



**Binational Responses to the Externalization of Asylum and
Entrapment:
The Case of Ciudad Juárez**

February 4, 2026

Event Participants – Leaders & Experts:



**DR. CLAUDIA
MASFERRER**

Coordinator of the Seminar on Migration, Inequality, and Public Policy at the Colegio de México.



**DR. JAMES
HOLLIFIELD**

Acting Director of the SMU Mission Foods Texas-Mexico Center



COURTNEY WEEKS

Assistant Director of the SMU Mission Foods Texas Mexico Center



**DR. ISABEL GIL
EVEREART**

Scholar of International Relations at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)



DR. JEREMY SLACK

Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at El Paso



**DR. OSCAR
RODRÍGUEZ**

Professor of Public Action and Social Development at at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Ciudad Juárez



**DR. HÉCTOR
PADILLA**

Political Science Professor at University of Ciudad Juárez

The SMU Mission Foods Texas Mexico Center, in collaboration with

El Seminario Migración, Desigualdad y Políticas Públicas (COLMEX) presented a seminar on a research project commissioned by the Center.

Dr. Isabel Gil Everaert delivered a presentation of her research examining local and binational responses to the evolving realities of mobility in Ciudad Juárez. Drawing on a framework of contentious politics, she explored how moments of tension, conflict, and controversy can generate innovative forms of collective action and institutional response. Her research underscores the complexity of migration flows and policy responses along the Ciudad Juárez–El Paso border, highlighting how prolonged waiting periods for asylum seekers and migrant caravans have strained international trade and local resources, thereby reinforcing the urgent need for thoughtful, evidence-based policy recommendations.

¿CRISIS? ¿EMERGENCIA?
México: la crisis migran de las caravanas

Trump enviará tropas militares a la frontera con México: "Repeleremos la horrible invasión a EEUU"

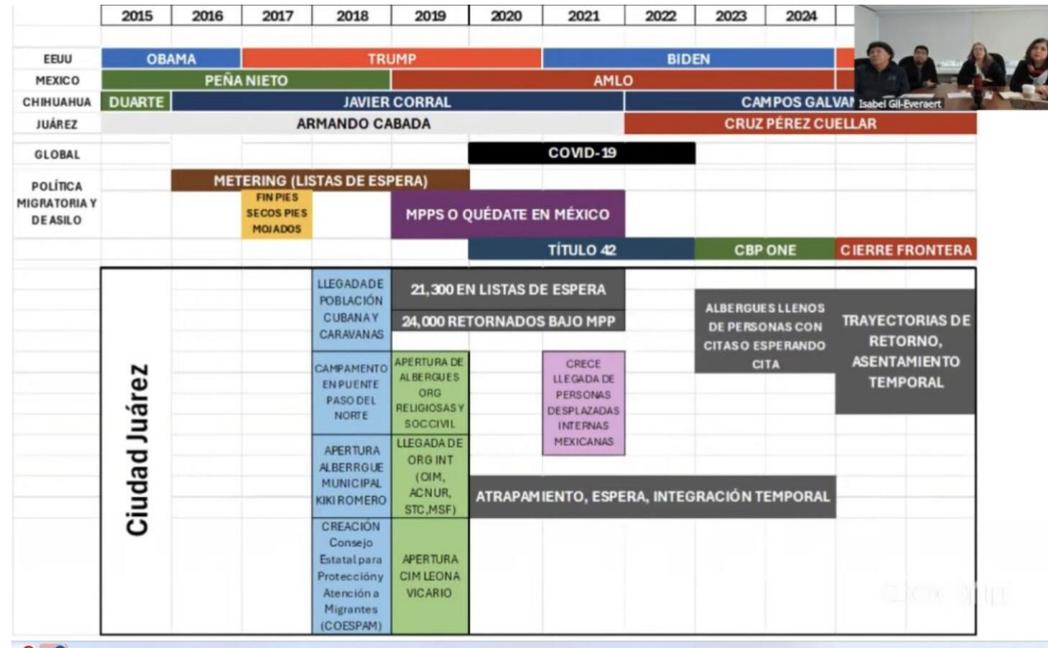
"Emergencia nacional" en la frontera con México: 6 medidas para reducir la migración anunciadas por Trump en su primer día como presidente de EE.UU.

Stephen Miller says Trump will not allow the 'trespass and invasion' of this country anymore

México y Estados Unidos discuten sobre la crisis migratoria y la Seguridad en la primera llamada de la era Trump

El secuestro de personas migrantes y solicitantes de asilo alcanza niveles intolerables en la frontera entre Texa

Frontera México-EE. UU.: alarma entre los migrantes por una oleada de secuestros



Presentation and Commentary:

Following Dr. Isabel Gil Everaert's presentation, thoughtful commentary was shared by Dr. Héctor Antonio Padilla Delgado, Dr. Oscar Rodríguez, and Dr. Jeremy Slack.



Dr. Héctor Antonio Padilla Degado

“...more than a study exclusively on migration... it’s rather a study on how the city moved and how there was a citizen response...”]

Dr. Óscar Rodríguez

“It is important... to see the point of view of the migrants, not only the one that we generate...”

Dr. Jeremy Slack

"The fact that a lot of people think [the border] is closed is greatly impacting the way [immigrants cross]"

Opening Remarks by Dr. Claudia Masferrer and Closing Remarks by Dr. James Hollifield



Dr. Claudia Masferrer emphasized three central ideas: the growing externalization of asylum policies and how they reshape migration governance at the U.S.–Mexico border, the complex inequalities and institutional constraints that produce prolonged “trapping” of migrants in border cities like Ciudad Juárez, and the importance of binational academic collaboration to better understand these dynamics and inform policy responses.

She concluded by underscoring the need for coordinated, evidence-based approaches between Mexico and the United States that account for local realities on the border, asking how research can guide more humane and effective responses to evolving migration and asylum challenges.



Dr. James Hollifield highlighted three central themes: the defining role of migration and trade in the Texas–Mexico relationship, the urgent need to address a large-scale humanitarian crisis, and the vital leadership of civil society and NGOs in sustaining democracy during times of strain.

He concluded by urging coordinated action between Mexico, the United States, and border states, posing the critical questions: Where are we today, what should we do next, and how can we address this challenge to advance human development?