The Creation of the Border Crisis: How the Media Influenced the Situation at the U.S./Mexico Border in 2014

Alejandra Baron
University of Texas at El Paso, baron1104@gmail.com

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THE CREATION OF THE BORDER CRISIS:
HOW THE MEDIA INFLUENCED THE
SITUATION AT THE U.S./MEXICO
BORDER IN 2014

ALEJANDRA PAOLA BARON
Master’s Program in Latin American & Border Studies

APPROVED:

Josiah M. Heyman, Ph.D., Chair

Stacey Sowards, Ph.D.

Jeremy Slack, Ph.D.

Charles Ambler, Ph.D.
Dean of the Graduate School
Dedication

Dedicated to my parents, siblings, and future husband for all the support they have provided throughout my years as a student especially during my two years as a graduate student.
THE CREATION OF THE BORDER CRISIS:
HOW THE MEDIA INFLUENCED THE
SITUATION AT THE U.S./MEXICO
BORDER IN 2014

by

ALEJANDRA PAOLA BARON, B.A.

THESIS

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Abstract

In 2014, thousands of women and children from Central America trekked across Mexico to reach the United States border in hopes of seeking asylum. As oppose to previous immigration surges, it was the first time that this amount of asylum seekers had reached within a short period of time the border. The media in the United States took an important role in describing the occurrences at the U.S./Mexico border in the rhetoric and dialect used. The polarization of the audience mimicked the partisan government that could not agree on a solution and left the situation at the border in a worrisome circumstance. Eventually, this became known as the border crisis where the same stereotypes of immigrants were repeated as well as how the border was viewed.
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Chapter 1: Introduction

In 2014, the United States experienced a change in migration patterns that later came to be referred to as a “surge” and a “crisis.” 2014 became known as the year of unaccompanied minors and family units coming to the United States from mainly countries in Central America instead of the previously largest migrant sending country-Mexico. There was an increase in unaccompanied minors from Central America in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas, overwhelming shelters and border agents in the region. In Fiscal Year 2014, 68,445 family units were apprehended in the Southwest Border compared to 14,855 in 2013 making this a change of 361% between the two fiscal years (CBP). Also, FY 2014 became the time when Honduran unaccompanied minors overtook the number of Mexican unaccompanied minors (CBP). The large change in migration drew the attention of policy makers, media, public, and humanitarian efforts. Instead of males coming to find work and crossing illegally, the media focused on the young children and mothers coming to the United States and being held in cold detention centers. With all this attention on immigration issues in 2014, there has still not been a comprehensive analysis of the information that the media reported about immigrants, immigration laws, and the U.S./Mexico border.

Immigration laws have formed part of the core of the United States that have served to restrict, exclude, and deny entry or citizenship to certain groups of immigrants. Immigrants have often been targeted by these immigration laws in an effort to contain the particular groups and deny them legal rights that are often limited to citizens of the United States. In an effort to avoid allowing African-Americans the right to vote and own property, they were denied citizenship in the United States. Later, the Chinese Exclusion Act served as a way to favor northern European immigration and restricting those from southern and eastern Europe and Asia (Johnson, 2000).
More recent laws and policies have marked the Latina/o group in hopes of limiting their numbers in the United States. More often, these laws and policies are enacted as a way to secure the country and benefit the population, but race remains a factor even if it is not explicitly stated. It is best summarized in the following quote: “Race ordinarily is submerged in the public discourse about immigration. However, the persistent reappearance of racist statements in the immigration debate, even if they do not dominate, suggests that race at some level influences restrictionist sentiments.” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 289)

In particular, border enforcement has increasingly relied on laws and policies that target individuals of Latina/o descent. Certain characteristics are associated with the Latina/o population such as skin color and appearance that has made them an easy target for immigration enforcement. These laws use racial profiling to enforce the restriction of rights to the Latina/o members of the population and gives them second-class citizenship in the United States (Johnson, 2000). These laws are enacted by the enforcement agencies while at the same type allowing them to target the Latino population whether they are citizens or non-citizens.

In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) was signed into law by President Reagan. The law stated that employers would be fined for hiring undocumented immigrants, there would be legalization for certain undocumented immigrants, enforcement at the border would be a priority, and temporary labor program would be enacted when needed (Chavez, 2001). The idea was that since employers would be fined for hiring undocumented workers, then they would stop hiring them. This would then lead to less undocumented population from Mexico since they are not able to find work in the United States. There was concern that the law would increase discrimination against Latinos and anyone else who was “foreign looking” especially if they resembled a Latino background (Chavez, 2001). The IRCA
was targeting Mexican undocumented workers without ever mentioning “Mexican” workers. Instead, provisions called for cooperation between the United States and Mexico and dealing with the President of the Republic of Mexico and other sending countries. It is evident the law had racial tendencies without necessarily outwardly stating that undocumented Mexicans were becoming a problem in the United States.

Proposition 187 in California grew from concerns that “illegal aliens” were consuming the state’s resources while not giving any back in terms of helping the economy (Garcia, 1995). Their concerns were placed on the November 1994 ballot in California to limit the public benefits that undocumented immigrants could use (Garcia, 1995). Proposition 187 has been cited as an alarming law that grew out of fear of the vast diversity in the state of California and in particular the large number of undocumented immigrants in California (Garcia, 1995). A common stereotype that arises from propositions like this is the threat of racial diversity and in particular a group of immigrants who have not all fully assimilated like their comparative Anglo-Saxon counterparts. The same arguments used for Proposition 187 repeat themselves during the border crisis of 2014.

The first argument around the Proposition is that undocumented immigrants should not be entitled to use public services intended for U.S. citizens and legal residents. Some of these concerns will be further explained in the paragraph below of why the use of public services remains a topic related to undocumented immigrants in 2014. Second, the criminality rates revolving around immigrants in the United States outweigh their contributions to the United States (Garcia, 1995). Even if immigrants pay taxes, the crimes committed by the small percentage of them gains more attention than any other stereotype. Just like with Proposition 187, the race issue in the border crisis is proven. Despite multiple claims that the Proposition was
not racially motivated, it uncovered racial tendencies were in fact motivations for the immigration laws.

Previous research has shown how the media focuses on migrants’ illegality and their unauthorized entry/journey into the United States (Sowards & Pineda, 2013). Such stories and narratives have been used to sway for either more humanitarian relief efforts towards undocumented immigrants or to bring focus to the uncontrolled situation at our borders. I propose that the focus is not on the actual border towns and people, but instead are mentioned for their strategic location in the stories told. This pattern was repeated by the media in 2014 when the stories remained the same, in that push and pull factors were speculated to determine why so many migrants were coming in 2014 as oppose to previous years. The left wing media took control of the stories and reported on the humanitarian aspects almost as if they were attempting to evoke an emotional response from the audience about the family units and young asylum-seekers coming to the United States. In contrast, the right wing media focused more on the illegality of the border and the security concerns springing up by the large number of asylum seekers. In many instances, the right wing media reported on the different security concerns in a factual manner when in reality, the information being reported was false.

The border between the United States and Mexico has been portrayed as an area of illegality and dysfunctionality especially when the porosity of the border is mentioned. The media has been creative in the ways that discourse is presented to their audience, and in 2014, creating a crisis and evoking fear appeared to be a goal. The media overly reported, sometimes “fake news,” and repeated the same stories for months during 2014. In particular, the themes that were recycled the most were that (1) unwanted individuals such as terrorists and criminals were sneaking in to the United States; (2) there were uncontrollable numbers of immigrants flooding
the border; (3) there was an immediate need to secure the border; (4) the government was not capable of finding a solution to the problem; and (5) the media polarized the audience. These five elements constitute the creation of the Border Crisis of 2014.

The events in 2014 allowed for the analysis of the discourse in terms of the influence of the media and the repetitive statements regarding immigration and/or immigrants to happen. The media was able to have a greater influence on the 2014 Border Crisis by cementing and repeating the stereotypes associated with immigrants from Latin American descent. Despite all the major changes that occurred during 2014, the same stories were retold with new characters as the protagonist. Instead of actually reporting on ways to aid the asylum-seekers the discourse analysis demonstrates that in many ways, the border crisis was not about the asylum-seekers and instead about the partisan government, the security of the nation, and finding someone to blame for the thousands of people seeking aid at the border.
Chapter 2: Literature review

3.1 Depiction of the U.S./Mexico Border and Asylum Seekers/Immigrants from Latin America

**Border Representations:**

The border is portrayed as a “locus of illegality, delinquency, and transgression” (Behdad, 1998, p. 103) developing into a need for security along the border, which in turn increases Border Patrol numbers and budget. Despite all the new additions to border security such as seismic monitors and magnetic sensors, migratory flow has merely shifted from location and not stopped altogether (Behdad, 1998). Delinquency is understood from Foucault’s use of the term as “controlled illegality sanctioned and even produced by the very disciplinary power that claims to regulate transgressions of the law” (Behdad, 1998, p. 104). The border has become associated with immigrants since they cross international borders to reach the United States and serve as a reference to those that belong and do not belong (Chavez, 2001). Borders serve as a purpose to create an image of those who are trying to find a way into the United States despite gates, fences, and walls keeping them out (Chavez, 2001). This has not stopped the immigrant population even if they are children traveling alone or women traveling with their young children as seen in 2014.

Being a “war zone” has been an important representation of the border. Since the early 1980’s, the border has been a reminder to the United States of the loss of control and a battle ground where Border Patrol agents need to maintain the security of the nation by preventing anything from coming across the imaginary line that divides Mexico and the United States (Behdad 109). The border is portrayed similar to a war zone to prevent an invasion where sometimes military are needed to prevent the flows and tides of immigrants from entering the
United States (Chavez, 2001). There was also an increase in militarization of the border that called for more agents to prevent the loss of U.S. sovereignty and protect the United States (Chavez, 2001). The source of the problem of immigration, insecurity, and illegality are flowing from south to north where the key location in the discourse is the border where “surveillance is concentrated to control legal and unauthorized immigration” (Chavez, 2013, p.132).

Security discourse focuses on ideal control of flows across the border. From a security standpoint, it becomes easy to envision what the border could be. It should be a smart border that secures the United States from unwanted intrusions and at the same time maintains wanted import and export flows from Mexico, as well as guests trusted to enter the United States. The envisioned secure border would aid in preventing other ailments that enter the United States unauthorized such as terrorism, drugs, and unauthorized migrants (Heyman, 2012). The 2014 border crisis shattered the dreams of a perfect border if even children are able to cross it “illegally.” Although the border is used to limit the entry of many different people, it still arouses a racial discourse that focuses on Latina/os entering the country illegally through the U.S. and Mexico border and continue to “invade” and come in “waves.” The border becomes a nuisance for the rest of America since it is the entry point that threatens the stability of the nation by allowing unauthorized migration, drugs, and other unwanted objects/people into the United States.

This vision of the perfect border would allow for a creation of a new type of Bracero Program that regulates immigration flow for those wanting to work in the United States, but not necessarily consider it permanent residence. The proposed wall would satisfy three different interests groups: (a) corporate and bureaucratic entrepreneurs in homeland security industrial
complex; (b) anti-immigrant ideologues; and (c) the major corporate and central state elites that promote this vision for the border (Heyman, 2012).

**The illegality of immigrants:**

“Illegality is a juridical status that entails a social relation to the state; as such, migrant illegality is a preeminently political identity” (De Genova, 2002, p. 422). Despite illegality being contrasted legally with citizenship, there are no barriers of interaction between legal and illegal individuals and the illegality of these individuals is irrelevant much of the time. Migrations from Mexico and Latin America are only partially illegalized, but tend to be represented as archetypically “illegal” (DeGenova 2002). The illegality of immigrants refers back often to the illegal entry into the United States, and most immigrants are portrayed as being from Latino descent and having crossed the border from Mexico into the United States. Therefore, the border is represented as an area of illegal activity and low security, which shaped discourses about 2014.

The historical development of immigration laws aimed above all at Mexicans shows the build up of illegality discourses about Mexican immigration. Historically, Latina/os have been marginalized with different immigration laws and policies. The Bracero program sough labor from Mexicans until jobs became scarce and Mexicans were no longer needed (Garcia, 1995). In 1954’s Operation Wetback, individuals who were U.S. Citizens or who looked Mexican were repatriated to Mexico when some had never even been there (Garcia, 1995). Looking Mexican became a justification for this law and a stereotype that continues to link physical appearance to an undocumented status. In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act was passed in an effort to curb immigration (Chavez, 2001). The “IRCA established provisions that would (a) fine employers for hiring undocumented immigrants and possibly jail repeat offenders; (b) legalize
some undocumented immigrants already living and working in the United States; (c) bolster the enforcement capabilities of the Border Patrol and Immigration and Naturalization Service; and (c) expand the temporary labor program for agricultural workers, if and when it was needed” (Chavez, 2001, p. 131). The idea behind the law was that undocumented immigrants would have to return to their countries of origin because employers would no longer offer them jobs. Few employers were held liable and therefore could not fully be punished if they could not authenticate the documents presented by their workers.

The portrayal of immigrants and their undocumented status had already become a common sight in the United States when the surge of unaccompanied minors and family units were entering the United States through the Mexican/U.S. border in 2014. Analyses of discourses media stories shortly before 2014 found that such stories “emphasize the illegal or undocumented status of immigrants” (Sowards & Pineda, 2013, p.79), which reduces their stories to their entry and legal/illegal status in the United States. Despite the United States being a land of immigrants, there are restrictions on who is allowed to legally migrate and become a citizen. The term “illegal alien” came about to describe those who entered the country without going through the border controls. These individuals were then to be in the United States without citizenship and rights. Being unauthorized is a product of a status dictated by the state, therefore their illegality remains until the state decides to adjust the change (Chavez, 2013). However, this key element of previous representations may have changed, since the core group in recent border immigrants are asylum seekers, who in some cases present themselves directly to U.S. border authorities to request a legal process. Their representation as either illegals or legitimate asylum seekers is now debated.
“Illegal aliens” has been a term used to describe immigrants who have crossed the U.S./Mexico border without proper documentation. “In public debate, the ‘illegal aliens’ responsible for increases in crime are portrayed only as those who enter surreptitiously at the Mexican border” (Garcia, 1995, p. 136). In most of the United States now, the term has been almost exclusively used to describe those of Latin American descent. Since Mexicans are the largest of the group of Latin American immigrants, being illegal is correlated with Mexicans. “Illegal alien is an infinitely malleable term that may encompass the most feared outsider- often in modern times a person of color- in any region of the United States” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 290). While the reality may be different, representations of migrants arriving at the southern border is interpreted through and is reinforced by these discourses.

**Stereotypes of Latin American immigrants:**

When reporting on immigration, the news sources tend to rely on historical stereotypes and representations of what a Latina/o have been created over the years in the United States instead of accurate identities. Reporting focuses on immigration as Latina/os in stereotypes that tend to be negative and unflattering (Sowards & Pineda, 2013). These stereotypes slowly appeared in the mid-nineteenth century in the United States, with the help of literature that described Mexicans, as in the writings of Thomas Jefferson Farnham (Sandrino, 1998). “The prevalence of images and language categorizing immigrants as criminal, illegal, or less than human, diminishes the burden for the government to develop humane immigration policies” (Sowards & Pineda, 2013, p. 75). More often than not, immigrants are being portrayed as criminal, illegal, less than human, docile and diseased (Sowards & Pineda, 2013). These stereotypes began constructing an image of Mexicans that would frame the stereotypes in today’s status quo.
A second layer of stereotyping denigrates Mexican and Latina women. Richard Henry Dana described Mexican women in 1840 as women lacking virtue and morals whose purpose was purely sexual (Sandrino, 1998). There was also a difference made between the women based on their appearance since “bad women” were thought of as inferior because of their dark skin and Indian features as oppose to the “good women” who were of an elite class and with European ancestry (Sandrino, 1998).

More recently, Latina women have been at the center of population debate by becoming a threat to the U.S. population with their supposed high fertility rates. Latina reproduction is at the center of debates as they allegedly continue to produce babies who will also have allegiance to a foreign country and become dangerous to the United States and its native people (Chavez, 2013). The idea of a Latina woman and her fertility rate was quite apparent as Central American women were entering the United States with young children, ready to remain in the United States and request asylum and protection. “According to the report, women migrate for the same reasons men do: to earn money and build a better life. But women also have some unique reasons, mainly having to do with escaping male-dominated environments” (Chavez, 2001, p. 123). This has become a bigger factor in undocumented immigration of women from Latin America where their governments do not prosecute crimes against women. Despite not everyone woman intending to reproduce, the idea of more “illegal” babies still emerges or is alluded to when talking about the waves of women coming to the United States as well as their wish to join the American workforce. Not all stereotypes apply to all women from Latin America, but they are grouped as if they were.

The Other as a Threat:
Immigrants from Latin America in particular have commonly taken the role and symbol of an enemy to the United States (Sowards & Pineda, 2013). By following stereotypical assumptions, Latinos have been perceived as a threat to the status quo of the United States despite their long history of migration. Most commonly, immigrants are seen as a threat to the economy and are to blame when the U.S. economy takes a downturn. The idea that Latinos did not belong with the identity of the United States began in the mid 1800’s when Mexicans were stereotypically described as not belonging and being inferior to the Anglo-Americans (Sandrino, 1998). Latinos continue to be considered as a “foreign other” despite many becoming citizens (Sandrino, 1998). Latinos “have had difficulties incorporating into the dominant culture and its institutions because of the heritage of the colonial situation” (Sandrino, 1998, p. 153) which made it harder to assimilate as Americans. By creating the view of Latinos as not being part of society, they are seen as not belonging to the United States, and therefore a threat to the current status quo (Chavez, 2013). Nativists are in favor of restricting immigration because they thus view immigrants as a threat (Chavez, 2001). This notion comes to the fore when large numbers of immigrants enter the United States, such as the situation in 2014 when they are asking to remain legally and asking the government for protection, while large numbers of previous immigrants entered without authorization and remained unseen and unheard while they boost the economy without any of the benefits awarded to residents and citizens.

Water-Flood Imagery:

“A flood, of course, is a deluge that occurs when too much water flows into an area. A flood is not a normal occurrence, but an event that is a problem by definition and one for which a solution must be found as quickly as possible” (Chavez, 2001, p. 74). Santa Ana too notices the use of water to refer to immigration and how immigration is referred as a dangerous water that
groups immigrants together concealing their individuality (Santa Ana, 2002). The use of water and in particular dangerous water such as waves and floods are often used when the media describes immigration. “Dangerous waters and invasion account for over 80 percent of all metaphors expressed in public discourse on immigration” (Santa Ana, 2002, p. 78). In 2014, waves of women and children were said to be flooding the border. This often correlates to immigration being a burden and a danger to the United States.

