mestizo and Indigenous, dying side by side, even with extreme disadvantages, wielding only machetes could compete, and win, against a rifle-wielding horse-riding French-speaking European army who had the upper hand in training, equipment and weapons. No one believed a bunch of indigenous, illiterate peasants who spoke spanish and nahuatl could take down senior officers trained by motherfucking Napoleon Bonaparte's generals.

Puebla was the Mexican Stalingrad. This battle marked an important point, as this was the first time Mexicans saw themselves as competitors and winners in an international setting, because there was no such major international battle during independence (we did not have a Yorktown like you Americans). At the end of the war an indigenous president ordered the military execution of a blue-blooded European emperor, and that's the reason Europeans haven't attempted large-scale land invasions of any Latin American country ever since, so its a victory we like to share with all Latin America. Mexicans and Chicanos in the US every fucking day have to fucking compete against people who have better education, capital, tools, citizenship, support networks etc, so 5 de Mayo has a deeper meaning here than in the Motherland , were we don't face loopsided foreign competition as frequently, and so Independence day (and Revolution day on November 20th) takes precedence back home as they are INTERNAL celebrations of national culture and sovereignty . Mexican-Americans don't learn Mexican history in US schools, obviously, but their parents transmitted these feelings to them and that's why its a big deal.

So 5 de Mayo is a day were we as a community (well sometimes I feel like the only fucking Mexican community fucking here in CMU is a couple people and fucking idiot me, the fucking poorest Mexican with the fucking worst shittiest immigration status in all CMU... and yeah I spend a lot of time looking for other Mexicans) can remember that just with sheer motherfucking grit we can compete and work on an equal basis with people who speak perfect english, have citizenship, haven't faced extreme full scale violence for most of their lives, are taller/better fed than us , went to better schools, worked/interned at awesome companies where we are not even allowed to work

because of ITAR, make x20 our salaries in industry, and went to waay better undergrad institutions. THIS IS FUCKING HARD AND NONE OF YOU WILL EVER GET IT (well maybe some internationals like my homie Sarvesh). WE NEED TO BE FIERCE EVERY FUCKING DAY JUST TO GET OUT OF BED. The Mexican immigration experience in the US is fucking hard due to a lot of factors, and one of them is a historical national inferiority complex. But during one fleeting moment when remembering 5 de Mayo, our inferiority complex vanishes and we are free, that's 5 de Mayo magic for me. So this is the significance me and some other Mexicans in the US share whether we are farmers, house-cleaners, yard-workers, cooks, technicians, students, engineers, businessmen, professionals and researchers? (although I haven't met many of those), but all this has been lost among the marketing storm from Taco Bell and Don Julio directed at white people and I suppose that's the reason some Mexicans (and non-Mexicans, uh?) try to minimize it as not a holiday and that's valid, but personally I don't really mind the marketing/posturing, none of that will change the meaning 5 de Mayo has within our transnational psyche, and anyways it's also a fun excuse to eat and drink.

And how best to celebrate this than sharing drinks with international colleagues who recognize us as equals? This can be a celebration of peaceful cooperation where we are recognized as valid I may go grab a drink/eat at La Palapa Southside on Thursday, in case anyone wants to grab a Cinco de Drinko

I think you are ready for the next section, I want American citizenship, sometimes I get so hopeless that I feel I could kill for American citizenship. I want a safe job, I want a safe home, I want to be equal among my friends. I want to have quality tools at my workplace. I don't want to have to worry about all this every day. I want to worry about my script not working, not about being kicked out of the country or unpaid bills.

5. What's before? What's Next?

35. The nonimmigrant VISA/Citizenship hierarchy

- **American Citizens:** human beings made in God's own image™ For they had cometh out of holy American soil, and thus they are Americans by the words holy sacred constitution. The divine caste. Das VolksAmerikans. The undeportable. Inheritors of earth and space. If one of them is hurt abroad they make BBC front pages, while 50 "migrants" (always migrants, never people) may die and you will never hear about them [55]. People. Humans. Inhabitants of the city upon the Hill.
- **Green Card Holder:** can work, stay legally, and have children in the US, but cannot vote.

- **O-1:** People with extraordinary ability (never met someone with this, I guess Shakira must have this Visa)
- **H1B1:** Workers sponsored by a company on a specialty occupation. You will need a (huge) company and a (big) legal team to get this VISA. These are super high demand. You need to convince a FAANG you are a genius asset to obtain one. You can only work with that FAANG (your company is your sponsor)
- **B-1:** This was the “normal” tourist Visa. It was common in Mexico for people crossing the border. You can spend money and stay for a couple of months with this VISA, but not work (legally).
 - My parents started the paperwork for this Visa before I was born. Most consulates have a 6month- 3 year wait for this VISA
 - I have a cousin who applied for this Visa as an adult.
 - No criminal record. Not even a speeding ticket.
 - Middle class (they will ask you for your family’s income).
 - Student pursuing a STEM degree.
 - Wanted to visit family in the US.

