



Identity among Central Americans



[Joseph Teller](#)

[Kristen Amaya](#)

Introduction

In Latin American studies, the majority of research focuses on larger populations such as Mexican Americans and Cuban Americans. Much less work focuses on Central America. Through qualitative interviews, this study investigates Central American identity in order to bring light to these often-ignored perspectives. Findings show how Central Americans communicate their identities to others in daily life as well as the identity challenges this population faces. This contains a broad number of findings as different people live different lives, but there are some valuable insights from these interviews. The way Latin American people interact with their identities is useful to understanding their experiences.

Method

Through 12 interviews with Central Americans, this study gets a variety of perspectives. In these interviews are questions that help to understand these people's lives and how their identity impacts it. The interview style is more conversational, as this is more natural and gets more candid responses. Each interview is personal and the questions are guides into understanding the identity and challenges of these people.

Discussion

One common theme was insecurity in identity. A big reason for this is that Central American countries are very small, so it can be hard to find other people to relate to. Also, being from a different culture than the people one grows up with can be challenging. On a positive note, when these people did find other people from Central America, they shared some positive experiences of being able to find community. Another common theme was people being proud of their culture. Although many of them had to balance the culture of their families and those of the United States, the people in the interviews were proud to be from Central America.

References

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