Rhetoric Towards Undocumented Mexican Immigrants in Idaho

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Abstract
Immigration to the United States continues to increase. With this growth, the cultural and ethnic demographic of the United States has become even more diverse. As a result, it is essential to understand the dynamic of Latinos in the United States and subsequently the State of Idaho. Additionally, it is imperative to examine the rhetoric that enables stereotypes and misguided attitudes towards Latinos. This research project examines the rhetoric of the Trump administration and the influences of the rhetoric on Mexican immigration to Idaho. A mixed-methods approach is used; combining qualitative surveys and in-person, semi-structured interviews with undocumented Latinos in Idaho. This research informs the continual need to examine cultural diversity and rhetoric in Idaho.

Keywords
United States, Mexico, immigrants, stereotypes, undocumented, Latino(s)
I. Introduction

Immigration to the United States continues to increase. With this growth, the cultural and ethnic demographic of the United States has become even more diverse. As a result, it is essential to understand the dynamic of Latinos in the United States and subsequently the State of Idaho. Additionally, it is imperative to examine the rhetoric that enables stereotypes and misguided attitudes towards Latinos. By answering the research question: “How does the Trump Administration’s rhetoric influence practices towards undocumented Mexican immigrants in Idaho?” this research project examines the rhetoric of the Trump administration and the influences of the rhetoric on Mexican immigration to Idaho.

Per the 2010 U.S. Census, there is an estimated 11.7 million Mexican immigrants living in the United States; from these 11.7 million, an estimated 6.1 million are undocumented (Kinefuchi & Cruz, 2015). By 2060, the population of the United States is projected to be 29% Hispanic (Colby & Ortmann, 2015). In Idaho in 2014, the total Hispanic population was 198,000; this is about 12% of the overall state population (Demographic and Economic Profiles of Hispanics by State and County, 2014).

II. Methodology and Methods

Mixed methodology was utilized with both quantitative deductive and qualitative inductive approaches. Participants were purposefully selected for the qualitative interviews. All participants identified as residents of Idaho.

Quantitative
Quantitative deductive, close-ended surveys were collected anonymously using Qualtrics software. The survey was distributed via the researcher’s Facebook and Instagram social media platforms, as well as to the researcher’s university peers.

Qualitative
Qualitative inductive, open-ended, semi-structured interviews were held with eight participants. The researcher constructed interview questions and collected data from the eight participants in their natural environments.

Research Question: How does the Trump Administration’s rhetoric influence practices towards undocumented Mexican immigrants in Idaho?