All his applications were denied. The reason? We believe it was because he applied too late in his life.
- **F-1:** Students who can pay their own tuition. You can work on Campus and do limited scholarships if your institution approves of it (your institution sponsors you)
- **J-1:** “Exchange visitors” Students whose tuition is paid by their own government’s funds (this is my Visa). Some of them (like me) are subject to:
 - the 2-year rule, where you have to return to your home country for 2 years.
 - You are sponsored by an agency. You cannot work, internships must be approved by your sponsor agency.
 - Can only go back home 30 days per year
- **K-1:** Fiancé(e) of a US citizen Visa
- **T-1:** Victim of trafficking Visa
- **U-1:** Victim of criminal abuse Visa

36. Green card country assignments and priorities



A quick rundown of how the US allocates Green Cards:

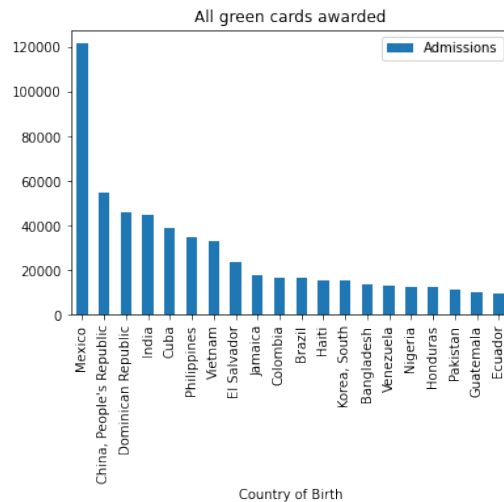
- **U.S. Citizen spouses: INFINITE.** Yes, if every adult American was single and married an alien the US would need to provide green cards for 260 million aliens. This would be a very wacky/chaotic way of solving world extreme hunger/poverty and achieving world peace.
- **226K⁵:** For non-immediate green cards
- **140K⁶:** For work-related green cards.
 - *Caveat: Relatives of Work green card holders get work green cards, not family green cards. Let's say John Doe got an EB1 green card and has a wife and 4 kids. Instead of him taking up 1 Work green card and 5 Family green cards, the government will give his family 6 work green cards.*

Every country gets a capped number of green cards [56](this is ridiculous, think India vs Mexico Switzerland vs Mongolia). This does not make America more diverse [57]. Could you

⁵ But individual countries may only get a 7% of this number of Visas, ~15K. Mexico is the only country that has consistently topped out this cap. Because of the backlog, wait times can take up to 30 years. China and India are closely following.

⁶ individual countries may only get a 7% of this number of Visas, ~9.8K. India Has consistently capped this for the past few years, with China and Mexico following close.

realistically tell me that people from Belgium vs the Netherlands are that much different from people from New Delhi, Bombay? This just benefits smaller population countries, the ones that have high incomes and close ties to the US... this benefits Europe. **Reference**

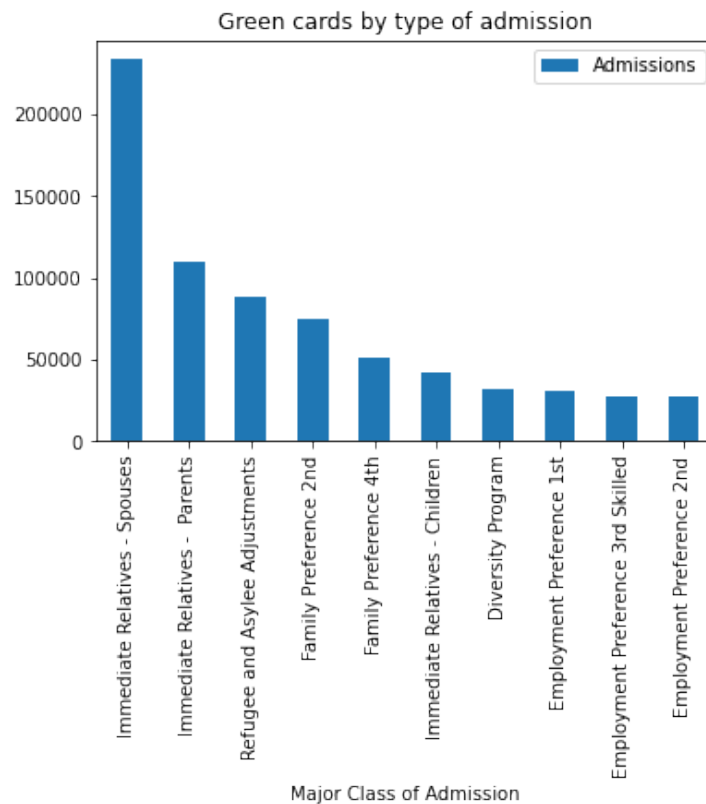


Marriage to American citizens green card applications are not capped. Each country has a maximum number of green cards (7% of the family green card cap and 7% of the work green card cap). extended family and work[56]. This policy comes from WW2 veterans taking European wives, American women getting angry, and a law was passed to benefit men (no, this is not a joke [58]).

