



Is the Door Closing? Latin American and Caribbean Responses to Venezuelan Migration

February 11, 2020





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Related Work



Andrew Selee
Jessica Bolter

An Uneven Welcome: Latin American and Caribbean Responses to Venezuelan and Nicaraguan Migration

By Andrew Selee and Jessica Bolter

<http://bit.ly/2venmig>



Andrew Selee



Andrew Selee is President of the Migration Policy Institute. He came to MPI from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where he served as Executive Vice President from January 2014 through April 2017.

The founding Director of the Wilson Center's Mexico Institute, Dr. Selee is a respected scholar and analyst of Mexico and U.S.-Mexico relations. His latest book, *Vanishing Frontiers: The Forces Driving Mexico and the United States Together*, was published by Public Affairs in June 2018. He is also the author of a major book on think tank strategy, *What Should Think Tanks Do? A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact* (Stanford, 2013).

Prior to joining the Wilson Center as an associate in the Latin American Program in 2000, he was a professional staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives and worked with the YMCA of Baja California in Tijuana, Mexico. He later served on the National Board of the YMCA of the USA and chaired its International Committee. Dr. Selee holds a Ph.D. in policy studies from the University of Maryland, an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of California, San Diego, and a B.A. in Latin American studies (Phi Beta Kappa) from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jessica Bolter



Jessica Bolter is an Associate Policy Analyst with the U.S. Immigration Policy Program at MPI. Her research focuses on migration patterns at the U.S.-Mexico border, immigration enforcement, and asylum and refugee issues.

She also works across programs on Latin American migration policy, particularly on regional responses to Venezuelan migration.

She has interned with MPI, the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition, the Ohio Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, and the Center for Democracy in the Americas.

Ms. Bolter holds a bachelor's degree in American studies and Spanish area studies from Kenyon College, where she focused on relations between the United States and Latin America.



- **4.8 million** Venezuelans outside their country
- **83%** in Latin America & Caribbean
- About **3/4** migrated in 2018 and 2019

Venezuelan Population
>1 million
500,000-1 million
100,000-500,000
<100,000

Regularization

- More than **1.1 million** Venezuelans regularized through special measures in Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador
 - Special Stay Permit (PEP), Colombia: 598,000
 - Temporary Stay Permit (PTP), Peru: 420,000
 - Temporary residence permit, Brazil: 100,000
 - Humanitarian visa, Ecuador: 15,000

