

## The media coverage of Venezuelan migration in Mexico and its impact on public opinion.

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Recibido: 27 de agosto de 2019 / Aceptado: 16 de noviembre de 2019

**Abstract.** In 2019, about 4 million Venezuelans have left the country looking for a better landscape for them and their families. Thousands, even entire families, have arrived in Mexico, trying to regularize their situation and to stay permanently in the country. The purpose of this work is to analyze how the media portrays the Venezuelan migration in Mexico, and in what way this coverage influences people's judgements about migration. Particularly to understand what kinds of arguments are used to justify hostility and xenophobic opinions. Data collection focuses on a textual analysis of online news generated by Mexican and international media. Final outcomes will show how the media serves to preserve a particular coverage based on traditional prejudiced stereotypes that serve to set a hostile ambient towards migrants and to justify violations to their human rights.

**Keywords.** Venezuelan migration; Xenophobia; Mexico; Media coverage; Social media

[es] El encuadre mediático de la migración venezolana en México y su impacto en la opinión pública.

**Resumen.** Para el año 2019, cerca de 4 millones de venezolanos han abandonado su país en busca de un panorama mejor; miles de ellos han llegado a México. El propósito de este texto es analizar cómo los medios de comunicación retratan la migración venezolana en México y cómo este encuadre mediático influye en la opinión pública sobre la migración. Particularmente, entender qué tipo de encuadres mediáticos se usan para justificar la hostilidad y las opiniones xenófobas hacia los migrantes. El trabajo de campo se centró en un análisis textual de noticias en línea generadas por medios mexicanos e internacionales. Los resultados finales muestran cómo los medios de comunicación sirven para preservar y difundir un tipo de encuadre mediático basado en estereotipos xenófobos tradicionales que favorecen la construcción de un ambiente hostil hacia los migrantes y así justificar las violaciones a sus derechos humanos.

**Palabras clave.** Migración venezolana; Xenofobia; México; encuadre mediático; Redes sociales.

**Sumario:** 1. Introduction 2. Theoretical background. 3. The case. 4. Methodology. 5. Outcomes. 6. Conclusion. 7. References 8. Annex. Sources consulted.

**Cómo citar:** Ramírez-Plascencia, David (2020): "The media coverage of Venezuelan migration in Mexico and its impact on public opinion". *Estudios sobre el Mensaje Periodístico* 26 (3), 1171-1182.

### 1. Introduction

What started as a small flow of political dissidents and oil workers by mid-2010, considered as traitors by the former Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez's sympathizers, it is now in 2019 a huge humanitarian tragedy. According to some sources, about 4 million Venezuelans have left the country looking for a better landscape for them and their families (Long, 2019) (The Economist, 2019b). The exodus has reached not only neighboring countries like Colombia or Brazil, but it has spread across the American continent. In recent years, thousands of Venezuelans, even entire families, have arrived in Mexico. Most of them are escaping from scarcity, political repression and, paradoxically, a high level of insecurity. By now, Venezuela is among the most dangerous countries in the world to live in (Statista, 2019). This migration trend characterizes because before Mexican and interna-

tional laws, the citizens from this South American country are considered refugees, and therefore they receive special considerations when applying for asylum in the country. Yet, no matter these facilities, their arrival and establishment in Mexico is quite hazardous and complex. The Venezuelan authorities' control over foreign currencies, particularly the US dollar and the Euro, and the collapse of the economy, have made it quite difficult to gather foreign currencies to purchase an airplane ticket or gather resources to travel. In fact, many tickets are bought by relatives outside the country and sent by email to the travelers. When landing in Mexico, migrants suffer mistreatments and abuses from national authorities; many times, they are not allowed to enter and are sent back immediately without any justification or legal support. Despite the risks of losing all the money they have invested; many are still attempting to come. Though, for those who have been able to pass

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