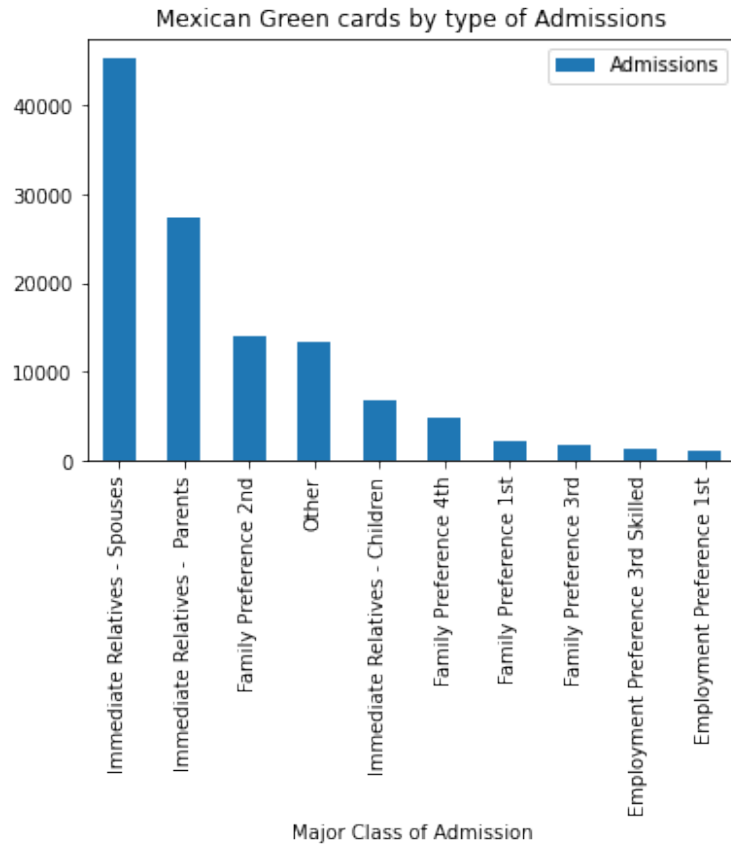
Categories of Permanent Legal Immigration to United States, Capped and Uncapped

Immediate family of U.S. citizens		Numerical Limit
Spouses		None
Unmarried children under age 21		None
Parents of U.S. citizens who are age 21 and older		None
Family-sponsored preference immigrants		Numerical Limit
1 st Preference	Unmarried children age 21 and older of U.S. citizens	23,400
2 nd Preference	(A) Spouses and children of green-card holders (B) Unmarried adult sons and daughters of green-card holders	114,200*
3 rd Preference	Married adult sons and daughters of U.S. citizens	23,400
4 th Preference	Siblings of U.S. citizens who are age 21 and older	65,000
Employment-based preference immigrants		Numerical Limit
1 st Preference	Foreign nationals of "extraordinary ability," outstanding professors and researchers, multinational executives and managers	40,040
2 nd Preference	Foreign nationals who hold advanced degrees or demonstrate exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, or business	40,040
3 rd Preference	-- "Skilled workers" (foreign nationals capable of performing skilled labor, requiring at least two years of experience) -- "Professional workers" (foreign nationals who hold at least a baccalaureate degree) -- "Other workers" (foreign nationals capable of performing unskilled labor)	40,040 (but no more than 10,000 visas are available for "other workers")**
4 th Preference	"Special immigrants," including religious workers, international organization employees, and children who cannot be reunited with a parent because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect.	9,940
5 th Preference	Immigrant investors	9,940
Humanitarian Immigrants		Numerical Limit
Refugees		President sets an annual ceiling for refugee arrivals
Asylees		None
Other		Numerical Limit
Diversity Visa		55,000**
There are certain small classes of visas, including for certain Iraqis and Afghans who worked on behalf of the U.S. government, and for victims of crimes or human trafficking		None
<p>* At least 77 percent of the 2nd family preference green cards must be allocated to the 2A category.</p> <p>** In reality, there are only 5,000 green cards in the 3rd preference "other worker" category and 50,000 green cards in the Diversity Visa category because the 1997 <i>Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act</i> (NACARA) annually recaptures 5,000 green cards in both the "other worker" and Diversity Visa categories to offset visas issued to NACARA beneficiaries.</p>		

This infographic was taken from [56]. Remember to multiply the capped numerical limit by 0.07 to get the top for a country.