Assimilation of Latin American immigrants:

Supposedly, “unlike past immigrant groups, Mexicans and other Latinos have not assimilated into mainstream U.S. culture, forming instead their own political and linguistic enclaves” (Chavez quoting Huntington, 2013, p. 21). This threat was perceived among nativists who believe that the American way of life is changing with immigrants who do not conform to the “American” standards. It has become an assumption that Mexican immigrants and the generations that follow them refuse to become part of the United States by retaining their culture, language, and closed social circles (Chavez, 2013). The discourse about Mexican immigrants in particular tends to represent them as people “who will not and cannot become part of U.S. society” (Chavez, 2013, p. 41). A particular concern is the use of Spanish language by Latinos who have made Spanish increasingly spoken in the United States, yet children of Mexican immigrants learn English quickly. Each succeeding generation has better English proficiency even if they speak Spanish at home (Chavez, 2001). When you have groups of young children and their parents entering the United States, as in 2014, a common misconception is that they will too fail to integrate like previous Latina/o immigrants. These concerns are often linked to “Mexicaness” as well as the other stereotypes. The idea behind stereotypes being linked to Mexicans in particular relates to the racial profiling that has created the portrayal not of
Mexicans or Mexican American, but instead mexicaness (Romero, 2008). “The illegal alien in public discussion often refers to a person who enters without inspection, often a national of Mexico” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 274). This connection has led to attribute some of the stereotypes of illegal immigrants merely on people from Mexico or appearing like people from Mexico. Hence, these stereotypes easily transferred to Central Americans.

3.2 The Media and Immigration Discourse

The media offers a space in which social and political issues come together (Flores, 2003). “Regional and mainstream media have consistently been influential in the public shaping of immigrants and immigration” (Flores, 2003, p. 365). Media publications also share a correlation with immigration issues and discourses of race and nation in their reports. Gramsci’s notions of consent explain how immigration laws and its discussions are interdependent and serve to back up state agencies, and the government depends on the media to provide rhetorical support. Conversely, the discourse used about immigration has influenced policy makers, bringing attention to racial discourse and the nation, and focusing on the supposed Mexican problem (Flores, 2003). The media often focuses on reporting the Mexican immigrants’ stories who enter legally and illegally often focusing the audience on the concern with “illegal” border crossing. These symbols of “illegal” immigration are then a way for audiences to associate Mexican immigrants with the problems of the United States (Sowards & Pineda, 2013).

Magazines in the 1990’s reported the “browning of America” in terms of society being altered, values and culture changing and the United States population becoming non-white (Chavez, 2013). By printing a row of “brown” babies on Time’s magazine cover, the Mexican invasion is discussed by this image where most (except for one) babies are non-white (Chavez, 2013). The media plays an important role in how America is portrayed and its anxieties and
threats. When magazine covers show an alarming immigration issue, the images and text will suggest there is a problem, a danger, or a fear coming from immigrants or immigration (Chavez, 2001). The magazine will use words that refer to an invasion, a threat, or a crisis to describe immigration or immigrants and “appeal to the fears and anxieties about immigration” (Chavez, 2001, p. 21). Similarly, in 2014 news reports predicted that in the groups of immigrants there could be MS-13 gang members, violent individuals, and others that are only going to hurt the United States and its citizens. The media in 2014 contributed to the creation of fears, concerns, and questions that the public had about the immigrants.

Communications and Cultural Studies:

“Illegal” immigration was first addressed in 1976 by a show titled The Unwanted in Los Angeles. The Unwanted depicts a scenario in which both the “illegal immigrant” and the immigration officer are victims of the system in place that counteracts the current border rhetorics (DeChaine, 2012). Although documentaries have surfaced regarding immigrants, pro-immigrants’ rights have mainly focused to defeat certain legislative initiatives that arise either at a local or national level (DeChaine, 2012). News coverage since the 1980’s framed unauthorized immigrants as “key agents in the unfolding immigration context...characterizes unauthorized immigrants as having agency without voice” (DeChaine, 2012, p. 200). A particular change that was noted between pro-immigrant arguments form the 1990s and the 2000s is that in the 1990s immigrant children retained their innocence and were not culpable for their “illegal entry” while in the 2000s, there are more direct challenges about the criminality of the illegal entry (DeChaine, 2012). The arrival of family units in 2014 may provide a difference perspective to these two views produced since the illegal entry of the mothers with their children in search of asylum instead of simply illegal entry to remain in the United States in the shadows.
Despite the many reasons that determine why a person migrates to the United States, documentaries often see the problem as economic and arising from US trade policy with Mexico (DeChaine, 2012). Immigrants come from all parts of the world but there is a focus on one particular population of the immigrants that come from Latin America. Even then, not all Mexicans migrate to the United States for economic reasons, yet this stereotype is played over and over to explain why so many people risk their lives to migrate. In some of the documentaries that were examined for Border Rhetorics, the stories of the unauthorized immigrants are told to reflect why they came to the United States such as looking for work to help their family and not depending on the government for help until they are caught and deported (DeChaine, 2012). In the documentary Farmingville, the unauthorized immigrants’ presence in the community are correlated with economic growth and demonstrate the unauthorized immigrant there as caring for the community they live in, showing a distinct view of unauthorized immigrants that have incorporated into their community (DeChaine, 2012). Despite some documentaries demonstrating the positive effects of having immigrants especially when depicting the economic aspect, the 2014 border crisis has changed the dynamic perceived since hardworking, young males were not coming in “waves,” and instead children and women need support and may not be seen as hard working as their male counterparts.

3.3 Critical Race Theory:

Critical Race Theory (CRT) began as a movement in which activists and scholars found interest in the relationship among race, racism, and power (Delgado & Stefancic, 2012). Critical race linked race in phenomena “that have been socially constructed by law, public policy, and people’s everyday practices” (Romero, 2008, p.24). In other words, the policies and immigration laws that exist have underlying racial tendencies that have contributed to the creation of these
laws and policies. The way that immigrants are viewed in stereotypes, in a criminal way, and as a threat is a racial view of them. The way that immigrants are thought of as coming from Mexico is also a racial category of immigrants. Combined, all these underlying racial interests in immigration laws and policies need to be further analyzed under critical race theory.

Creating certain laws especially in immigration has offered a look at how chosen minorities are controlled and diminished in the eyes of the law. In particular, the links between immigrants and a minority have produced certain characteristics that define who immigrants are and who they represent. Race has played a key role in which immigrants are controlled. Often immigration restrictions are used to prevent certain group or groups from gaining citizenship or legal status in the United States. These restrictions single out particular groups and designate quotas to control the number of immigrants. The product has limited immigration from certain minorities that are increasing their presence and numbers already in the United States. Some of the laws and policies revolving around immigration may appear to be race-neutral on its surface, but have racial underlying tendencies that affect a targeted minority group.

In 2014, Latina women and Latina/o children presenting themselves at the border for asylum revealed already “pseudo-permanent characteristics” that accompany Latina/os in the United States simply because they are grouped based on their physical traits (Delgado & Stefancic, 2012, p. 8-9). These popular images and stereotypes of Latina/os changes or sometimes retains the same assumptions. These changes and continuities will be analyzed with the 2014 to better understand how race was embedded in the border crisis (Delgado & Stefancic, 2012, p. 9). CTR also reveals how “racialized immigration laws and citizenship distinctions allow physical appearance to serve as a way of controlling certain racial and ethnic groups” (Romero, 2008, p. 27). Racial profiling of Mexican immigrants increases the mistreatment in
citizenship inspections as well as their treatment in the United States whether they are citizens or not (Romero, 2008; Johnson, 2000). Similarly, “race ordinarily is submerged in the public discourse about immigration… the persistent reappearance of racist statements in the immigration debate, even if they do not dominate, suggests that race at some level influences restrictionists’ sentiments” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 289). “Immigration law and politics have been historically intertwined with racial prejudice” (Garcia, 1995, p. 119). From citizenship laws to quotas on immigration, race has often been a basis for the immigration laws and policies and as an effort to maintain certain groups out.

My proposal, based on Critical Race Theory, is that the 2014 Central American migrant flows have been included into existing racist discourses, developed for Mexicans. I likewise proposed that the border is a key symbol in the continuation of this discourse.
Chapter 3: Methodology

The year 2014 was chosen because of the spike in reporting about border migration. While migration actually had been higher in previous decades, media attention was drawn by the changes toward unaccompanied minors and family units. Both enforcement policy makers and humanitarian actors acted as if 2014 was an unprecedented crisis at the border. There were three main shifts in 2014 from the norms experienced from years before. First, the demographics of the incoming migrants changed from a predominantly male population to significant number of women and children (either accompanied or unaccompanied). Females apprehended in Fiscal Year 2012 numbered 52,613 while in Fiscal Year 2014 they numbered 120,629 (CBP). This was an unexpected change in numbers of women willing to risk themselves in the journey to the United States. Juveniles, under the age of 18 years, arrested in Fiscal Year 2012 were 31,029 and in Fiscal Year 2014 numbered 107,613 (CBP). The change from a mainly male pattern in the year 2014 needs to be further analyzed to comprehend its importance not only to immigration, but also the effect of women and children entering the country. Another change in the demographics of the undocumented population was from being mainly of Mexican descent (though always with some Central Americans) to a majority being Central American migrants in 2014. The individuals were no longer crossing just one border, but at least two, one to get into Mexico and one to get into the United States. The change in demographics challenged the stereotypes of the population entering the United States and how the crisis was portrayed.

The second shift seen in the 2014 border crisis is the immigration status sought by the population of women and children. As opposed to the majority of their male counterparts, many women, children, and family units are seeking asylum in the United States or a similar form or relief that would allow them to remain in the United States legally. Previous populations have
wanted to instead enter under the radar and find a job while remaining in the shadows of the immigration system (some adult men also do request asylum). This change of immigration intention created a backlog and presented legal, humanitarian, and logistical debates that were uncommon previously, though not unprecedented for Central Americans.

The third shift that appeared around the 2014 border crisis was the change in migratory paths used by migrants entering the United States. Routes are typically mapped by the area where migrants are apprehended by CBP. The change in the migration paths in 2014 was seen as “hot spots” like Tucson, Arizona and El Centro, California saw a decrease in apprehensions of undocumented immigrants in the fiscal years leading up to 2014. In other areas such as the Rio Grande Valley saw 97,762 apprehensions in FY 2012 and increased to 256,393 apprehensions in FY 2014. The large change in apprehension sectors created almost a chaotic situation that was reported by the different news outlets in terms of humanitarian and security concerns.

I first began this research by searching various key terms on LexisNexis news transcripts from 2014. The search began with various key words related to the U.S./Mexico border including: “CBP Abuses”; “Deportations”; “Mexican Asylum”; “Unaccompanied Minors in Southwest Texas”; “Unaccompanied Minors in Texas”; “Border Security”; “Border Wall”; “Border Fence”; “Illegal Immigration”; “Border Violence”; and “National Guard Border.” The key word “Border Crisis” resulted in more than 1000 search results of newspaper articles. The search turned up both local border newspapers and nationwide newspapers, including the El Paso Times, Las Cruces Sun News, the Brownsville Herald, the Austin Statesman, Texas Monthly, the Denver Post, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and USA Today. To narrow the results down, I focused on national television media. I used transcripts of shows from the Lexis Nexis search that provided 404 results in total. Within the transcripts that were found, 168 results were
from CNN News; 25 from ABC News; 97 from FOX News; 64 from MSNBC News; 23 from NBC News; 23 from NPR News; and 4 from CBS News. The transcripts were then saved, and I began searching for the video recording that corresponded to the transcripts. In addition to the main sample from mainstream television media, I added targeted subsample of political niche internet websites, Breitbart on the right and Democracy Now on the left, because of the increasing influence of this sort of niche media on the American public using Google News search to maintain the sample at random. In the analysis and coding, I included the 10 articles from Breitbart, 10 articles from Democracy Now, 4 from CBS News (the entire number available) and 6 each from CNN, ABC, FOX, MSNBC, NBC, and NPR. This captures an ideological range within the mainstream media without any one outlet having disproportionate impact and using the term “Border Crisis” for the discourse analysis to characterize the results found in that search. The mainstream media total 40 articles, and the niche media 10 on each ideological side. The total of articles and transcripts that I coded are 60.
I began coding by taking first the transcripts that I had already downloaded from the Lexis Nexis search of “Border Crisis.” After counting how many transcripts I had from each search, I came to realize that I could not take equal number of transcripts from each since CBS News only allocated 4 results while others had results in the 100s. After taking in account the 10 results from Democracy Now, 10 from Breitbart, and the 4 from CBS News, I was left with 36 for the remainder sources. Since I had 6 remaining sources and 36 available slots for transcripts, I divided and took 6 articles from each source. To obtain the random selection, I calculated each source to see how many I would have to have the de facto random sample. I randomized them by selecting every “X” transcript to obtain my target number (six or ten).

Once the selected articles from each source were collected, I printed them by news source. Each packet of samples were then coded numerically by the questions found below in the section: Key Questions/Research Propositions. After highlighting and labeling different sentences that fit into the key questions, I began to eliminate and add questions. You will see below in the Key Questions the questions I eliminated since they will have a line through them. They were eliminated from the overall search after not finding enough representative examples in the transcripts to justify posing the question. I would like to note that Question #9 regarding the presence of immigrant voices in the transcripts was eliminated because there was not a representative sample in all the transcripts coded. Not one immigrant was interviewed or quoted in the transcripts from any of the sources. I did add one question, labeled #14 in the Key Questions that was created from open source coding. Question #14 was needed to reflect the reporting during the 2014 Border Crisis. In the end, the questions including 14, but without the questions in strike-through, were used to assemble the final set of coded passages from which I present the findings section.
After all the transcripts were coded based on the questions I had, I began to create themes and subthemes that would better reflect the findings. I have to note that some of the transcripts that were randomly selected did not come up with worthy information about the border. For example, one of the four CBS articles did not contain anything other than the key word “Border Crisis” in the whole article. At this point, I could not replace it since only a total of four CBS articles were in the initial search from Lexis Nexis.

I analyzed the transcripts based on the different themes, subthemes, and key questions I created, before, during, and after the coding phase of the articles. Throughout the coding activities, I began noting patterns and important ideas that stood out and were repetitive in the transcripts. I focus on these patterns in the findings. I then selected a few examples to analyze in detail as representative samples of that subtheme and overall theme.

I also created a quantitative coding search of all the sources. I looked up different words that are presented related to the border crisis and immigration to determine which sources were using it the most. Some of the key words I used in my search were: illegal, undocumented, wall/fence, Mexico, Central America, and dangerous. The full list of the terms searched are found on Table 1. I further analyzed those results in terms of the sources that used the key words and the amount of times they used them in the 6-10 articles I had from each source.

I searched for the videos by using video search on Google, watched part of the video, searched key words from the video on the transcripts I had downloaded, and determined if the video corresponded to a transcript. Because of time constraints, however, the videos were not analyzed.
This research will map out the 2014 Border Crisis in terms of the discourse and rhetoric used by the media. Previous work on immigration does mention borders, but how the border is represented and interpreted has not been the focus. I think that despite 2014 being such an important and distinctive year for immigration, I expect that media reporting did not change how the border is viewed, but instead kept the same stereotypes of Latin American waves or invasions. I believe I will mostly find the border being described in terms of security (or lack of) and of the perilous journey that undocumented immigrants are involved in. I also believe that even though there was a change in demographics of the sex, age, and nationality of the incoming immigrants in 2014, the stereotypes and concerns (both in security and humanitarian means) fluctuated minimally from previous immigration periods.

**Key Questions/research propositions:**

1. What **metaphors** were used to depict the 2014 immigration situation (border crisis)?
   - Visual? Verbal/written? (be open to diverse items at this stage)
2. How has the media solidified some of the **metaphors** being used to represent Lationa/o immigrants?
3. How is the depiction of the border crisis maintaining the views of Latino/a into negative **stereotypes**? Challenge stereotypes?
4. What is the role the media plays in securing/challenging some of the **stereotypes** of Latinos?
5. **Images and metaphors** of security? (be open to diverse items at this stage)
6. How is the border crisis being used to describe the “nation as a house”?
7. What specific items apply to border as a particular place, geography?
   a. To U.S. border people/society?
b. To Mexican border people/society?
c. To immigrants of various sorts (e.g., women, children, others)? Smugglers?
d. U.S. government officers?
e. Other actors (e.g., aid providers)?
f. U.S. interior society? (be open to diverse items at this stage)

8. How do public officials influence these discourses? Who are these officials?
   a. non-official advocates?

9. Are there any immigrant voices? What do we hear from them (vs. just images)

10. What specific discourses do we hear from narrators and other media actors?

11. How does the media have a role in delivering the news of the 2014 Border Crisis using
dialect that has been formed previously in other immigration situations, and
what are the precursors to the metaphors being used in 2014 to describe the “border
   crisis”?

12. How is the discourse of the border crisis demeaning or dehumanizing immigrants?
   Humanizing?

13. Are Latinos depicted as failing to assimilate compared to other migrating groups?

14. How did the media cover the government response of the border crisis?
Chapter 4: Findings

The 2014 Border Crisis involved the news outlets from the United States and abroad reporting on the “surge” and “wave” of unaccompanied minors, women with children, and family units presenting themselves at the U.S./Mexico border. News outlets from Breitbart to Democracy Now and everything in between began reporting and presenting their opinions about the crisis that the United States was experiencing. Many articles were found to have come from the summer of 2014 when the Border Crisis was at its height and news sources were sometimes reporting more than once a day on the crisis with experts, government officials, and non-government individuals. Three major themes were found to have come out of the articles that were randomly chosen: (A) The 2014 Border Crisis audience became polarized by the various articles, reports, and news casts that covered the subject matter from a humanitarian and/or security standpoint; (B) The 2014 Border Crisis focused on the border as a zone of illegal passage and the journey taken by the women and children from Central America; and (C) There was a large response from and about the U.S. Government’s involvement with the 2014 Border Crisis.

4.1 QUALITATIVE RESULTS

The 2014 Border Crisis audience became polarized by various articles, reports, and news casts that covered the subject matter from a humanitarian and/or security standpoint:

As previously mentioned, the 2014 Border Crisis drew reporting on the subject throughout the year and in particular during the summer when the “surge” was at its height. In particular, I found the audience was seeing interviews and commentary both from Government and Non-Government officials, and the reports were concentrated in either a humanitarian and/or security standpoints. It is interesting to see the different “experts” that the sources drew on to explain and
comment on the Border Crisis. In the more conservative media, there were a lot more security experts as oppose to the non-profit or academic experts liberal media drew on.

