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## To see a world in a grain of sand: Rescaling (global) villages and migrants

Josepha Milazzo

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Harvard University, Boston

**“Pushing the Boundaries of Migration Studies:  
Perspectives from the U.S. and France”**

5<sup>th</sup> May 2014

***To see a world in a grain of sand:  
Rescaling (global) villages  
and migrants***

**PhD Candidate Josepha Milazzo (Geographer)**

Aix-Marseille Université (TELEMMé)

Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona (GRM)

*jjomilazzo@gmail.com*

# *Contextualization*

## **Cities: globalization and migration dynamics' main observation sites**

### **Cities, the ever changing contexts of migrants' lives**

*It is impossible to understand the processes of globalization without studying **cities**, since they are **the central locale for globalization [...] immigration as an important component of world city formation [...]***

(Benton-Short, Price, & Friedman, 2005).

### **South international migration dynamics to North rural reception's contexts: a recent interest**

*Whereas previous migrants flocked to urban areas and industrial centers, recent migrants are increasingly settling in rural destinations. **Past literature cannot adequately address these new patterns of migration. Rather, the unique process of migrating to rural communities and the implications for assimilation and integration necessitate further scholarly attention.***

(Jentsch & Simard, 2009).

### **At stake: Emerging “globalization of the countryside”, concepts of “global village”, “global ruralities”, “rural cosmopolitanism”**

## *Claim -Question*

# International migration and villages' rescaling: A social transformation perspective

**Village as an observation site for global social transformation :  
to enhance migration local experiences' understanding**

*Globalization theory is now at the center of international social science debates, and the mobility of people is a crucial form of globalization. [...] yet **analysis of migration as a central element of global social change is still the exception.**[...] Social transformation can be defined as **a fundamental shift in the way society is organized that goes beyond the continual processes of incremental social change that are always at work.** This implies a 'step-change' in which all existing social patterns are questioned and many are reconfigured. Social transformations are closely linked to major shifts in dominant economic, political and strategic relationships.*  
(Castles, 2010)

## *Claim-Approach*

# International migration and villages' rescaling: A social transformation perspective

**To consider other localities to be theorized in relationship to migration**

*“Although our specific concern is the relationship between migration and cities, **the comparative framework we advocate is more generally applicable to the concept of locality, understood as the sociospatial dimension of human experience** (Massey, 2005). Cities are only one of a range of places that need to be theorized in relationship to migration. Depending on the context, **locality could refer to a village, a neighborhood, a metroplex, or a region**. We speak of a theory of locality in order to highlight the processes of the restructuring and rescaling of capital of production that we think must be addressed in examining migrants' processes of settlement and transnational connection. These processes literally always « take place ». **They occur and connect within specific spaces and are shape by, as well as shape, the history as well as particular local practices and representations of those spaces.**” (Glick Schiller & Caglar, 2011)*

## Claim-Approach

# International migration and villages' rescaling: A social transformation perspective

- MacLuhan global village concept (1967): globalization effects on communication in global organization as a village
- Afshar's (1998) Global village:

*All small settlements linked to the larger world by components of our current globalization —global economy, ecology, socio-cultural diversity, people mobility, and technology including communications. With this can come either an undermining of such settlements or a strengthening and spreading of what at least some of them stand for — **village characteristics such as a more human scale, more personal contact, symbiotic relationship between natural and built environment and local governance.**[...]*

*The global village may still have the breathing space to nurture and offer an alternative, perhaps complementary, type of settlement — one while globally linked and increasingly cosmopolitan, remains more small-scale, more balanced between natural and built environment, more personal, and more responsive to local values and governance.*

(Afshar, 1998)

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*A global-village study-case*