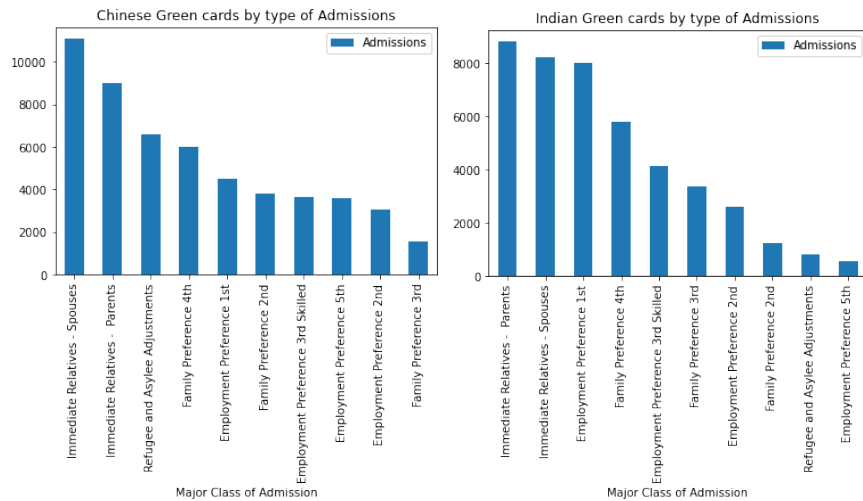


As a Mexican my support group is pushing me towards marriage because we are not a skilled group. None of my US relatives have advanced degrees. I know Chinese and Indians have support groups and role models of people who have attained citizenship and showed them the way. I do not have any work role models but I do have MANY marriage role models. Just look at the next graphs:



Mexico has clearly topped its caps for family, the system is so over clogged the average wait for a Family based green card (siblings) for Mexicans is 25 years. As

the next figure shows, India has topped its work caps and China is closely following.



I need to get more data but as a rule of thumb, Indian EB-3 Visas have a 90 year wait[59]. China and Mexico are closely following, so some years the EB-2 work green cards are over clogged, EB-3 are always overclogged

Based on Homeland Department[60] data my prospects are not that good getting a work-based green card . I will make a stronger statistical analysis on a nationwide level ⁷ .

Some important facts:

- **The country cap:** each country can only take 7% of the total green card for capped work and family (extended family) related green cards
- **The work paradox:** if you get a work green card and bring your family, your family members get work green cards
- The citizenship lottery applies to all countries, except Mexico, China, India, Honduras.
- **Cutoff dates:** green card applications have “cutoff dates” which represent the last application that was successful Here’s the July 2022 cutoff dates for family green cards:

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01JUL16	01JUL16	01JUL16	01DEC01	22APR15
F2A	C	C	C	C	C
F2B	01OCT16	01OCT16	01OCT16	08AUG01	01OCT13
F3	01OCT09	01OCT09	01OCT09	15APR01	08NOV03
F4	08NOV07	08NOV07	22FEB06	15MAR01	22APR04

Here’s the one for work July 2022:

Employment-based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	EL SALVADOR GUATEMALA HONDURAS	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	C	C	C	C	C

⁷ I am working on cooler graphs and statistical analysis for this. [60] All the analysis will be uploaded to a github repository [66]

2nd	C	01APR19	C	01DEC14	C	C
3rd	C	22MAR18	C	15JAN12	C	C
Other Workers	08MAY19	01JUN12	08MAY19	15JAN12	08MAY19	08MAY19
4th	C	C	08NOV17	C	01APR20	C
Certain Religious Workers	C	C	08NOV17	C	01APR20	C
5th Unreserved (including C5, T5, I5, R5)	C	22NOV15	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: Rural (20%)	C	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: High Unemployment (10%)	C	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: Infrastructure (2%)	C	C	C	C	C	C

Mexico is the only country that has topped its Family-Based Green Card Cap. Based on the current backlog, there is a 30-year line if you want to go through that option. Here's a table from March 2012.

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	C	C	C	C
2nd	C	01MAY10	01MAY10	C	C
3rd	15MAR06	01JAN05	22AUG02	15MAR06	15MAR06
Other Workers	15MAR06	22APR03	22AUG02	15MAR06	15MAR06
4th	C	C	C	C	C
Certain Religious Workers	C	C	C	C	C
5th Targeted Employment Areas/ Regional Centers and Pilot Programs	C	C	C	C	C

India has capped its work-based green card cap. China is following close. Mexico sometimes over caps its EB3 visas and occasionally over caps EB2 and even EB1.

After going through the data, I acknowledge that this cap hurts:

1. Mexican families: (if I was Canadian, with my family structure, I would be a citizenship by now)
2. Indian workers
3. Chinese and Indian Relatives
4. Mexican Workers

I agree Indians and Chinese have an extremely competitive work immigration environment, yet they have better options back home compared to Mexico [61] and in CMU they have support networks and role models that compensate for this.

Ask an Indian or Chinese alien student and they can mention plan B's C's and D's in case they have to go back home, going back home may even be their plan A. But for Mexican Aliens, the US is our only alternative, plan B is becoming high school teachers in Mexico.

I am currently doing a data analysis summary to explain this with Pandas on a Jupiter notebook.