The first the of groups presented are the Government officials who were constantly in the news talking about the border crisis at the U.S./Mexico border and inevitably influenced and polarized the audience in a way that government officials can because of their title/position. Rick Santorum, a former Senator from the state of Pennsylvania stated “the border is not secure. It’s obviously not secure. So, the idea the Republicans have this phony thing that the border is not secure, it’s not phony. I mean, you’ve got half a million people” (Santorum, 2014). From the House of Representatives, Rep. Luis Gutierrez (Il.) stated “I think it is shameful that in the Congress of the U.S. we see members of Congress engendering and creating fear of children…We should be protecting children, not creating fear of them” (Gutierrez, 2014). The issues of the border’s security and of children were spoken by Congressmen/women throughout 2014 as seen with former Sen. Santorum and Rep. Gutierrez. Both Gutierrez and Santorum are/were representatives of states that do not border Mexico. The issues of security continued especially from Texas who does share a border with four different states in Mexico. Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) who was at the time and still is the House Homeland Security Chairman stated:

“What’s phenomenon with the children crossing, is just sending a very loud signal message to those who want to do us harm, that you can come on in. It’s wide open” (McCaul, 2014). Then President Obama was constantly making statements regarding the border crisis including this message “We welcome people from all around the world who have that same striving spirit. We’re not defined by tribe or bloodlines. We’re defined by a creed, an idea. And we want that tradition to continue” (Obama, 2014).
Just like government officials, there was a wide variety of commentary from non-government officials who constitute the second group of commentators. Some were usual commentators on the news sources, others were activists and related to non-profit organization, but the vastness in individuals offering their opinion on the Border Crisis was able to cast a wide net on the influences for the public and viewers. As stated, the commentators tend to be in line with the rightness or leftness of the media source itself. For example, on the right, Gary Dunn who is a protester and tea party member offered various quotes regarding immigration and the border crisis. He stated to Fox News:

We’re out here because our coyote-in-chief has asked illegal immigrants to come into our country and they are giving them places to live and they are taking care of them and they are sending riot police to counter protesters that are here that believe in our constitutional republic and that we should be a nation of laws. It’s against the laws to bring these people here (Dunn, 2014).

Experts also were called onto the news to offer their view of what was happening at the U.S./Mexico border. For example, Breitbart asked a Texas border security right wing expert, Sylvia Longmire to discuss the “surge.” She stated,

The Obama Administration says that the economic and security conditions in Central America are ‘clearly’ the reason for the uptick in unaccompanied children crossing the border…but that’s not the only reason. Officials downplayed the role of rumors circulating in countries like Guatemala that children and families were being released from custody, but if that’s the situation in only a few cases, why has DHS embarked on a focused public information campaign through Spanish-language media to combat those rumors? (Longmire, 2014)
Just like experts were brought on a more conservative media like Breitbart, pro-immigrant voices were brought in to speak about the unaccompanied minors coming to the United States. NBC news for example brought Sonia Nazario who is most commonly known for her work in the Los Angeles Times and as the author of Enrique’s Journey, the story of a young boy from Latin America as he struggles to reunite with his parents in the U.S. Nazario comments on NBC the following “Many of these children are coming, they don’t have any money so they come the only way that they can which is gripping on to the tops of sides of these freight trains to travel up the length of Mexico. There are bandits alongside the rails who will rob you and rape you and sometimes kill you” (Nazario, 2014).

In response to the surge of unaccompanied minors and family units from Central America, both government and non-government officials provided information to the news sources. Some are highly qualified, and others just managed to get their opinion heard, as seen in the Appendix which lists the different individuals who spoke about the 2014 Border Crisis.

Another way that the information reaching the audience was divided was by the subject matter of the information. When the audience is discerning between the news reports on the surge, some of the news were either humanitarian concerns or security concerns that arose from the migrations of thousands of unaccompanied minors and family units. Because of the prevalence of the security concerns that were discussed over all the media outlets, they will be presented under Subtheme B.

The humanitarian statements spoke of the treatment of the new immigrants as they were being held in the United States, the reasons why they are migrating, and the dangers they face both before and after entering the United States. Rep. Mike Rogers (Rep.-MI) offered a confusing opinion that was often seen with various guests on news shows who did not want to
commit to a new immigration reform of some sort for the unaccompanied minors but also understood the dangers they faced coming to the United States and the security issues involved with the border crisis. Rep. Rogers stated:

> Again, think about it. Now, all our command energy is on this so all the border folks are trying to figure this out and how to put them around the rest of the country. That time, that energy is better spent trying to get them back home. It`s better for the children. You don`t want kids exposed to this sex trafficking, drug use. Again, some of those kids are being recruited for gang use, press gang-type activities in these criminal organizations all en route up to the United States (Rogers, 2014).

In a way, these type of quotes would appeal to both sides by talking about the children and the dangers they faced, the humanitarian approach was touched on, and the security concern that criminal organizations are entering the country appeals to a more conservative response about the border crisis.

The humanitarian concerns were brought up by various sources including Breitbart. The difference is that right leaning sources were more concerned about different threats and dangers surrounding the border crisis than the situation with the unaccompanied minors or family units. Breitbart reported on the young age of some of these children when stating “this new influx of illegal immigrant minors is unprecedented. Thousands of children, some as young as four years old, have been found crossing the border. Some have been found dead. Children are sometimes used by Mexican drug cartels, as well” (Shapiro, 2014). In an earlier reporting, Breitbart reported that “meanwhile, children continue to be kenneled in South Texas. Breitbart Texas is seeking additional information about this humanitarian crisis” (Price, 2014). Breitbart in both statements
speaks of the unaccompanied minors and their situations as well as the humanitarian crisis that was created by the influx of children.

The topic surrounding the conditions of the children in the United States while they were being held by CBP, HHS, DHS, or any other organization was prevalent among the various news sources. ABC News stated that “the Homeland Security Department is investigating allegations that US border patrol agents are abusing migrant children who’ve crossed into the US without their parents” (Vega, 2014). In the same manner, Democracy Now reported on the conditions in the famous Artesia, New Mexico holding facility where “Children were not eating. Children were getting very sick” (Jordi, 2014). Other news sources including Breitbart made accusations regarding the children who were being detained and their safety and health.

These are just some of the examples found in the transcripts and articles from the nine news sources I coded. Further examples are found in the Appendix. The audience watching or reading any of the news sources experienced a wide range of speakers with different ideas in mind regarding the 2014 Border Crisis that ultimately polarized the audience and confirmed their set ideas on the subject matter. Whether the audience was left, right, or somewhere in the middle, the news stories provided their audience with the same information but catered to their specific stance depending on the source. Breitbart and Fox News had hosts, guests, and anchors speaking of the insecurity of the border, the dangers the United States is facing by not securing the border, and playing into the crisis that President Obama created. In contrast, Democracy Now and other left leaning media reported on the reasons children were fleeing their countries, the economic benefits of immigrants, and the dehumanizing treatment of the women in children who are detained. The audience has already established their beliefs and preferred news channel that
caters to those beliefs and would echo the audiences concerns of the border crisis. It was as if the media was confirming the opinions of the audience.

_The 2014 Border Crisis focused on the border as a zone of illegal passage and the journey taken by the women and children from Central America:_

In 2014, the demographics of the population coming into the United States as immigrants/refugees changed compared to those of previous years. 2014 saw more women and children seeking assistance and also children traveling without their parents or guardians. Despite this drastic change in population, the news reported on the illegality that constitutes the border because of the illegal entries just like they have in previous reports of “undocumented immigrants.” A humanistic and humanitarian aspect did rise as there were numerous talks on the dangerous journeys that the women and children were taking in particular unaccompanied minors. The border was also discussed as a security concern for the United States especially since there was slow response from Washington to secure the porous border, and great critique came from the state of Texas as then Governor Perry was constantly in the news talking about the alarming situation at the U.S./Mexico border. Fox News and in particular, Bill O’Reilly repeated the various dangers that were coming because of the border crisis which then contributed to making the situation into a crisis.

To begin with, the first pattern seen in the various transcripts was the discussion of the “illegal” entry, journeys, and the push and pull factors driving migrants to the United States. There seems to be great response from commentators and sources in the news when discussing the state of the border, and the current border is no exception. Although there are two borders with the United States, the point of interest has mainly been the U.S./Mexico border, and with thousands of women and children seeking aid in 2014, the U.S./Mexico border again became
significant when discussing the 2014 Border Crisis. The following are examples of the media speaking of the journey of immigrants including the illegality of their entry and the threats of having an “open” border and the discussions trying to explain why so many children were coming to the United States:

For instance, Fox News said “So right now in the U.S.A., the porous border and foreign children suffering because of it is the important issue the nation is facing.” (O’Reilly, 2014, Aug 1) At the same time the number of children entering the United States was reported by O’Reilly by stating “Now we have nearly 50,000 children who have entered the country illegally in the past eight five months. Some believe that's because the Obama administration will not enforce immigration law.” (O’Reilly, 2014, Aug 1). Reports talked about the easy access into the United States followed by x number of children or women who had entered so far.

The push and pull factors became a topic of interest for the news anchors and their guests when discussing the border and the crisis in 2014. There was blame on then President Obama for his immigration policies, arguably DACA and other talks of reform when Rumpf from Breitbart said “Critics of President Barack Obama’s immigration policies have said that his administration’s lax enforcement of immigration laws created a “magnet” enticing families to attempt to cross the border” (Rumpf, 2014, Dec 25). This magnet discussed by Breitbart was also brought up by Representative Mike Rogers when he stated “The policy on the border is certainly encouraging this behavior. If I believe and I’m in El Salvador or somewhere else that I can pay a criminal gang -- think of that’s -- to take my children through some very dangerous circumstances to get to the United States and they are going to open up with loving arms to keep those kids, you’re encouraging that behavior” (Rogers, 2014). The pull factors are discussed below in a different section discussing the journeys of the children.
With all the immigrants coming to the United States, news started reporting on the need to prevent more individuals from entering. It fell on the then Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, to speak on behalf of security. Secretary Johnson stated: “at the end of the day in the final analysis, our border is not open to illegal migration and we will stem the tide” (Johnson, 2016, July 27). Although at that moment he did not discuss potential solutions, others did. Rep. Rogers asked Former Secretary Johnson about the situation on the border and what could have prevented it in the following transcript from Rogers: “Well let me ask, in the Rio Grande Valley, if we had the same sort of fencing we have along the southern border of California, do you believe these children would be coming across the border and in the numbers they are coming across? Or anything close to it? (Rogers, 2014 June 24). The discussion of what needed to be done or what could have been done was constantly being brought up by the different anchors and guests whether they were talking to former Secretary Johnson or other government or non-government officials.

Some of the push factors that could be forcing children on the journey alone were discussed in terms of the conditions of the sending countries of origin and reasons for coming to the United States. O’Reilly spoke of the situation by offering his opinion both on push and pull factors when he said:

And for people who are just getting on the story. The reason this is happening is in countries like El Salvador or Honduras, Guatemala, the media is telling the folks that if they come to the United States now, because of the Dream Act and some of the other things that have been proposed, they’ll be able to stay. So the people smugglers, the human smugglers, which take the children out of the villages and then shepherd them all the way through Mexico, they’re making a ton of money (O’Reilly, 2014, Aug 1).
Reunification for families seemed to serve as a push factor since many family members are thought to have been in the United States already. Romans from CNN discussed the journey and the possible reasons for coming by stating “Many of the children making the harrowing trek over the border are trying to reunite with family members already here in the United States, family members who are seeing the tide turn in the U.S. economy for the better” (Romans, 2014, July 12).

Constantly, the dangerous journey that children from even a very young age were taking alone across Mexico became a main talking point. There were also warnings about the risks involved especially if the children were traveling alone which still falls under the discussion of the journeys of these migrants. News Anchor Stephanopoulos from ABC reported on it when discussing that President Obama had asked parents to reconsider, “it was the first time he said, don’t send your children here. It’s not a safe journey. And if they make it, they’re gonna be sent back” (Stephanopoulos, 2014, June 29). Similarly, Rumpf from Breitbart questioned the decision to send children when she stated “parents to send their children on the dangerous journey alone” (Rumpf, 2014, Dec 25). Similar accounts were discussed in terms of concerns for the children traveling on top of “La Bestia,” the freight train traveling across Mexico.

The second pattern seen in the transcripts were the responses from individual states, and specifically those states that border Mexico. Although the U.S./Mexico border is comprised of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, there was greater response in the national news from Texas, particularly then-Governor Rick Perry. It was overwhelming the number of times he was quoted and appeared on the different news shows discussing the U.S. Border Crisis in 2014. One of the main criticisms brought by former Gov. Perry was the lack of response from Washington to deal with the Border Crisis affecting Texas. He stated in August of 2014: “We
flag this issue in 2012 and have yet to even have a response. It is a failure of leadership.” (Perry, Aug 13) There was even discussion that possibly there was blame in then President Obama when ABC reported that “It may be a tense conversation, Perry has blamed the President for the crisis, even suggesting he’s part of a “coordinated effort” with Central American governments to bring the children over the border” (Karl, 2014). Representative Kay Granger also commented on the border crisis affecting Texas by stating “We’ve got border patrol people trying to do a good job, but they’re so overwhelmed with the number of people coming across that they’re taking care of children and filling out forms. And so we need National Guard to add more bodies to what’s happening at the border” (Granger, 2014, July 15). The statement from Rep. Granger encompasses the concerns many reported on the overwhelming situation at the border in particular the want and need to have the National Guard respond.

Although there were various comments from Republican officials from Texas, one democrat did speak out even though it was to discuss the journey and the humanitarian efforts the state should be taking. Rep. Beto O’Rourke said:

This is absolutely the wrong way to respond to this crisis. We’ve been hearing firsthand accounts and reading story after story of kids like Anthony, age 13, in Honduras and Sanpedro Soula (ph) who goes missing; his 7-year-old brother, Kenneth, goes looking for him. Days later they’re found dead, tortured, beaten along with five other kids. And the story is repeated over and over again. These aren’t kids exploiting a loophole. These are kids fleeing a very desperate, very violent and very deadly situation. I think we need to do everything within the power of this country to see these kids through this difficult time, not speed their deportation back to instability and potentially death. And it also speaks to ultimately our need to reform this country’s immigration laws and have a much
more sane, rational and humane process for everyone involved including and maybe most importantly right now these kids from Central America (O’Rourke, 2014, July 15).

The statements from Rep. O’Rourke were not often seen reported from government officials from Texas. It was more common to read statements like those from former Gov. Perry and Rep. Granger.

California was the other state found in the transcripts to have had made statements during the Border Crisis. Mayor Alan Long from Murrieta stated questioned the situation in 2014 when he said “How come now, how come so many. And I think what’s happening is down in a less desirable are of the world, you have a lot of crime, poverty, and people are trying to flee to the greatest nation in the world. We can’t blame them for that” (Long, 2014). In contrast, Gov. Brown talked about the humanitarian crisis and our role as a country when he stated “not to scapegoat, not to make the kids into some threat that they aren’t, but rather to realize that we are linked inextricably to Mexico and Central America” (Brown, 2014). Gov. Brown was criticized by Breitbart for lumping gang members, smugglers, and traffickers with the children and not discussing them as a threat. In the security concerns below, various news sources do discuss the possibility that unwanted criminals might be taking the opportunity of the border crisis to sneak into the United States.

The third pattern observed were the concerns that were being reported that were caused by the surge. These concerns included security threats, unwanted immigrants like criminals, obligations from taxpayers to sustain the new immigrants, and health concerns of diseases brought in with the immigrants. The porous border that allowed the surge to happen was of great concern during the border crisis including what it could mean for the safety of the United States. The possibility that gang members, drug traffickers, cartel members, and terrorists were entering
the country with the group of family units from Central America was discussed often among all the sources. For example, Breitbart was often talking about the different crimes committed by immigrants coming and already in the United States. They stated that “another sector in Texas has seen a 100% increase in the number of previously convicted sex offenders crossing into Texas from Mexico from the previous year.” Similarly, Michael Lynch was interviewed on MSNBC where he stated “there are people who are coming here who want to come to cut your lawn and have a better life. But there are people who want to cut your throat” (Lynch, 2014, July 15). Some reports even talked about the non-Central American individuals who could be sneaking across the border playing into the dangers of not securing our border.

Although the women and children were mostly coming from Central America and from countries considered to be a in a developing phase, there was great concern for their health care. The significance was mostly on what type of diseases these children and women were bringing into the United States. Alarmingly, Breitbart reported the following:

Disease. America is now coping with diseases it believed it had eradicated, at least in part thanks to unrestricted immigration. In early June, ABC 15 in Arizona reported, “US Border Patrol agents are worried that what’s coming over into the US could harm everyone… Agents are worried about a viral outbreak.” According to Border Patrol Agent and Rio Grande Valley Union representative Chris Cabrera, agents are experiencing contagious outbreaks – and so-called quarantine areas are nothing of the sort, often separated from the general population by mere caution tape. “There’s been an outbreak of scabies that’s been going on for the past month,” Cabrera said. And it’s not just scabies, it’s chicken pox, MRSA, staph infections. The Department of Homeland Security will not allow media to speak with doctors and medical staff treating illegal
immigrants. A health official told The Blaze, “There is really no hard stop at the border, and we have no idea health-wise what diseases are coming across” (Shapiro, 2014 June 8).

The concerns for diseases that could be spread by immigrants entering into the United States was raised mainly by Fox News and Breitbart. They were concerned for the spread of contagious diseases from the women and children adding another threat from their presence.

Breitbart reported on the possibility that the citizens of the United States would be responsible for sustaining these new immigrants by stating “The illegal immigrants crossing America’s southern border are not villains. Most of them are likely looking for a place to work. But that doesn’t mean they’re not draws on public resources. Illegal immigrants have a poverty rate of 26 percent, twice that of the native-born” (Breitbart, 2014 July 8). The toll immigrants could take on the country was evident in Fox News reports mainly with Breitbart and MSNBC also reporting on it.

Although the United States could be affected in different ways if women and children are allowed to remain and seek residence, tax payers and the American public requested to know what the situation was regarding the potential immigrants or at least the news reported and sought answers on behalf of the tax payer. One main concern is that these new immigrants would rely on welfare and resources that would come out of taxpayers as heard from residents in Murrieta, California where buses carrying immigrants, and in particular children, caused protests.

The protesters tell us they are worried that if they allow buses with immigrants, many of whom have women and children, to be dropped off at this short-term facility, they fear
they will be released into the community where taxpayers will have to pay for their food, clothing, housing, even health care. Some have serious concerns over diseases that have already been brought into the country (Carr, 2014, July 7).

MSNBC went further to correlate and make the connection between undocumented immigrants coming to the United States and troops storming the beaches in Normandy from WWII with the statement of an unknown male:

> It is a sad day in this nation that people who are here illegally can storm the streets of our cities in numbers greater than those of American and Allied forces storming the beaches of Normandy and while they are there, they demand upon the United States taxpayer to continue to provide them with welfare, social service programs, free health care and education of their children.

The last/fourth pattern to be discussed is the solutions and concerns of what can be done to contain the Border Crisis. Shortly, there were theories of who or what was responsible for allowing the surge to happen and what was not being done to deal with the effect or curving the rate of entry. A question thrown around enough was what needed to be done to stop the surge. Republican Rep. Jeff Duncan from South Carolina offered a solution on NPR News when he questioned: “Are we directing in a Spanish-speaking voice of America into Central America saying, you cannot come into this country illegally. You will not get citizenship. In fact, you’re going to be deported back to your home country” (Duncan, 2014 June 24). More often, the current legal system and immigration system was questioned, but also why a fence had not been eradicated along the entire border with Mexico even if “the supposed cost to build a fence that spans the entire border is estimated at some $22.4 billion. Which is not all that much money, considering that the federal government has blown some $154 billion on green energy
boondoggles over the past 40 years. In 2008, the feds somehow came up with $20 billion to bail out Bank of America” (Breitbart, 2014 June 20). Despite there being fence/wall on some of the border, the concern was that there was no fence in certain areas to stop the current flow of migration.

Because 2014 saw a large amount of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 was of interest when asking what to do with the unaccompanied minors from Central America. The Act states that children from non-contiguous countries need to be processed and evaluated to see if they fear returning to their countries and the reasons behind it. Chris Hayes from MSNBC spoke about the TVPRA by stating,

That so-called loophole is a provision in a 2008 anti-trafficking law that gives unaccompanied children from Central America the time and resources to apply for asylum before being shipped back to the home country that they’ve just fled. That protection, according to House Republicans, a loophole needs to be closed. Of course, this latest push to eliminate special protections for unaccompanied children comes just as the first wave of Honduran families arrived back in Honduras in what the administration is calling just the initial round of expedited deportations (Hayes, 2014).

The Act only became relevant because they were unaccompanied minors from Central America. Some of the concerns draw back to how the minors are being treated since they are in the United States and not being deported right away. While the minors are being held in the United States, the significance also became apparent in what it would mean for taxpayers and if they would have a say in the situation.
The four patterns were seen in all the media outlets of the transcripts that were chosen. The U.S./Mexico border is often talked about in news stories, in 2014 the Border Crisis opened a new opportunity to re-state the same stereotypes and views that are often attached to the border and the four patterns are mere repetitions of previous surges and border crisis. The border is often considered only a lawless, dangerous section where undocumented immigrants travel on foot across the desert in hazardous conditions and attempt to avoid the border patrol to reach the United States. The stories of the journeys and how the border was described in 2014 did not change any of these previously assigned characteristics of the border. One main concern that was brought up constantly was the openness of the border that allowed thousands of women and children to enter undetected. The porous border plays into the security concern that undesirable individuals will be using this opportunity to enter to United States. Part of these undesirable individuals were portrayed as terrorists who would be coming in to threaten national security and the lives of Americans. This fear and warnings played into the development of a crisis in which border patrol agents were overrun with criminals trying to come in while the agents are processing the thousands of women and children. Soon, criminals will be free to roam the United States and commit crimes including terrorism. Because we do not have a wall, across all of the United States, and enough agents to patrol, our border is surrounded by this crisis that we cannot control. It was not only that the media created these scenarios, but they also used terms and words that are associated with a crisis. For example, the border situation was called a crisis, which is how I first found all the transcripts. Each and every single one of the transcripts were found because they contained the words “border crisis.” They also used words such as waves, disease, porous, and dangerous to talk about the immigrants coming into the United States. The way the media phrased and talked about the border was an indication of the crisis that was being
portrayed as happening in 2014. The information presented to the audience convinced many that the border was a lawless section that needed to be dealt with immediately to prevent further harm, threats, and damage to the United States.

*There was a large response from and about the U.S. Government’s involvement with the 2014 Border Crisis:*

During the 2014 Border Crisis, the public looked to Washington to offer solutions for the humanitarian crisis that was happening at the U.S./Mexico border. As elected representatives, it is believed that their actions speak for and in representation of the U.S. Citizens. The response from the government and especially the President was deemed critical and the various news sources took a particular interest on reporting the action and inactions. There were various instances reported on the constant battle between Obama and Congress and between Republicans and Democrats.

The first critique seen among the media was the lack of agreement and what appeared to be the lack of action from Congress regarding the unaccompanied minors and women was reported constantly in a negative way especially as Congress was gearing up for recess in August. National Public Radio stated: “It's a familiar dance in Washington - President Obama makes a request to Congress and the House says no. This time, the no is in response to the $3.7 billion dollars the president requested to respond to an influx of unaccompanied immigrant children at the U.S.-Mexico border” (Siegel, 2014 July 15). Similarly, MSNBC criticized Congress for not working out a deal and in particular not offering any aid to the unaccompanied minors who had sought refuge in the United States. Chris Matthews from MSNBC stated:

Let Me Start with this horrific display today by the Republicans in the House of Representatives. After three weeks in the headlines, three weeks of outcry at the
humanitarian crisis on our southern border, it today became clear and possibly final that the U.S. Congress will agree to give the president not a single Lincoln-headed penny to deal with this crisis -- nada, nothing, no way -- that’s right, nothing for the 57,000 young people now in the hands of the American people (Matthews, 2014 July 31).

This type of sentiment was shared by other news sources who also reported on the lack of action coming from Congress and their constant disagreement.

Although Congress was in the news throughout the border crisis, the second critique came of the actions and inactions of the President. Obama’s immigration reform and policies were often blamed for attracting the large number of immigrants from Central America while his visit to Texas but not the border were compared to Bush’s flight over Katrina. The news even went on to make an assimilation of the border crisis to Katrina. Ferrechio from Fox discussed the buses taking some of these immigrants to different towns like Murrieta by stating “It could indeed be his Katrina moment, as some people have said. Because it's a crisis. These busses are showing up in towns across American” (Ferrechio, 2014 July 7). The buses full of immigrants and in particular women and children were in effect compared to when U.S. Citizens from Louisiana were arriving in town around the U.S. for refuge after their homes and cities were completely destroyed.

The President was and is often blamed for creating the border crisis in 2014 including the orchestration of some type of agreement between the United States and Central American leaders to bring the women and children to the United States. Fox anchor Lou Dobbs went on to say that:

I think what you're watching is a community organizer playing hemispheric politics. I believe that there is an absolute league amongst the governments of El Salvador,
Guatemala, of Honduras and the government of Mexico. We're talking about children who are being moved -- and the national liberal media has been pointing this out -- they're being moved from 1,800 miles away all the way up through the center of Mexico to our southern border.

Although Congress did not make things easier to provide a solution to the crisis, Rep. Boehner went on to state the following: “I believe that the President continues to act on his own. He is going to poison the well. When you play with matches, you take the risk of burning yourself” (Boehner, 2014 Nov 7). These were common statements made regarding what it felt like a solution-less summer. Regardless of who was at fault, the blame game did not achieve any solutions for the problem and both the public and news continued to report on it extensively.

The third group within the government section that saw a lot of media coverage was the Department of Homeland Security. Although part of the government, the Department of Homeland Security and in particular then Secretary Jeh Johnson was often quoted by the news as the Department in connection with the Border Crisis. Even more connected to the border is the Border Patrol who would sometimes be anonymous sources for the media like Breitbart. From the research done of the selected transcripts, the Border Patrol was often mentioned to criticize the lack of resources they were being provided to secure the border and in effect not maintain the border secure. Laredo Border Patrol Union spokesman Hector Garza spoke to Breitbart who then reported that

Garza recounted that the agents are some of the most highly trained federal officers in the country and that they are very good at what they are trained to do. However, because they are being reassigned for processing duties and to take care of these families and the children, leaving “essentially very few agents who actually do the patrolling of the
"border,” he lamented. “That’s why we suffer, that’s how the criminals and drug runners can take advantage of the situation,” he said. Incredibly, Garza asserted that at least 70% of our border patrol manpower is not patrolling the border (Garza and Wilde, 2014 June 30).

The assignments of border patrol were shifted to caring and managing unaccompanied minors and family units and the media often reported this as related to the idea of calling in the National Guard to the border.

As the President requested funds to deal with the border crisis, then Secretary Johnson also pleaded stating:

At the current burn rate, ICE is going to run out of money in mid-August, and we project that CBP is going to run out of money in mid-September. If there is no supplemental, we're going to have to go to some very dramatic, harsh form of reprogramming, which I'm sure the committee is familiar with, away from some vital Homeland Security programs that I'm sure members of this committee care a lot of about (Johnson 2014 July 15).

It was during 2014 that the United States Government needed to come to a consensus among each other and the President on the situation at the border. Instead, the audience saw a display of discord and petty arguments from the elected officials. The three groups of government on the news were Congress, the President, and the Dept. of Homeland Security. Already the media was reporting the border to be in crisis and not knowing what solution would be made only added to the creation and continuation of the crisis. Despite there being a definite partisan display of our government, the audience did not come together as one to demand a specific solution. Instead,
the constant disagreements between Democrats and Republicans further polarized the audience into their party alliances. Seeing and hearing the two parties argue was successful in also cementing that division between voters in the United States. Instead of bringing the audience together, the media contributed to their polarization by continually airing and reporting on the divisions between parties and simply echoing the already established beliefs of their intended audience. It’s more likely that individuals will watch the news on the source that aligns with their beliefs which then creates a system of repetition from personal beliefs to reaffirmation through the media. Therefore, left leaning audiences will watch left leaning media which covered the border crisis in a more humanitarian way and in a pro-democratic/Obama alliance. The audience members who align with the right wing party were exposed to right wing ideas such as building a wall and closing our border while at the same time seeing a pro-republican/anti Obama discourse. Regardless of the media source, the audience selected to watch what they tend to align with more often than not and will then be exposed to a media source that simply echoes and reaffirm their ideas which further polarized them into their respective corners.

4.2 Quantitative Results

After doing the qualitative searches on the transcripts, I chose different words to see the repetition and occurrence of them on the transcripts I had selected. This demonstrates the diction selection of the different media sources.

The border is often described as being open and needing more security to protect the United States from criminals and unwanted individuals from entering the country. Some even describe the border as “porous.” In fact, Breitbart and Fox news are the only ones of the sources who used the word porous to describe the border. Another idea brought up to describe or provide a solution to the crisis was that the border needed a “fence” or a “wall.” Fence and/or Wall were
brought up by Breitbart 12 times, Fox mentioned it 16 times, NPR mentioned it 3 times, and Democracy News mentioned it once. The news about building a wall/fence across the U.S./Mexico border did not become prominent until these past presidential elections, but already Fox and Breitbart were taking the lead on the reporting about building a wall.

There is controversy around the words used to describe immigrants who are in the United States without a valid visa. Constantly there are discrepancies between calling them “illegal” or “undocumented,” and a consensus on what the right terminology should be has not been reached. I searched the term “illegal” and “illegally” which was mentioned 58 times by Breitbart, 35 times by Fox, and the third highest number of hits came from NBC with 19 mentions. “Undocumented” was mostly used by Democracy Now with 12 times and CNN with 11 mentions of the word. It’s no coincidence which term is more offensive and which networks are using the words. Fox and Breitbart by far use “illegal” more than the other sources, and CNN and Democracy Now both use “undocumented” more than the rest of the sources.

Although the border crisis of 2014 involved mainly unaccompanied minors and family units from Central America, it was surprising to see the number of times Mexico was mentioned by the news sources. A main reason is that the Central American migrants are crossing Mexico to get to the United States and there were initiatives to have Mexico stop them at their southern border to curve the surge in the United States. Regardless of the reason, Mexico was mentioned 19 times by Democracy Now, 16 times by Breitbart, and 11 times by Fox.

The creation of a crisis can be controlled by the media especially in what they decide to report and how they decide to report it. Not only was a “porous” border a fear that was drilled into the news reports, but other words were also used to describe the dangers that the United States was/could encounter because of the unsecured border. For example, terrorism/terrorists
were mentioned by Breitbart, Fox, and NBC. Despite not having concrete evidence, news sources reported that terrorists were coming into the United States from the border with Mexico. This type of reporting plays into the fear of another terrorist attack on the United States and a reason to believe the immigration surge was a crisis. Rape, drugs, cartels, gang, and violence are also alerting words that can be used to create fear on the audience especially when talking about the border. Many of these words were used in relation to the different dangers that we were already facing in the United States and communicated threats that we could see more of during the crisis. It is not necessarily that all these threats were seen from the women and children coming from Central America, but reporting the two together creates a correlation between the two.

Whether the news outlets acted intentionally or not, the language chosen to report on the immigration situation at the border in 2014 was congruent with the source’s established ideals about immigrants from Latin America. The words used to describe the immigrants coming and the dangers facing the United States creates a sort of panic situation that the audience sees as a threat to their livelihood. Even if there were no cases of terrorists from the Middle East entering the United States from the U.S./Mexico border in 2014, the idea that terrorists could use the border as an entry created fear in Americans. This fear turns into a panic and a crisis that leads to destructive group thinking. The Border Crisis was not created by the government, who would have rather kept it quiet, but instead by the continuous reporting of the media of the threats, dangers, and potential attacks on the United States.

Table 2 underneath demonstrates the results of the search.
Conclusion:

With all the news that was presented, it was easy for the audience to have an array of emotions towards the subject matter. The media sources reported on the partisanship of the government and their divided views in regards to the border crisis which only contributed in the polarization of the audience. Despite the variations found in the way the news was presented by the different sources, the audience tends to view the news source that echoes their beliefs and maintains the cycle of division. It is seen that the experts and opinions brought on by the different sources were mere representations of the established views of the sources. As stated before, right wing media brought to the audience more of a right wing analysis of the news while
left wing media brought left wing analysis of the news. Unless the audience was switching back and forth between the sources, they were receiving a one-view inquiry of the border crisis from the source that resembles that the audience’s pre-conceived ideas on immigration. These interpretations are fueled by the stereotypical ideals surrounding Latin American immigration to the United States.

Despite countries having their own culture, history, and problems, immigrants from Latin America are lumped into one. This was no exception in 2014 since the same stereotypes that are used on Mexican immigrants were used on Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans and also on women and children. The same threats and dangers that were associated with the border were re-used in 2014 that left the border as the representation of illegal travel, journey and entry. 2014 also saw the same stories of sadness and compassion for immigrants as a humanitarian approach. Whether it is men, women, or young children, the stories were repeated to talk about the journey through Mexico where gangs and criminal organization prey on immigrants while they are holding on to the top of La Bestia. At the same time, the media recycled the threats that are associated with the border that is allowing drug cartels, terrorists, and other unwanted criminals in the country. Both the humanitarian and security standpoints of the border were prevalent in the media surrounding the border crisis, but neither was originated in 2014. Instead, these are the same preoccupations seen around immigration surges with just a different population and a different year.

The situation in 2014 created a cycle of threats, dangers, and humanitarian concerns for unaccompanied minors and family units. The constant reporting on the subject matter and the diction used to describe the immigration situation played into the creation of a crisis. Not only was the media constantly mentioning the “surge” and “wave” of immigrants that mimics a
natural disaster, but they were also reporting on the criminals that could be taking advantage of the situation and entering the United States. Some sources even went on to say terrorists were using the U.S./Mexico border to enter the country. With the mention of kidnappings, drug cartels, terrorists and illegals coming in the thousands to the border, it is easy to comprehend how the view of the border remains chaotic, dangerous, and open to threats. This crisis at the border allowed sources like Fox News and Breitbart to suggest a wall/fence was necessary to protect the nation from these dangers. The mentality of the “crisis” continued as it was thought that current security was lagging and more security was needed. It became a situation of war-like concerns as militarization of the border was encouraged and suggested by various sources and “experts.” Regardless of the news source, the audience felt a need to have a fast and quick solution to the border crisis especially after hearing the waves of people entering with criminals hidden among them.

2014 became a significant year for immigration in which various patterns were developed in the media to maintain the conversation going back and forth between what needed to be done and how to approach a solution for young children and mothers traveling from Central America. The year was unique in different aspects that can change how immigration is viewed. First, it was the first time in years that the majority of the undocumented population was not from Mexico. Second, the population demographics changed from an almost male to women, families, and unaccompanied minors. Third, instead of entering undetected, this population of undocumented immigrants was seeking asylum and protection, and fourth, the migratory patterns shifted towards south Texas. The combination of all these changes contributed to the creation of a crisis, the mass media coverage, the recycling of Latino/immigrant stereotypes, and the struggle between humanitarian and security concerns.
Chapter 5: Analysis

Racism is not commonly used to characterize the 2014 Border Crisis; this was an immigration problem, not a racism problem. Yet immigration laws and their history are often race based and have created a racist excuse to legitimize certain treatment of minorities. Race and racism have become products of social thought and means in which society allocates privilege and status (Delgado & Stefancic, 2012). Despite the advances against racism after the 1960s, “racism is solely defined in terms of personal enmity, neo-conservatives are able to say that compensation for white racism should apply only to victims of explicit acts of racism” (Santa Ana, 2002, p.154) and thus ignore the discourse used in immigration laws with roots in racism. Racist discourse included in immigration is a way to justify those laws and practices that dehumanize and creates groups treated with inclusion and exclusion that are categorized and assigned negative characteristics (Santa Ana, 2002). The creation of a “crisis” at the U.S./Mexico border in 2014 speaks to a system of categorization, racist discourse, and racially motivated actions. The media together with government officials, seen as the official spokespersons of the border situation, created a system of stereotypes for the asylum-seekers as well as concerns and threats that were recycled from previous immigration situations.

5.1 Critical Race Theory as Applied to Immigration

Racial subordination is commonly masked as legal by giving a law or policy to its name. The 2014 Border Crisis was no different. With the threat of “illegal” immigration from Latin American countries came proposals that would keep America safe, yet at the same time create excluded groups. When the largest population is from a particular area or country, the law proposed targets that population directly. Critical Race Theory distinguishes between the exclusion and inclusion of certain groups as being racially motivated even when on the surface
the purpose is masked as national security. CRT also acknowledges the use of laws to include certain minority groups when it is convenient for the majority group. For instance, the labor market dictates when certain groups are needed to help enrich the interests of white elites or working class Caucasians. An example is when the Mexican population was needed to come and work in the United States is with the enactment of the Bracero Program. Once labor had been used to help the agricultural economy, the program was cancelled and Mexican workers no longer needed therefore asked to leave the country. These types of laws are created and used to the advantage of the United States and its interest groups. If the elites and governing powers are not benefitting from a certain group, those laws once welcoming the immigrants are changed just like it was seen with the Bracero Program.

The allocation of privilege and status is often also linked to immigration on the basis of legal status categories. From the formation of the United States, the division of who could be a citizen and who could not have citizenship privileges were cemented. Naturalization became limited to whites in an effort to negate that right to Blacks. The citizenship status in the current status quo is attempting to prevent further Latino groups from residing in the United States legally. This is an effort to further deny rights, citizenship, and status to a minority group seen as a strategy repeated throughout history. The underlying reason driving these allocation of rights are purely racial and tend to exclude a certain minority group at a time. The current strategies are being used to prevent more illegal immigrants and in particular Mexican citizens from entering the United States. Some policies have even been proposed to deny citizenship to children of “illegal” immigrants. Even though those proposals do not target Mexicans or Latinos explicitly, the threats do not mention the U.S./Canadian border or overstaying Europeans on U.S. visas. The
concentration of the problem always leads back to the U.S./Mexico border where the “illegal” population consists of Mexican and Central Americas.

2014 became a year synonymous with illegal immigration and a public that was constantly seeing the threats on the media. Regardless of the suggestions to close the border, secure the border, and build a wall across the border as national security standards, critical race theory suggests these proposals are racially motivated. The reason a panic struck in 2014 was not because thousands of immigrants were coming into the United States, but instead because it was illegal immigrants from Central America and Mexico. This target population is no longer seen as an asset to Caucasians in the United States and are now threatening the American way of life.

