

**Call for Papers for an Issue on:**

**The Deportation System and Its Aftermath**

Edited by

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**INTRODUCTION**

The United States experienced massive growth in immigration law enforcement over the past several decades, resulting in record numbers of apprehensions, detentions, and removals. This mass, forced expulsion has extensively impacted individual, household, and community wellbeing, both in the US and in countries origin. A robust and multidisciplinary corpus of research documents the causes and effects of the deportation system, including a growing area of study examining the experiences of immigrants and their families after deportation has occurred.

This proposed special issue (SI) of *RSF* aims to publish new scholarship that will speak to contemporary debates about immigration policy by enhancing our knowledge of the effects of, and responses to, the deportation system. Deportation is often framed as a singular event that happens to individuals. This SI conceptualizes deportation in broad terms, as a system that encompasses *pre-migration*, *within-US*, and *post-deportation* outcomes in countries of origin. Regarding pre-migration outcomes, for some immigrants, the *potential* for deportation starts even before an immigrants' journey to the destination country, depending on their access to paths to legal entry. *Within-US* refers to the experiences of migrants and their families and communities in the context of immigration laws, policies, and enforcement patterns of the expelling country. *Post-deportation* outcomes may encompass the experiences of deported people, of *de facto* deportees who are not the directly expelled but leave with the deported person, as well as social, economic, and political responses to deportation and deported peoples. The overarching objective for the issue is to publish outstanding new studies that further the theorization and documentation of the direct and indirect impacts of the deportation system and its aftermath.

**BACKGROUND**

*The deportation system and its consequences*

The United States is unique in the size and scope of its deportation system.<sup>1</sup> Between 2003 and 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) carried out over five million deportations (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse 2021).<sup>2</sup> While undocumented status makes individuals uniquely vulnerable to deportation, any noncitizen can be deported if found in violation of U.S. immigration laws. Indeed, 10% of all deported people each year are lawful permanent residents (LPRs) (Immigration Policy Center 2010). Most deported people have limited to no criminal history: As of 2019, 64% of detained people had no criminal record and fewer than 11% had been convicted of violent infractions (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse 2019, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse 2020). Given that the vast majority of deported people are men from Latin America and the Caribbean, scholars have theorized this system as a gendered and racialized removal program that disproportionately impacts non-White families and communities in the United States (Golash-Boza and Hondagneu-Sotelo 2013, Maltby et al. 2020, Martínez 2022, Ngai 2004). Indeed, the impacts of the deportation system extend far beyond individual deported people: between 10-11 million undocumented immigrants reside in the United States, most of whom are in the labor force, and share households with 6.6 million U.S. citizens, including 5.7 million U.S. citizen children (Warren and Kerwin 2017).

As the deportation system has expanded, research on its causes and consequences has proliferated. This body of work provides ample evidence of the deportation system's direct, indirect, spillover<sup>3</sup>, and intergenerational impacts on socioeconomic, political, and health/wellbeing outcomes (e.g. Amuedo-Dorantes and Lopez 2017, Barreto et al. 2009, East et al. Forthcoming, Lopez 2019, Perreira and Pedroza 2019, Wong et al. 2020). For example, in contexts where mass removals are higher, children of unauthorized immigrants experience poorer educational outcomes (Amuedo-Dorantes and Lopez 2017) and US-born individuals experience decreased employment and wages (East et al. Forthcoming). Even the threat of deportation can profoundly impact health and wellbeing, leading to worsening health in contexts of higher deportation threat (Gemmill et al. 2019, Jones et al. 2021, Vargas and Ybarra 2017) and improved health in contexts of lessening deportation threat, both for directly impacted individuals (Patler and Pirtle 2018, Patler, Hamilton and Savinar 2021) and their families (Hamilton, Langer and Patler 2021, Patler et al. 2019).

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<sup>1</sup> Paralleling the rise in mass incarceration more generally, the vast expansion of the US deportation system was enabled by changes to immigration and criminal laws in the 1980s and 1990s that dramatically expanded the categories of deportable offenses, made deportability for such offenses retroactive, limited previously existing protections from removal, and expanded collaboration between federal and local law enforcement (Patler and Golash-Boza 2017). Many deported individuals have lived in the United States for years and enter ICE custody through contact with local law enforcement agencies, often for misdemeanor crimes such as driving without a license (Armenta 2017).