6. Citizenship Options

Pathway	Description/Requirements	Approx. time	Cost	Availability/Cap	Reference
Marriage to a US citizen	Marrying a US citizen (see next section presentation)	5 months – 15 months	500\$USD	NO CAP	https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-130instr.pdf https://visagrader.com/uscis-processing-times/i-130
Making a US citizen	Making a US citizen the old-fashioned biological way	21 years (my US citizen offspring should be 21)	135\$	NO CAP	
H1B1 Visa	Getting a company sponsor with a lawyer team to apply for me	6 months*		CAP 40K, country battle-royal, big company sponsor	
EB-1 (Employment based first option)	According to some sites I should get a Nobel Prize According to others, 100 citations in good journals	<3 months		No CAP, no job offer needed (Oscar, Pulitzer, Olympic Medalist)	
EB-2	Professional with Postgraduate (Ph.D.) in STEM fields doing work, company offer needed	8 months		MEXICO CAP, it is capped on bad years	https://www.immi-usa.com/eb-2-vs-eb-3/#~:text=The%20EB%2D1%20green%20card,screenings%2C%20and%20increased%20wait%20times.
EB-3	Bachelors, company offer	2 years		MEXICO CAP, almost always capped	
Investor	Investing, I could never make this money, but some consulting firms are willing to give this?		900K		
FX (Family based)	No way to do this, as I do not have a immediate or 2 nd degree relative with citizenship	+40 years, I will die		Mexico is the only country which has	

		before this		exceeded this cap	
EB-4 Religious Worker	Become a religious worker			Mexico CAP, almost always available	
OPT	Go for training at an American company after getting my PhD.	5 months		No CAP?	

7. Marriage Presentation

As the previous data shows, marriage green cards are not capped, not only that but the process is streamlined and ANYONE can get them, no lawyers needed.

I have a dozen friends in my age cohort who got American boyfriends and are planning to marry them and solve their citizenship problem (or who have already done this). Many of them are in my Fulbright cohort and got marriage proposals in their first months being here. We have memes about this, some friends just call it “going Pocahontas”.

Every day I wake up thinking about all this and I feel an extreme amount of pressure to find an American Spouse (at this point I don’t give a damn about them, my only requirement is that they have an American Passport) to solve my alien problems in the long term. It’s a huge weight. Every day I feel like my future depends more on my finding a spouse (physical attractiveness) than the quality of my research. This is leading to a mild? case of body dysmorphia.

Every day I wake up and think of myself not as a person, but as a consumer object to be sold to American citizens in exchange for a green card:

- *I should be more charismatic*
- *I should have an athletic body*
- *I should have a car*
- *I should be talented at everything I do.*
- *What the hell can increase my chances?*

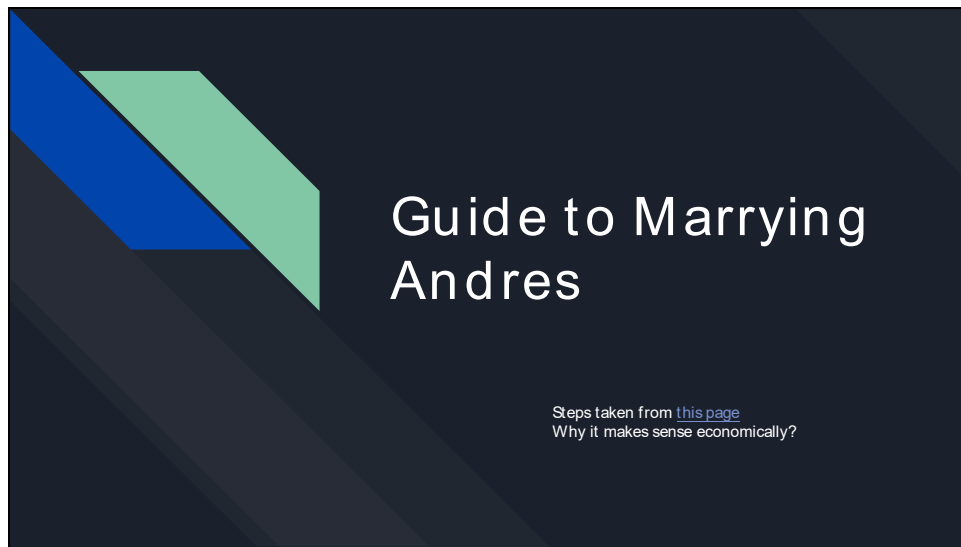
I guess this is how Victorian women felt when looking for an “upwards” marriage. I wish I could conduct my dating life like everyone.

My workaholicism vs this conundrum is crushing me. There’s variables I can control (my weight, getting a six pack, Being charismatic) vs others I cannot control (American beauty preferences, having a car). I think about this every day, and this severely handicaps the way I approach you Americans. I don’t like being a product to be sold.

All this warps how alien view basic human rights. Every time I cross the border there's a Mexican citizen crying about an abusive relationship "he hit me but I stayed for my green card" , "he deported me" and blank faced immigration officials who don't care or just don't know how to handle_[62]. Most of us would endure a physically or emotionally abusive relationship for a few years to obtain citizenship. [63]


Your government has created a new caste system, and your silence and ignorance about it keeps it alive and thriving.

