



University of Idaho
College of Agricultural
and Life Sciences

**Agricultural Economics and
Rural Sociology**

Agricultural Sciences Bldg. Rm 39
875 Perimeter Dr. MS 2334
Moscow, ID 83844-2334
208-885-6262

Statement of Research

I have developed three primary research lines: global migration and globalization, quantitative population studies, and ethnic economies and community development. While I am well-trained in these topics as an academic, I also have a personal passion for understanding how these areas relate to inequalities. My enthusiasm for sociology began as an undergraduate, due to my interest in global disparities in education, health, and standard of living.

My research is motivated by my desire to uncover inequalities in multiple contexts. While much of my training has been in the study of international migration, I consider myself a *global sociologist* concerned with matters related to the increasingly globalized world and the consequences of such global transformations for individuals and society in general. Therefore, I study inequalities at the individual, group, and societal levels. My dissertation engaged in these conversations on global changes, but all of my research investigates inequalities.

To my research, I bring a pragmatic methodological worldview and value research design that uses quantitative methods, qualitative methods, or both. The pragmatic approach emphasizes seeking answers to research questions through the use of any methods and data available. Such an approach requires creativity in research design and versatility in collecting and analyzing data. As a quantitative and qualitative researcher, I welcome opportunities to bring together multiple forms of data to better understand the social world. This approach influences my teaching on research design, as well. I emphasize gaining skills in multiple methods and stress the importance of understanding the epistemological grounding of research methodologies even at the undergraduate level.

My research on global migration is evident in my graduate work. My dissertation, completed in the spring of 2019, contributes to the understanding of mobility in North America by shedding light on an understudied migration flow: migration *from* the United States. In this project, I investigated the topic through quantitative and qualitative methods. I examined demographic changes using secondary data and analyzed the group's representation in the media to obtain a holistic understanding of American emigration. My dissertation contributes to sociological knowledge in general and the field of migration studies in particular through methodological contributions regarding a pragmatic approach, furthering the understanding of reverse and alternative migration flows, and content analysis of media framing of transnationalism and transnational migration. At present, several pieces from this project are in preparation for submission to peer-reviewed journals.

Additional work on global migration includes a forthcoming collaborative piece on labor migration in the United States' grain crop industry. As co-author, I contributed to the writing and analysis. This piece is forthcoming as a peer-reviewed book chapter in an edited work on immigration, food, and agriculture from MIT Press. It examines the role of migration policies and public sentiment in shaping how the agriculture industry changes its practices and technology adoption. We argued that dependence on migrant farm labor is causing problems related to herbicide-resistant (HR) weeds, creating a demand for manual labor from foreign farmworkers. We examined this problem using focus groups, which revealed that labor shortages were a critical barrier to HR weed control. This piece demonstrates how migrant labor scarcity, specifically from Mexico, is impacting reliance on technological innovation in the herbicide industry.

In addition to my work on human migration, I have worked as a collaborator on other areas of population studies, in which I have been able to apply my extensive training in quantitative methods. As a collaborator, I assisted in the statistical analysis of demographic data for a project analyzing the health outcomes of minority groups. This developed into an article published in *Sociological Perspectives*, which has been well-received and earned an honorable mention for Distinguished Contribution to the journal in 2018. In this peer-reviewed piece, we used a minority stress perspective to theorize health disparities across union status at the intersection of sexual minority status, race-ethnicity, and gender. Results suggest that same-sex cohabitators face substantial health disadvantages, with little variation by race-ethnicity and gender. This study highlights the importance of integrating intersectionality and minority stress theories to guide future research. It is notable as a critical addition to the limited understanding of health disparities of sexual minorities and the significance of cohabitation status as the U.S. moved to legalize same-sex marriage.

My research on ethnic economies and community development is both nascent and lively. My work in this area comes as a postdoctoral associate at the University of Idaho. Working for economist Dr. Paul Lewin in the Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology Department, I am part of a transdisciplinary team studying minority entrepreneurship through multiple USDA grants. On these collaborative pieces, I incorporate a sociological perspective through my expertise in sociological theory and my skills as both a qualitative and quantitative researcher. Furthermore, to the projects, I bring a focus on migrant communities and population dynamics. For example, a current work investigates Hispanic entrepreneurship at the intersections of Hispanic-group origin and immigrant generation to examine differences between first, 1.5, and later generations of migrants. I expect this line of research to be very productive in my current role.

In the future, I hope to find more opportunities to collaborate. Yet, I also plan to continue to develop my research project on American emigration, hopefully undertaking a further multi-method investigation of the abroad population through interviews and surveys in Canada, Mexico, and elsewhere. As an advocate of comparative work in migration studies, I attach importance to situating my research in multiple locations. Beyond studying American emigration, I am intrigued by the prospect of researching the mobility of other groups. In particular, I am interested in the mobility of Pacific Islanders, who remain mostly absent from the migration literature. Additionally, I would like to pursue research on athlete migration as the sports world becomes increasingly globalized.

I have presented my research at numerous academic conferences, including the annual meetings of the *Population Association of America*, the *Rural Sociological Society*, the *North Central Sociological Association*, the *Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society*, and the *North American Society for the Sociology of Sport*. I have also taken an organizing role in such meetings, having been an organizing committee member of the *Migration With(out) Borders* conference at Michigan State University and serving as the Student Section Chair for the *North Central Sociological Association*.

Going forward, I hope to secure support for research through the acquisition of external funding. I have already submitted a funding proposal for a large grant through the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. I hope to submit several proposals soon to help establish continuous and successful research.

For more information on my research experience and ongoing projects, please visit the research section of my website (www.samuelcmindes.com/research). If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.