

Gendered performances,  
masculinities, and  
(dis)empowerment through the  
intersection of food insecurity,  
migration, and violence in rural  
Honduras

Presentation to:  
The Women and Gender in International  
Development Discussion Series

Dr. Rebecca J. Williams  
University of Florida

02/13/2012







2006–2015 Intentional Homicide Rate #1

World Bank, 2018



2009 coup d'état  
"Diplomatic Overthrow"



Immigration Crisis, 2014-2020



2017 Election





**90-95%  
Impunity**

Skepticism & Distrust



**Gangs &  
Narcotrafficking**



**Vilification**  
of young men



**Perverse  
Institutions**





“IMPOTENTE”





**PERVERSE  
EMPOWERMENT**

**HONDURAS**

0 km 30 60 90 km

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# Theoretical framework



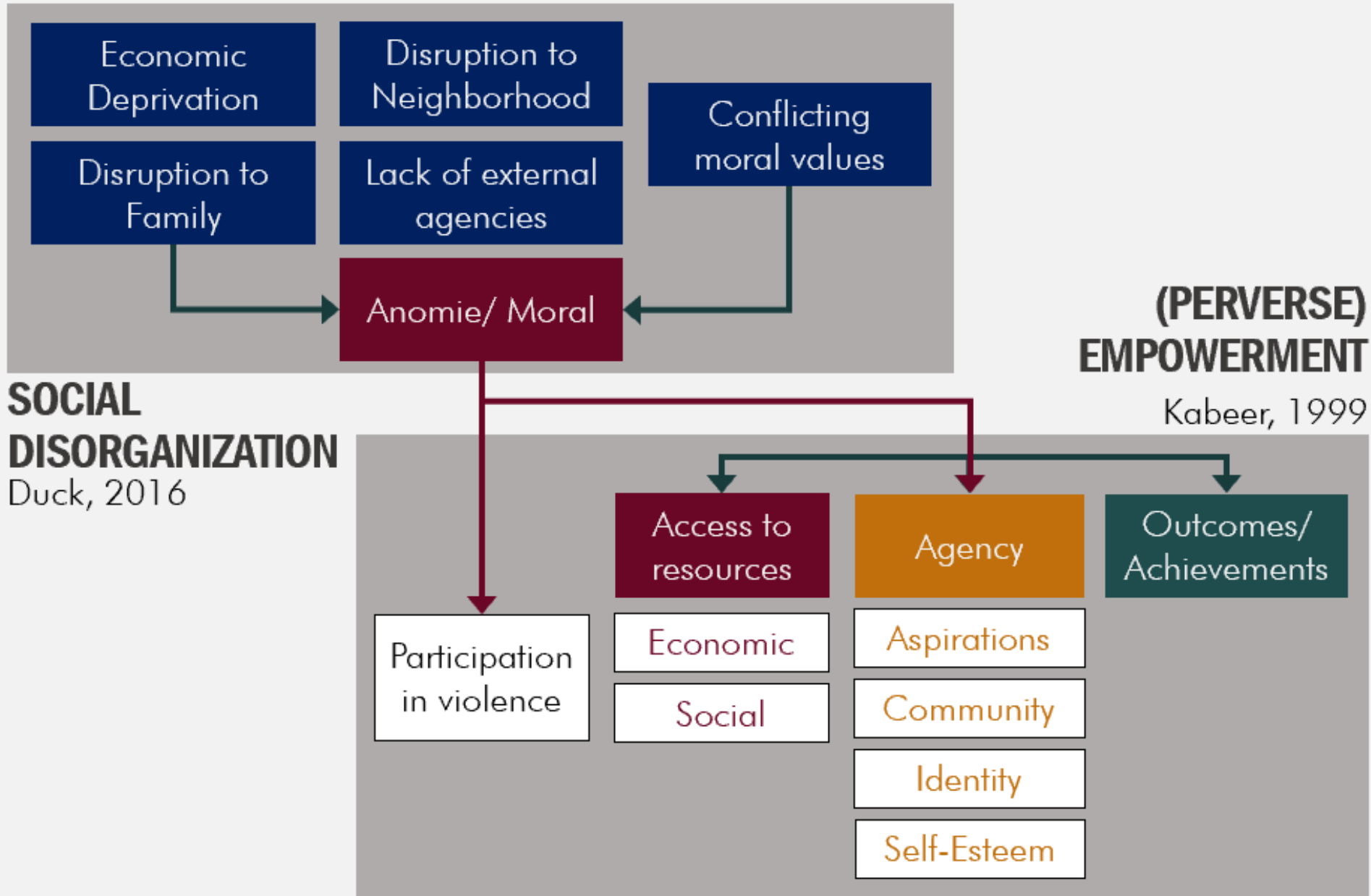


# Theoretical framework





# Theoretical framework



# MIXED-METHODS

CROSS-SECTIONAL

YOUTH: 10-27  
IN SCHOOL

Participation  
in violence

GENDER

YOUTH: 14-27  
IN SCHOOL

Community  
Teachers

CROSS-CASE

ORGANIZATIONS

LIMITATIONS







# FAMILY CONDITIONS



# ECONOMICS



# EDUCATION







**AMBITION**  
**“MOVE FORWARD”**



**DRUGS**



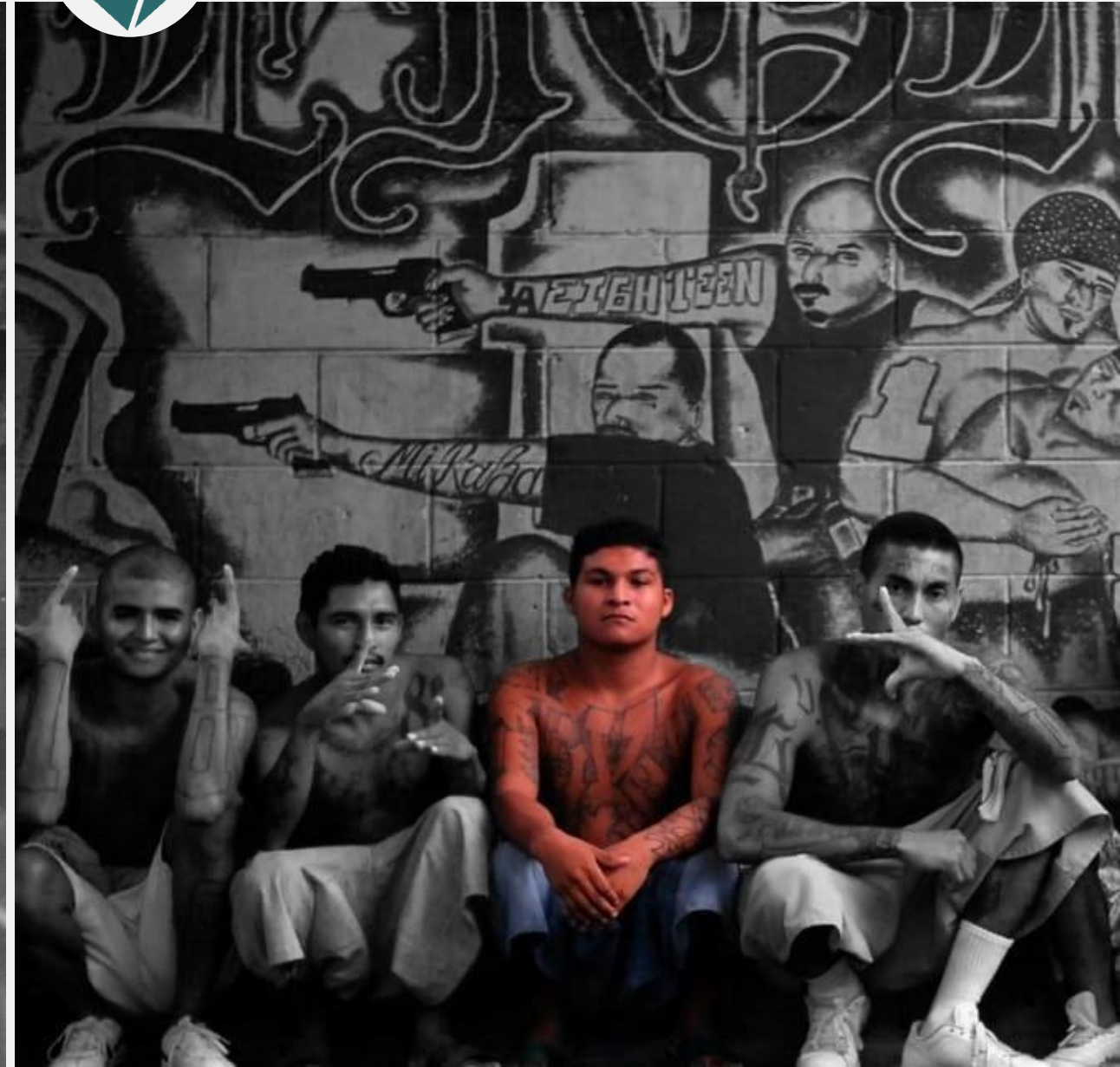




“EASIER”  
THAN WORK



LOVE &  
BELONGING







PATHOLOGY



PERVERSE EMPOWERMENT

“They **do not benefit** at all [from crime and violence]. All they do is **harm** other people, **ruin** the name of the community, barrio, and family.” – Sebastian

