

Edwin Trejo-Rivera, Yama Bobb and Itzel Ortiz

Dr. Ghosh

ENGL 1102

24 March 2022

### **Research Proposal for the evaluation of immigration policies after 9/11**

*Immigration laws and policies change constantly, but since 9/11, these laws have been modified in specific ways to keep certain people out. The terrorist attacks of September 11th exposed serious weaknesses in the United States' immigration and visa systems. Since this event happened when the U.S was in negotiation with Mexico about bilateral migration, the agreement collapsed almost immediately. Bilateral migration agreements are frameworks for collaboration between origin and destination countries to ensure that host countries will protect migrants from unethical employers, provide them with public services, and make it easier for remittance to be returned. Policies like this have strengthened, making life more safe and comfortable for immigrant families. This study aims to analyze how U.S Immigration laws have developed since 9/11 and how their development further impacts families crossing the American-Mexican border.*

*The immigration policy change is best expressed through the Netflix series, "Immigration Nation", where it shows the firsthand experience of not only the immigrants but also employees of ICE. Reviewing each episode brought insight into the new revisions to the immigration laws through two opposite sides. From the side of the immigrant families who have struggled with former President Trump's policy to remove all immigration violators, to the side of ICE that was now containing a higher influx of people than ever imagined.*

## **Problem or objective.**

Soon after gaining independence from Great Britain, the United States began restricting immigration, and the laws enacted since then have reflected the politics and migrant flows of the time. After the 9/11 attacks, immigration policies have been changed drastically. As a group, we aim to study the legal changes that have occurred since the 9/11 attacks and the impact they have had on our executive branch. We plan to analyze the immigration policies of the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations. With each administration changing laws on border control and protection service, we plan to consider the overall ethics of the situation.

This is an important topic to study because of the change in policies since the attacks affect each family. Starting with each administration. President Bush's plan for Comprehensive Immigration Reform proposed to increase security along the southern United States border with Mexico. President Obama chooses to reform Bush's plan for Comprehensive Immigration Reform by continuing to strengthen US borders; crackdown on companies that hire undocumented workers and hold undocumented immigrants accountable before they can earn their citizenship and streamline the legal immigration system for families, workers, and employers. President Trump created the Zero-Tolerance Policy which made each and every migrant – including asylum seekers – attempting to cross the U.S. border anywhere other than at an official port of entry was to be detained and criminally prosecuted. Biden is currently attempting to reverse President Trumps' policies by planning to boost refugee admissions and preserving deportation relief for unauthorized immigrants. Each presidential term the administration has changed policies and is constantly affecting each family crossing the border.

## **Review of Literature:**

The research being conducted and sources found thus far, has given us an ample view of how the U.S government has handled immigration policies since the drastic fall of the twin towers. Before the 9/11 attacks, the U.S claimed immigrants were the backbone of the nation and they welcomed immigrants to settle into their new lives(wwwICEgov, “The History of ICE”). However, when the attacks occurred they took the legislation in a new direction using fear to drastically shape the laws of migration affecting the lives of many migrants.

Most of the articles use the Trump administration as the scapegoat of all the immigration problems occurring in the country (Watson and Neely, “Immigrant deportations during the Trump administration”; “Installing fear”). Articles claim this because of the many anti-migration laws that have negatively impacted migrants ever since his administration took office. Laws like the Migrant Protection Protocol, which prohibited refugees from entering the U.S when applying for asylum, the Zero Tolerance Program, the policy that intended to criminally prosecute any illegal alien crossing the U.S leading to the separation of families, and the executive order 13780 which prohibited refugees applying for asylum from muslim oriented countries (Perez, Claudio J.; *Executive Order (EO)13780: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorism*). However one article claims that Trump was not solely responsible (Perez, Claudio J). This author believes there has been a gradual hostile approach to each policy since the attacks, rather than one person culprit. He describes it as the stacking of building blocks, emphasizing how each administration has contributed to the hostility of laws placed.

As the analysis of each source continued, there was a pattern among each article. It seemed to be that each administration had the discretion as to how much they wanted to enforce immigration. Being able to identify why this seemed to be the case would help clarify why these

changes occur so abruptly after a president's term. In an article it was discovered that having the control to shape migration policies was a power granted to the president through the constitution(Liptak). However this power was enhanced after the 9/11 attacks. The Homeland Security Act was a series of national security measures put in place that granted President Bush to establish the Homeland Security department, which later formed 22 departments like ICE and CBP(*The Office of Homeland Security is founded*). It was a sign for politicians that immigration could easily be maneuvered in whichever direction through the powers of the president. And if a president could control such policies, then they would appeal to their supporters and receive the praise needed to get reelected. In other words the motivation behind changing policies is fueled by what the acting president's voters want. However, this may not always be the case as proven through the Obama administration. President Obama promised immigrants a brighter future through the executive orders he would sign into place. While the administration signed orders such as DACA, a program that allowed illegal immigrants to have work authorizations if they met the requirements, they also created a chaotic environment inside their immigration detention centers and deported more immigrants than the Trump administration(*Consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA)*; Hauslohner). This is an instance where immigrants didn't necessarily have the influence to sway Obama from committing such acts.

After analyzing these sources it demonstrated that immigrants don't have enough legislation to protect them from ongoing changes in migration laws (Perez, Claudio J). If an administration has antagonistic views on immigrants, then they have the ability to make it harder for them to come and not just by securing the border. The administration will prevent refugees from coming in, even if it is through the legal way. (*Executive Order (EO)13780: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorism*; "The right way" 37:20-38:30 ). There is simply not enough

legislation that can stop the mood changes of an administration. The changes of policies across each administration can be compared to a child throwing tantrums. A family in a life threatening situation who travels to America to seek refuge, should not be uncertain whether or not they will be allowed to enter based on an aging child whose mindset changes constantly. So yes immigration legislation needs to be permanent as legal experts have recommended (Perez, Claudio J). The difficulty in that, as observed, is the fact that the constitution does not mention immigrants in a detailed manner(*Implied Power of Congress over immigration: Overview*). Because of this, lawmakers will continue the debate until a bipartisan agreement occurs.

### **Research Questions :**

- What were the changes in policies across the 3 identified eras?
- How has life as an immigrant been during these last 20 years?
- Has the ethics and compassion towards immigrants been disregarded?
- Has immigration drastically gotten worse during the 3 eras?
- Will illegal immigrants ever be granted the power to be like the rest of the American citizens?

### **Procedures/ Methods Section:**

We intend to have a qualitative approach through the first half of the research to later discuss our findings through a quantitative approach. In the beginning there will be an analysis conducted that will compare the changes in policies across 3 presidential administrations. Then a deep evaluation will occur to examine the case studies of families who were affected in each presidential term. Finally we would conclude by conducting a survey to determine if the

legislation imposed on immigrants was ethical and discuss any possible solutions to this ongoing situation.

Most of the research is heavily supported through secondary sources such as academic journals, media, and award winning documentaries but not limited to primary sources such as government websites and surveys conducted by our team. We also intend to conduct a small convenient survey of our classroom to determine whether the group classifies the changing legislation as ethical. It is important to conduct this particular survey in order to measure the ethics of the situation and have some varied opinion of a small sample.

### **Data Collection Method:**

Data will be gathered through secondary sources such as academic sources and documentaries, searching to find information about the opinionated policy changes throughout the modern-migration era in the U.S. Interviews of the living conditions as an immigrant during the 3 distinct presidential eras will also be analyzed and compared to the legislations imposed. Primary sources like government websites will be used to have an accurate account as to what the legislation actually was and wasn't. Majority of the academic journals were gathered through the EBSCO database, interviews that were gathered were through documentary sources and other sources were gathered through government websites or government publishers. Survey was done by using a class sample.

**Data Analysis:**

The research will conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis to understand the logistics behind the legislation and to analyze the interviews from the secondary sources. Ethical arguments will also ensue after analyzing the survey responses.

**Central Concept of Research:**

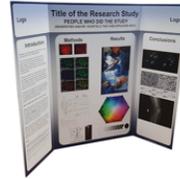
Once we have identified the distinct differences among each administration we will compare the differences with personal accounts and test the ethics of the situation through a survey that will determine whether or not it is ethical. While this sample does not represent the population as a whole, it will give us an indication of the distinction of opinions. We hypothesized that no result will be the same. If the hypothesis is supported, its significance will be valued. Valued because if everyone does think differently around the topic it will give us an indication as to why debates around the permanent immigration legislation continue to exist.

## Planning and Layout of Final Project:



### 1. Introduction

We intend to have a qualitative approach through the first half of the research to later discuss our findings through a quantitative approach. In the beginning there will be analysis conducted that will compare the changes in policies across 3 presidential administrations.



### 2. Context and Background

Each group member will add their research on each presidential term to the presentation. We will also research the case studies of families who were affected in each presidential term.



### 3. Lit Review

The Lit Review will have a section in our presentation where we list all of our sources. Since we plan to do a trifold board, we will assign a section where we paste relevant sources.



### 4. Analysis

Our analysis will be clearly shown in our video where we will explain our finding. We will also explain it through a visual as our trifold board. We will also introduce or survey results.



### 5. Implication

This section will talk about another research and what makes ours different and more important. It will also discuss how our sources connect with our topic.



