



Wednesday, April 5, 2017



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The U. S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Center of Excellence through the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute, held a Homeland Security Symposium titled: **“Migrant Smuggling: Global and Comparative Perspectives.”**

Migration flows around the world occupy a significant portion of the daily news. There is an overabundance of reports of migrants being rescued in the Mediterranean or along the US - Mexico border, of their exploitation at the hands of smugglers in their journeys across the Sahara, Arizona o South Texas, and of the overall role organized crime plays in the smuggling market. Most coverage, while visually graphic and effective at communicating the tragic side of migration, often lacks depth. The aim of this homeland security symposium series event is to provide United States homeland security enterprise practitioners and policymakers a global view of migrant smuggling with the opportunity to get an insight into the “lessons learned” from other international locations.

In this symposium, a panel of international researchers whose work focuses specifically on the operation of smuggling groups will answer questions fundamental to understanding these groups’ organization, scope and reach. Presentations on the increased sophistication of smuggling groups, their metamorphosis and growth; the role of organized crime, religion and conflict; the importance of social media and technology in the smuggling market, and the development of interactions among migrants and smuggling groups across vast distances will provide attendees with unprecedented insights into smuggling operations and their dynamics.

The symposium will consist of the following five short lectures and Q & A sessions.

1. *Human Smuggling and Syrian Refugees’ Trajectories across the Middle East and the Balkans: Current Routes and Institutional Responses.*
2. *The Changing Political Economies of Migrant Smuggling Networks in Africa: New Challenges and New Risks.*
3. *The Everyday Interactions between Migrants and Smugglers in the Sahara.*
4. *The Identification and Prosecution of Migrant Smugglers in Indonesia.*
5. *Boys, Girls and Teens in the Migrant Smuggling Market in Ciudad Juarez: A Social-Work Perspective.*

## **Instructors Biography**

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### ***Dr. Gabriella Sanchez – The University of Texas at El Paso***

Gabriella Sanchez is an assistant professor and associate director for research at the National Security Studies Institute at the University of Texas at El Paso. A socio-cultural anthropologist, she holds a PhD from the School of Social Inquiry at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. Her work explores the social organization of transnational organized crime with a focus on people smuggling groups and their interactions with other illicit and/or criminal markets in a comparative, global fashion. She has conducted research on the US Mexico Border, Latin America, North Africa, the Middle East and Australia living among smuggling facilitators and their clients. She is the author of “Human Smuggling and Border Crossings” (Routledge, 2015). Currently she is

part of a binational team documenting the experiences of youth and children in drug and migrant smuggling markets along the US Mexico border.

***Dr. Luigi Achilli – European University Institute***

Luigi Achilli is a research associate at the Migration Policy Centre of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the UK. His work explores socio-political and cultural transformations in the Middle East. He conducts research on irregular migration and smuggling networks and refugees and refugee camps. He is currently researching the use of social media and technology among Middle Eastern migrants traveling into Europe. In 2017-2018 he will be researching the dynamics of smuggling networks along the US Mexico Border under a European Union funded fellowship. He is the co-editor along with Gabriella Sanchez and Sheldon Zhang of an upcoming issue from the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science on Migrant Journeys and Smuggling Networks.

***Dr. Sine Plambech – Danish Institute for International Studies***

Sine Plambech is a social anthropologist and filmmaker. Currently a post-doctoral research fellow at the Danish Institute for International Studies in Denmark, she was previously a research fellow at Columbia University in New York. She has professional experience in international migration, human trafficking, sex work research, socio-cultural and gender analysis. She has worked as researcher, lecturer and consultant at various institutes of higher learning, an UN agency and other public institutions in Denmark and abroad. She conducts fieldwork in Nigeria on the topic of irregular migration, trafficking, smuggling and deportation of Nigerian sex workers from the EU. She is the creator of four award-winning feature documentaries and short films on the topics of international migration, sex work and human trafficking in Africa and Thailand.