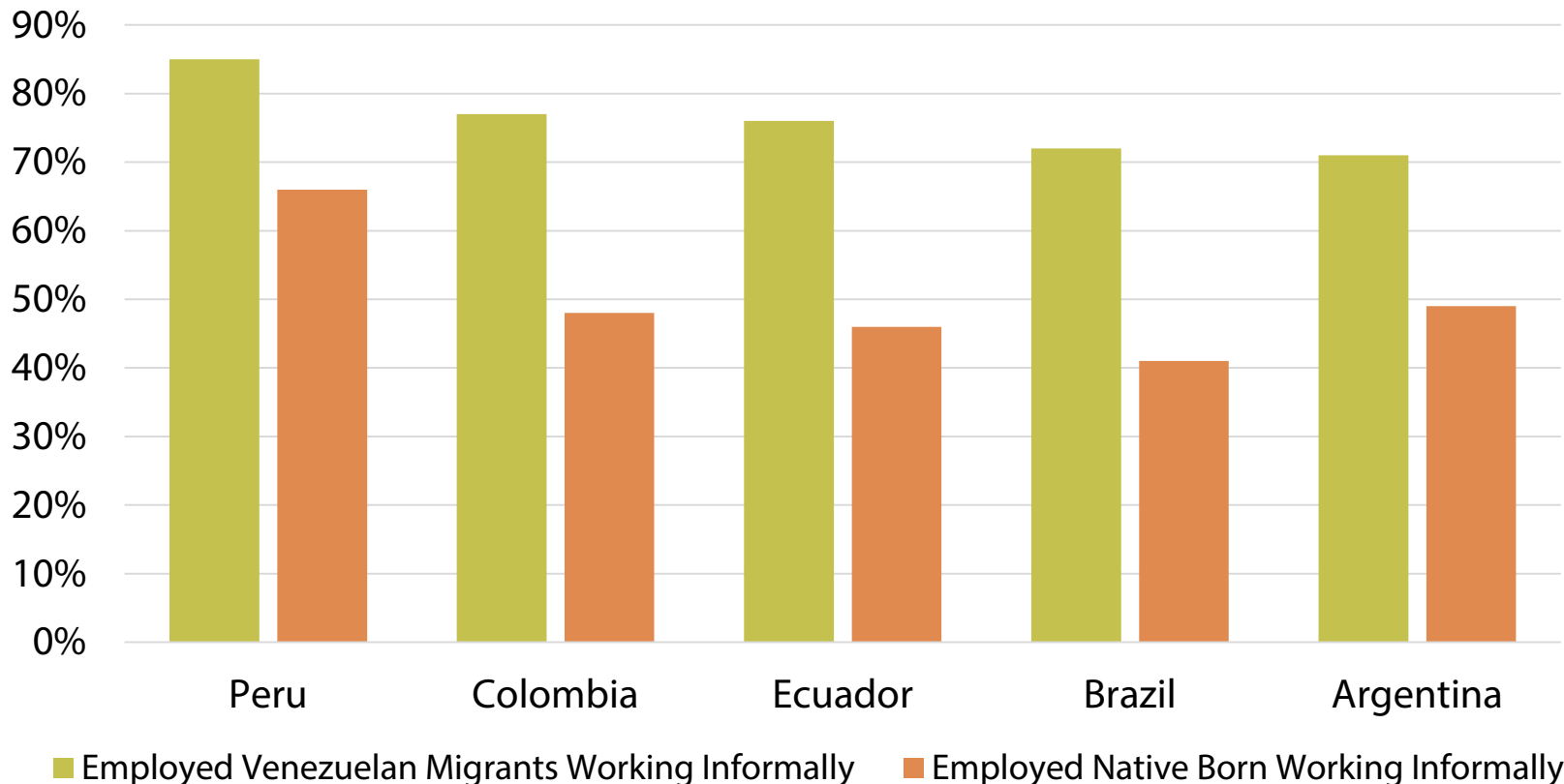
Sources: Migración Colombia, “Venezolanos en Colombia, corte a 31 de octubre de 2019,” December 2019; Superintendencia Nacional de Migraciones de Peru, “Actualidad Migratoria,” October 2019; Brazilian Federal Police, “Imigração Venezuela/Brasil,” November 2019; *El Universo*, “Al menos 15% de la población venezolana en Ecuador estaría en condición irregular,” January 2020.

Access to Services

- Legal frameworks provide rights to access education, health care
 - But these legal frameworks have not had to be put into practice on a large scale in the past
- Gaps between rights to access and ability to access in practice

Labor Market Access

Share of Employed Venezuelan and Native-Born Workers in Informal Employment, Selected Countries, 2018–19



Sources: Sources: IOM, *Monitoreo de flujo de la población venezolana – Ecuador – Ronda 3* (Quito: IOM, 2019), 8; Luz Adriana Flórez, ed., *Reportes del Mercado Laboral, N° 9* (Bogota: Grupo de Análisis del Mercado Laboral de la Subgerencia de Política Monetaria e Información Económica, Banco de la República, 2019), 14; Paula Urien, “[Datos oficiales. Cuántos venezolanos tienen trabajo en la Argentina.](#)” *La Nación*, October 2, 2019; IOM and UN CERF, *Flow Monitoring of Venezuelan Migration in Peru – DTM – Round 3* (Lima: IOM and UN CERF, 2019), 7; IOM, *DTM – Monitoreo de flujo de población venezolana – Brasil – Ronda 4* (Brasilia: IOM, 2019); Diana Serrano and Evelyn Tapia, “[El mercado laboral en Ecuador registra más informalidad.](#)” *El Comercio*, January 17, 2019; *El Tiempo*, “[Informalidad de trabajadores no cede y es de 48,2 %, según Dane.](#)” *El Tiempo*, February 12, 2019; Nicolás Castillo, “[INEI: informalidad laboral en el Perú creció a mayor ritmo que el empleo formal.](#)” *El Comercio*, February 16, 2019; Vitor Abdala, “[Informalidad no Mercado de trabalho atinge recorde.](#)” Agência Brasil, September 27, 2019; Martín Dinatelo, “[Encuesta de la UCA: se agravó la situación laboral en Argentina y el 49,3% de los trabajadores tiene empleo informal.](#)” Infobae, June 24, 2019.