**Labor opportunities and migrants' mobility patterns**

**Located immigration and chain migrations**

**Geographical and societal patterns and dynamics' implications**

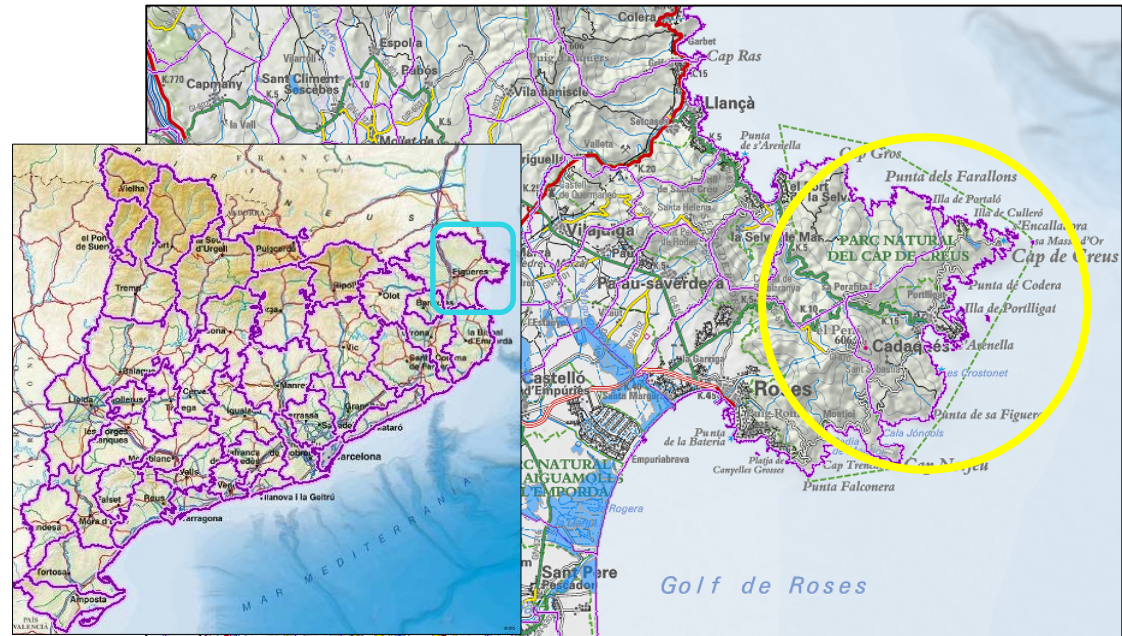


# A global-village study-case

## An holistico-inductive approach of a global-village study-case

Migration researchers need to take a 'holistic approach, linking research on specific migration experiences to broader studies of the transformation of whole societies and how this is connected to global trends. [...] Clearly, most forms of migration research are likely to require 'mixed-methods approaches'. Quantitative research is important to obtaining comparative data to describe macro-social changes linked to migration. At the same time, 'qualitative approaches' are needed to provide understanding both of individual and community-level social-action, and of the history and cultures of sending, transit and receiving.

(Castles, in Vargas-Silva, 2012)

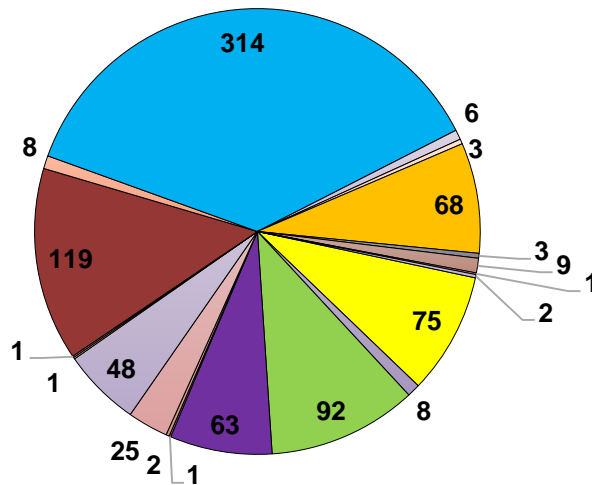




# A global-village study-case

## Bolivian international labor migration's participation in the shaping of a global village

Foreign nationalities in Cadaqués -2013  
(Padrón de los habitantes)



- Alemania
- Bulgaria
- Francia
- Italia
- Polonia
- Portugal
- Reino Unido
- Rumanía
- Rusia
- Argelia
- Marruecos
- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Brasil
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Perú
- Uruguay
- China
- Pakistán

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### Salvador Dalí's home town to be recreated in China

Developer to build imitation version of Cadaqués in Xiamen Bay, to the astonishment of residents of the Costa Brava port

Giles Tremlett in Madrid  
The Guardian, Tuesday 10 August 2010 16:53 EDT



Salvador Dalí's home town is to be recreated by Chinese developers. Click on the photograph to see a larger version. Photograph: Jerry Cooke/Corbis

The following correction was printed in the Guardian's Corrections and clarifications column, Friday 13 August 2010

The headline to this story described Cadaqués – the town in Catalonia, Spain, of which a replica may be built on a bit of Chinese coast – as the home town of Salvador Dalí. That was Figueras.

As home to the painter Salvador Dalí and inspiration for some of his greatest and strangest artistic endeavours, the Costa Brava fishing port of Cadaqués is used to the surreal.

# A global-village study-case

This neoliberal global village is a paradoxical because, like a cruise boat, it carries not only tourists but also vagabonds: seasonal workers, small farmers, and new landless peasants. These vagabonds are not undesirable stowaways of the cruiser, but are actually those that make possible its navigation, like engine-room stokers, the ones who sustain the production and reproduction of the system.

(Cid-Aguayo, 2010)

# Exploring reasons and evidences

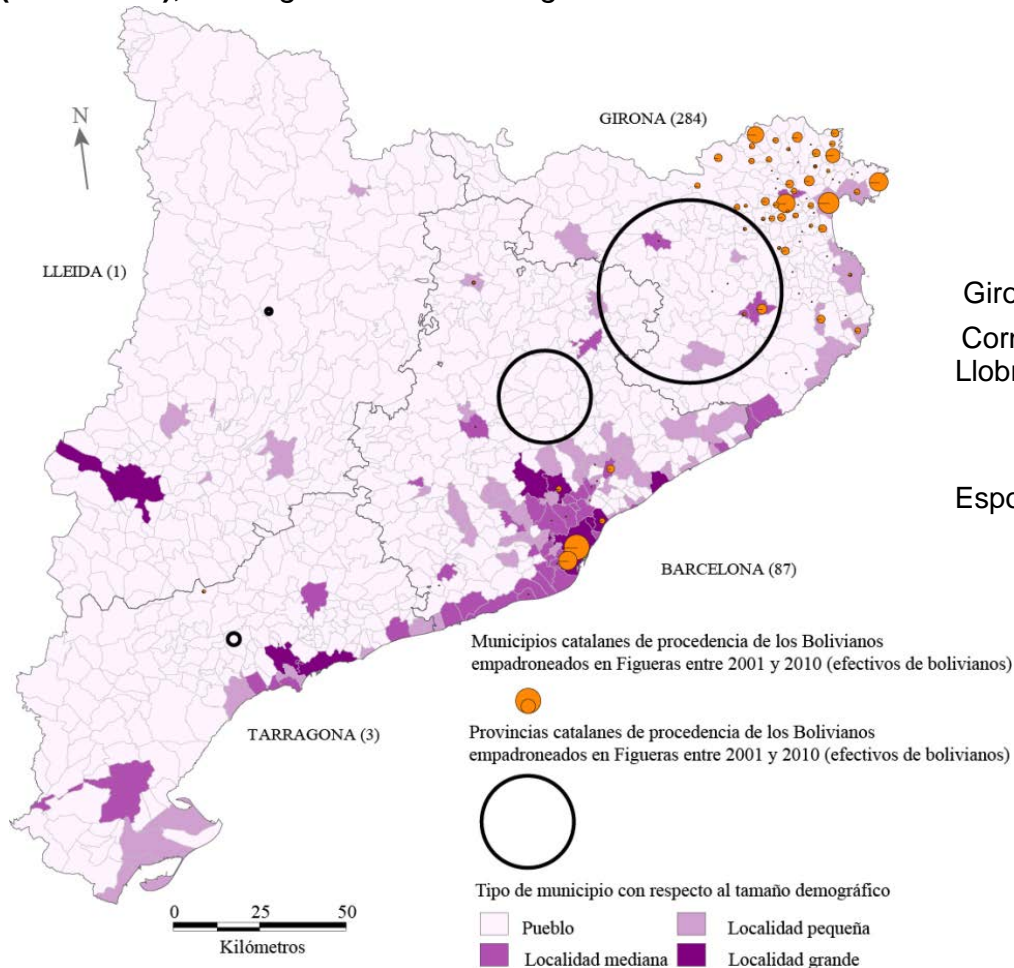
**Labor opportunities and migrants' mobility patterns**

**Specialized and seasonal economy...**

**...Village as a multi-scalar mobility  
turntable?**

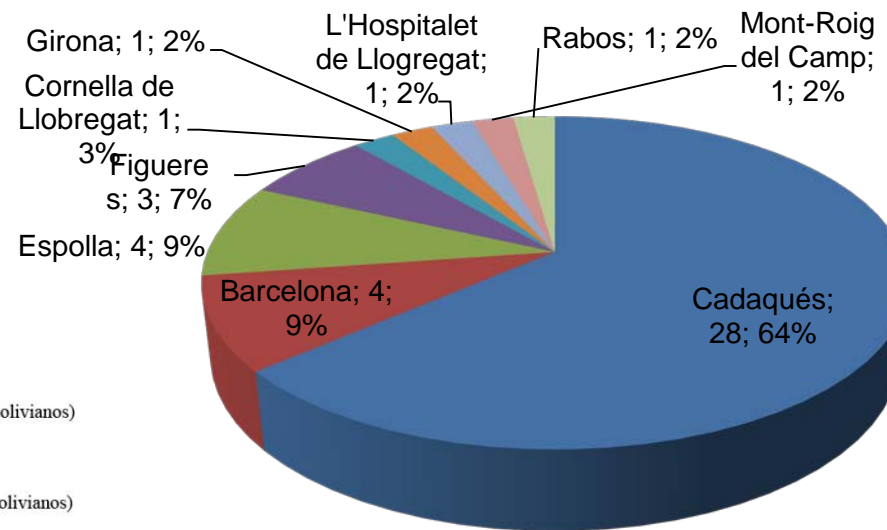
# Exploring reasons and evidences

**Origin localities of Bolivians in Figueras in 2011**  
(2001-2010), INE Figueras – 80% villages - Catalonia



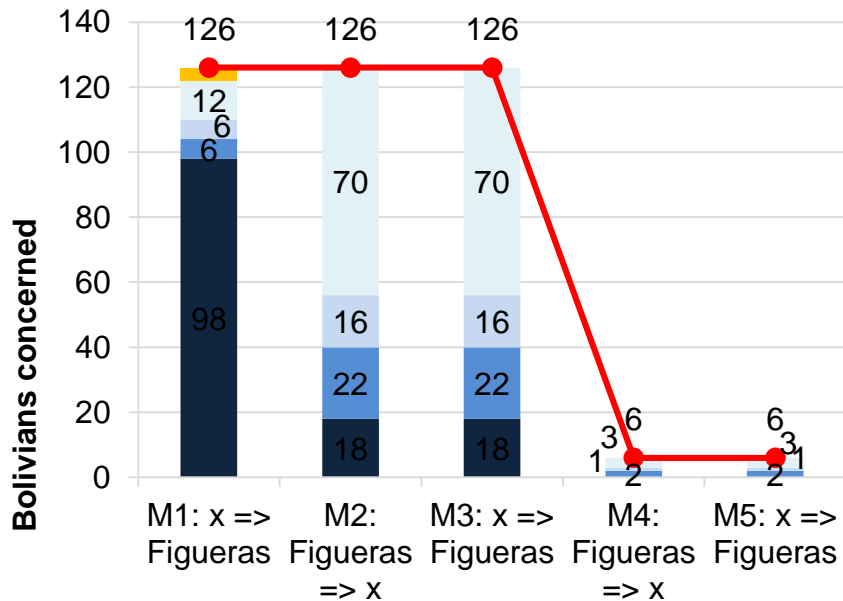
**Bolivians registered in Rosas (1981-2011)**  
44 persons over 70 come from Catalonia  
*Padrón Municipal de los Habitantes, INE Rosas*

**Origin Catalonia localities:**



# Exploring reasons and evidences

126 over 1859 : multiple migration



Successive mobilities from or to Figueras

## Types of mobility

- ?
- Intraregional
- Internacional
- Intraprovincial
- Interregional
- Total

L1	L2	L3	L4	L5	Effectives	%
Girona	Girona	Girona			67	53%
Girona	Bolivia	Girona			18	14%
Girona	Barcelona	Girona			17	13%
Girona	Madrid	Girona			4	3%
Girona	Toledo	Girona			2	2%
Girona	Sevilla	Girona			2	2%
Girona	Murcia	Girona			2	2%
Girona	Granada	Girona			2	2%
Girona	Alicante	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Burgos	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Ciudad Real	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Valencia	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Lugo	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Santa Cruz de Tenerife	Girona			1	1%
Girona	Alicante	Girona	Alicante	Girona	1	1%
Girona	Cordoba	Girona	Girona	Girona	1	1%
Girona	Cuenca	Girona	Cuenca	Girona	1	1%
Girona	Girona	Girona	Girona	Girona	1	1%
Girona	Murcia	Girona	Girona	Girona	1	1%
Girona	Girona	Girona	Barcelona	Girona	1	1%
						100
				TOTAL	126	%

# Exploring reasons and evidences

## Located immigration and chain migrations

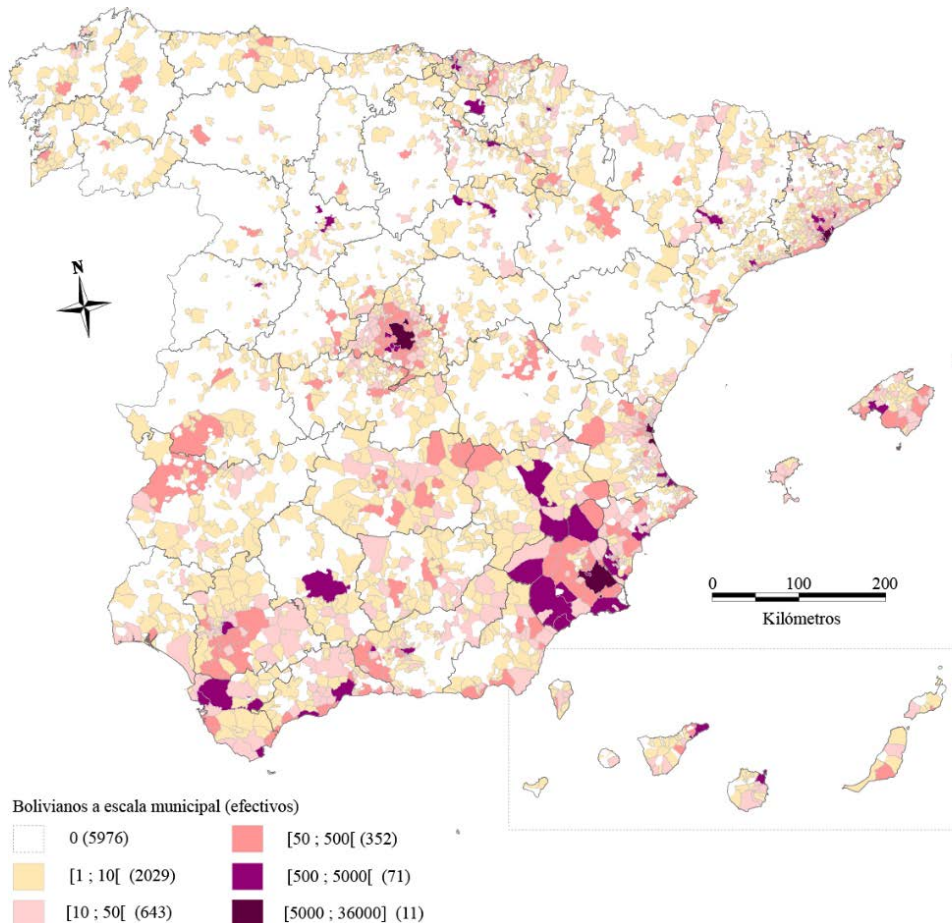
**Spatial diffusion from core cities to remote places**

**Extended and close few families networks**

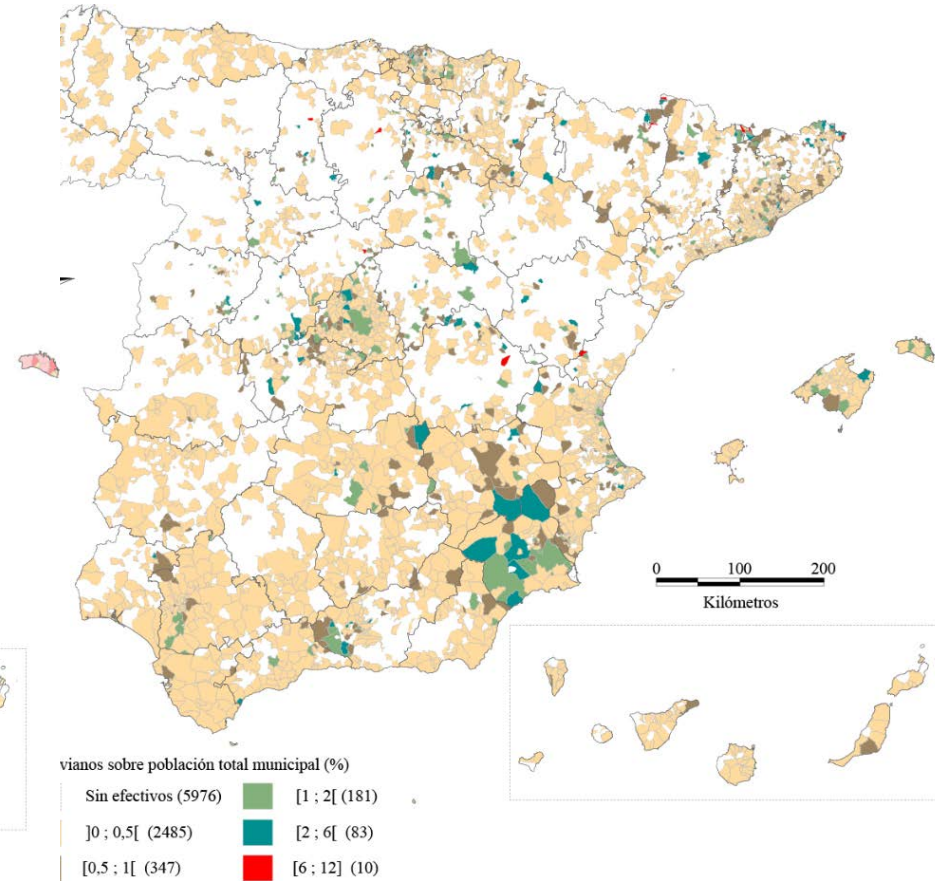
**Selective workforce**

**Implicated employment relations**

# Exploring reasons and evidences



**Geographic distribution of Bolivians by localities, 2011  
(8116 localities)**



**Proportion of Bolivians over total local population,  
2011, (8116 localities)**



# Exploring reasons and evidences

## Distribution of Bolivians according to demographic size of residence locality & proportion over foreign population by Spanish size locality (2010)

Demographic size	Population	Spanish	Foreigners	Bolivians		
<i>Effectives</i>	<i>47021031</i>	<i>41273297</i>	<i>5747734</i>	<i>213169</i>		
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	3,7%	
≤ 1000	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1802
1001-1999	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1681
2000-4999	7%	7%	5%	2%	2%	5205
5000-9999	8%	9%	7%	4%	2%	8506
10000-24999	15%	15%	15%	<b>9%</b>	2%	18242
25000-49999	11%	11%	13%	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	21418
50000-99999	13%	12%	15%	<b>10%</b>	<b>3%</b>	22314
≥ 100000	40%	39%	42%	<b>63%</b>	<b>5%</b>	134001