***Dr. Antje Missbach – Monash University***

Antje Missbach is a senior research fellow at the Department of Anthropology and an associate of the Centre for Indonesian Law, Islam and Society, both housed at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She holds a PhD from the Australian National University on the politics of the Acehnese diaspora. Her current research interests include transit migration, piracy and maritime security in Southeast Asia, the exploitation and resilience of unaccompanied minor migrants, and people-smuggling and border and mobility studies. Since 2013, she has carried out research on people-smuggling networks in Indonesia funded by the Australian Research Council.

***Mr. Peter Tinti – Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (Research Fellow)***

Peter Tinti is an independent American investigative journalist and a senior research fellow at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime in Geneva, Switzerland. He has over 8 years of experience conducting in-depth research on conflict, human rights, and organized crime and managing projects with a particular emphasis on Africa. He is among the top 100 most influential journalists covering armed violence according to *Action on Armed Violence*, an organization researching armed violence. He has written for *Vice*, *Politico*, *Foreign Affairs*, and is the author of “Migrant, Refugee, Smuggler, Savior”, co-written alongside Tuesday Reitano.

## **Topics Covered**

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1. Introduction to the research
2. Dr. Luigi Achilli - Human Smuggling and Syrian Refugees' Trajectories across the Middle East and the Balkans: Current Routes and Institutional Responses
3. Mr. Peter Tinti – The Changing Political Economies of Migrant Smuggling Networks in Africa: New Challenges and New Risks
4. Dr. Sine Plambech – The everyday interactions between migrants and smugglers in the Sahara
5. Dr. Antje Missbach – The Identification and Prosecution of Migrant Smugglers in Indonesia

6. Dr. Gabriella Sanchez – Boys, girls, and teens in the Migrant Smuggling Market in Ciudad Juarez: a social-work perspective

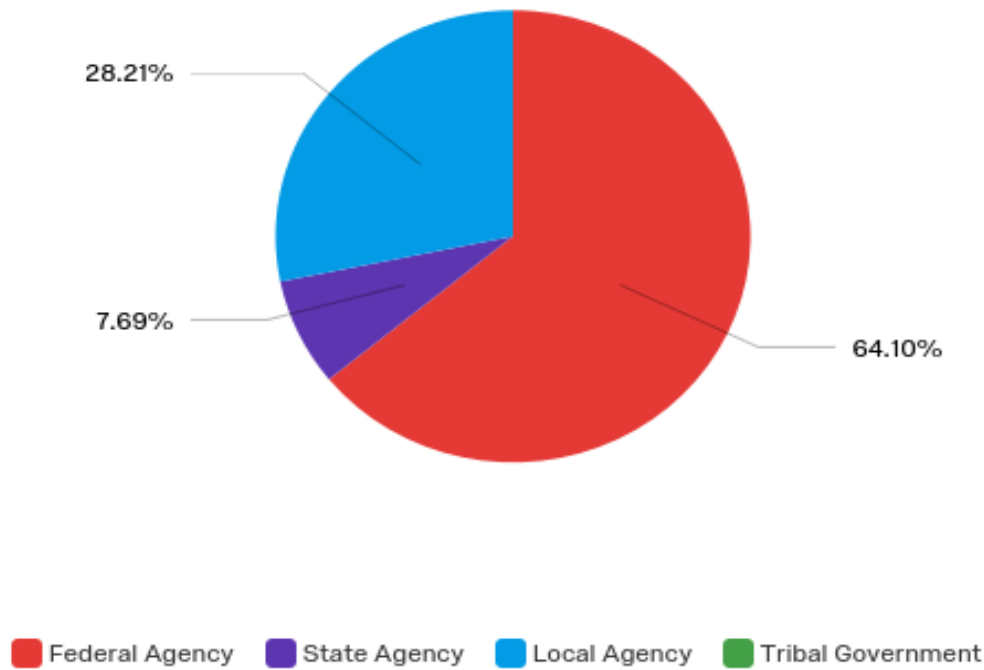
## Analysis of Symposium Feedback

The symposium was well-attended with a total of:

- **114 Confirmed RSVPs**
- 87 Attendees (Approximately **76%** of RSVP total)

A total of 25 government agencies organization was represented by the symposium attendees. Attendees from Juarez, Mexico, Dona Ana County, NM, Adelphi, MD, Barton, AU, Leeds, England, Vienna, AT, Fort Hancock, TX, and El Paso, TX, attended this event. The following table displays each of the agencies/organizations with the total number of representatives in attendance.