5.2 Immigration Laws as They Relate to the Border Crisis

The 2014 Border Crisis saw the repetition of concerns that are used to initiate and pass immigration laws in the United States. Some of the laws have been historically linked to a minority group; beginning with the Bracero Program, immigration laws have focused on the Latino population and in particular Mexicans. It is hard to argue that the large numbers of immigrants in the United States residing undocumented are from Latin America, but they have not always been shunned or denied entry. The first large population from Mexico came under the Bracero Program and when it was no longer convenient for the United States to have them, the individuals under the program were deported. Unfortunately, rumors of the more stable and prosperous economy had already spread across Latin America and associated the United States with an attainable American Dream. Years of instability in countries like Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have driven thousands of people and more recently women and children to the United States. The push and pull factors have diversified and violence became a reason why immigrants keep coming. State violence turned into gang and cartel violence in
many of these countries while family reunification keeps bringing families to the United States in hopes of joining their family members already here. 2014 in particular drew women, unaccompanied minors, and family units to the United States.

The first concern that is repeated in the 2014 Border Crisis and similar to those expressed in previous immigration laws/policies is the use of public or state services by undocumented immigrants. Despite most undocumented immigrants not being able to use most of the services, there is still a common perception and argument from mainly right wing media that undocumented immigrants especially women are using the services. When women and children were coming to the United States in 2014, an argument was that the state and taxpayers would have to set services and money aside to accommodate them. Women, especially those with children, are perceived as seeking aid from the Government and not capable of contributing to the economy of the United States. Breitbart in particular discussed the effect these women and children would have on U.S. citizens during the 2014 Border Crisis and referring to the cost on taxpayers once the women and their young children are “released” into the population. The misconception and fear that the immigrants will be a burden for society are repeated over and over again, but mainly when discussing non-Anglo-Saxon immigrants.

The second concern repeated constantly and more recently in the 2014 Border Crisis is the connection of Latino immigrants to criminality. As opposed to other undocumented immigrants who have overstayed their visa, Latino immigrants who crossed the U.S./Mexico border are seen in a criminal way. Despite both types of immigrants who are “undocumented” in the United States, those from Latin American countries are often perceived as dangerous, criminals, and as breaking U.S. laws. A stereotype that follows men from Latin America and those fitting the profile of being “brown” is that they are involved in criminal activity. The
common fear and threat revolves especially around undocumented Latin American males who are often linked to being in a gang, a cartel, or being rapists and criminals. Another threat being passed around was that criminals and unwanted individuals were using the Border Crisis as a way to infiltrate the United States and pass as asylum-seekers. This was a repeated stereotype on both Fox News and Breitbart. The right wing media was tapping into the fear of the unknown to create fear in their audience of gang members and rapists passing undetected into the United States. The media has successfully created the image of the Latino criminal and legitimized the “notion that crime is a nonwhite phenomenon” (Garcia, 1995, p.135). Thus the issue of criminality is often associated with new immigrants especially of Latin American countries. In 2014, the media drew on this fear and common misconception even to imply that some of the minors were gang members. This successfully created the 2014 crisis. It was not necessarily only encompassed of the fear of criminals coming into the United States, but that fear became a threat that was overplayed by the media and viewed by the audience. It was fairly convincing that America was under attack from the U.S./Mexico border by kidnappers, rapists, cartels members, and gang members who would be soon at a city near you.

5.3 Depiction of the U.S./Mexico Border and of Asylum-Seekers in 2014

The Border Crisis created a time in which the U.S./Mexico border became the focus of 2014. The border is often thought as the border with Mexico where unwanted people and things are able to freely cross back and forth without detection despite the millions of dollars spent on border security. The border becomes a fantasized location that focuses on the illegality of the place and the dangerous journeys immigrants face in the desert. The criminality of the border has further emphasized the various stereotypes associated with Latin American immigrants that resemble the stereotypes already established in particular when referring to children and women
from Central America. These stereotypes also play on the creation of Mexicanness in the United States that has led to lumping of minorities that could resemble Mexicans.

The U.S./Mexico border was a constant reference in the media in 2014 to signify the passage and illegality of the region where asylum-seekers were searching for entry to the United States. The border serves as a way to map inclusion and exclusion of races. Borders have often been seen as boundaries that distinguish those who belong and those that do not. With the creation of the visa system, the difference is only seen on paper and the form that is used to enter the United States. Crossing the border “illegally” establishes that person as an illegal alien breaking U.S. immigration laws. On the other hand, if the individual has been designated as a welcomed visitor, he or she may possess a valid visa that allows him or her to cross between the U.S./Mexico border without breaking any laws. The distinction between a visa holder and an illegal alien is often used to further marginalize minorities. Even when immigrants are legally in the United States, they can often be confused as being “illegal” since there is no way to distinguish one from another and the public will more often think everyone is illegal as oppose of legal.

The illegality of the border was a major topic during 2014, but also the journeys taken by asylum-seekers. The phenomenon of so many women and children coming in at once from Central America evoked different theories. The economic push and pull factors were recounted by all the media sources while almost entirely ignoring a major contribution to the decision to come to the United States. The violence in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala have driven thousands of people to the United States since the 1980s when civil wars and unstable governments created a violent environment. Soon after, gang members that had been imprisoned in the United States were deported back to Central America where they found an unstable,
precarious country that could not contain and prevent gangs from replicating rapidly. The violence from gangs in Central America has been a recognized issue, but in particular, violence against women was not mentioned in the media. Central American countries have some of the highest rates of femicide especially in the countries where the largest number of women migrated from to seek asylum in the United States. Those countries have also a high rate of corruption and unsolved crimes against women; yet, none of this was mentioned by the media as a reason why women were seeking protection. Instead, the issues were focused on the long, dangerous journeys that women and children took and how stereotypically immigrants were seeking help from the United States.

The stereotypes associated to the asylum-seekers have often already been depicted in immigration history and in previous immigration surges. There are a few that are in particularly repeated in the Border Crisis of 2014: illegality, women, and children. The stereotypes that are used for illegal, women and children constitute a cementation of those stereotypes in 2014 and of immigrants.

**Illegality:**

Another aspect of criminality that is often mentioned by the media is the “illegal” alien. “Illegality is a juridical status that entails a social relation to the state; as such, migrant illegality is a preeminently political identity” (De Genova, 2002, p.422). The illegality mainly focuses on the fact that these immigrants and/or asylum-seekers entered the United States without valid documents and not through a designated port of entry. A common misconception arises when there is no distinction between legal and illegal. Distinctly, immigrants both legal and illegal have no barriers of interaction since there is no marking that would differentiate between the two (De Genova, 2002). Therefore, these immigrants are often called “illegal” since they did not
follow the bureaucratic immigration path. The illegality of the status of the immigrant remains a product of the state who then dictates when that status can be changed (Chavez, 2001). Even if it may only signify that the immigrant does not have valid documents to reside or enter the United States, “illegal” has a negative connotation that often is also correlated with people of Latin America. In addition, asylum seekers actually seek a legal status and use an available legal process to obtain it.

“In public debate, the “illegal aliens” responsible for increases in crime are portrayed only as those who enter surreptitiously at the Mexican border” (Garcia, 1995, p.136) So, most of the “illegal” aliens are perceived as being of Mexican descent and being criminals even when immigrants come from all over the world. The term illegal and criminal are referred and seen to go hand in had therefore creating a racialized and negative stereotype of immigrants from Latin America. “Illegal aliens is a pejorative term that implies criminality, thereby suggesting that the person who fall in this category deserve punishment, not legal protection” (Johnson, 1996-97, p.276). This creates a second-class citizenship for not only “illegal” aliens, but also anyone looking like one. “Race profiling in immigration enforcement confirms that Latinos, whether citizens or lawful immigrants, enjoy fewer membership rights than Anglos” (Johnson, 2000, p. 717). This groups different immigrants together because of race affiliation. At the same time, associating illegal and criminal with Latin American immigrants allows for mistreatment. “If we think that persons who come to the United States from another nation are hard-working and good, it is difficult to treat them harshly” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 273). When we associate the immigrants with criminals and illegality, we allow a different treatment to ensue. Not only do we create a scapegoat racial group because they are already criminals, but their civil rights are more easily threatened. When the media and government ensue a war against immigration and target
“illegal” aliens that resemble a certain race, they are creating a cycle of racial profiling in immigration laws and enforcement as well as the continuation of second-class citizenship for minorities.

**Mexicaness:**

“Racial profiling that encompasses cultural attributes does not merely target individual Mexicans and Mexican Americans, but rather Mexicaness’ in general” (Romero, 2008, p. 30). A profile has been created and stereotyped to describe what an undocumented immigrant is or could be simply by building on what is perceived to be a common Mexican. “The illegal alien in public discussion often refers to a person who enters without inspection, often a national of Mexico” (Johnson, 1996-97, p. 274). Even when individuals have been in the United States for generations, are citizens of the U.S., or are not even of Mexican descent, they still fall under the category of undocumented alien. 2014 saw for the first time the decrease of Mexican immigrants and the increase of immigrants from Central America. Even when the majority of immigrants are from Central America, they still fit into the category of Mexicaness. They are of lower class, most likely peasant, short in statute, from an indigenous background, and darker complexion. This is a sufficient description that is used from various agencies like Border Patrol to distinguish undocumented immigrants. The problem is that the stereotype falls under the description of a Mexican “illegal” immigrant and tries to group immigrants that appear to be “Mexican” into the same category. There are key distinctions between ethnicities and nationalities in Latin America that grouping them all into Mexican is almost as an insult.

There are other implications in being grouped into a stereotypical category of undocumented immigrant. Not only is “looking illegal” a real problem, but when you are in the United States legally or seeking asylum, you become a target of the “undocumented treatment.”
There are legal implications that arise such as U.S. legal citizens and residents being deported, but also environmental implications. These environmental implications refer to the fear felt as a result of Border Patrol targeting minorities, especially of Mexican descent along the border and in other immigrant communities. In certain areas, “driving while brown” is enough to be stopped by police or border patrol. Even when law enforcement denies it, looking and appearing to be an illegal immigrant is often sufficient to attract attention from them. Enough research exists to support the implications that correlate racial profiling with law enforcement (Chavez 2003, Garcia 1995, and Johnson 2000).

In 2014, the same stereotypes were applied to the asylum-seekers from Central America. Women and children were subjected to the “Mexicaness” stereotype that implies they are merely seeking work and that financial reasons are the reasons for coming to the United States. As stated before, financial reasons are not the sole reason and for some, not a reason at all of why they wanted to reach the United States. Women and children from the “surge” of 2014 were also categorized in the typical story of an undocumented immigrant. It is commonly thought immigrants want to reach the United States, settle in a community, work for low wages, save money and send remittances back to their families. In the meantime, the money saved will allow them to eventually move back to Mexico, or bring their whole family to the United States where they will too live in the shadows. The problem is that the women and children from Central America did not want to remain in the shadows; they wanted protection from something or someone in their countries. The implications of being stereotyped had implications that hurt the humanitarian possibilities for some of the asylum-seekers. The stereotype consequences continue below specifically to those that apply to women and children.
Women:
Although women were not thought of as immigrants at the beginning of Mexico to U.S. immigration, they now constitute an important demographic in U.S. immigration. In 2014, women were coming in the thousands from Central America in search of protection. Some stereotypes have followed Latina women and were recounted by the media again in 2014. Latina women are thought to marry young, have many children, and depend on support from their husbands or state to raise those children. These stereotypes are seen as a threat in the United States where the population boom is a concern and social services are at risk.

Women of Central American background coming to the United States in 2014 did not escape the stereotypes that have been applied to Latina women. The entrance of thousands of women as asylum-seekers caused anxiety among some in the United States. Women from Latin American countries are a seen as a threat because of their high fertility rates. Not only will they be seeking asylum in the U.S. but they will most likely be bringing their children with them and possibly having more children while they are here. This raises a lot of concerns for right wing voters and nativists in particular. Women who are undocumented in the United States will have children in the United States who then are U.S. citizens and eventually be able to petition their parents to become residents. This would not happen for at least 21 years, but nativists feel children born to undocumented parents should not hold U.S. citizenship despite the law stating otherwise. There are many arguments in Congress and among citizens attempting to strip away birthright citizenship, and the large influx of immigrants in 2014 only heightened those ideas.

Because women are not thought of as hard working migrants like their male counterparts, it is assumed that women will need the assistance from the government. Social services have been restricted to legal immigrants for the most part, but there are some services available to
undocumented immigrants, especially women. With the economy not being as healthy as it could be, 2014 drew worrisome taxpayers who did not want the government/citizens to be responsible for sustaining them. A key pattern of conflict occurred since the women seeking asylum had to first get processed and were being held in facilities that were spread across the southern United States. One main protesting site was in Murrieta, CA where people from the community and surrounding areas came out to protest the arrival of the asylum-seekers. One main reason was that they did not want the community to be responsible for the financial sustaining of the immigrants. This was brought up by the media and how the country could be affected if it was going to be responsible for all the migrants coming across the border.

**Children:**

Often thought of as vulnerable, children are envisioned with their parents or guardians. Being left alone at a young age is not something we associate with children and would alarm most people in the United States. In 2014, hundreds of children traveled from their home countries in Central America, across the Guatemalan/Mexico border, through Mexico, and across the U.S. border alone. Not only was it reported on the dangerous journeys the children from very young ages were taking across Mexico, but also judgment on the parents who allowed their children to come alone with such a dangerous path.

Despite some of their young ages, children were considered as a burden to society since just like women, they are thought of as vulnerable and dependent on the state. Not only were some of them traveling alone without a parent or guardian, but they were young enough to be required to go to school and not be able to work. This meant that state services would have to cover the expenses that some of these children would have such as where to live and schooling. At the beginning, facilities were established where the children were held/detained and teachers
would be assigned to go there. This too caused controversy since it was as if the children were being imprisoned. The humanitarian crisis began with unaccompanied minors being held in the “ice” coolers (hieleras) which is what they called the detention cells at Customs and Border Protection. It became a demonstration of how vulnerable and in need of help the children were. Humanitarian statements were made to aid in their release and treatment. No one wanted to see children suffer or admit that they needed to be detained which became a problem for how the government was going to react towards them.

Even though there were humanitarian concerns for unaccompanied children in particular, there was still a stereotype being repeated by right wing media of their association with criminals. Children are those who are 17 years or younger which in Central America would already make them a target for gangs. MS-13 and Barrio 18 are two of the most prominent gangs that recruit young children as their “soldiers” and threaten those who refuse to join. A common theory being passed around was that some of the unaccompanied children were gang members now infiltrating the United States. They were escaping their countries of origin, but still were considered criminals. Now, they were being received with open arms in the United States and would soon be a threat to society.

5.4 Creation of a Border Crisis

With the portrayal of the border recycling stereotypes from previous immigration surges, the media created a crisis. A combination of rationales in 2014 together created the perfect storm or in this case, the media using its position to manufacture a border crisis. The border has often been a concern for politicians and citizens who fear the threats that come from the U.S./Mexico border. The media then builds on this known fear to render a chaotic situation in which reports and experts speak of the various dangers of the border. In particular, 2014 saw the media build
on some of the most common stereotypes of “illegal aliens” to talk about the border and create a sense of crisis. First, the media reported on the threat of terrorists and criminals coming across the U.S./Mexico border undetected. Second, the large number of immigrants coming in together all at once and in “waves” was repeated constantly in the news to make it seem like there was no control of the situation especially when the stability of the country was at stake. Third, the idea of the open border allows everyone to draw various concerns of how the border was going to be secured. Fourth, the constant battle for the allocation of funds between Congress and the President created the idea of a dysfunctional government that could not deal with the situation at the border and that chaos would ensue; and fifth, the political polarization of the audience. These five elements together depicted the U.S./Mexico situation as a Crisis that would alarm both citizens and non-citizens alike.

*Criminals and Terrorists Coming to America:*

The media portrayed the entry of Central American women and children as a distraction for Border Patrol who now had to spend all this time processing the asylum-seekers instead of patrolling the border and detaining criminals and terrorists. Without certain proof, the idea that terrorists were coming in to the United States from Middle-Eastern countries became a real threat in the minds of the audience. If thousands of immigrants were coming in through the border undetected, then it would certainly make sense that terrorists would use this as an entry too. This would be a good theory if we had no knowledge that all previous terrorists especially those involved in the 9/11 terrorist attacks entered legally into the United States via airports holding valid visas. When it comes to border security, the border with Canada needs to be mentioned since the media does not. Canadian/U.S. border is never brought up as a cause of concern even though it is not as militarized or protected as the border with Mexico.
The disparity in security levels between the northern and southern borders are very high and yet the media has all of its focus on the southern border. Despite the factual evidence, the media still portrays the border with Mexico as welcoming terrorists who will pass undetected and threaten the United States especially when they are “babysitting” asylum-seekers. Even with some agents being used to process the immigrants and aid in their care, the U.S./Mexico border was not left unmanned by the agents. The media continued to use this as an excuse to link criminals to immigrants especially when they are males. Another prediction that surfaced targeted the younger teenage males since they were fleeing violence from Central America. These males are often fleeing gangs who want to recruit them, and the media went on to state that gang members from Central America were sneaking in with the rest of the immigrants. We cannot deny that some gang members could have entered the United States, but the harshness in which some of these reports were made created an alarming situation that may or may not have existed. The media built on the fear of criminals, linked them to the “illegal” aliens, and heightened a situation into a crisis.

**Waves of Women and Children:**

Unlike previous immigrants who attempt to avoid the Border Patrol, some women and children were searching for the agents to invoke their asylum seeking rights. The fact that even women and children who are seen as more vulnerable were able to infiltrate the military-style border created another reason why 2014 was seen as a crisis. It wasn’t that immigrants were entering the United States undocumented since that has happened since before the creation of the militarized border, but it was the large number of immigrants coming in “waves.” The number of immigrants was portrayed as an overwhelming situation because of the magnitude, and the fact that it was women and children who were asylum-seekers. The media constantly predicted how
many immigrants were coming in groups and how many were expected to keep on coming. A never-ending “wave” of immigrants being discussed in the media created some concern from the public since there was no clear date when the numbers would dwindle. So, the media is reporting a continuous loop of immigrants with predictions for the coming months and for the next year that the public does not know and fears what could happen if all of Latin America attempts to enter the United States.

The constant referral of immigrants coming in “waves” and “flooding” the border creates a metaphor for large-scale migration (Chavez, 2001). “A flood, of course, is a deluge that occurs when too much water flows into an area… Floods often wreak havoc on an area and the people living there” (Chavez, 2001, p. 74). The use of water references creates a notion of movement of people; floods and waves refer to people moving in a dangerous way especially towards the border usually from south to north and in a single, destructive matter. “Fluids are normally understood and measured in terms of volume and mass, not units” when floods are used to describe immigrants as flooding the border, they are seen as creating an unstoppable and uncontrollable flow of people overwhelming the U.S./Mexico border. Furthermore, “treating immigration as dangerous waters conceals the individuality of the immigrants’ lives and their humanity” (Santa Ana, 2002, p. 77). Instead of thinking of the women and children coming as individuals, the public then groups the asylum-seekers as one, disregarding their individual needs and reasons for seeking aid in the United States. This continues the cycle of stereotypes that are applied to immigrants as we speak of them as a catastrophic fluid breaking like a wave and flooding the border.

