

**Discussant comments from Brigida García Guzmán on Marília Calegari's paper 'International Migration and Family: Refugees in Brazil'**

The objective of this document is to show the importance of the family in the process of international migration due to different factors. The author is particularly interested in dealing with the refugee population and the role of the family in their general well being.

In the context of the above mentioned objective, it is difficult to say if this is an introduction to a research project, or a short essay on the subject of family and international migration. In the case that these are the main thoughts leading to a research project, we need to know what kind of hypotheses are going to be tested and what kind of data is going to be recollected. It is not enough to say that the family is the obligated reference and that the Brazilian laws reflect this. More has to be done, for example interviewing the people involved and the families to which they belong.

It would also be important to compare the Brazilian situation with that of countries like Mexico, where the subject of family reunion has a long history in the case of international migrants to the United States. This has been a subject that has been dealt with in different ways in the various migratory reforms.

I also found pertinent the question posed by another participant in the Cyberseminar, regarding the issue of different nationalities and how they are treated by Brazilian laws. It would be relevant to know if persons coming from developed countries are subject to the same treatment as the inhabitants of Paraguay, a very poor country which is a Brazilian neighbour.

Well, these are some thoughts that I hope would trigger some reactions on the side of the author.