

This video is a transcript of a conversation between a researcher, Alejandro, and an interviewer discussing Alejandro's research on the immigrant rights movement, particularly in the context of solidarity and morality. Alejandro shares insights from his participant observation in two organizations in El Paso, Texas—one a legal aid office and the other a migrant shelter—that both engage with migrants and asylum seekers.

Key points include:

1. **Context of Research**: Alejandro focused on how solidarity is practiced through care work, aiming to understand its moral dimensions within social movements.
2. **Findings on Care Work**: He discovered that care work in these organizations is predominantly about providing support to migrants, which can be emotionally taxing due to the interpersonal nature of the work and the challenging political environment during the Trump administration.
3. **Familial Morality**: The researchers found that a strong theme of familial morality emerged in both organizations, influencing their commitment to helping migrants. Staff members often reflect on their own or their families' migration histories, creating personal connections to their work.
4. **Variations in Experience**: While the legal aid office staff engaged more intellectually and reflected on their migration stories, the shelter staff focused on everyday domestic tasks, leading to a different type of familial attachment to the migrants they assist.
5. **Burnout and Commitment**: Alejandro observed that many who participate in this work experience burnout, raising questions about how they maintain their commitment despite the difficulties.
6. **Implications for Future Research**: Alejandro expressed interest in exploring how migrants perceive their interactions with both movement organizations and the state, as well as how similar movements function in other contexts, such as Mexico.

Overall, the research highlights the complex interplay of moral commitments and personal histories in the immigrant rights movement, demonstrating how these factors shape social movement engagement and organizational dynamics.