

International Migration, Remittances, Fertility, and Development: Quantitative Evidence from Central America

A Geography Colloquium Presentation by

Jason Davis

Thursday, April 28, 1930 Buchanan

Abstract: While humans have migrated throughout history to improve their economic and social conditions, the scale and intensity of such migrations has reached unprecedented levels. The act of migration along with the concomitant return flow of remitted income have broad ranging impacts on migrant-sending communities and households. This presentation will discuss how migration from Central America to the United States and the subsequent return of remittances to migrant-sending households influence two measures of community development: fertility and agriculture. Specifically, are Central American migrants adopting and diffusing the lower fertility norms practiced in the United States? And, do migrant-sending households continue to practice physically-demanding subsistence agriculture or do remittances allow them to transition to other forms of employment?

Biography: Following the completion of his master's degree in resource ecology from Duke University in 2003, Jason Davis received his Ph.D. in geography from UCSB in 2010. Jason continues to research international migration, remittances, and their effect on environmental change as a post doctoral scholar with his major-advisor, David Lopez-Carr.