

F26.20 Where Am I From?: The Impact of Generational Assimilation on Mexican Family Histories and Culture in Rural Northern Arizona

Overview

The proposed study will investigate the effect of generational assimilation on the culture and histories of Mexican and Latino families in rural Arizona. This study aims to answer the question, "How has generational assimilation shaped the transmission and preservation of Mexican and Latino families' histories, cultural values, and traditions in rural Arizona communities?" This study will utilize Paulden, Ash Fork, and Chino Valley, Arizona, as its sample locations. The study will consist of ten different families from different areas in Paulden. These families originate from Mexico. They range in size from 4 to 8 members in one household. This study will utilize intensive interviewing to discern how the oral family history is told differently by each generation. This study will utilize ethnographic interviewing and counter-storytelling to create a clear oral history of Mexican families in Northern Arizona's rural communities. This oral history project will contribute to the current body of knowledge on Mexican migrants' experience living in rural communities.

Historical events, information, and traditions lost from each generation are important factors. This study will utilize counter-storytelling, testimonios, and genealogy techniques to create a complete picture of the effects of assimilation on culture and family history through three different generations. This study will focus on children, parents, and grandparents. The goal of this study is to demonstrate how generational assimilation has shifted family histories and resulted in the loss of generational knowledge. Generational knowledge includes family history, traditions, celebrations, and important family milestones and places. These milestones and places may include where families migrated from, why they chose to migrate to America, and how they transitioned.

What the student will DO and LEARN

The student will learn research methods design and field research.

Additional benefits

The student will gain research professional skills to attend a graduate program and after their undergraduate experience at NAU

Additional qualifications

N/A

Time commitment

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks