Civic Engagement Among Indigenous Mexican Migrant Youth in the Central San Joaquin Valley: Strategies, Repertoires and Lessons

Dr. Jonathan Fox is the Principal Investigator for this project, which documents and analyzes the civic engagement decisions and practices of Mexican indigenous migrant young adults in the central region of the San Joaquin Valley (Madera and Fresno Counties).

Immigrant youth from indigenous families face both challenges and opportunities for civic engagement that are shaped by cultural and linguistic differences. These issues are not addressed in the existing literature on youth civic engagement. A working group of community college students and alums from Oaxacan families was trained by U.C. researchers to lead focus group interviews with other 1.5 and 2nd generation young adults who are civically engaged.

The working group interviewed members of various civic groups, such as Autónomos, the Central Valley Youth Association, the American Experience Club, the Pan Valley Institute, MAYA (Madera Academic Youth Alliance), the Binational Front of Indigenous Organizations (FIOB), and the Youth Committee of the United Farm Workers. The group also analyzed changing gender roles and cultural organizing. The report generated is bilingual, and most of it was written by the young researchers of the working group, who call themselves the Oaxacalifornian Reporting Team (El Equipo de Cronistas Oaxacalifornianos).

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