### 6. Conclusion

This section will sum up or project. It will correlate all factors and leave a question for readers to keep in mind. We want this section to really emphasize on our topic to readers.

## Schedule:

Week 3/21-3/26- Go over roles and Research Proposal

Week 3/28-4/1- review questions, peer review, review layout of the poster

Week 4/3-4/8 - talk about ideas/ construct an informational outline, group meeting if possible

Week 4/8-4/11 talk and revise everyone's argument and ideas, group meeting

Week 4/15-4/19- have paragraphs written and ready to revise.

Week 4/19-4/23 once the paragraphs are fixed and revised start to write the final essay.

Week 4/25-4/30 submit final, (make sure there are no grammar errors, make sure punctuation is correct )

### **Bibliography:**

#### **Main topic: Comparing the differences and similarities of immigration policies in the Bush, Obama and Trump administrations**

“Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).” *USCIS*, 19 July 2021,  
<https://www.uscis.gov/DACA>.

“Executive Order (EO)13780: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorism.” *CBP Customer Service*, 27 Sept. 2019, [https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-3649?language=en\\_US](https://help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article-3649?language=en_US).

Hauslohner, Abigail. “The Trump Administration's Immigration Jails Are Packed, but Deportations Are Lower than in Obama Era.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 17 Nov. 2019,  
[www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/the-trump-administrations-immigration-jails-are-packed-but-deportations-are-lower-than-in-obama-era/2019/11/17/27ad0e44-f057-11e9-89eb-ec56cd414732\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/the-trump-administrations-immigration-jails-are-packed-but-deportations-are-lower-than-in-obama-era/2019/11/17/27ad0e44-f057-11e9-89eb-ec56cd414732_story.html).

“The History of ICE.” *YouTube*, uploaded by wwwICEgov, 11 September 2020,  
[youtu.be/0SvdsvsthXU](https://youtu.be/0SvdsvsthXU)

“Implied Power of Congress over Immigration: Overview.” *Legal Information Institute*, Legal Information Institute,  
[www.law.cornell.edu/constitution-conan/article-1/section-8/clause-18/IMPLIED-POWER-OF-CONGRESS-OVER-IMMIGRATION-OVERVIEW](http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution-conan/article-1/section-8/clause-18/IMPLIED-POWER-OF-CONGRESS-OVER-IMMIGRATION-OVERVIEW).

Liptak, Adam. “The President Has Much Power over Immigration, but How Much?” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 6 Feb. 2017,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/05/us/politics/trump-immigration-law.html>.

“The Office of Homeland Security Is Founded.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 18 July 2019, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/office-of-homeland-security-founded>.

Perez, Claudio J. “How U.S Policy Has Failed Immigrant Children: Family Separation in the Obama and Trump Era.” *Family Law Quarterly*, vol. 54, no.1, 2020, pp. 37-66.  
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,shib&db=lgs&AN=150565612&site=eds-live&scope=site&custid=ken1>. Accessed 17, February 2022.

### **1. Subtopic: Examining the lives of families who go through these changes**

A Policy Statement by the Society for Community Research and Action: Division 27 of the American Psychological Association. “Statement on the Effects of Deportation and Forced Separation on Immigrants, Their Families, and

Communities.” *American Journal of Community Psychology*, vol. 62, no. 1/2, Sept. 2018, pp. 3–12. EBSCOhost, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12256>.

"ICE Arrested Her Husband During His Immigration Interview." *YouTube*, uploaded by New York Civil Liberties Union, 19 July 2018, <youtu.be/V1PjT2GllTA>

“Installing fear” *Immigration Nation*, season 1, episode 1, Aug.2020. Netflix, [www.netflix.com/search?q=immigration&jbv=80994107](http://www.netflix.com/search?q=immigration&jbv=80994107)

“The Right Way.” *Immigration Nation*, season 1, episode 5, Aug.2020. Netflix, [www.netflix.com/search?q=immigration&jbv=80994107](http://www.netflix.com/search?q=immigration&jbv=80994107)

Watson, T. and Neely, E. *Immigrant deportations during the Trump administration*. Econofact. 25 March 2021, <https://econofact.org/immigrant-deportations-during-the-trump-administration>.

Accessed 17 March 2022

**2. Subtopic: Investigating how ethical is the legislation imposed when comparing it to the lives of immigrants**

Christopher Heath Wellman, and Phillip Cole. “In Defense of the Right to Exclude.”

*Debating the Ethics of Immigration : Is There a Right to Exclude?* Oxford

University Press, 2011. EBSCOhost,

[search-ebSCOhost-com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=409657&site=ehost-live&scope=site](http://search-ebSCOhost-com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=409657&site=ehost-live&scope=site).