New Entry Requirements

TABLE 1

Entry Requirements for Venezuelans in Case-Study Countries, 2015 versus 2019

	Visa Required In Advance for Entry?		Passport Required for Entry?		Accepts Expired Passports from Venezuelans for Entry? (December 2019)
	End of 2015	December 2019	End of 2015	December 2019	
Argentina	No	No	No	No	Yes, national identity documents or passports that expired within the past two years
Brazil	No	No	No	No	Yes, passports that expired up to five years prior
Chile	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, passports issued in 2013 or later that have expired, until April 18, 2021
Colombia	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes, passports that expired up to two years prior
Costa Rica	No	No	Yes	Yes	No, but will accept passports within a day of expiring
Ecuador	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Guyana	Yes	No*	Yes	No*	No*
Mexico	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Peru	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes, passports that expired before August 28, 2018 accepted until August 28, 2023, and passports that expired August 28, 2018 or later accepted for up to five years after their expiration date
Trinidad and Tobago	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Uruguay	No	No	No	No	No

* In theory, Venezuelans need a visa and a (valid) passport to enter Guyana, but in practice, this is not enforced.

Sources: Argentine National Migration Administration, "Disposición 520/2019," *Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina*, no. 34,046 (January 31, 2019): 47–48; *Voz de América*, "Brasil acepta pasaportes venezolanos vencidos," *Voz de América*, August 5, 2019; Chilean Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, "Chile aceptará pasaportes y cédulas vencidas de venezolanos" (press release, April 22, 2019); Colombian Ministry of Foreign Relations, "Resolución Número 0872" (resolution, March 5, 2019); Costa Rican General Administration of Migration and Foreigners, "Resolución N° AJ-060-04-2019-JM," *La Gaceta: Diario Oficial*, no. 109 (June 12, 2019): 5–7; *El Tiempo Latino*, "Gobierno de Perú acepta pasaportes venezolanos vencidos," *El Tiempo Latino*, March 2, 2019.



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Feline Freier



Feline Freier is Professor of Political Science at Universidad del Pacífico (Peru), where she leads an interdisciplinary research team on the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Her research focuses on immigration and refugee policies in Latin America; South-South immigration from countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean; and the Venezuelan displacement crisis.

She has provided advice to various international organizations such as the Naumann Foundation, the International Organization for Migration, and the European Union. She represents civil society on an interministerial roundtable hosted by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, and on the regional level, in an association of nongovernmental organizations dealing with the Venezuelan displacement crisis.

She holds a Ph.D. in political science from the London School of Economics, an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Universitaet zu Koeln.



Closing Doors? The Restrictive Shift in South American Responses to Venezuelan Displacement

