

**Networks: Chavez Chapter 7**

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- Chavez: Shadowed Lives: Chapter 7, Families, Domestic Groups, and Networks, pp. 121-140
- Chavez’s terms for patterns of kin ties that result from globalization:
  - **transnational** families: some members in US, others still in Mexico
  - **binational** families: some members with legal status in US, others without
  - these reflect the basic distinction of US vs. Other
    - either geographically (transnational)
    - or legally (binational)
  - we could add other possible combinations for this or other cases of migration and cultures in contact
    - reflecting the variety of “others”
      - multi-original families (my made-up term): members who immigrated from multiple different countries, as in a Guatemalan husband and Mexican wife in the US
    - reflecting permanent migration to the US
      - transplanted families (my made-up term): both spouses from Mexico, both legally in the US
    - reflecting immediate family vs. more distant kin
      - families with many kin legally in the US
      - families with many kin undocumented in the US
      - families with most kin still in Mexico
      - which might affect attitudes towards the US and Mexico, economic behavior, interactions with the host communities, etc.
    - and there are probably other categories that could be useful for illuminating aspects of this or other similar situations
  - the point here:
    - there are many patterns in how kin networks (and non-kin social networks) are stretched and strained by migration, inter-cultural relationships, marriages, and children, and other processes across cultural and political boundaries
      - understanding these might be important in some, maybe all, situations of cultures interacting due to globalization
    - example: yet again, the Pakistanis in England who frequently marry cousins from Pakistan
      - recall that this is largely a means of family reunification
        - bringing more of the family from Pakistan to England
      - we only start to understand this seemingly odd marriage practice when we consider how families are divided across the legal, geographic, and cultural boundaries between England and Pakistan
      - the same patterns of stretched kin and social networks probably affect economic behavior, travel, political sympathies, and many other things
  - Chavez goes on to discuss specific patterns and their effects

- the worries and strains they cause
  - separated spouse might be hurt or killed
  - separated spouse might get involved with another woman or man
  - separated spouse might just give up on his obligations to the family
  - loneliness and harder work for those left behind
  - loneliness and hardship for those who migrate
  - migrants don't get to see their kids grow up
- strategies of migration
  - wife stays in Mexico with kids, or mother works in US but leaves kids in Mexico with her own mother, returns for weekends
    - money goes further there
    - better values for raising kids
  - plans to reunify family in the US
  - plans to reunify family by returning to Mexico
  - immigrants who meet and marry in the US are likely to have children, then stay
    - single migrants who meet and marry other migrants in the US
    - single migrants who meet and marry US citizens
  - impulse to help kin and others immigrate
    - helps economically (sharing rent, etc.)
    - helps socially (alleviates loneliness, isolation)
- Different residence strategies for different situations and stages of migration
  - balancing
    - limited income and need to save money to send home
    - minimizing disruption of deportation
      - someone to look after kids if parent is deported
    - minimizing loneliness
- Networks (a key idea for understanding migration behavior in many different cases, not just Latinos in the US)
  - concentric networks, from closest to widest:
    - domestic groups (residential units)
    - family
    - relatives
    - *paisanos* (fellow countryfolk)
    - *amigos de confianza* (trusted friends)
      - I would probably put these before *paisanos* in how importantly and often they are called on, but they may be more structurally distant than *paisanos*
    - *vecinos* (neighbors)
  - functions of networks
    - provide help and support, both practical and social
    - key to encouraging and helping people immigrate
    - job referrals
      - serves both the migrants and the employers

- effects of people creating and using networks
  - migrants from the same areas tend to cluster together in order to maintain and use their networks
  - this leads to “daughter communities”
    - people from one village, city, or region in Mexico forming “colonies” in specific places in the US