Once it was established that the women and children from Central America were seeking asylum, the rules of the game changed. Now, CBP needed to interview, process, and hold all the
women and children. Facilities needed to be created to hold the new immigrants and money needed to be allocated to deal with the situation at the border. A major concern that was discussed in the media was the issue of who was going to sustain the economic impact of the women and children. A common report became that taxpayers would have to not only have their money used to create the facilities and house the asylum-seekers, but also be responsible for them once they were released to the communities. When women and children are involved, the image of a woman with a young child appears in the minds of the audience. This image is often considered not dangerous, but at the same time it suggests helplessness, in need of protection, and assistance (Chavez, 2001). As asylum-seekers were being moved to communities where they would be housed, protests erupted and a major reason was that they feared the community would have to pay for their housing since these women would be requiring assistance. Even if they were not in their immediate state or communities, the concern was that these women would not be working, they would have to take care of their young children, and the government would be providing public services like housing, food stamps, and others with taxpayer money.

The concern that public services are going to be used, continues from a stereotype that Latin American immigrants do not fully integrate into the United States. Previous immigrant groups, mainly Anglo-Saxon immigrants, were able to integrate into the hard-working, reach for the American dream way of life. Instead, undocumented Latinos are seen as taking from the State and not contributing back. They also do not learn English, and they stick with other Latino immigrants. This is a major threat to the American way of life that is viewed by long time immigrants. Regardless of the reason, the media contributed to the stereotypes and even heightened them in a way that the audience would understand that allowing women and children
from Central America to seek asylum in the United States was going to affect the economy and the public’s taxes.

**Securing the U.S./Mexico Border:**

The United States-Mexico border has been the center of attention in terms of immigration and has come to be talked about in terms of the “locus of illegality, delinquency, and transgression” (Behdad, 1998, p. 103). It is the physical imaginary line that was designated to represent and divide the two countries. At the same time, the border serves as a reminder that certain people need to be excluded and do not belong in the U.S. side (Chavez, 2001). This division is further engrained by the creation of a physical division patrolled by individuals whose sole purpose is to keep certain things and people out. The focus of the border crisis was built on the already known fears that the public has regarding an unstable border. The border is now symbolized as a military style compound that has walls and chain linked fences between the United States and Mexico while having the soldier (Border Patrol agents) patrolling the area with military style equipment and high tech devices. Even with the entire infrastructure used on the border to maintain people and goods out, thousands of women and young children got through in 2014.

Immigrants are regarded as outsiders who must find a way to cross into the United States and at the same time enter undetected (Chavez, 2001). In 2014, the thousands of women and children coming to the United States did not want to remain undetected, and instead, they searched for detection from the agents patrolling the desert and asked for protection. The media took on the numbers of immigrants coming in the different months of 2014 and reported on the porous border that has allowed so many people in. In particular, the left wing media spoke of the easiness that women and children found to infiltrate the country as if the U.S./Mexico border was
a war zone. The message was clear, whatever infrastructure, man power, and technology the border had was not enough to keep thousands of people out. More was needed. More funds, more technology, more agents, bigger walls, longer walls, and more control over the flow of immigrants into the United States. Although it became a topic of choice in the presidential election of 2016, the construction of a wall was mentioned in 2014. There are physical barriers in place in different sectors along the U.S./Mexico border, but there is no continuous wall across the entire border with Mexico. This became the focus and solution at the time when thousands of Central Americans were coming to the United States.

With the continuous talk of walls, barriers, and infrastructure that will “protect” the United States from an immigrant invasion, the notion that the border is a war zone is again portrayed. The immigrants or asylum-seekers metaphorically as invaders create a sense of urgency that would be visible in war. When the two sides are at war, infiltrators/enemies need to be annihilated and prevented from crossing sides. This same metaphor is applied to immigrants and asylum-seekers who are seen as the enemy wanting to hurt the United States. Having the border be open to invasion creates a crisis that needs to be controlled. Not only are immigrants though of as invaders across enemy lines, but the militarized border further confirms it is a war zone.

More than once it has been suggested and actually carried out that the National Guard be posted on the U.S. side of the border. Not only is this actual militarization, but they would be aided by high tech infrastructure that has already been implemented on the border. Border security already includes seismic monitors and magnetic sensors that aid in the detection of immigrants (Behdad, 1998). The problem is that they may add more agents and have military patrol, but this will not prevent people from wanting to come to the United States. The problems
run deeper than a hole on the wall that lets immigrants in, because the fence can be fixed and the
hole covered, but the push and pull factors do not disappear.

Securing the United States border fell into a quick solution strategy that was sought by
some U.S. citizens and government representatives. Instead of focusing on the problem related to
the push factors that would involve long-term solutions, the border crisis needed to be fixed fast
and easy. The public and the government wanted to find a solution fast enough to prevent the
lengthening of the crisis, but very few reported on the real problem. As stated before, women are
fleeing more than just a bad economy, they are fleeing a lifestyle that is patriarchal, misogynistic,
and corrupt. The building of a wall or securing the border would not solve the “immigration”
problem.

The argument that the porous border is allowing immigrants in was repeated in 2014. The
simple solution was to make the border un-porous which meant that securing the border would
take more funds and more human and technological infrastructure. The simple repetition that the
border was open to “illegal” immigration created the idea that at any point the border would be
overrun and chaos would ensue. This contributed to the creation of the border crisis since people
believed that the border was in danger of an immigrant invasion that would include criminals and
terrorists that had already become a threat repeated by the media.

**Dysfunctional Government:**

In a common display of Congress partisanship, the U.S. public was witness to the
constant struggle between congress and the president to reach an accord and a solution to the
situation at the U.S./Mexico border. The media covered the disagreements constantly to evoke a
sense of dysfunction and lack of cooperation between the parties and the legislative and
executive branches. Instead of providing a solution to the problem at the U.S./Mexico border, the government was seen struggling to reach an accord. Not only was there no solution to what would be done with the asylum-seekers, but the president had asked for an increase in budget for the Department of Homeland Security that would allocate funds for caring and processing the immigrants. The budget needed to be passed before Congress took their recess in August and then DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson made it known that the increase in budget was necessary. The argument became a focus on the two parties and their disagreements with then President Obama instead of focusing on the issue at hand.

During the summer, the largest influx of immigrants came to the United States seeking asylum, and at the same time, the government kept stalling any budget requests. The audience and public then became aware that the government could not agree on a solution at the same time as help was needed at the border. This created a vision of potential chaos if the elected officials did not know how to react or how to agree on a solution. The media is reporting on the lack of cooperation between the government, and at the same time how thousands of women and children from Central America are at the border and many more will be coming. The audience was almost left with no other choice than to believe panic and chaos would ensue at the border. Again, the border reflects the front yard of the American house, and if the border is in danger, it will soon reflect on the rest of the country.

**Polarization of the American Audience:**

The discourse used in 2014 by the media to describe the situation at the U.S./Mexico border was carefully selected by the various news sources that cater to the left wing or right wing audience. The use of certain words depicts a certain sentiment towards the asylum-seekers. Right wing media more easily used the word “illegal” to refer to the asylum-seekers. As seen, the
criminal implications behind “illegal alien” create an unwanted illegality and criminal status for the women and children from Central America. Instead of being individually perceived, the immigrants were grouped together into the category of “illegal alien.” Left and right wing media catered to their audience that had cemented ideals before the 2014 border crisis. The role of the media was to further echo those ideals instead of providing neutral news that could then be judged by the audience.

The media replayed the stereotypes associated with undocumented immigrants especially immigrants from Latin America. These stereotypes are believed to be true and the media further cements their legitimate connotations. Certain words evoke a meaning to stories notably when talking about a sensitive topic like immigration. “The news media are undeniably powerful, as defined in terms of access. They have unique access to the public ear, and nearly full control over the form of the message that they disseminate” (Santa Ana, 2002, p. 50). Not only does the media have the power to control what they report, but also the way they choose to report the content and the stories. Simply, the words chosen have a powerful effect on the audience receiving the news. Certain words that evoke criminality such as illegal and undocumented refer to an immigration turmoil when paired with water references such as waves and floods. What is more alarming is that “the media portrayals become the accepted view” (Santa Ana, 2001, p. 53). Few instances exist in which the public will contradict or question what the news is reporting especially when the news is parroting the views of the audience.
Ch. 6 Conclusion

The 2014 Border Crisis saw the best and the worst from the United States media. The left and right wing media extensively covered the U.S./Mexico border adhering to some facts, but mostly speculations. When talking about the border crisis, the media focused on the humanitarian crisis, the security concerns, the representation of the border, and the government action and inaction regarding the situation at the U.S./Mexico border. Humanitarian efforts tried to protect a vulnerable and at risk population from Central America, yet at the same time others saw them as a threat to the United States and as a reason to heighten border security. The new immigration patterns established in 2014 constituted in a change of demographics of the population from mostly males to women and children and from mainly Mexican nationals to Central American nationals. The changes also included a change in migratory patterns towards south Texas, and the desired migratory status of the women and children. Instead of the aspiration to reach the United States and remain in the shadows, Central American women and children were search for asylum.

Certain rights and privileges have been denied to minority immigrant groups because of the idea that they are all illegal in the United States and 2014 immigration surge was no exception. This comes from a time when Latina/o immigrants have been targeted and seen as threat because of their large population numbers. Once the minority begins to become the majority, it is time to close to border and call it national security. The border has remained porous, even when millions of dollars have been invested in militarizing and securing the stretch between the U.S. and Mexico, so it is viewed as an illegal passage that allows threatening populations in. It becomes a particular concern when lawmakers continue to make the argument.
that the efforts to secure the border are race-neutral or not targeting a specific population. This much effort in denying a problem usually means there is a race problem.

Just as the border remained a portrayal of illegality and delinquency, the media cemented and recycled stereotypes that marginalized the immigrant population. Congressmen, secretaries, the President and news media from Breitbart to Democracy Now all reported on the waves of immigrants arriving at the border. Their efforts to report on the news allowed the audience to feel they were informed when in reality, they became part of the crisis too. This was not a novel phenomenon since there have been immigration crisis’ before. The difference is that shortly after, immigration laws and policies are being presented in a non-racialized fashion with racial tendencies and proposals to secure our border are being offered as a solution to the immigration problem, except under the blanket of national security.

After conducting the analysis of the transcripts, it was determined that despite the many changes that occurred in 2014 with the change in immigration demographics, the border remained a representation in the media as a section of illegality, delinquency, and zone of passage for immigrants. Many of the stories also focused on the illegal entry and the journey of the immigrants into the United States without major changes in the way their stories were told especially since there were no immigrant voices or representatives from the sending countries to speak of the issue of the border crisis. It was also not taken into consideration that these group of immigrants were asylum seekers and from Central America because the same stereotypes were applied to this incoming group. The major differences between being an illegal immigrant and an asylum-seeker should have been enough to distinguish the different populations, yet the women, children, and family units from Central America were portrayed as if they were Mexican illegal immigrants.
In 2014, the media took on the role to inform the public and audience of the events happening at the U.S./Mexico border. The “threats” presented by the media allowed the public to believe there was a border immigration crisis in 2014. Five elements were seen to contribute to the creation of this crisis. The five elements included (1) portraying the urgency that criminals and terrorist were coming to the United States; (2) there were unstoppable waves of women and children overwhelming the U.S./Mexico border; (3) it was an urgent matter to secure the border; (4) there was a dysfunctional and non-negotiating Government to deal with a solution of the border; and (5) the audience was polarized by the media. Together, the five elements created a sense of urgency, need for a quick solution, and belief that the country was in danger. The media was able to portray the border as a porous entity that was allowing huge amounts of undocumented immigrants (in reality asylum-seekers) while criminals and terrorists were coming in too and a dysfunctional government was not able to reach a solution to the problem and threats. This with the media reflecting on the views of worried Americans. Whether it was right or left wing media, the media has power of how and what they present to their audience. This allowed the media to take control of the border crisis story as well as create a panic among Americans in the belief that we had an open border. Together, the five elements hyped and overly reported by the media built on one another to create the idea that the border was facing a crisis.
The stereotypes associated with immigrants served to cement those stereotypes about the asylum-seekers in 2014. The immigrants were portrayed as a threat to the way of life in the United States despite being a new demographic of immigrants. They were still seem as criminals, a burden to taxpayers, and migrating to find jobs and exploit social services. The different ideas and proposals that rose out of 2014 served to continue the cycle of racial immigrant profiling that many immigration laws are based on. Not only was birthright citizenship questioned at a time when primarily Latino/a women and children were arriving to the United States, but securing the border became a concern that targeted specifically Central American immigrants.

The effects of the 2014 border crisis cannot entirely be accounted for yet, but certain ideas such as building a wall were heightened in the 2014 media that became a focus in the years after especially around the time of the 2016 Presidential elections. Time will allow us to really
see how much immigration threats from 2014 are influencing the political and social decisions in 2017. The media has a greater influence in the way that news is perceived and delivered to the audience in the United States in particular with sensitive topics like immigration. The message is powerful enough that a crisis can be constructed and created to heighten an event just like we saw in the 2014 Border Crisis.
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Appendix I

Qualitative Coding

Theme 1: The 2014 Border Crisis audience became polarized by the various articles on the subject matter both from a humanitarian and security standpoint

Subtheme A: How the Audience was influenced by US Government Officials

- JEH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY: We're not going to address migration, illegal migration, from these three Central American countries into the United States until we can take appreciable steps to help them improve the conditions in their countries. (CNN#224, 7/25/14)
- BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We welcome people from all around the world who have that same striving spirit. We're not defined by tribe or bloodlines. We're defined by a creed, an idea. And we want that tradition to continue. (CNN#252, 11/20/14)
- CASTRO: Well, I think -- those are decisions for an immigration judge to make, not for the President or myself or any member of Congress. That`s a decision the judge will make. But the point is that these folks need to be given a chance to go to court and argue their case. And I think it also raises the question, we consider to be a refugee in America in the 21st century. That`s a very tough question for us and it tugs at our conscious. (NBC#150, 7/13/14)
- SANTORUM: Well, first up, I disagree with Kim. The border is not secure. It`s obviously not secure. So, the idea the Republicans have this phony thing that the border is not secure, it`s not phony. I mean, you`ve got half a million people. (NBC#150, 7/13/14)
- JOHNSON: For one thing, we need to fix the secure communities program. This is a program where we work with local law enforcement to facilitate the transfer of undocumented who are in local jails. The program, frankly, has gotten off to a bad start and we need to fix that program. I think the overarching goal of secured communities is a good one, but it needs a fresh start. For example those are -- that`s one thing, among a number of things that we`re contemplating doing (Jeh Johnson, NBC #386, 7/2/14)
- Rep. Boehner: “No. Again, I would argue with the premise of the question. What held us back last year was a flood of kids coming to the border because of the actions that the President had already taken” (CBS #256, 11/7/14)
- Rep. Gutierrez "I think it is shameful that in the Congress of the U.S. we see members of Congress engendering and creating fear of children," says Democratic Rep. Luis Gutiérrez of Illinois, who supports Obama’s emergency supplemental bill. "We should be protecting children, not creating fear of them." (Democracy Now, 7/11/14)
- GEN. JOHN KELLY, U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND: We can see with amazing clarity this drug movement. But 74 percent of it I watch go by. I can't touch it. And when I say I
watch it go by, in the maritime domain, to Honduras primarily, I don't have the assets to stop it. (fox#314, 7/17/14)

- REP. MICHAEL MCCaul (R-TX), HOUSE HOMELAND SECURITY CHAIRMAN: What's phenomenon with the children crossing, is just sending a very loud signal message to those who want to do us harm, that you can some on in. It's wide open. (fox#314, 7/17/14)

- “All this corruption and violence is directly or indirectly due to the insatiable U.S. demand for drugs, particularly cocaine, heroin and now methamphetamine, all of which are produced in Latin America and smuggled into the U.S. along an incredibly efficient network along which anything — hundreds of tons of drugs, people, terrorists, potentially weapons of mass destruction or children — can travel, so long as they can pay the fare.” (Marine Corps Gen. John Kelly, US Southern Command, Breitbart 7/8/14)

**Subtheme B: How the audience was influenced by non-government officials**

- DUNN: We're out here because our coyote-in-chief has asked illegal immigrants to come into our country and they are giving them places to live and they are taking care of them and they are sending riot police to counter protesters that are here that believe in our constitutional republic and that we should be a nation of laws. It's against the laws to bring these people here. (Fox#111, 7/7/14) (tea party)

- SONIA NAZARIA, AUTHOR: Many of these children are coming, they don't have any money so they come the only way that they can which is gripping on to the tops and sides of these freight trains to travel up the length of Mexico. There are bandits alongside the rails who will rob you and rape you and sometimes kill you. (NBC#390, 7/6/14)

- We broadcast video of Vargas speaking in McAllen, Texas, about the U.S. treatment of child migrants just days before his arrest. "These children are not illegal; they are human beings, and they are not a national security threat," Vargas says. "The only threat that these children pose to us is the threat of testing our own conscience." (Democracy Now, 7/16/2014)

- DUNN: Well, I would like to have our laws enforced and let people come in for legal immigration. There is a lot of politicians that say all the people here, they are going to make them legal but not give them citizenship, but they are not going to put them in front of the line or doing it legally. There are thousands of people who are doing it legally and they are staying in their own country until they get the OK to come here. We want all those people to go back to their own countries and apply legally. (fox#111, 7/7/14)

- MILLER: It's just extraordinary. I mean, the President, once again, under pressure, because the people from La Raza, the group that are pro-immigration, call him the deporter in chief. Because he has supported more people than any other president. On the other hand, people who want to do something about border security, Republicans and some Democrats along that border, say, wait a minute, let's deal with this border issue of who was in our country first, and then we'll talk about how to give people a path towards
legalization and normalization. (Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, Fox#298, 7/6/14)

• JUDITH MILLER, AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST: I think he set this up beautifully for the Republicans to have to oppose making these people citizens. This is just what he wants. He wants to do it now to show that he's not a lame duck, he is alive and he will continue to pursue his policies and he will challenge the Republicans to vote against the 50,000 people who will come into the electorate each year, Hispanic Americans who want to vote (fox#346, 11/16/14)

• ED ROLLINS, POLITICAL CAMPAIGN STRATEGIST: He can't make them citizens. He can't -- that's a misconception that is out there. All that he can do is basically order the Department of HHS not to basically deport them. He can give them work permits. Most of them are working anyway, so it won't make a whole lot of difference. But legislation has to be passed by the Congress to basically make them citizens or path to citizenship and he will separate, he will take 4 million, 5 million people and make them legal and there's another 7 million or 8 million still in the country illegally which means you create a class system that is terrible. (Fox#346, 11/16/14)

• MARTY FELDSTEIN, REAGAN ECONOMIC ADVISER: This is an issue about the Hispanic vote. And the president is going to take the lead before the Republicans get a chance to vote. I hope, but I don't have a lot of reason to believe, that the Republicans will say, well, we can do better. We can see you and raise you on this. We can do a better deal legislatively so we don't lose the Hispanic vote. (fox#346, 11/16/14)

• LUPILLO RIVERA, POPULAR MEXICAN SINGER: All of us are here to work and make this country better. And if don't want to accept it, it's because we build the United States of America. (fox#127, 8/1/14)

