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# Migration and refugee governance and dynamics in Latin America

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# Migration trends

Largest intra-regional migration stocks  
2010 and 2019



Source: migrationdataportal.org

Source: IOM, 2019

## ESTIMATES ON OUTSTANDING DESTINATIONS 2015 - 2019

According to updated information based on the official available data (such as population statistics, migration records and estimations), the map shows the approximated stock of Venezuelans in selected countries. Owing to limitations of the sources it is difficult to quantify the irregular migration as well as the population on the move.



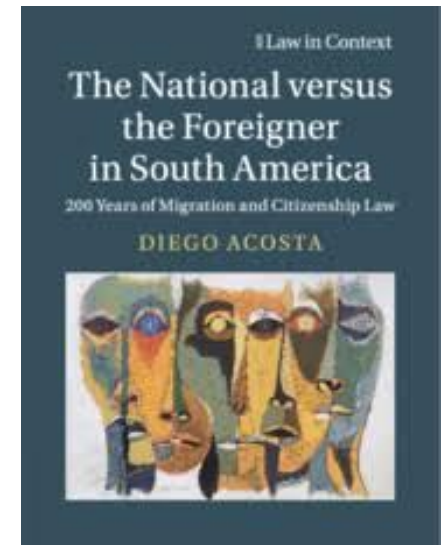
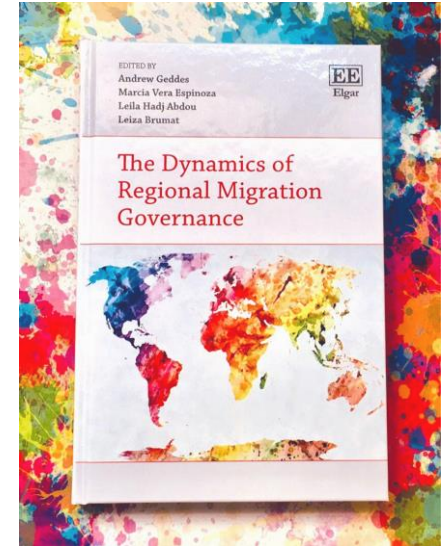
\*\*Own estimation on the basis of National Censuses and permanent residence permits granted.

1. UN DESA (2017) Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017).

# Regional Migration Governance

- Non-linear migration governance with marked differences in each sub-region.
- Politicisation of migration and the return of a restrictive approach to migration governance based on ideas of 'management' and 'control'
- Two approaches:  
**Migration as a form of adaptation** → Liberal/Human rights based approach (2000s)  
**Migration as crisis** → Re-emergence of a restrictive and securitised approach that coexists with the 'progressive' framework (since 2015)
- Organic juxtaposition between openness and closeness (control policies with a 'human face' – Domenech 2009)

See Brumat, Acosta and Vera Espinoza 2018; Margheritis 2015; Ceriani 2013; Brumat 2019, among others.





# The Refugee Protection regime(s) in Latin America

- Latin America is unique in terms of refugee protection due to the co-existence of different protection regimes and systems, from the international, regional and national levels.
- These include the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Refugee Convention) and its 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967 Protocol) and the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), the 1984 Cartagena Declaration and the regime derived from its review process; the Inter-American Human Rights system with the Organization of American States; and national legislation either specific to refugees or focusing on migrants including refugees.



Jubilut, L.L., Vera Espinoza, M., Mezzanotti, G. (eds) (forthcoming) Latin America and Refugee Protection: regimes, logics and challenges.

# The impacts of COVID-19 on migrant and refugee populations

- We reviewed living conditions of migrants and refugees in cities in 6 countries of the region prior to the pandemic (Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay) and explored immediate impacts of COVID-19 and states responses.
- The consequences of lockdown measures and border closures have exacerbated the conditions of vulnerability and precarity experienced by many migrants in the region.
- Particularly in relation to job insecurity and job informality, limited access to health services, overcrowded accommodations and difficulties to access social security due to irregular status or lack of ID documents, among others .
- Mobility in immobility: return and forced (im)mobility

Bengochea, J., Cabezas, G., Gandini, L., Herrera, G., Luzes, M., Montiel, C., Prieto, Vi., Vera Espinoza, M., Zapata, G. P. (2020, in press). "COVID-19 y población migrante y refugiada. Análisis de las respuestas político-institucionales en ciudades". In F. Vera & V. Adler (Eds.), *Inmigrando: Fortalecer ciudades destino*, Vol. 2. Buenos Aires: BID.

**Thank you**  
**Any questions?**

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