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Ethical Considerations on International Migration: Reflections upon the Case of Chile

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A few words about Chile

Population size ~ 18million

OECD member since 2010 (GDP >20.000 USD)

Political and social stability during the past 3 decades

Large socioeconomic inequalities (Gini ~0.46)

Increasing immigrant population, from below 1% some decades ago to around 3.5% in 2017





About international migration:

1. Migration is a crucial social determinant of health.
2. Intra-regional international migration in Latin America (“South South” movements) with growing Central American countries moving South, too.
3. Chile a pole of attraction of international migrants in recent years.

In this presentation:

Based on 10 years of research on the relationship between international migration and health in Chile, I reflect upon some main ethical considerations.

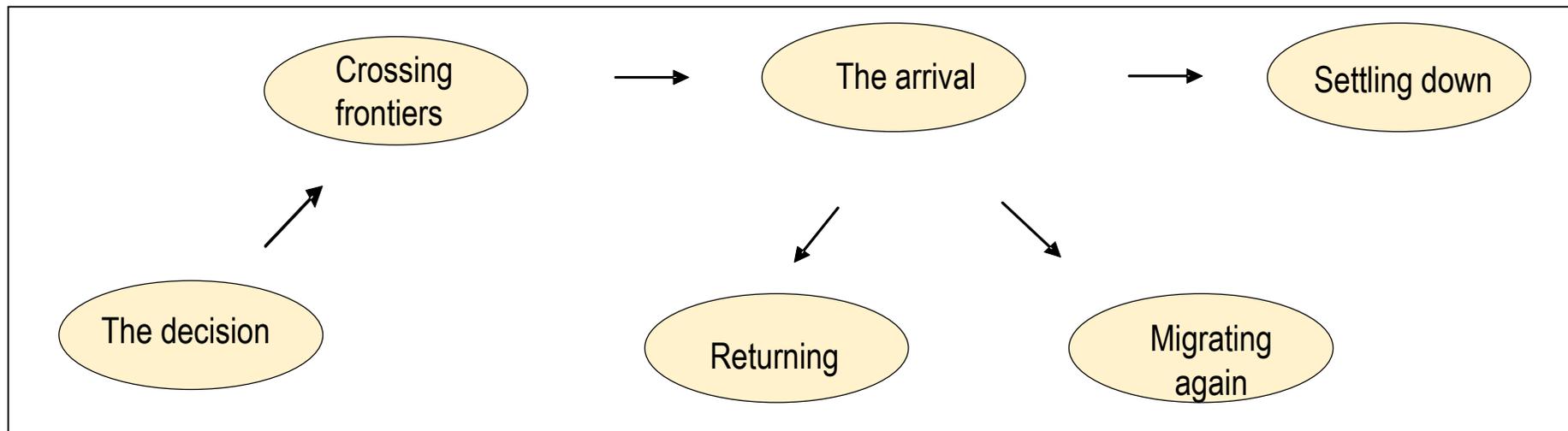


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The complex process of migrating and related risks at its different stages



(Stefoni, 2006, Cabieses, 2011)

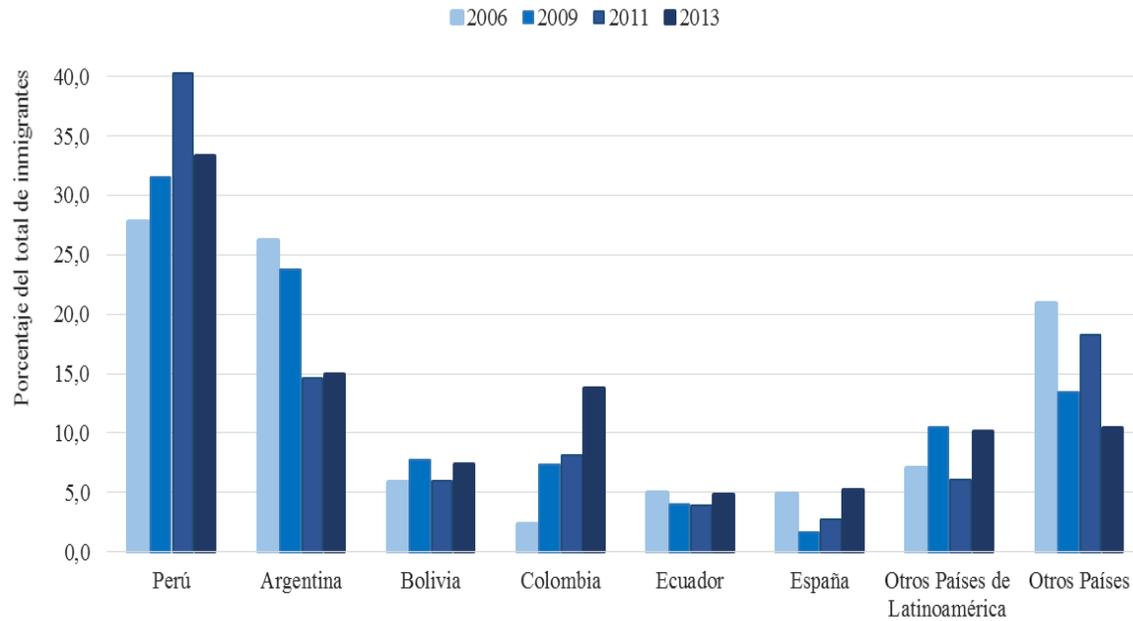
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1. Not all international migrants experience socioeconomic vulnerability
2. Not all need the same type or amount of social protection
3. But all of them, at some point of the process, might need support