• ERIKA ANDIOLA, IMMIGRATION ACTIVIST: I mean to me, where is his courage? I mean President Obama has been telling us, you know, that he’s going to do something. He has deported more than 2 million people. Right now I live in Arizona. We have tons of people that are right now waiting for that to happen. People who are in the detention centers, people like my mom who are in deportation proceedings, who - we have one man that’s actually going to go into a church right now to seek sanctuary because, you know, his immigration case hasn’t been resolved. And so, to us it’s not a matter of politics anymore. It’s a matter of urgency. And we hope that the president really takes courage. And to me, after the November elections, you know, we are going to have tons of deportations that have happened already. And Dreamers have been able to have the courage to do that, like what you just saw, to Rubio, you know, with Steve King, with everything that we’ve done, I don’t understand why the president doesn’t have the courage to really face Republicans and what they’re saying. (MSNBC#379, 8/31/14)

• Breitbart Texas border security expert Sylvia Longmire looks deeper into what is behind this crisis. “The Obama administration says that the economic and security conditions in Central America are ‘clearly’ the reason for the uptick in unaccompanied children crossing the border,” Longmire stated, “but that’s not the only reason. Officials
downplayed the role of rumors circulating in countries like Guatemala that children and families were being released from custody, but if that’s the situation in only a few cases, why has DHS embarked on a focused public information campaign through Spanish-language media to combat those rumors?” (Breitbart 6/10/14)

- Sister Norma Pimentel, the executive director for Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, said to the Sentinel that although the media spotlight from this summer had turned away, they were once again seeing a surge of immigrants, and the numbers had “increased a lot this past month, almost to 100 every day.” Pimentel oversees the volunteer efforts at their shelter and said that the surge of immigrants “doesn’t look like it’s going to end any time soon,” but “we’re here and we’re prepared to receive them.” (Breitbart, 12/25/14)

**Subtheme C: Humanitarian Statements**

- “But lets deal with the kids now because this is the humanitarian crisis the whole world is watching” (O’Reilly, Fox#127, 8/1/14)

- Human rights groups say the children, many of them fleeing violence in Central America, are being detained and packed into holding centers without enough food or water and some sexually abused. One border patrol agency boss has been fired so far, but advocates say a wider crackdown is necessary (ABC#259, 6/12/14)

- NAVARRO: I think you spend your time showing them and talking about the economic benefits of immigration, about the need to replenish the workforce, about the fact that, you know, Americans aren't having children at the rate they used to be having. We need more workers in the workforce. We need more people in America in order to be able to sustain our current programs. And there are so many economic benefits to immigration that have been made over and over again. (CNN#196, 7/12/14)

- NAVARRO: It’s policies in Central America that are broken. It’s policies in the United States, immigration policies that are broken. Part of what’s driving this is our broken immigration policy in the sense that there's a lot of parents here with kids over there who let the kids in Central America, and who frankly have gotten tired of waiting and living without those children. Those children are growing up to be teenagers, which is when they are most vulnerable to gang violence. (CNN#196, 7/12/14)

- Again, think about it. Now, all our command energy is on this so all the border folks are trying to figure this out and how to put them around the rest of the country. That time, that energy is better spent trying to get them back home. It’s better for the children. You don’t want kids exposed to this sex trafficking, drug use. Again, some of those kids are being recruited for gang use, press gang-type activities in these criminal organizations all en route up to the United States. (NBC#150, 7/13/14). (Rep. Mike Rogers Republican Michigan)

- CECILIA VEGA (ABC NEWS) (Off-camera) And the Homeland Security Department is investigating allegations that US border patrol agents are abusing migrant children who've crossed into the US without their parents.(ABC #259, 6/12/14)
Joan, we’ve been watching politics a lot, me a lot longer than you. I’ve never seen such failure and such fear. They won’t help those kids. They won’t give them a nickel -- as I one said, not one Lincoln-headed penny! JOAN WALSH, SALON.COM, MSNBC POLITICAL ANALYST: Not one Lincoln- headed penny. MATTHEWS: Nothing! Your thought. (MSNBC #67, 7/31/14)

MATTHEWS: OK, listen, for three weeks now, we’ve had pretty good headlines about the American people. Now, some people think we have -- there’s just too much illegal immigration, so they generally have a mindset. But even within that group, there’s a lot of sympathy for the kids because they came over from a horrific situation -- not from Mexico, which has problems but not horrific problems, from places like Honduras, which are horrendous, like the worst neighborhood in the United States is better than these places. And so they don’t know what to do with these kids. People are actually conflicted. (MSNBC#67, 7/1/14)

Democracy Now! has documented how more than 650 women and children, some as young as 18 months old, have been sent to an isolated detention center in Artesia, New Mexico. (democracy now, 8/8/14)

It was August 2009 when Obama closed down the only other large detention center that held women and children—the "T. Don Hutto facility in Texas, run by Corrections Corporation of America, where the American Civil Liberties Union had to sue to improve conditions, saying toddlers in prison uniforms spent most of the day locked in their cells. (democracy now, 8/8/14)

Renée Feltz visits a second detention center in Artesia, New Mexico, to report on the poor conditions and lack of due process for migrants, and the lawyers mobilizing to assist them. "Children were not eating. Children were getting very sick," says attorney Megan Jordi. "Every child I saw looked incredibly emaciated and had a hollow look in their eyes." (democracy now, 8/14/14)

MARIA CARDONA: Here's the problem. What the president offered - the 3.7 billion dollars emergency funding package - was to do exactly - to deal with this issue, right? To try to solve this problem. The problem at hand is that there is an influx of unaccompanied minors. We need to take care of them in a humane manner. These are children - our most vulnerable. We need to take care of them. We need to house them appropriately. We need to feed them. (NPR#404, 8/1/14)

Breitbart Texas revealed, late last week, the humanitarian crisis underway in the federal detention facilities in South Texas that are literally kenneling young children in conditions the federal courts would not allow for convicted rapists and murderers. (Breitbart, 6/10/14)

Meanwhile, children continue to be kenneled in South Texas. Breitbart Texas is seeking additional information about this humanitarian crisis. (Breitbart, 6/10/14)

This new influx of illegal immigrant minors is unprecedented. Thousands of children, some as young as four years old, have been found crossing the border. Some have been found dead. Children are sometimes used by Mexican drug cartels, as well. (Breitbart, 7/8/14)
Subtheme D: Security Concern Statements

- See Theme 2 Subtheme D

Theme 2: The 2014 Border Crisis focused on the border as a zone of illegal passage and the journey taken by the women and children from Central America

Subtheme A: How was the border described?

- “Crisis along the Border” (Pereira, CNN#44, 7/9/14)
- “Some opponents of the influx are taking the matters into their own hands. The founder of Minutemen Project says he is launching Operation Normandy, and planned to gather volunteers on the U.S.-Mexico border to avoid what he calls an invasion of undocumented immigrants” (Berman, CNN#86, 7/11/14)
- “At the end of the day in the final analysis, our border is not open to illegal migration and we will stem the tide” (Jeh Johnson, CNN#168, 7/7/14)
- “you could argue that the border is secure in that spot. The border patrol is right there. It’s the internal policy that’s broken, not necessarily the border right there” (Romans,CNN#196, 7/12/14)
- “Critics of President Barack Obama’s immigration policies have said that his administration’s lax enforcement of immigration laws created a “magnet” enticing families to attempt to cross the border” (Rumpf, Breitbard, 12/25/14)
- “many have speculated that Mexican cartels are having a field day since the border is arguably porous” (Tate, Breitbart, 7/18/14)
- MIKE ROGERS: Well let me ask, in the Rio Grande Valley, if we had the same sort of fencing we have along the southern border of California, do you believe these children would be coming across the border and in the numbers they are coming across? Or anything close to it? JEH JOHNSON: It's hard to answer because you're talking about the Rio Grande River which is a very...MIKE ROGERS: I've been there. I know what I'm talking about. And we don't have a fence down there, and if we did, we wouldn't have 5-year-old children coming across” (NPR#269, 6/24/14)
- UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We have relatives that have already snuck across the border in this country. (MSNBC#359, 7/15/14)
- ROGERS: The policy on the border is certainly encouraging this behavior. If I believe and I’m in El Salvador or somewhere else that I can pay a criminal gang -- think of that’s -- to take my children through some very dangerous circumstances to get to the United States and they are going to open up with loving arms to keep those kids, you’re encouraging that behavior. (NBC#150, 7/13/14)
- O'REILLY: All right. I was there and I was there for it coming down -- the wall coming down in Berlin. I was actually there on the scene. Nobody could get through that fence -- all right. Nobody. It was a formidable obstacle. And the Israelis have done the same thing to keep out terrorism there. So we haven't done that on the southern border. That's mistake number one. Mistake number two is in this current flashpoint situation in the Rio
Grande Valley, not far from where you live in Austin, you could put National Guard there to stop the madness just as you stopped the madness in the Rodney King riots, in Hurricane Katrina, in all of those other things. (Fox#127, 8/1/14)

- So right now in the U.S.A., the porous border and foreign children suffering because of it is the important issue the nation is facing. (Fox#127, 8/1/14)
- As you may know, the feds cannot stop the flow of illegal immigrant children into the U.S.A. The situation has overwhelmed the border states and, now, thousands of illegal aliens are being sent to other communities around the country. (Fox#127, 8/1/14)
- Well, what`s happening right now on the border? There`s this crisis. Well, this has lit up talk radio. It`s been lighting up the right over the last 72 hours. So, think about that perfect storm. Add it all together, never mind the problems that Eric Cantor basically was not realizing he had on the ground at home, you know, I started to talk to people who have been telling me, Rachel, over the last -- and it was odd for him, over the last, I would say year or two, he was making fewer and fewer stops at home, more concerned about being a national leader… (MSNBC #349, 6/10/14)
- O`REILLY: Now we have nearly 50,000 children who have entered the country illegally in the past eight five months. Some believe that`s because the Obama administration will not enforce immigration laws.(Fox#127)
- Breitbart Texas Managing Director Brandon Darby recently reported that in one Texas Border Patrol sector, up to 70 percent of Border Patrol agents are currently taking care of the influx of unaccompanied minors from Central America, instead of manning the U.S.-Mexico border. (tate, breitbart, 7/18/14)
- The flow of families and unaccompanied alien children (UACs) illegally crossing the border into Texas appears to be increasing again. (Rumpf, Breitbart, 12/25/14)
- Overall, more than 52,000 children have crossed the border alone illegally since October. (Jonathan Karl reporter, ABC #263, 07/8/14). Need to add

Subtheme B: how did the media describe the journeys

- “For those risking it all and making the dangerous journey, it`s really about changing their lives” (John Berman, CNN#86, 7/11/14)
- “Many of the children making the harrowing trek over the border are trying to reunite with family members already here in the United States, family members who are seeing the tide turn in the U.S. economy for the better” (Romans, CNN#196, 7/12/14)
- “It was the first time he said, don`t send your children here. It`s not a safe journey. And if they make it, they`re gonna be sent back” (Stephanopoulos, ABC#99, 6/29/14)
- “Parents to send their children on the dangerous journey alone” (Rumpf, Breitbart, 12/25/2014)
- “There is one reality both sides can agree on - violence has become so horrendous in parts of Central America, parents are willing to send their children off on harrowing journeys just for a glimmer of a shot at a better life. The trek into the U.S. for some
stretches more than a thousand miles. And Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson says he's met too many youths with stories like this” (Chang, NPR#269, 6/24/14)

- “I spoke to one kid, who was about 12 or 13, who spent days climbing on top of a freight train - a boxcar - and these kids, sometimes they fall off because they fall asleep, they can't hold on any longer - it's exceedingly dangerous” (Jeh Johnson, NPR#269, 6/24/14)
- “It would be better for them to be able to apply in-country rather than take a very dangerous journey all the way up to Texas to make those same claims” (Obama, NPR#277, 7/25/14)
- When we talk to people there when we talk to the Border Patrol agents, they say that overwhelmingly what people say they want is to be reunified with their parents who are already illegally in the United States. So this means their parents left them in apparently this dangerous place, came to the United States, and now have paid a human trafficker thousand of dollars to bring their young child through 1400 miles of danger. Some are killed, some are maimed, some are diverted into sex trafficking. Rep. Goodlatte (Fox#111, 7/7/14)
- O'REILLY: And for people who are just getting on to the story. The reason this is happening is in countries like El Salvador or Honduras, Guatemala, the media is telling the folks that if they come to the United States now, because of the Dream Act and some of the other things that have been proposed, they'll be able to stay. So the people smugglers, the human smugglers, which take the children out of their villages and then shepherd them all the way through Mexico, they're making a ton of money. (fox#127, 8/1/14)
- KING: They would have to give him some money to send these people down there and that's not the only thing the administration wants to do. Listen to Jeh Johnson, the Homeland Security Secretary, he says if you want to deal with the problem you have to help these countries. Part of this problem he says is because maybe its sex trafficking, maybe its child trafficking for labor purposes, maybe its drug control issues, listen. (CNN#224, 7/25/14)

**Subtheme C: What officials from the States who border Mexico have to say about the Border Crisis**

**Texas:**

- Governor Rick Perry had been asking and had asked for years for the National Guard to get down and help the border patrol (Fox #127, 8/1/14)
- “After meeting about this crisis, Texas governor, Rick Perry sent a follow up letter to the president reiterating the government’s request for the president to take immediate action to secure the border and address the influx of unaccompanied children” (CNN #86, 7/11/14)
- “I will tell you they either are inept or don’t care and that is my position. WE have been bringing the attention of president Obama and his administration since 2010, he received a letter form me on the tarmac. I have to believe that when you do not respond in any way
that you are either inept or you have some ulterior motive of which you’re functioning from” (Perry, CNN#168, 7/7/14)

- “It may be a tense conversation, Perry has blamed the President for the crisis, even suggesting he’s part of a “coordinated effort” with Central American governments to bring the children over the border” (ABC#263, 7/8/14)

- “I don’t believe he particularly cares whether or not the border of the United States is secure. And that’s the reason there has been this lack of effort, this lack of focus, this lack of resources” (Perry, ABC#263, 7/8/14)

- RICK PERRY: We flag this issue in 2012 and have yet to even have a response. It is a failure of leadership. (CBS#254, 8/13/14)

- “The fact is… that the administration has been trying to work with Congress to pass an immigration reform bill for over two years. And so it’s been folks in Congress and specifically in the House of Representatives, who have not moved forward on a bill that would have helped us prevent some of the things we’re seeing on the border now” (Rep. Joaquin Castro (D) TX, NBC#150, 7/13/14)

- REP. BETO O`ROURKE (D), TEXAS: This is absolutely the wrong way to respond to this crisis. We’ve been hearing firsthand accounts and reading story after story of kids like Anthony, age 13, in Honduras and Sanpedro Soula (ph) who goes missing; his 7-year-old brother, Kenneth, goes looking for him. Days later they’re found dead, tortured, beaten along with five other kids. And the story is repeated over and over again. These aren’t kids exploiting a loophole. These are kids fleeing a very desperate, very violent and very deadly situation. I think we need to do everything within the power of this country to see these kids through this difficult time, not speed their deportation back to instability and potentially death. And it also speaks to ultimately our need to reform this country’s immigration laws and have a much more sane, rational and humane process for everyone involved including and maybe most importantly right now these kids from Central America. (MSNBC #359, 7/15/14)

- KAY GRANGER: We’ve got border patrol people trying to do a good job, but they’re so overwhelmed with the number of people coming across that they’re taking care of children and filling out forms. And so we need National Guard to add more bodies to what’s happening at the border. (rep from tx) (NPR#273, 7/15/14)

- State Representative Debbie Riddle (R-Tomball) told Breitbart Texas she spoke with Governor Rick Perry’s (R-TX) Office and they confirmed the surge to deal with the Texas border crisis is about to begin. Details are not available at this time, but Riddle said, “It is going to happen.” (Breitbart, 6/18/14)

**California:**

- During his stay, Brown referred to the rise in illegal crossings of immigrants into the U.S. from Central American countries as a humanitarian crisis. In an interview on KCRA3, Brown said that the solution to the illegal alien problem is “not to scapegoat, not to make the kids into some threat that they aren’t, but rather to realize that we are linked inextricably to Mexico and Central America.” Brown appeared to downplay the illegal immigration upsurge, which has included a vast number of gang members, drug
smugglers, and human traffickers, by grouping the lawbreakers into one innocuous category known as “kids.” (Breitbart, 7/30/14)

- “How come now, how come so many. And I think what’s happening is down in a less desirable area of the world, you have a lot of crime, poverty, and people are trying to flee to the greatest nation in the world. We can’t blame them for that.” (Mayor Alan Long of Murrieta, NBC#390, 7/6/14)

**Subtheme D: What security concerns were used or said to describe the border crisis**

**Criminals, Terrorists, Drug Cartels entering the country/ protecting border:**

- **MCCAUL:** The aliens are what we're most concerned about, most of the Afghans, Pakistanis, people from Iran, we have apprehended special aliens at the border. (fox#314, 7/17/14)
- **DUNN:** Exactly. We want him to take all of the resources that are available to him and to send them to the border because the federal government's responsibility is to protect our borders and they are not. They are opening them up and making them into a sieve. And while the Border Patrol agents are busy changing diapers and washing kids with scabies and taking care of young girls who are getting raped, the terrorists and the cartel people are sneaking them across the border. (Fox#111, 7/7/14)
- **MICHAEL LYNCH, FILMMAKER:** There are people who are coming here who want to come to cut your lawn and have a better life. But there are people who want to cut your throat. (MSNBC#359, 7/15/14)
- The murder suspect was caught approximately 85 miles from the border in Texas, near the town of Falfurrias. He is a Guatemalan who is wanted for alleged murder in the State of Florida. Another of the arrests occurred near McAllen, Texas as a man from El Salvador who crossed the porous U.S.-Mexico border was determined to be an MS-13 gang member who had previously served ten years in prison for rape. Another man who was caught is a convicted sex offender from El Salvador. A Mexican man was also caught and determined to be wanted for second-degree murder. (Breitbart, 6/24/14)
- Breitbart Texas *previously reported* that another sector in Texas has seen a 100% increase in the number of previously convicted sex offenders crossing into Texas from Mexico from the previous year. Another recent Breitbart Texas *report revealed* that more than 7,000 sex offenders were deported from the State of Texas in the past three years. (Breitbart, 6/24/14)
- **The Safety of US Citizens.** Crafting a system in which American authorities have no idea who is in the country is a recipe for public safety disaster. Immigration and Customs Enforcement admits that in 2013, it released 36,007 convicted criminal aliens awaiting deportation outcomes, including immigrants responsible for homicides, sexual assaults, kidnapping, and other serious crimes. The CIS breaks it down: “193 homicide convictions (including one willful killing of a public official with gun); 426 sexual assault convictions; 303 kidnapping convictions; 1,075 aggravated assault convictions; 1,160 stolen vehicle convictions; 9,187 dangerous drug convictions; 16,070 drunk or
drugged driving convictions; 303 flight escape convictions.” Meanwhile, ranchers along the southern border are victimized with impunity by drug cartels exploiting the open border. (Breitbart, 7/8/14)

