



# Immigration Policy Research

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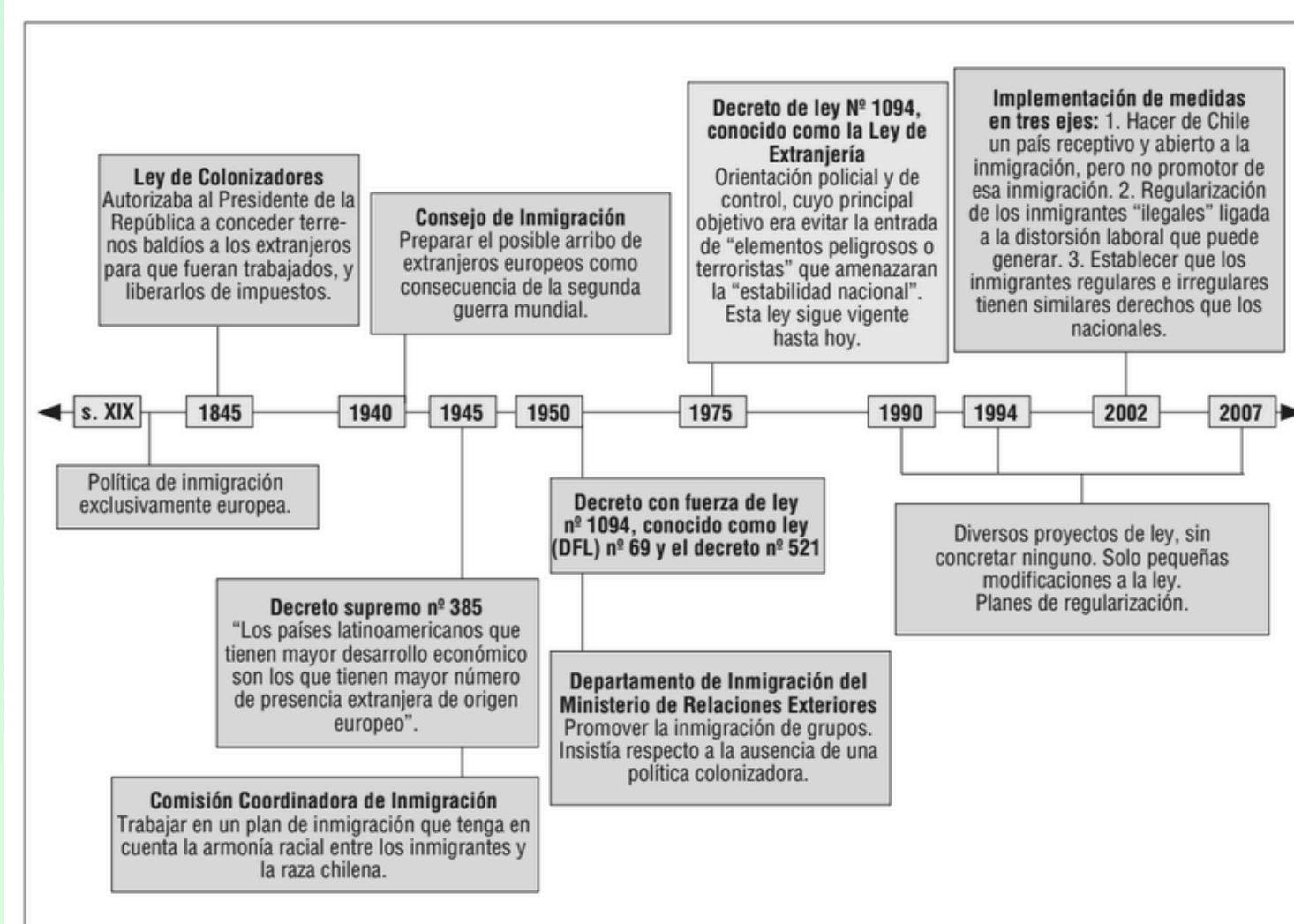


## Santiago, Chile

Santiago is the capital of Chile, located in South America. The city boasts a population of over 6 million inhabitants. Within the city's boundaries there are 37 neighborhoods or *communas*. During my field placement I lived and worked in the downtown area known as *Santiago Central*.

The Foreign Ministry estimates that 2.3% of the population is foreign-born individuals. Immigrants to Chile come primarily from other Latin American countries. Other immigrant populations include individuals from European nations, North America, Asia, and Africa. The history of immigration to Chile is depicted below in the historical flowchart of immigration waves and policies.

FIGURA 1. Diagrama diacrónico de la Ley de Migraciones



Fuente: Lacalle . 2012.

**Source:** Matus, T., Cortez Monroy, F., Hermansen, P., Sabatini, F., Silva, C. (2012). *Migración y municipios. Construcción de una propuesta de política pública de gestión municipal para la población migrante*. Concurso Políticas Públicas: Propuestas para Chile.

