



# Central Americans Identity in the U.S

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## Abstract

This research project delves into multiple interviews that examine Central Americans' experiences with identity and belonging after settling and living in the United States. The research aims to gather each perspective of each individual and their unique experience after settling and living in the United States. Several Central American states are interviewed in the process to get an overview of how each experiences different phases when getting used to life in the United States. Throughout the interview process, each interviewee is asked a series of questions ranging from their childhood to their family background. This provides insight into how everyone grew up how their cultural customs influenced their upbringings and how it translated into life in the United States. This research also examines how the interviewee feels towards how they are perceived in American society.

## Introduction and Background :

The Central Americans that have migrated from their native countries into the U.S. showcase a diverse and dynamic community. These Central Americans share a sense of belonging and identity that have been challenged due to the differences in cultural, social, and political factors. The complex interplay that is displayed in the United States compared to their native countries has impacted and caused challenges to accumulate in this new culture. There is a common theme among immigrating communities that come to the United States, which is negating experiences and trying to establish themselves while preserving their cultural heritage and identity. The Chiricú journal and its publication "Citizens but Not Americans: Race and Belonging among Latino Millennials" described situations where racial politics have been visible and impacted the Latino's ability to immerse themselves. Latino millennials have described experiencing informal and formal policing of color lines through unequal access to resources and through surveillance, according to the study conducted.



## Methods:

- The objective of the interviews conducted was to gather information among several Central Americans and learn how each has navigated through challenges in their new homeland.
- The interviews ranged from 1-2 hours in length. The way the series of interviews was conducted was by asking the interviewee formulated questions regarding their upbringing, cultural, and societal identity, and challenges that were encountered when transitioning into the United States.
- The program that was utilized when transcribing the interviews is called Otter.ai. This program allowed for all the interviews to be properly analyzed and transcribed.

## Results/ Conclusions

After transcribing several interviews and gaining an understanding of the complexities that Central Americans face when dealing with belonging and a sense of identity in the United States, a lot of the interviewee described the identity crisis and difficulties preserving their cultural ties. It's important to acknowledge the obstacles that come along with a transition into a new cultural environment. This research displays the importance of continuing research that dives into how people from different regions of the world experience their integration into a new country.

## References :

- del Sol M. Citizens but not americans: Race and belonging among latino millennials. Chiricú Journal. 2019;4(1):212-214. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/citizens-not-americans-race-belonging-among/docview/2365229756/se-2>.