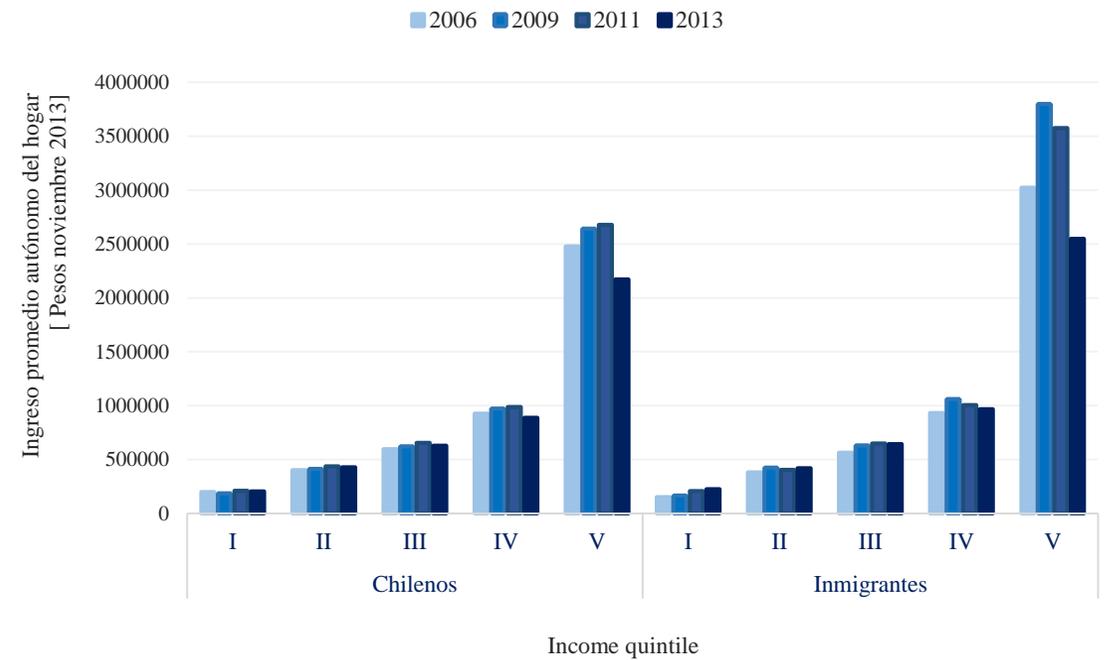


Great variability of country of origin, household income, educational level, and others, amongst international migrants to Chile

Country of origin, CASEN Survey



Household income quintile, CASEN survey



Greater socioeconomic vulnerability and poorer access to healthcare in immigrants compared to locals in relevant indicators like:

CASEN survey 2013

Indicator	Immigrants	Chileans
Multidimensional poverty	25%	20%
Critical household overcrowding (>5 people per bedroom)	10%	1%



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Ethical issues around the **process** of migration to Chile include:

- (i) Lack of participation of migrants in the design and evaluation of migration laws;
- (ii) Poor transparency of the entire decisional process for public policies in this matter;
- (iii) Insufficient accountability from the government towards organised migrants and individuals.



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Ethical issues around the **consequences** are:

- (i) Unequal distribution of opportunities to work, study and access healthcare;
- (ii) Reduced number of strategies to promote health among international migrants;
- (iii) Lack of discussions around who's responsibility is to look after migrants;
- (iv) Monitoring systems to inform society about their real life conditions, health and social needs, and human rights violations.

My main argument: *There is a clear and strong association between international migration, socioeconomic vulnerability, human rights infringement, and **poor health**.*

CASEN survey 2013

Indicator	Immigrants	Chileans
Total population with no healthcare provision entitlement in Chile	8.5%	2.5%
Children 0-14 years old with no healthcare provision entitlement in Chile	12.3%	1.2%
Requested a healthcare consultation but did not get it	24.5%	3.7%
Has had any medical treatment/surgery in past 12 months	13.3%	24.4%

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The “healthy migrant” effect disappears when controlling for socioeconomic status of international migrants to Chile (with similar prevalences to Chileans when living in low SES)

Immigrants stratified by SES

Health outcomes	Total Immigrants % (95%CI)	Chilean-born population % (95%CI)
Any disability	3.55 [2.49-5.02]	6.93 [6.74-7.13]
Any chronic condition or cancer	3.90 [2.68-5.63]	5.85 [5.68-6.02]

Low SES % (95%CI)	Medium SES % (95%CI)	High SES % (95%CI)
5.62 [3.21-9.66]	4.13 [2.68-6.33]	2.45 [1.11-5.33]
5.30 [2.22-12.13]	3.35 [1.73-6.38]	4.13 [2.43-6.93]

A photograph of a woman and a young girl sitting in a room. The woman is on the right, looking towards the camera. The girl is in the foreground, wearing a pink shirt. In the foreground, a baby is lying in a stroller, partially covered by a red blanket. The background shows rows of black chairs, suggesting a waiting area or a public space.

My main argument: *There is a clear and strong association between international migration, socioeconomic vulnerability, human rights infringement, and poor health.*

Therefore, protecting the human rights of international migrants is an ethical, legal and moral imperative, that continues to prove pending challenges in Chile.



Thank you!