## Professional Development

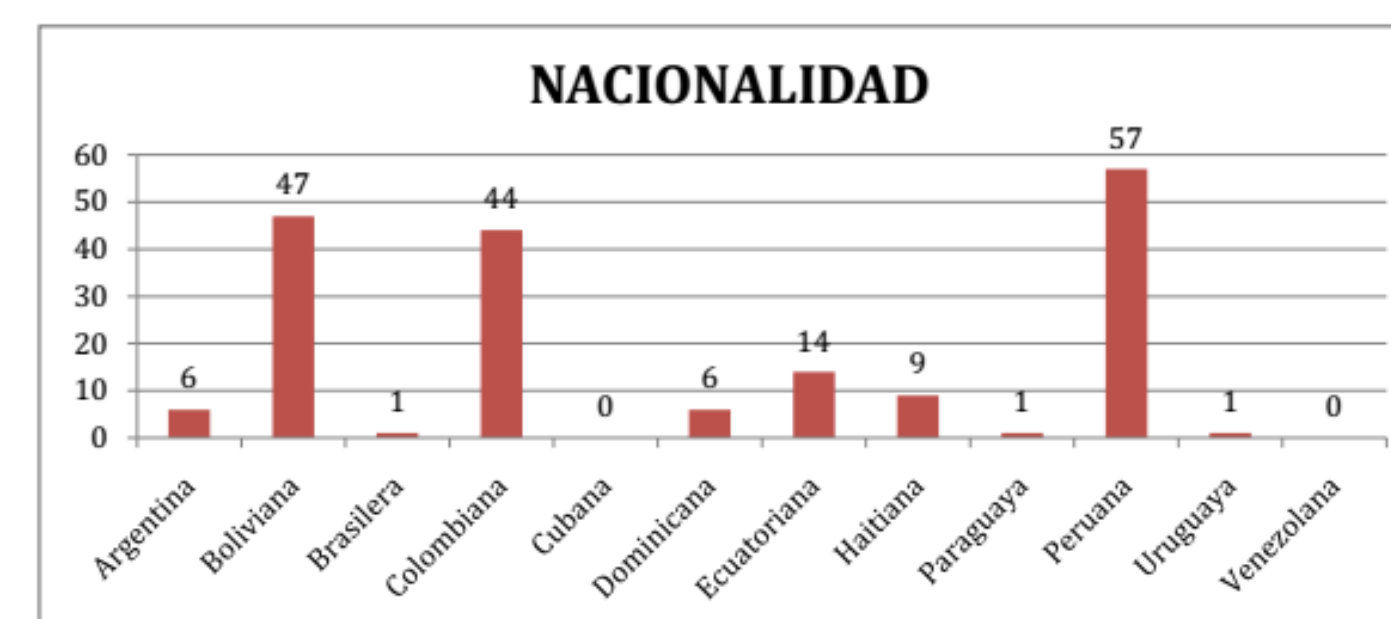
- + Developed a **comparative analysis** of labor, housing, education, health, human mobility, anti-discrimination, and integration laws related to immigrants in Latin American countries.
- + Collected **field research** pertaining to the process of validating university degrees by individuals seeking to immigrate to Chile.
- + Generated multiple **step-by-step guides** and **presentations** that outline the process of validating professional degrees obtained outside of Chile for multiple occupations.

## About Ciudadano Global

- + Provides free, personalized attention in social, legal, psychological, and employment to vulnerable migrants and refugees.
- + Seeks to influence the construction of an appropriate legal framework and the design of inclusive public policies.
- + Actively participates in various political and social bodies.
- + Seeks to change the look of Chilean society towards people who migrated to the country through advocacy and communication.

## Nationalities of CG's Clients

2.2.2. Nacionalidad usuarios(as)



## Applied Skills

- + **Assessment:** I collected data through interviewing individuals at the Foreign Ministry Office about their experiences in validating their university degrees obtained outside of Chile.
- + **Research:** I conducted research into various federal policies in Latin America pertaining to the integration of immigrants and access to services.

**Social Policy:** Based on the results from the comparative analysis I conducted, Ciudadano Global will use the data in the proposal to the Chilean Congress for an inclusive national immigration policy.

## Classroom Connections

I applied my knowledge from SW 647 and PubPol 750 in conducting the policy analysis of immigration legislation. The training I received in both classes prepared me to be able to analyze and translate the extensive legal documents that I read into a comprehensive chart that the agency will use in formulating their public opinion when persuading Congress to include specific components into the migration proposal for Chile.

## Lessons Learned

I learned that even though you may have set goals prior to beginning a project, it is important to remain flexible and be willing to adapt based on the needs of the agency and populations you serve.



## Advice for Colleagues

- + Practice humility
- + Seek meaning in your failures
- + Challenge yourself to think critically and strive to not compare where you are to where you're from

## Career Ambitions

Upon graduation I hope to work in a setting where I can apply my social work knowledge in supporting communities' advocacy efforts for comprehensive and equitable legislation. It is my professional goal to support bridging the gap between policy makers and the people directly affected by the legislation that they pass.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to personally thank the Board of Governors for their support of my global field placement in Chile.

Additionally I would like to thank Claudia Silva for her guidance and encouragement of my educational pursuit in researching immigration policy.