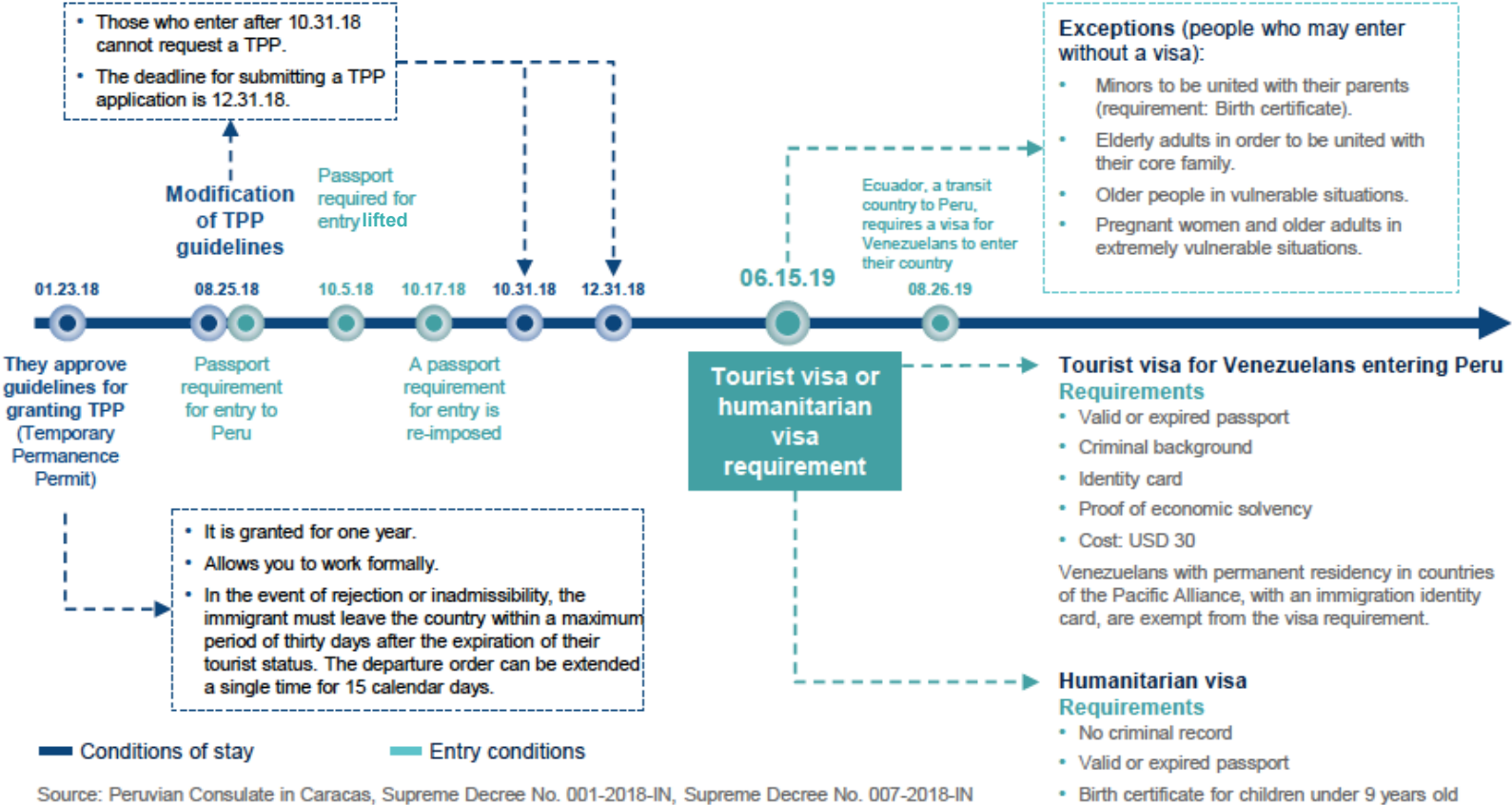
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Structure of Intervention

- Juxtaposition of different Trends in the Region
- Explaining Differences in Policy Development
- Why Legal Status matters

Juxtaposition of different Trends in the Region

Example: Peru's Evolving Policy towards Venezuelan Immigration



Source: Peruvian Consulate in Caracas, Supreme Decree No. 001-2018-IN, Supreme Decree No. 007-2018-IN

Source Figure: BBVA Peru

Explaining Differences in Policy Development

Why Legal Status matters



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Juliana Miranda Rocha



Juliana Miranda Rocha is the Coordinator for Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados (SJMR) Brasil.

She is an experienced researcher and has worked for a number of civil society organizations. She has also worked as a Professor of International Migration at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais.

She earned her masters in International Law and Legal Studies from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.



Q&A

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