

PAWNS AND PERCENTAGES:

COERCIVE STRATEGIES & QUEER IDENTITY IN MIGRATION

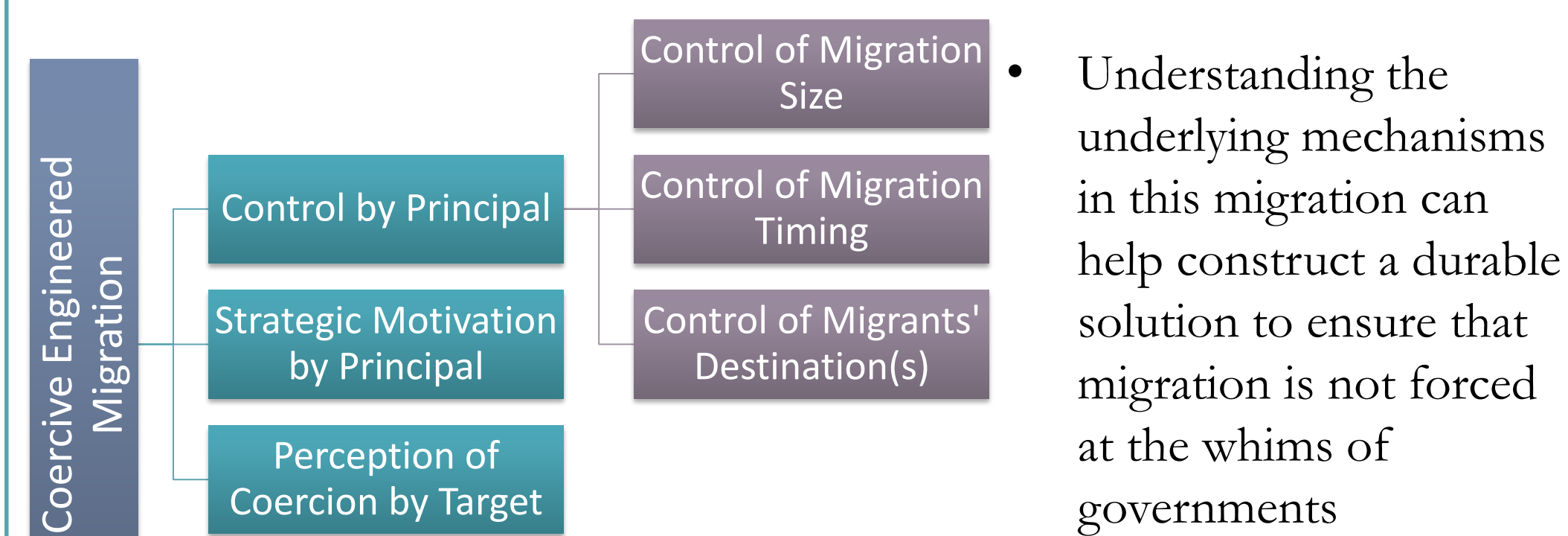
RUSSIA, SYRIA, AND EUROPE: MIGRATION AS A COERCION STRATEGY

Abstract

This research project is focused on whether states such as Russia and Turkey are causing migrations, or taking advantage of existing migrations, to coerce the European Union. Though Europe receives many migrants—including asylum seekers—each year, the sheer number of people crossing into the continent in the past several months is overwhelming national and international government bodies. Coercive engineered migration, a strategy defined by Kelly M. Greenhill (chart below), involves states deliberately manipulating the movement of human beings to achieve foreign policy goals. The ramifications of such coercion, especially if it proves successful, are immense for the international community.

Findings

- Russia and Turkey are using coercive engineered migration by compelling civilians to migrate to EU member states
- Russia is threatening Syrian civilians into migrating to Europe with the strategic goal of destabilizing the EU and asserting its own authority
- Turkey is leveraging its position in order to accelerate accession to the EU, as well as extracting an additional €6 billion in assistance
- The migrant crisis in Europe has created economic and political tension for citizens, migrants, and governments in many EU member states.



Greenhill, Kelly M. 2010. *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion, and Foreign Policy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

OVERARCHING LENSES

Whether it be moving across the globe or simply moving down the street, people are constantly uprooting their lives and migrating to new territories. When examining these internal and external movements, scholars tend to concentrate on specific issues. While this specificity is beneficial in some manners, it is also restrictive. Both of our research projects aim to broaden the scope when looking at migration.

We have both chosen to use overarching lenses to look at specific migrations throughout the world. Bri is looking at migration as coercion, examining the current mass migration to Europe through a strategic lens. Cerys is looking at immigration to the United States from Latin America, using a societal and personal lenses to examine the impact of intersectionality and LGBTQ identities on the individual migrant experience. Examining these wider views of migration allows us to distill overarching themes within academic literature, better understand the motives behind migration, and examine the diplomatic and personal process of human migration.

RESEARCH METHODS

- We each conducted literature reviews to determine the extent of scholarship on our respective subjects before we began our analyses
- Resources for our respective research topics were scarce, due to a lack of scholarship on LGBTQ identities and intersectionality and coercive migration
- We believe that both of our projects contribute to very important conversations about the underlying factors and overarching motivations of migration; these conversations can help the international community improve the lives of migrants as individuals and as groups of international actors, instead of playing pieces in somebody else's hands



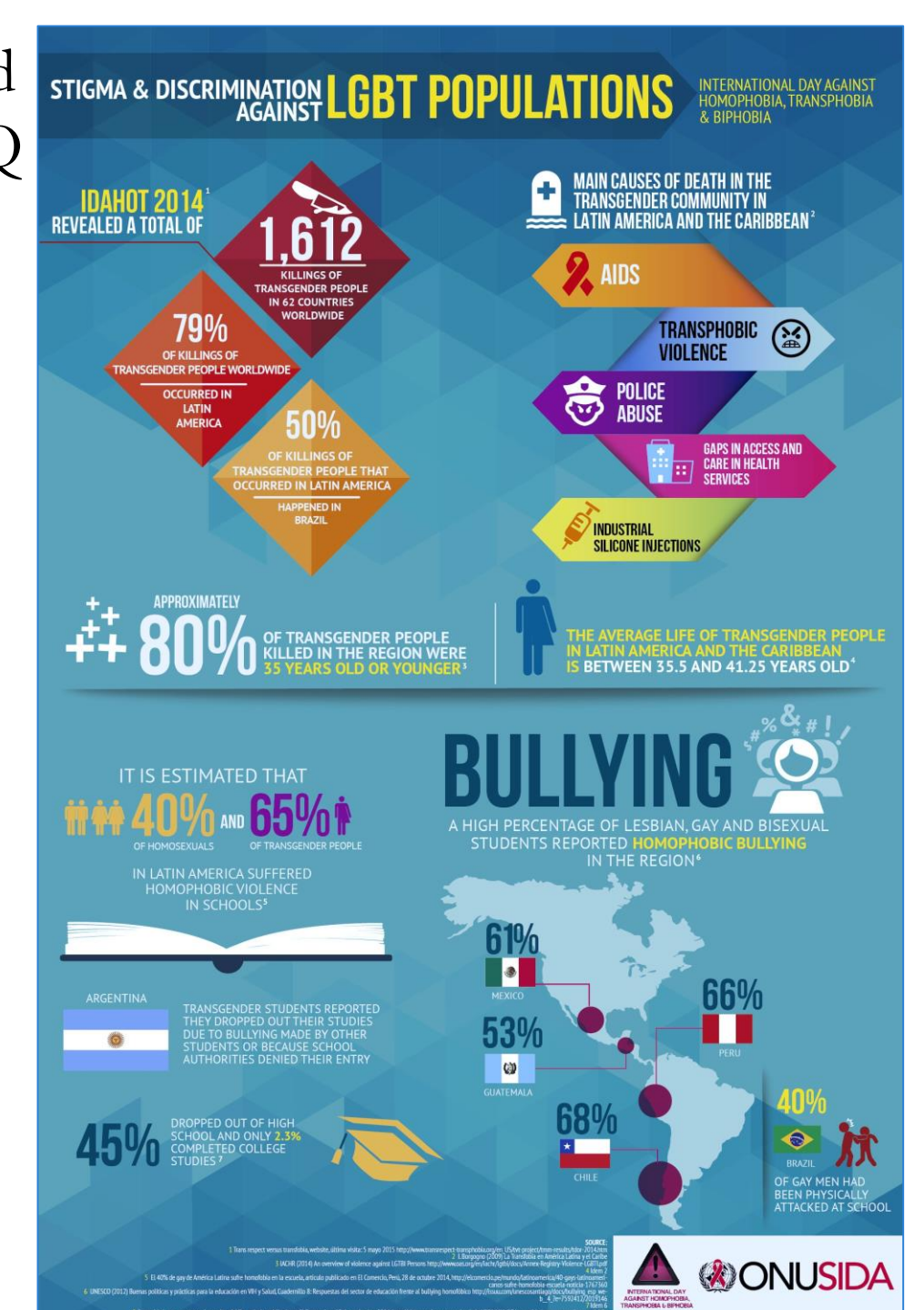
LGBTQ IDENTITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY IN LATIN AMERICAN IMMIGRATION

Abstract

This research project focuses on immigration to the United States from Latin America, viewing migration through a societal lens. Specifically addressing the process for LGBTQ migrants, the project walks through the migration process examining both historical policies on queer issues in Latin America and modern day reasons for migration. The project explores the immigration process and integration, highlighting individual cases of queer Latino/as' experiences in the United States. Ultimately, one can see that, overall, a lack of background and focus on LGBTQ issues and communities in Latin America, as well as within the refugee system in the United States, complicates the process of moving north for many queer migrants.

Findings

- After examining policies in Latin America, the procedures for the migration process in the United States, and case studies of individuals migrating north, one thing is apparent: intersectionality heavily complicates the migration process
- Integration and acceptance in United States' society is complex, as LGBTQ migrants may struggle to fit in with both migrant groups and LGBTQ communities
- Academia surrounding LGBTQ identities in modern migration debates is severely lacking
- Awareness and discrimination needs to be tackled abroad and domestically



ONUSIDA. *Infographic on Stigma & Discrimination against LGBTQ Populations*. May 8, 2015. Created for the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia.