

## **State categories and migrant's subjectification: Regularization programs towards Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador**

Gioconda Herrera, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO)  
and CERC Migration

### **Abstract**

In the wake of increasing Venezuelan migration in South America, states have gone through important transformations in the ways they deal with immigrants within and across their territories. Responses to increasing flows have evolved from selective openness towards more and more deterrent policies that combine the reinforcement of borders -including militarization-, a turn to humanitarian short term assistance, and the implementation of different types and often limited regularization programs of uneven effects. This paper focuses on the impact of regularization programs on Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador, exploring how different state categories, including temporary migrants, humanitarian migrants, and refugees, have affected migrants' access to social and economic rights. Using a process-oriented approach, the paper examines the ways in which these state categories intersect with social conditions such as gender, race, age, and class to shape migrants' experiences of regularization and irregularization. The paper argues that while some regularization programs may offer short-term benefits, it is crucial to consider their long-term effects on migrants' integration, and overall well-being. In addition, the paper highlights the growing influence of international organizations and the externalization of borders in shaping migration governance in the region. By shedding light on the complexities of migrant subjectification and the changing landscape of migration policy, this paper contributes to a more nuanced understanding of regularization programs and its implications for the broader region.

### **Biography**

**Gioconda Herrera** is a professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO in Quito/Ecuador. She has a Ph.D in Sociology from Columbia University. Her main publications address issues on international migration, gender, ethnicity and social inequalities in Ecuador and Latin America. She is currently working on two research projects. The first deals with indigenous migration and deportation from the US to Ecuador, and the second one addresses States responses to immigration in South America. She has been Deputy Academic Director of FLACSO Ecuador (2014-2016), and

President of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in 2020/2021. Her most recent publications are two edited books: *Migration in South America*, with Carmen Gómez (Springer-IMISCOE, 2022) and *Movilidades, control migratorio y luchas migrantes*, with Eduardo Domenech and Liliana Rivera (Editorial Siglo XXI and CLACSO, 2022) and the article “Emotions, Inequalities and Crises: Ecuadorian Migrants in Europe during the COVID-19 Pandemic”, *International Migration* (First online publication: October, 17, 2022).