# Exploring reasons and evidences

## First Spanish localities of Bolivian representation over total population and foreign local population (2010)

Province	Locality	Total population	Spanish	Foreigners	Bolivians	% foreigners over total population	% Bolivians over total population	% Bolivians over total population
<b>Girona</b>	Cadaques	2892	1921	971	350	33,58%	<b>12,10%</b>	36,05%
Huesca	Castejón de Sos	788	647	141	83	17,89%	10,53%	58,87%
<b>Lleida</b>	Les	983	733	250	75	25,43%	<b>7,63%</b>	30,00%
<b>Girona</b>	Ger	461	401	60	31	13,02%	<b>6,72%</b>	51,67%
<b>Girona</b>	Puigcerdà	8746	6945	1801	576	20,59%	<b>6,59%</b>	31,98%

# Exploring reasons and evidences

## **Geographical and societal patterns and dynamics' implications**

**International migration and population dynamics and  
Community VS society**

**Degree of density built-up in spatial organization**

**Degree of proximity of daily-life spaces (work, housing,  
sociability)**

**Degree of spatial and cultural isolations**

**Perceptions of quality of life**

## *Conclusion*

### **The village: A « limit-object »?**

- Cities and villages' migrations in-situ observed phenomena: An only scale's issue?
- Village's context: A heightened relational geography
- International migration's participation to community-society transition?

# The end

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« *Dans ce coin du monde qu'est un village,  
il y a à peu près toute l'humanité.* »

(Jules Renard, *Journal*, 26/06/1908)

# Navegaciones e integraciones

**E**xiste un vínculo especial entre América Latina y la península Ibérica, a pesar de los pesares. José Saramago abordó esa relación en 1986 (año de la entrada de España y Portugal en la Comunidad Europea), cuando publicó su novela *La balsa de piedra*. En ella narra cómo la Península se separa del resto de Europa y navega por el Atlántico en dirección a Sudamérica, como si de una balsa de piedra se tratase. Ese vínculo ha sido también migratorio, con sus altos y bajos. La efeméride de 1992 estuvo marcada en España, encuentros oficiales aparte, por el asesinato racista de una trabajadora dominicana, Lucrecia Pérez, en Madrid. Aquello quería provocar un fre-

R. MORÉN ALEGRET, profesor de Geografía y director del Grup de Recerca sobre Migracions (GRM) de la UAB

no a la inmigración, pero la historia ha ido por otro lado. La inmigración latinoamericana ha mostrado resiliencia.

Hoy, entre la tripulación residente y resiliente en Iberia e islas aledañas hay millones de personas nacidas en Latinoamérica que pueden ayudar a que se llegue a buen puerto. A pesar de la nueva emigración iniciada con la crisis, entre la población empadronada en España a 1 de enero, 2.458.394 personas nacieron en el continente americano, un 5,22% del total de la población (aproximadamente un millón de ellas cuentan con nacionalidad española). En Ecuador habían nacido 454.993; en Colombia, 369.631, y en Argentina, 270.147. La capacidad emprendedora de los inmigrantes latinoamericanos ha ido en las últimas décadas desde el ámbito cultural hasta el ámbito económico, pasando por la participa-

ción en múltiples asociaciones de diversos barrios. Sin embargo, ¿ha tocado la inmigración latinoamericana un techo de cristal? ¿Usa el ascensor social?

La pertenencia de la península Ibérica a la Unión Europea debería ayudar a navegar por el Atlántico, pues también en Bruselas se aprecia un renovado interés por reforzar lazos con América. Decía Josep Pla, nombrando navegantes de Cadaqués, que en mar abierto es más segura una embarcación grande que una pequeña y que la navegación en común es compatible con la vida individual. Cadaqués es ejemplo de tierra de marineros que antaño “hicieron las Américas” y que hoy acoge cientos de Latinoamericanos. Hay procesos de iberoeuropeización de América y de americanización de Iberia y Europa que continúan. Hablémoslo. ●

10 de mayo de 2013 fue publicado en el diario **La Vanguardia** el artículo de Ricard Morén Alegret