<sup>2</sup> This figure does not include “voluntary departures,” whereby migrants placed in removal proceedings can leave the U.S. on their own within a specified period of time, instead of being formally removed (Goodman 2020), or deportations by US Customs and Border Protection, which made over 9.4 million arrests between 2008 and 2022 (Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Following Asad and Clair (2018), in this SI, we define “spillover” as impacts of the deportation system on people, communities, and institutions that are not the direct targets of immigration law enforcement.

Scholars have also linked deportation rates to interracial dynamics, protest activity, feelings of political efficacy, trust in government, and endorsement of linked fate—the belief that one’s future is dependent upon the group’s future (e.g., Maltby et al. 2020, Rocha and Knoll 2015, Roman, Walker and Barreto 2022, Walker, Roman and Barreto 2020). Research has also helped explain why and how the deportation system continues to grow despite the harm it foments, and even while failing to reach purported policy goals of reducing undocumented immigration (Cornelius 2005, Massey, Durand and Pren 2014, Massey, Durand and Pren 2016). For example, policymakers and law enforcement institutions often promote deportation by associating immigration with crime (Ferris and Mohamed 2018) despite scholarship finding no relationship between migration and crime (Amuedo-Dorantes, Puttitanun and Martinez-Donate 2019, Hines and Peri 2019) and/or that efforts to stop deportations—e.g. through the adoption of county sanctuary policies—may actually make communities safer (Collingwood and Gonzalez O’Brien 2019, Hausman 2020, Martínez, Martínez-Schuldt and Cantor 2017)

The question of what happens *after* deportation is also vitally important, but understudied. Existing research has examined how states and institutional actors structure reintegration in countries of forced return, with policies ranging from criminalizing to ignoring to welcoming (Golash-Boza 2015, Hagan and Wassink 2020). Scholars have also explored the experiences of deported individuals and their families, documenting the challenging and multi-faceted experiences wherein many deported people struggle to make ends meet and face stigma, prejudice and discrimination (Andrews and Khayar-Cámara 2020, Boehm 2016, Caldwell 2019, Dingeman-Cerda 2017, Golash-Boza 2015, Hagan and Wassink 2020, Rivera Sánchez 2019). Existing research also focuses on questions of changing family configurations following deportation. When a family member is deported, mixed-status families must make difficult choices about whether and how to stay together and/or reunite in the country of origin or the country of expulsion (e.g. Amuedo-Dorantes, Pozo and Puttitanun 2015, Hamilton, Masferrer and Langer In press, Vargas Valle, Hamilton and Orraca Romano 2022). Children of deported people—“de facto deportees”—face social and institutional exclusion (Boehm 2016, Caldwell 2019, Dreby 2015, Hamilton, Masferrer and Langer In press, Zayas 2015).

## **PROPOSED ISSUE**

While a broad and interdisciplinary body of social science research has begun to address the deportation system and its aftermath, additional research is needed, most acutely in the context of post-deportation experiences. This issue of *RSF* aims to publish innovative research that can inform immigration policy-making by pushing forward the literature on the deportation system, including post-deportation outcomes. Articles in this special edition may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methodological approaches and/or data. Below is a list of possible topics that authors may address. This list is not exhaustive; instead, it is intended to provoke interest among a wide range of scholars from different disciplines.

- Innovative research on pre-migration contexts in countries of origin that drive deportation from the United States. For example, research linking the “push” factors that compel out-migration (e.g. economic conditions, state violence, cartels or gangs, climate change) to the

deportation system, as well as to post-deportation outcomes.