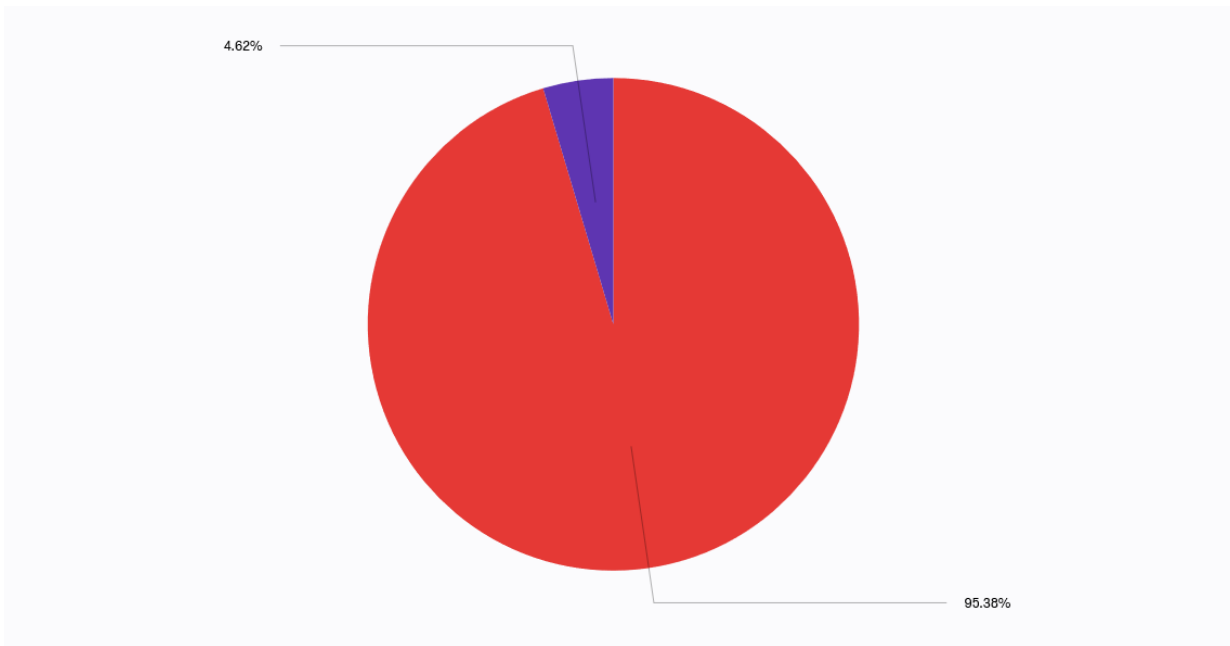
Federal Agencies		State Agencies	
ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations	10	Texas Department of Public Safety	4
Homeland Security Investigations	2	El Paso County Juvenile Probation Department	2
CBP - Office of Border Patrol	22	Probation Office- District of New Mexico	2
CBP – Office of Field Operations	9		
Transportation Security Administration	1	Total	<b>8</b>
DHS I & A	5	Local Agencies	
DEA	1	El Paso Police Department	4
FBI	3	El Paso County Sheriff’s Department	2
El Paso Intelligence Center	2	El Paso Independent School District Police Department	1
Federal Bureau of Prisons	1	Dona Ana County Sheriff’s Department	1
Department of State	5	Total	<b>8</b>
Department of the Army	3		
DHS Other	1		
Total	<b>65</b>		
Higher Education		International Education	
UTEP	1	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	2
University of Maryland University College	1	Centre for Criminal Justice Studies, University of Leeds (UK)	1
Australian Strategic Institute	1		
Total	<b>3</b>	Total	<b>3</b>



Every attendee was asked to fill out a symposium evaluation. A total of 65 surveys (**75% of total attendees**) were submitted. Overall, the assessment feedback was overwhelmingly positive (listed percentages are the sum of both the “agree” and “strongly agree” percentages):

