“Migration and "Refugee": The Role of Brokers in the Migratory Industry Between Canada and Mexico”
Mtro. Edmundo Meza Rodríguez
Annual Conference de la International Studies Association (ISA)
San Diego, CA.
1-4 de abril.

Abstract
In recent years, Mexican migration to Canada has received particular attention due to the growing number of Mexicans who have move there. Moreover, the percentage of Mexicans that requested refugee protection in Canada experienced a considerable increase in the last decade, resulting in refugee claimants from Mexico being among the top 5 countries of origin. These circumstances contributed directly to the Canadian Government’s decision to impose a restrictive visa system of for Mexicans (similar to the American system), and it also contributed to an increased amount of refugee requests being declined. This paper provides an analysis of the processes that take place within the migration industry between Canada and Mexico, focusing particularly on the strategies of two fundamental actors within it. On the one hand, it will analyze the role of brokers (employment agencies and migration services) who used(d) the No visa policy for Mexicans and the Canadian refugee policy to insert Mexican migrants into the Canadian labor market. And, on the other hand, it will focus on Mexican migrants themselves who search for opportunities to improve their lives, in addition to the increasingly difficult option of migrating to the USA, and finding in Canada an attractive option. A central argument of this paper is that the industry has been sustained thanks to the production of Canada’s —mythical— image as a —gentler and kinder— immigration country among Mexican migrants, which obviously has been affected by the recent changes its migration policy.