Asset Accumulation Strategies in 3 New Settlement Communities: A New Approach to Understanding Immigration Processes

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Outline

• Changes
• What it meant for MU – The Land Grant System
• Our Approach
• The Design

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Food processing companies with 500 or more Employees and Latina/o Population Growth Change: 1990 to 2000

Lazos and Jeanetta, Cambio de Colores 2002
Women and Wellbeing: Selected Missouri Counties with Latino/a Households: Types 2000

- Less Than National Average
- Higher Than National Average
- More Than 2x Growth
- More Than 4x Growth
- More Than 8x Growth

LEP Enrollment ranges from 0.6% to 29.2%

Examples:
- 0.6%
- 29.2%

OSEDA.

Disparity Index ranges from 1.12 to 20.45
Examples:
1.12
20.45

Note counties with high rates and low disparity index. Decker, 2005:
Hispanic Search Rates are typically the highest of any race/ethnicity group; Contraband Hit Rates for Hispanics are typically the lowest of any race/ethnicity group.
The Land Grant System Impact on Research

Changes in the state

Knowledge, Data, and Outreach

University of Missouri System

Research

University of Missouri Extension

Cambio Center
Premise

“Recent developments in the cultural identity literature can help us to move beyond a deficits approach to viewing culture not as an obstacle but as a resource from which individuals draw to create strategies to function in various domains in society (Berry 2003).

This new orientation shifts us away from a deficit model for thinking about how individuals of different cultures gain and lose in the process of integration to recognizing the multiple ways that individuals can adapt in new and ever changing environments without suffering loss of identity in the process.

This approach shifts our attention to looking at what the newcomers offer and leads us to ponder how we can engage them in the future development and prosperity of the new settlement communities.” (Asset Accumulation Strategies, 2006)
The purpose of this research is to examine the strategies newcomers employ to accumulate assets, minimize their vulnerability to risk exposure and become part of their new communities.

“Getting by and getting ahead”

The following questions guide the study:
- What are the strategies Latino immigrants use to integrate into communities and lead sustainable, high quality lives?
- What factors facilitate or impede their economic integration?
Strengths Based Model: Livelihoods, Capitals, and the Context of Reception

Livelihood Outcomes
+Building Assets: economic and social wellbeing
-Vulnerabilities: mobility

Livelihood Strategies
capabilities – the ability to act

Economic Capital (savings, assets)
Cultural Capital Identity & Institutions
Human Capital (Education, Skill, Language Proficiency Nutrition Health)
Social Capital networks of support: bridging and bonding

Community Climate (Context of Reception)
Racial Profiling Integrating (+)
Financial Institutions
School Climate Alienating (-)
Bridging Institutions CBOs
Livelihood Strategies
Networks
Context of Reception

How these take shape: Capitals and identity
   – Economic Integration
   – Social Integration
   – Community Wellbeing

Community Context: The receiving matt
   – Perceptions and bridging institutions
Recent developments in the cultural identity literature can help us move beyond a deficit approach to viewing culture as an obstacle but as a resource from which individuals draw to create strategies for functioning in various domains in society (Berry, 2003). This new orientation shifts us away from a deficit model for thinking about how individuals of different cultures gain and lose in the process of integration to recognizing the multiple ways that individuals can adapt in new and ever changing environments without sacrificing loss of identity in the process. 

This approach shifts our attention to looking at what newcomers offer and leads us to ponder how we can engage them in their developmental and prosperity of the new settlement communities. (Asset Accumulation Strategies, 2009).

THE COMMUNITIES

**Milan**: Calhoun County is a community with large corporate agriculture and plant processing. Latinos families settle because of employment opportunities.

**Hannibal**: Marion County is the heart of a large regional entertainment and recreation industry that serves as an important source of jobs for people from surrounding small towns.

**MEXLIA**: Pettis County has a diverse economy with manufacturing plants, services, and a retail sector that attracts labor from surrounding communities. Sedalia has been selected as a Dream initiative community. They will receive support to engage in downtown redevelopment and revitalization efforts.

THE METHOD

An asset accumulation strategies model is based on the sustainable livelihoods framework, and examines how newcomer families use their capitals—economic, human, social, and cultural—in income earning strategies, and the role that community climate plays in the process of economic integration.

The strategy model focuses on strategies chosen by the community that lead to community change, while recognizing the critical role that community climate plays in the process of economic integration.

**Strengths-Based Model:** Livelihoods, capitals, and the context of reception.

**Bendelbrouwer’s (1979) Ecological Model:** The context of change.

**Factors:**
- Focus Groups
- Phenomena
- Anti-Capital Consumer Importance
- Core Competences
-領略
- Experiences
- Attitudes

**Outcomes:**
- Economic benefits
- Social benefits
- Environment effects

**Basics:**
- Human capital
- Social capital
- Financial capital
- Economic capital
- Human capital
- Social capital
- Experiences
- Attitudes

**Community Climate:**
- Community satisfaction
- Social support
- Economic opportunities

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