The past 20 years have seen a dramatic increase in Latino newcomers in Midwestern states, drawn by employment opportunities in agro-processing, manufacturing and the service sector. This change has led to a number of integration issues for newcomers in Midwestern states, drawn by employment opportunities in agro-processing, corporate agriculture and processing plants, manufacturing, retail, and landscaping.

The research design draws from the following theoretical frames:

- **Sustainable livelihoods**, specifically theories of capitals and capabilities
- **Acculturation theories** to understand human agency and adaptation strategies of newcomers and long term residents adjusting to change
- **Human ecology** to assess individual interactions with the context of reception (interactions at the micro-, meso- and macro-systems)
- **Participatory research methods** and an appreciative inquiry process to engage the decision makers

This project uses a mixed-methods research design to study acculturation of both newcomer and long term residents in Midwestern communities. The interdisciplinary strengths-based model developed is informed by sustainable livelihoods, acculturation theories, ecological model and action research theory.

Acculturation profiles are developed in Phase I using focus groups, photovoice, and surveys. In Phase II, communities identify and implement strategies to address any problematic or conflictual acculturation outcomes through an Appreciative Inquiry process. For more information visit: www.cambio.missouri.edu/integration

**Communities & Theories**

**Region 1** is an area with small towns and large corporate agriculture and processing plants.

**Region 2** has a diverse economy with manufacturing plants, services, and retail.

**Region 3** has a significant recreation industry, employing workers in hospitality, services, construction and landscaping.

**References**


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