- Innovative research on the interrelated direct, spillover, and/or downstream social, economic, and political impacts of the deportation system (e.g. apprehensions, detentions, surveillance programs, removals, immigration court proceedings, migrant border-crossing behavior, institutions of reintegration in countries of origin, etc.). This may include the direct effects of the deportation system, as well as its spillover effects onto families and communities who are not the direct targets of enforcement (Asad and Clair 2018, Walker et al 2022), both in the US and countries of origin.
- Causal investigations into the impacts of the deportation system on labor market outcomes in the US and countries of origin, as well as the extent to which economic conditions in the United States determine outcomes of the deportation system.
- Connections between the deportation system and other systems of social control in the US and countries of origin. For example, while decarceration efforts have achieved relative success in the US criminal legal system, the imprisonment of immigrants has remained a central tool of immigration law enforcement. Furthermore, the immigration legal system has vastly expanded its “alternatives to detention” programs, including the unprecedented use of electronic surveillance, subcontracted to for-profit corporations, that merits further exploration (Martinez-Aranda 2020, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse 2022a).
- Research on post-deportation outcomes.
  - Work that documents the extent of deportation and de-facto deportation in countries of origin. For example, while Hamilton and colleagues (2022) estimate that one in six U.S.-born children living in Mexico in 2014/2018 (an estimated 80,000-100,000 children) were de-facto deportees and that these children were more socioeconomically disadvantaged, relative to US-born children living in Mexico for other reasons, many questions remain about the extent of parental deportation and the experiences of de-facto deported children in Mexico and other countries.
  - Research that theorizes reunification as occurring not just between individuals and families in the US and countries of origin, but also between individuals and *institutions* in both countries. To that end, we welcome research on variation in the approach to, and outcomes of, reunification and reintegration; e.g. policies or programs targeting deported people in various countries of origin.
- Studies that shed light on the deportation system in recent years would contribute to public knowledge and policy-making. While the growth of mass deportation under the Obama administration is well documented, fewer studies have analyzed the causal impacts of the deportation system under the Trump and Biden administrations.
- While the special issue will focus on the US deportation system, we welcome studies that explore contexts outside of the United States, with implications for US immigration policy, including comparative studies that offer evidence from different cases to shed new light on the deportation system and its aftermath.

- Research on how the deportation system has become a *de facto* mechanism to manage inflows of asylum seekers. For example, what are (or will be) the effects of policies denying the opportunity to apply for asylum in the US to anyone who has not already applied to another country through which they transited, at both the northern and southern US borders? In addition, how has the *threat* of deportation impacted migration decisions as well as the lives of migrants/asylum seekers who have remained in other countries for extended periods of time?
- Research that analyzes public opinion and policy-making efforts regarding deportation and post-deportation outcomes in the US and countries of origin. This may include work examining interventions focused on how and when individuals change their levels of support for deportation policy, including the use of research evidence to influence policy and regulatory practices. It may also include analysis of public opinion of the US deportation system from outside the United States.

### Anticipated Timeline

**Prospective contributors should submit a CV and an abstract (up to two pages in length, single or double spaced) of their study along with up to two pages of supporting material (e.g., tables, figures, pictures, etc.) no later than 5 PM EST on July 15, 2023 to:**

<https://rsf.fluxx.io>

**NOTE that if you wish to submit an abstract and do not yet have an account with us, it can take up to 48 hours to get credentials, so please start your application at least two days before the deadline.** All submissions must be original work that has not been previously published in part or in full. Only abstracts submitted to <https://rsf.fluxx.io> will be considered. Each paper will receive a \$1,000 honorarium when the issue is published. All questions regarding this issue should be directed to Suzanne Nichols, Director of Publications, at [journal@rsage.org](mailto:journal@rsage.org) and **not** to the email addresses of the editors of the issue.

A conference will take place at the Russell Sage Foundation in New York City on **May 31, 2024** (with a group dinner the night before). The selected contributors will gather for a one-day workshop to present draft papers (due a month prior to the conference **on 4/31/24**) and receive feedback from the other contributors and editors. Travel costs, food, and lodging for one author per paper will be covered by the foundation. Papers will be circulated before the conference. After the conference, the authors will submit their revised drafts by 9/4/24. The papers will then be sent out to three additional scholars for formal peer review. Having received feedback from reviewers and the RSF board, authors will revise their papers by 4/21/25. The full and final issue will be published in the fall of 2025. Papers will be published open access on the RSF website as well as in several digital repositories, including JSTOR and UPCC/Muse.

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