Slide 1



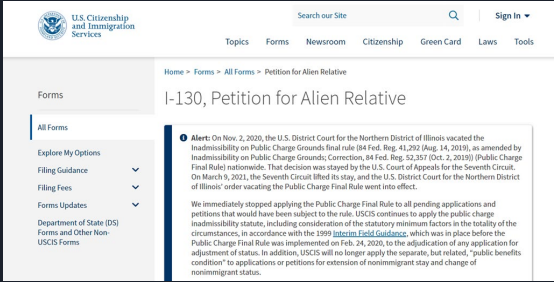
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MU97q1_Dd2_T9NbTd74HhZsgZ9eHWpX52kcZmgNR7cA/edit?usp=sharing

Slide 2




Steps to Green Card I-130

- Fill I 130 and other documents
 - Joint Bank Accounts
 - Photos Together
 - Healthcare and Insurance together



<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1325>

Slide 3




Steps to Green Card I-130

- K1 Visa for this
- Only alien referral?

(c) MARRIAGE FRAUD
Any individual who knowingly enters into a marriage for the purpose of evading any provision of the [immigration laws](#) shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or fined not more than \$250,000, or both.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1325>



Steps to Green Card I-130

- Fill I 130 and other documents
- Primary Documents
 - Joint Bank Accounts
 - Photos Together
 - Healthcare and Insurance together


Form I-130 Required Documents

The I-130 petition must be filed with supporting documents to prove that the sponsor is allowed to file an I-130 and that they have a valid family relationship with the person seeking a green card.

The required supporting documents for an I-130 petition typically include:

- Proof that the sponsor is a U.S. citizen or green card holder
- Proof that a legally valid relationship exists
- Proof that the relationship is not fraudulent
- Proof of name changes for the sponsor and/or the person seeking a green card, if any
- Proof of nationality of the person seeking a green card

Supporting documents required for a family-based green card include, for instance, a copy of the sponsor's U.S. birth certificate to prove that they're a U.S. citizen.



Steps to Green Card

- Get marriage certificate
- Fill I-130
 - Primary Documents
 - Affidavits from others
- If I am in the US
 - I-485

Affidavits from other people

If secondary evidence is not available, you must provide at least two additional **personal affidavits** (written statements) from other people who know about the given event, such as your birth or marriage. The person who writes an affidavit is an **affiant**. The affiant swears to the affidavit's truth. When submitting affidavits to USCIS, experts recommend a typed letter. Every affidavit should cover these basic points:

- Full name and address of affiant
- Date and place of birth
- Relationship to applicant and spouse
- An account of your relationship explaining:
 - How you met the couple
 - Time frame you have known the couple
 - Give a sense of the frequency (i.e. frequently socialize)
 - Details explaining how the person acquired this knowledge (i.e. friends)
- Date and signature


Remember, the affidavit is supporting evidence to prove that the couple has a bona fide marriage. That is, the marriage is true and genuine. So the affiant should ideally provide a short account of why he or she believes this is true. The affiant can use a story that proved mutual commitment, for instance, and the hard work that the couple have put into the immigration process.

The letter does not need to be notarized, but include a valid ID; it is helpful to include a sworn statement that states, "I swear, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

Why does it make sense economically

- [Excel Sheet](#)

Potential Jobs	Salary	After Taxes	After Andres	Your cut	Per month	Total
Amazon Robotics	120000	84000	62000	37200	3100	372000
Pharmaceutical Company	90000	63000	41000	24600	2050	246000
Machining Workshop	60000	42000	20000	12000	1000	120000





My perks

- I am bilingual
- I have good hygienic habits and can take all housework chores (will follow whatever hygienic or cultural imperatives you follow)
- I will follow any eating restrictions you have
- I can drive for long hours

According to Americans:

- I'm an average dancer in Mexico?
- I like rock climbing
- MY american friends told me to put a photo here