- Governor Rick Perry (R-TX) has been an advocate for this measure. According to some experts, a deployment of 15,000 National Guard troops would secure the border. And there are hundreds of thousands of National Guard troops available for such duty. (Breitbart, 6/20/14)
- Think about this. We're talking about this year somewhere around 90,000 unaccompanied children. Next year, the number is likely to rise in total to a quarter of a million. (Fox#127, 8/1/14) (exponential #s growing)

**Health Concerns:**

- **LA JEUNESSE:** Thousands of those immigrants are now joining families across the U.S., worrying some about the cost, others about their children's health. So a week ago, FOX News asked the administration for hard information. How many immigrants have been quarantined, tested positive for a contagious disease or been hospitalized for pneumonia, pregnancy or another illness? It provided zero information. (Fox#330, 8/1/14)
- Yesterday, however, an inspector general's audit did find officials exposed to some, and in some cases contracting, TB, scabies, lice and chicken pox. Even children got sick when the agents carried the virus home. And immigrants unfamiliar with bathrooms resulted in unsanitary conditions and human waste in some locations. (Fox#330, 8/1/14)
- **Disease.** America is now coping with diseases it believed it had eradicated, at least in part thanks to unrestricted immigration. In early June, ABC 15 in Arizona reported, “US Border Patrol agents are worried that what’s coming over into the US could harm everyone… Agents are worried about a viral outbreak.” According to Border Patrol Agent and Rio Grande Valley Union representative Chris Cabrera, agents are experiencing contagious outbreaks – and so-called quarantine areas are nothing of the sort, often separated from the general population by mere caution tape. “There’s been an outbreak of scabies that’s been going on for the past month,” Cabrera said. And it’s not just scabies, it’s chicken pox, MRSA, staph infections. The Department of Homeland Security will not allow media to speak with doctors and medical staff treating illegal immigrants. A health official told The Blaze, “There is really no hard stop at the border, and we have no idea health-wise what diseases are coming across.” (Shapiro, Breitbart, 07/08/14)

**Current President/Congress, Policies, Immigration System:**

- Critics claim executive action by the President allows for prosecutorial discretion in cases where illegal immigrants enter the U.S. as minors. Along the southern border, other threats are being tracked. (Fox#314, 7/17/14)
Our current legal system is completely inadequate in terms of achieving deportation. Thanks to Immigration and Customs Enforcement prosecutorial discretion, there are no hard-and-fast rules regarding how deportation is conducted. ICE officers often release illegal immigrants on the grounds that they are either non-flight risks or non-risks to the community. Obviously, that first grounds is often false, given the disappearance of large numbers of released illegal immigrants. Deportations are expensive and costly. (Breitbart, 6/20/14)

That so-called loophole is a provision in a 2008 anti-trafficking law that gives unaccompanied children from Central America the time and resources to apply for asylum before being shipped back to the home country that they’ve just fled. That protection, according to House Republicans, a loophole needs to be closed. Of course, this latest push to eliminate special protections for unaccompanied children comes just as the first wave of Honduran families arrived back in Honduras in what the administration is calling just the initial round of expedited deportations. (TVPRA) (MSNBC 359, 7/15/14)

BERLET: Yes. Well, it’s a triad. It’s disease, crime and radical ideas. And a scholar named Hyams (ph) said these usually targeted in the earlier 1800s and early 1900s Catholics, immigrants that didn’t come from the Anglo-Saxon world, including the Irish and the Italians and radical ideas, Bolsheviks, in the form of Obama in the White House now apparently. (over-hype) (MSNBC #359, 07/15/14)

The supposed cost to build a fence that spans the entire border is estimated at some $22.4 billion. Which is not all that much money, considering that the federal government has blown some $154 billion on green energy boondoggles over the past 40 years. In 2008, the feds somehow came up with $20 billion to bail out Bank of America. (Breitbart, 6/20/14)

AILSA CHANG: The problem for the White House is not all of what they're calling a crisis now seems like a crisis to Republicans. Matt Salmon of Arizona is part of a House Republican working group examining the border problem. And he says too much of the president's request assumes the U.S. needs to house these children instead of deport them. (NPR#273, 7/15/14)

JEFF DUNCAN: Are we directing in a Spanish-speaking voice of America into Central America saying, you cannot come into this country illegally. You will not get citizenship. In fact, you're going to be deported back to your home country. (anti-immigration propaganda?) (NPR, 6/24/14)

Effects of Tax Payers, Taxes, etc

The protesters tell us they are worried that if they allow buses with immigrants, many of whom have women and children, to be dropped off at this short-term facility, they fear they will be released into the community where taxpayers will have to pay for their food, clothing, housing, even health care. Some have serious concerns over diseases that have already been brought into the country. (Will Carr, Fox#111, 7/7/14)
• Now, the administration complains about misinformation and fear mongering but refuses to provide the type of statistics that would allow taxpayers to judge for themselves if the risk posed to the public health is blown out of proportion or real -- Monica. (Fox#330, 8/1/14)

• PAYNE: Well, you know, listen, you know, you have covered this story from the emotional, heart-tugging point of view. But the fact of the matter is that you have got two faces of this immigration situation. On the illegal immigration side, a report done by Heritage says, on average, we have a $54 billion deficit. An average illegal immigrant household gets about $24,000 a year in benefits. They pay about $10,000 in taxes. You multiply that by how many are here, that's a huge, huge knot right there. (Fox#111, 7/7/14)

• UNIDENTIFIED MALE: It is a sad day in this nation that people who are here illegally can storm the streets of our cities in numbers greater than those of American and Allied forces storming the beaches of Normandy and while they are there, they demand upon the United States taxpayer to continue to provide them with welfare, social service programs, free health care and education of their children. (MSNBC#359, 7/15/14)

• PAYNE: You are right. Listen, I also want to point out the double-edged sword that is this giant welfare utopia that we have. People in America know they don't have to take those low-paying jobs. You go to Alabama, these kids, 26-year-olds they don't want to work at a catfish farm. They can go on disability. Who takes these jobs? What's luring all these people to this country? It's not citizenship, but it's all the benefits that come along with it, including low-paying jobs or that same utopian social welfare system. (Fox#111, 7/7/14) (low paying jobs no one else wants)

• The illegal immigrants crossing America’s southern border are not villains. Most of them are likely looking for a place to work. But that doesn’t mean they’re not draws on public resources. Illegal immigrants have a poverty rate of 26 percent, twice that of the native-born. (Breitbart, 7/8/14)

• Poaching future voters:

  • PAYNE: It does cost us. But on the political side, the president is taking a gamut here that Hispanic voters will say that the Democrats are the ones who have the empathy, if you will. They are the ones who care about these kids. They are the ones who are thoughtful about these kids. They don't want to put them on a bus and send them back home. Therefore, when it's election time, they will reward the Democrats. That's politics over economics. (Fox#111, 7/7/14) (Hispanic votes!)

  • The border can be closed, but both parties have a seeming interest in keeping it open. Democrats want the border open to usher in millions of people, most of them undereducated and likely to depend at least in part on government, who will presumably vote for bigger government once they are given citizenship. Republicans want the border open to provide cheap labor to big business. Nobody wants the border open to benefit the kind of immigrants that made this nation great: immigrants
who want to work and don’t want an overbearing state alternatively cradling and crushing them. (Breitbart, 6/20/14)

•

Fixing the problem, solutions:

• So, that’s not really the debate. The debate is how do you fix it. And in my mind, the first step in fixing this is to stop the growth and the problem that we have right now with illegal immigration. (Rubio, Fox#127, 8/1/14)

Other Concerns:

• VAN SUSTEREN: Will, in terms of -- obviously there has been no violence good sign, right? Just people exercising their First Amendment at this point? (protesting) (Fox#111, 7/7/14)

• HAYES: The protests were peaceful but at times confusing for some. "The Arizona Republic" reporting, quote, "At one point several buses approached the protesters driving east. The crowd started to confront the buses but the protesters were told the buses were carrying kids from the YMCA. "'How do we know it’s the YMCA?’ a few protesters shouted, but the buses were allowed to continue east on the highway." (knowing who to protest) (MSNBC#359, 7/15/14)

• American Culture Is Under Attack. This is not the fault of immigrants to America, who, like all previous generations of immigrants from a myriad of other countries (including my great-grandparents from Eastern Europe), would be willing to acculturate to the United States. This is the fault of the left, which has suggested that the melting pot ideal with unique American values is culturally imperialistic and patriarchal. The result is an increasingly fragmented nation. Despite these grave threats to America, members of both parties continue to pretend that leaving the border open is a viable option – Republicans, because they are beholden to big businesses seeking cheap labor, and Democrats, because they wish to confiscate the wealth of citizens. But at this point, there is simply no excuse for not closing the border. (Breitbart 7/8/14)

Theme 3: The Response from and about the U.S. Government’s involvement with the 2014 Border Crisis

Subtheme A: Republicans vs Democrats in Congress

• At the end of the day here, Republicans had it up or down on the Senate bill, which is not a good bill and most Republicans today said they wouldn't vote for that bill again. We don't have a unicameral; both houses have an option. This president will destroy the potential of moving forward on this thing because Republicans will be so angry at him that they will do everything they can to stop him. (Fox#346, 11/16/14)
• BARTIROMO: I know we have a crisis at the border, but is it so immediate that we have to push something through right now rather than waiting for the new Congress? (Fox#346, 11/16/14)

• "Let Me Start" with this horrific display today by the Republicans in the House of Representatives. After three weeks in the headlines, three weeks of outcry at the humanitarian crisis on our southern border, it today became clear and possibly final that the U.S. Congress will agree to give the president not a single Lincoln-headed penny to deal with this crisis -- nada, nothing, no way -- that’s right, nothing for the 57,000 young people now in the hands of the American people. (MSNBC #67, 7/31/14)

• The blame for this lies on the reputation of a weak speaker of the House, who is unable to even tie his shoe without the daily permission of the Tea Party caucus, a firebrand Texas senator named Ted Cruz, who killed John Boehner’s fragile hold on a majority vote for even a minimal response to the border crisis, the failure of the president to take an out-front lead to correct that 2008 law against human trafficking passed by President George W. Bush which helped open the gate for the flood of young people from Central America, and the effort by Senator Harry Reid to tie the urgent measure to alleviate the border crisis to the Senate’s larger comprehensive immigration reform bill that has been awaiting action in the House. (MSNBC#67, 7/31/14)

• REP. EMANUEL CLEAVER (D), MISSOURI: Well, they’re talking about trying to stay overnight and do something tomorrow morning, but even that, Chris, is absolutely nothing. This is insulting to the people of this country. It’s insulting to people who are in Washington because we thought we were here to solve problems. And I’m not a name caller, a bomb thrower, but I can tell you I’m sick and tired of what’s going on here in Congress because there’s nothing going on. (MSNBC #67, 7/31/14)

• Rick Perry, of all people, issued this statement. "It’s beyond belief that Congress is abandoning its post while our border crisis continues to create humanitarian suffering and criminal aliens still represent a clear threat to our citizens and our nation. Congress should not go into recess until the job is completed." (MSNBC#67, 7/31/14)

• MELBER: Good evening. I am Ari Melber. Lawrence has the night off.

• The House of Representatives has just 10 days left before its August recess, not much time to act on the emergency funding request for the border crisis or to legislate before the fall campaign season. Yet, Republicans spent today wasting their time in a very public way, holding a hearing on their unusual lawsuit against the president. (MSNBC #138, 7/16/14)

• And again, the main issue being immigration and it’s -- this is one of the moments I think that just shows you the difference between we talk about so much talk about the demise of the Tea Party movement, about the infrastructure of the Tea Party not being what it was two, four, five years ago. This tells you, though, that the Tea Party
mindset, that animates the Republican Party base, is as strong as ever. (MSNBC #349, 6/10/14)

- It's a familiar dance in Washington - President Obama makes a request to Congress and the House says no. This time, the no is in response to the $3.7 billion dollars the president requested to respond to an influx of unaccompanied immigrant children at the U.S.-Mexico border. (NPR #273, 6/15/14)
- MICHEL MARTIN: So I want to begin with this big story in Washington. The House could not agree on a measure to provide funding to deal with this whole situation at the border, which we’ve been covering, you know, very closely over the last couple of weeks. Let me just - Maria - take a step back from this. You know, from the outside, it seems as though our politics at the moment are just toxic and personal and petty. You're closer to it than most of us are. Does it seem that way to you? (NPR#404, 8/1/14)

Subtheme B: Responses about President Obama

- STODDARD: I really think that's why he can't step foot in Texas without going to the border. You just can't avoid it. I think he should not set foot in Texas if he wants to avoid the optics. But seriously, everyone is watching this and reading about it every day now. It's growing, just like Congressman Goodlatte said, exponentially, the numbers. People are very worried about this. And at this point, he needs to be seen looking like he cares. (Fox#111, 7/7/14)
- FERRECHIO: It could indeed be his Katrina moment, as some people have said. Because it's a crisis. These busses are showing up in towns across American. (Fox#111, 7/7/14)
- O'REILLY: I understand. But let's get back to your thing that the Obama administration wants this to happen. This wipes out any kind of immigration reform that President Obama would ever hope to have because the border's not secure. Nobody -- no Republican is going to vote for it. Do you really believe the President wants all these children to come in here? (Fox#127, 8/1/14)
- DOBBS: I think what you're watching is a community organizer playing hemispheric politics. I believe that there is an absolute league amongst the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, of Honduras and the government of Mexico. We're talking about children who are being moved -- and the national liberal media has been pointing this out -- they're being moved from 1,800 miles away all the way up through the center of Mexico to our southern border. (Fox#127, 8/1/14)
- O'REILLY: It is long past time for Washington to secure the southern border. Everybody knows that. We've been lied to for years and both parties are responsible. But the main culprit for the latest humanitarian disaster is President Obama. Now, it is up to him to fix the problem. (Fox#127, 8/1/14)
- So, Senator, top of the program, we polled the audience about polls that are coming in now on the border crisis. President Obama is getting hammered. Vast majority of Americans think he's doing terrible job there. However, just 23 percent of Americans
believe that Republicans and Congress, of which you are one, are doing a good job, 23 percent. (Talking to Rep. Rubio) (Fox#127, 8/1/14)

- But Bill Kristol laid it out this morning in "The Weekly Standard." I got to give him credit. He basically told the House GOP, Kill this bill because we don’t want to see you do the heavy lifting of governing. We don’t want you back in your districts having to defend something you did or didn’t do. We want to drop this on the president. We want the finger of blame pointing at one man, President Obama, and we don’t want you to get your hands dirty with compromise, with actually thinking about the complicated set of reasons that this problem wound up at our border. You can`t do that. We don`t want you implicated in governing. (MSNBC#67, 7/31/14)

- CAPEHART: But by the next day there were reports that President Obama is thinking about delaying taking action, perhaps until after the November election to protect Democrats in tight Senate races. President Obama is not only considering expanding the deferred action program that currently delays deportations for those brought to the U.S. as children. (MSNBC#379, 8/31/14)

- Protesters took to the streets in more than 60 cities on Saturday to call on President Obama to stop the deportation of undocumented immigrants. Some marked it as the date when the Obama administration likely reached its two millionth deportation. (democracy now, 4/10/2014)

- DENNIS ROSS: This is a situation that was created by the president, who has shown total inactivity on trying to handle it. And now if we don't take action, he'll blame us. I think it's important we have to take action. (NPR#277, 07/25/14)

- The President vowed to veto the bill, although the Senate controlled by Democrats is unlikely to even bring it up for a vote. The Senate’s own 2.7-billion-dollar plan failed to pass a preliminary vote this week and President Obama said with Congress out on recess, he may act alone to allocate resources to deal with the border crisis. Anthony. (CBS#253, 8/2/14)

- REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BOEHNER: I believe that the President continues to act on his own. He is going to poison the well. When you play with matches, you take the risk of burning yourself. (CBS #256, 11/7/14)

Subtheme C: Department of Homeland Security Statements

- JEH JOHNSON: There is this disinformation out there that there is a permissos - that's what we're hearing. Permissos - free pass. Like you get a piece of paper that says, you know, welcome to United States, you're free. (NPR#269, 6/24/14)

- JEH JOHNSON: At the current burn rate, ICE is going to run out of money in mid-August, and we project that CBP is going to run out of money in mid-September. If there is no supplemental, we're going to have to go to some very dramatic, harsh form of reprogramming, which I'm sure the committee is familiar with, away from some vital Homeland Security programs that I'm sure members of this committee care a lot of about. (NPR#273, 7/15/14)
• A U.S. Border Patrol source who spoke with Breitbart Texas on the condition of anonymity provided Breitbart Texas with the alien registration number for the man, and the event number for the man’s apprehension. He was processed in the McAllen station of the U.S. Border Patrol. The alien’s registration number is 202027386. The event number for his apprehension is MCS14061487. The “MCS” designates the McAllen station, the “1406” designates that the man was apprehended in June of 2014. A separate Border Patrol source confirmed that the man was apprehended on June 26, 2014 with two children he claimed were his own. He told U.S. authorities he had family in Metairie, Louisiana. (Breitbart, 7/16/14)

• Breitbart News Sunday was joined by Border Patrol agent and Laredo Border Patrol Union spokesman Hector Garza, who explained to listeners that the current southern border chaos is not just a humanitarian crisis but also a “big time border security crisis.” “Right now, we have a lot of drugs and criminals coming across the border undetected,” Garza asserted. He promised that those criminals are going to start showing up soon in cities across the nation: “New York, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, they’ll be all over.” (Wilde, Breitbart, 06/30/14)

• Garza recounted that the agents are some of the most highly trained federal officers in the country and that they are very good at what they are trained to do. However, because they are being reassigned for processing duties and to take care of these families and the children, leaving “essentially very few agents who actually do the patrolling of the border,” he lamented. “That’s why we suffer, that’s how the criminals and drug runners can take advantage of the situation,” he said. Incredibly, Garza asserted that at least 70% of our border patrol manpower is not patrolling the border. (Wilde, Breitbart, 6/30/14)

• CBP spokesman Efrain Solis Jr. reportedly said, “These two independent interceptions of hard narcotics both involved the utilization of young women as transporters and due to our officers’ diligence and persistence, they zeroed in on the narcotics. These two young ladies will now face federal charges in U.S. District Court.” (Kristin Tate, Breitbart, 7/18/14)
## Quantitative Coding

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Curriculum Vitae

Alejandra Paola Baron was born in El Paso, Texas. She attended Loretto Academy High School. In 2012, she received her B.A. in Political Science with a concentration in Latin American Politics and a minor in French from the University of Texas at Austin. In May of 2017, she received her M.A. in Latin American and Border Studies from the University of Texas in El Paso. During her time as a graduate student, Alejandra attended the 2016 U.S./Mexico Forum for Cooperation, Understanding and Solidarity hosted by Stanford University and Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico where she worked on a project intended to inform immigrants both in the United States and Mexico and the public of immigration related issues via a website. Alejandra has also written blogs for the U.S./Mexico Forum Conference and for the Global Affairs Mexico Academic Magazine. Alejandra also received the award for Outstanding Graduate Student from the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies.

Contact Information: alebaron@utexas.edu, apbaron@miners.utep.edu

This thesis was typed by Alejandra Paola Baron.