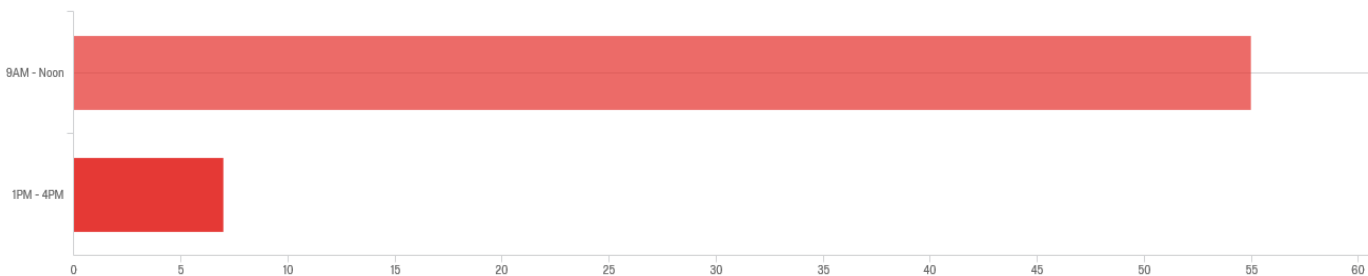
The seminar met my expectations	<b>89.2%</b>
The overall topics covered in this seminar were relevant and useful to my current assignment	<b>75.3%</b>
The seminar description accurately described the seminar content	<b>89.1%</b>
The seminar increased my <b>knowledge</b> of the subject matter	<b>87.6%</b>
The seminar increased my <b>interest</b> of the subject matter	<b>84.5%</b>
The overall quality of this seminar was excellent	<b>87.6%</b>
The instructors’ presentation style was effective	<b>87.6%</b>

The exit survey also contained the following question (Q3): Would you attend a second more in-depth symposium on this topic? The survey revealed that 95.38% of the symposium participants would attend a second more in-depth symposium.



Open-ended responses indicated a common satisfaction with the course with particularly positive comments regarding the competence of the instructor and the content’s utility and pertinence to their field of work. The following questions were asked in the exit survey and no edits have been made to the comments with the exception of spelling.

*Q4. What is your preference for the next symposium?*



*Q5. What other topic/subject matter would you like to see presented in similar seminars, tabletop exercises or practicums?*

- Narcotics trafficking
- Drug traffic, money laundering
- The video was very effective to disseminate the presenters point across. Maps were useful and detailed. The speakers were very knowledgeable and fitted the subject. The water and coffee is very much appreciated. Thank you!

- Border violence. The increase of rip crews that are operative in the U.S. They are targeting human and narcotics smugglers.
- Transnational criminal organizations US Mexico nexus
- Cartels in Mexico. Cartels involvement with human smuggling and trafficking.
- Smuggling & trafficking along the southern border utilizing travel documents (instead of entering w/out inspection) through POEs.
- Juvenile Law
- Counterterrorism Counter Intelligence
- Use of drones and nontraditional aviation as threats to public gathering or infatuation.
- Terrorism ISIS
- Drugs, weapons, and money
- Domestic Terrorism
- More direct interaction between practice and academic.
- The roles women facilitate when it comes to human smuggling i.e. organizers or recruiters or house (hostess) responsibility.
- Terrorists- home grown and abroad.
- Any border security topic
- Specific to this symposium it would have been good to see impacts to communities where the refugees are going that way and also drive policy.
- Information on trend in the US on human trafficking.
- More in-depth on human trafficking technology use by transnational criminal orgs. More interviews with victims/users of smuggling services.
- The effects on youth from psychological and social aspect.
- Trafficking of persons from South American to U.S.
- Worldwide narcotic smuggling
- Muslim communities along the southwest border. Muslim practices.
- More focus on US.- Euro is great, but less relevant to me.
- Sex trafficking
- I work on all types of SWB issues and would love to see conferences on drug smuggling, Mexican TCO modus operandi; Mexican culture and mature of corruption on the border.
- The relationship between Mexican and U.S. law enforcement in combatting-national legal issues
- Terrorism threats
- This was my first symposium. I'm really interested in DTO's and the importance along the SW border.
- I would like to see a study of the effects of last 8 years of the Obama administration when it comes to legal and illegal immigration as well as the effects of those seeking asylum.
- Mexican TCO'S- impact on U.S.; how new U.S. laws may change how TCO'S operate