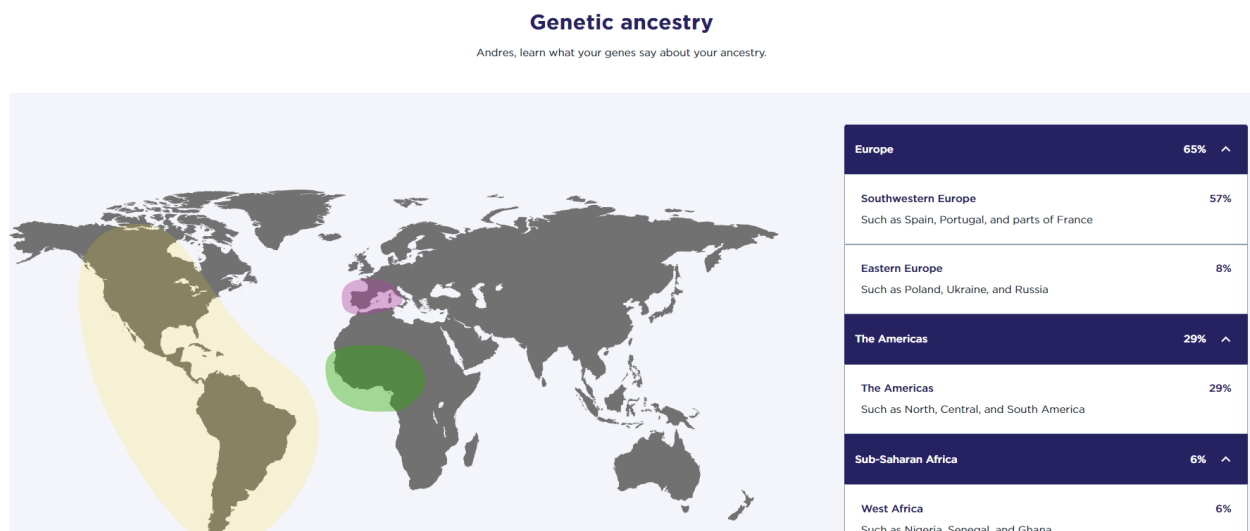



Financial Rundown

Green card cost	1760					
Medical Examinations	500					
Weddings	50000					
Andres living needs	22000					
Travelling for paperwork	5000					
Percentage*	0.6					
Years	10					
Tax Rate	0.7					
Potential Jobs	Salary	After Taxes	After Andres	Your cut	Per month	Total
Amazon Robotics	120000	84000	62000	37200	3100	372000
Pharmaceutical Company	90000	63000	41000	24600	2050	246000
Machining Workshop	60000	42000	20000	12000	1000	120000

*Percentage is based on negotiations based on a spectrum	
Anonymous Parties, no trust and I do all paperwork and get affidavits	0.2
Friends, same house, I do all paperwork and get affidavits	0.4
Friends, shared paperwork and responsibilities	0.6
1 Side Open Relationship, shared paperwork, shared affidavits	0.8
2 Side Open relationship, shared paperwork shared affidavits	0.9
True Love, basically throw away this spreadsheet	1

8. Race in America vs Race in Mexico and Race along the border vs me



*Myd ad is still looking at All of Us genomic testing and what the hell happened to my Asian 4-12%

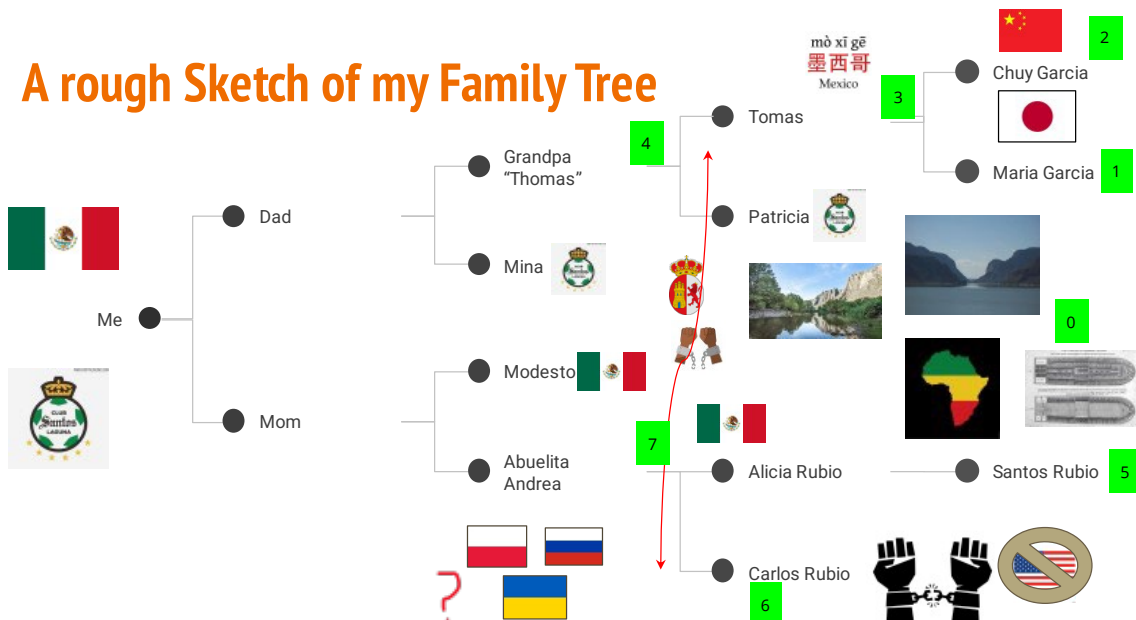
To end this on a happier note, here's the presentation I use when someone asks my ethnicity. My cultural heritage is 100% Mexican, and my genetic heritage is complicated.

"We get you are mexican. So what's like your original ethnicity, Andrés?"

