Oral Presentation O5.1

THE EFFECTS OF U.S. MIGRATION ON MIGRANTS OF OAXACA, MEXICO UPON THEIR RETURN

Megan Adams and Rebecca Gearhart*
Department of Sociology, Illinois Wesleyan University

Ninety percent of the Mexican population in the U.S. lives in only twelve states, Illinois being one of them. While migration can be beneficial for the migrant, the U.S., and Mexico, it is also an issue of concern because of the dangers involved in it. This research, conducted in the southwestern state of Oaxaca, Mexico in the fall of 2003, includes interviews of nine migrants who have spent time working in the U.S. and have now returned to their original communities. Some issues addressed include the reincorporation and readjustment of Oaxacan migrants after they return from time spent abroad, the effects of U.S. culture upon these migrants, the repercussions the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has had on Oaxacan communities, and suggestions for solving the problematic phenomenon of migration from Mexico to the U.S.