*Q6. If there are any additional comments you have about the seminar topics covered please provide them below.*

- Very interesting topics. How smuggling + trafficking relates to drugs/weapons smuggling + trafficking would be a great follow up discussion.
- Hearing 1st person experiences was very useful and helped me attain a new perspective.
- More comfortable room/chairs
- Extremely well done. I will definitely be in attendance on 1 June.
- I had a hard time understanding some of the speakers, thick accent.
- The symposium was excellent, the best I have been to so far. The topics while focused outside the western hemisphere were perfect in that they gave info I was unfamiliar with but were intimately applicable to dynamics in our backyard. Great job!
- The use of documentaries was very powerful in presenting the material.
- EXCELLENT PRESENTATION. Thank you!
- Very good presenters.
- EXCELLENT PRESENTERS
- Thank you!
- Subject matter was very well informed and very interesting.

- I very much enjoyed the symposium and learned more than I have imagined.
- Very good and well organized. Audience were really engaged: good that symposium introduced many audience members to what was happening in other parts of the world with migrant smuggling.
- Excellent topics, presenters, host and facilities.
- For an all-day event the chairs not comfortable. Thank you, outstanding event!
- Better audio.
- Very good global overview. Thank you.
- Thank you for making this free.
- Very informative subject matter
- For future symposiums you should consider presenting in a room with more comfortable chairs, if people will be sitting for a long period of time. The presenters would have been more effective if they were a bit more engaged in the presentation, such as walk around and engage with the audience. A warning to the audience before the start of the symposium to silence their cell phones should be helpful.

## **Webcast Analytics**

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This symposium was the seventh effort to add a webcast feature as part of the value added deliverable of this program. All eight symposiums have been filmed and can be viewed by the public on our website and YouTube account to enhance future viewings of the symposium series. The PI will continue with simultaneous webcast broadcasting of the symposium series with efforts to increase viewership through this medium.

**Total views:** 47

## **Symposium Series Visibility**

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In an effort to promote the symposium series and the work of the Borders and Trade Institute (BTI) we have actively engaged on Twitter and local news media outlets.

- There were nineteen (32) tweets that were sent prior, during, and just after the symposium event. The tweets received a total of 7,896 impressions.

## **Learning**

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Every attendee was asked to take a six (6) question Pretest Questionnaire in order to gauge the level of understanding of the topic. In addition, the participants were asked to take the same six (6) question Posttest Questionnaire at the conclusion of the symposium. The first question asked of the participant was to self-measure their level of knowledge on the topic on a 1 to 10 scale with 1 as *No Knowledgeable* and 10 as *Very Knowledgeable*. A total of 65 pretests/posttests (75% of total attendees) were returned by the participants.

*Analysis:* Self-evaluation by the participants indicated a **16% increase** in learning. The average Pretest Questionnaire score was **69%** and the average Posttest Questionnaire score was **89%**. The results of the Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires revealed a **20% increase** in learning.

## **Lessons Learned**

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As part of the program's self-evaluation process the following areas will be addressed:

- Continue to emphasis to symposium participants the importance of the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.

## Acknowledgements

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The Principle Investigator, Victor. M. Manjarrez, Jr., would like to acknowledge the efforts of Center for Human & Behavior's Manager Leonora Ortega-Martinez. In addition, the hard work, diligence, and "can-do" attitude of research assistants Ms. Monica Diaz, Ms. Anjelica Manjarrez helped make this symposium a success. Finally, the work by UTEP's Academic Technologies Associate Director Steve Varela, Adrian Meza, and Janet Hill is simply second to none.

*Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.*

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*April 26, 2017*

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Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.  
Center for Law & Human Behavior  
The University of Texas at El Paso

Date