*Complete and thorough guide for confused Americans (and others)



A rough Sketch of my Family Tree



Field 0 LAGUNERO hunter gatherers

- Desert gatherers
- Animist
- Peaceful



Laguneros were a nomad hunter gatherer group, they also liked rock climbing and spoke Uto Nahuatl. They are the majority of my native American genes. Lagunero nomad culture disappeared but the inhabitants integrated into modern agricultural towns

Field 0 LAGUNERO post 1500

- Population Drop 1/10
- Catholic and Spanish Conversion
- Migration from center of MEXico people fed up with the caste system



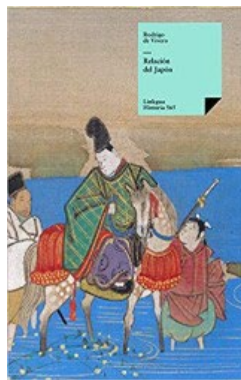
Field 0 LAGUNERO today



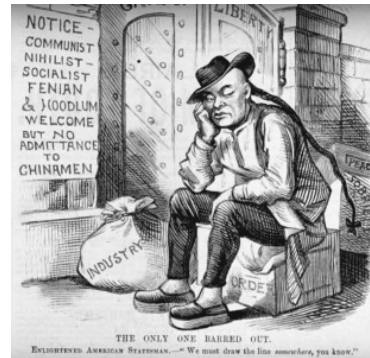
We are mostly poor, uneducated, but friendly
Due to clashes with catholic church we will go back to the nomad culture step by step
I am the youngest member of the turtle clan.

Sector 1 戦国時代, Sengoku Jidai

- Rodrigo de Vivero y Velazco
- Keicho Embassy
- Hasekura Tsunenaga



Sector 2 Canton



Deported from California

Sector 3 “5 de Mayo”

French Genocide of the Japanese community



We have a family katana in Israel.

Sector 3 “5 de Mayo”



Zacatecas mine

Sector 4 “Patricide”

Jerez Zacatecas



Grandpa shot his father

Sector 5 “Texas War”



Laguenros, Coahuilos and ex-slaves [64]

Sector 6 “Texas War”

Santos Rubio



Sector 7 Mexican Revolution



During the revolution there was a Chinese Genocide in my town. I had relatives on both sides.

My background is diverse and conflicting, other Mexicans will go to a peaceful afterlife but I will go into a multicultural Valhalla with my ancestors fighting each other.

My family left Catholicism long ago and became atheist. We will legally become animists for environmental reasons*

9. The Voyager Probe

How does an alien see *you*? We mainly know about America from American media, some great examples:

- The Simpsons
- F.R.I.E.N.D.S
- Stranger Things

But as media consumer adults, we know this is entertainment. I may one day be an American citizen so I have decided to educate myself and try to be the best version of an American citizen I can be. Here's a list of some of my favorite books on America's current problems and how to

solve them (I want to be part of the solution when I have a political voice). Based on my good reads list of books, I am compiling an “Alien guide to solving America”

Race in America

- How to Be an Antiracist: Kendi, Ibram X
- The Sum of Us by Heather McGhee
- 400 Souls

Gender Issues in America

- Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit
- Bad Feminist Roxane Gay

Environmental Issues in America

- The Future Earth

Class Issues in America

- The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite by Daniel Markovitz
- The Weirdest People in the World
- Why are we polarized
- Capitalism without Capital

10. Wanna Help?

So you may be wondering “how can I solve this?” Well, my main advice is as I said in a previous section, if you can’t break the glass ceiling, at least break your glass floor.

1. Short Term

The smallest amount of empathy can make wonders. Understand that the crisis we face are real. Give us some slack if we are in a tight spot. Give us a ride to the grocery store. Just put yourselves in our shoes.

2. Medium Term

Help us find jobs, internships, spouses, sponsor companies. Educate others on this. Talk to your congressperson about this. If you find an alien that made it, connect that alien with people like me.

3. Long Term

Open Borders

One of my favorite books (*Open Borders* [19]) describes this concept. Just, let us in. You achieved emancipation, women's vote, gay marriage, things that were seen as unthinkable and unpractical then as *Open Borders* are now.

New citizenship requirements and open pathways

If that's too radical for you what about changing citizenship exam/requirements? I can come up with a few better requirements than the clusterfuck we have now:

- An exam and/or graded presentation on anti-racism, inequality, LGBTQ+ rights, and environmental consciousness. Ask immigrants to educate themselves on American problems and their solutions. This may be too *politically radical* though.
- Ask applicants to bring 5 references from people with different racial, socioeconomic, and political backgrounds. Let's say I can bring a white conservative Republican, a black LGBTQ+ identifying city councilwoman, an Asian business owner to the immigration office and they can all vouch for me being an asset to the country. This would be slightly unfair to introverted people.

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11. Cheat sheet for dealing with the third quadrant in conversation

So how will I deal with the third quadrant when they eventually reach the topic of illegal aliens crossing the border. I like to be sincere with them.

- *I paid more taxes than you*
- *I don't have an easy time as a Ph.D. student, but unauthorized migrants have it worse*
- *Unauthorized migrants help “legal” immigrants, way more than you or the government*
- *I am not different from unauthorized immigrants, not smarter, not better, not more ethical, I just got lucky*
- *I don't hate unauthorized migrants, and you thinking I hate them is a smart tactic, but it's just not true. Hating them will not help me.*
- *Mexicans are not coming here anymore, we would rather go to Canada*