PATHOLOGY

“Youth, they need **love**, and if they do not have it, they look for it elsewhere. Also, it can be because they are **ambitious** and **do not want to settle** for the little they have, so **they decide to do something about it.**”- Daniel

PERVERSE EMPOWERMENT



“No. They only do it just for, just to do it. The benefit is nothing more than that in public **they are called criminals and are badly thought of.**” - Delia

**PATHOLOGY**

“You know that to have the **power** to get an education, you need money. Sometimes not a lot, **but to get a good education, you need money.** So, how is a person without valuable belongings going to have the power to **secure a future** for his children? He is going to take it.” – Alejandro

**PERVERSE EMPOWERMENT**






 STATE & POLICING



 EDUCATION REFORM



 PARENTING/FATHERS







## JOBS



## ATHLETIC & YOUTH CENTERS







STATUS QUO



MIGRATION



VIOLENCE

agricultural migration youth violence  
gender livelihoods  
structures poverty education research perceptions  
climate resources security





San Pedro Sula

El Progreso

Honduras

Comayagua

Tegucigalpa

San Miguel

El Salvador

Trujillo

Tela

La Ceiba

Tocoa

Reserva Biológica Río Plátano

Catacamas

Reserva Biológica Tawahka

Juticalpa

Reserva Natural Bosawás

Danli

Esteli

Matagalpa

Nicaragua

Chinandega

Ana

# METHODS



HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS  
~700



SCHOOL SURVEYS  
~4,300

INTERVIEWS



FOCUS GROUPS



PARTICIPATORY



~  
+ 140 HOURS



# ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

# ECONOMIC SYSTEM

# SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEM

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- ↓ Rain
- ↓ Surface/ Sub Water
- ↑ Drought
- ↑ Temp
- ↑ Severity of Storms
- Winds
- Hail
- Floods

Irregular Seasons & Weather Patterns

Deforestation

↑ Pests/Disease

- Silverleaf whitefly (*Mosca blanca*)
- Bemisia tabaci*
- Coffee rust (*Rolla*)
- Hemileia vastatrix*
- Click Beetle (*Gusano del alambre*)
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- Asfalto
- Phyllachora maydis; Monographella maydis; Coniothyrium phyllachorae*
- Several others identified

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

↑ Price of inputs

↓ Land planted

↓ Use of inputs

↓ Prices for crops

Middlemen  
Coyotes undersell  
Imported crops  
Contraband crops  
Worldwide prices

↓ Production  
↑ Crop losses

Inability to pay loans

Loss of lands

↓ Purchasing Power

## ON-FARM LABOR

Seasonalism of Agriculture Labor

↓ Jobs  
↓ Wages

## OFF-FARM LABOR

Crop loss = ↓ inputs for value addition

↓ Profits

Loss of businesses

## INFRASTRUCTURE/ URBAN RELATIONSHIP

Access to markets

## FOOD INSECURITY

## EXTERNAL VIOLENCE

Distrust of Institutions

- ⊖ trust GOH
- ⊖ trust Police
- ⊖/↓ trust Local Gov
- ⊖/↓ trust Coops
- ↓ trust Com Leaders

- ↑ Sobornos/Renta
- ↑ Drug sale/availability/use
- Forced cooperation
- Voluntary cooperation
- Purchase of rural land
- ↑ Fear, violence

Maras/ Narcos/ Unaffiliated Gangs in Rural Areas

## COMMUNITY DISRUPTION

Fear of Violence

Corruption/ Distrust

Stigmatization of youth

- Exclusion
- Distrust/Fear of Boys
- Boys ≠ intelligent
- Gender norms (M&F)

Loss of community  
Cost of failure

Migration

## MASCULINITIES/ GENDER

Boys work on farm

Girls go to school

Daily wage > opportunity cost of school

Inability to provide

Alcohol & Drugs

GBV

## PERCEPTION OF VALUE OF EDUCATION

Education ≠ jobs

Opportunity Cost

# POINT OF DECISION TO MIGRATE

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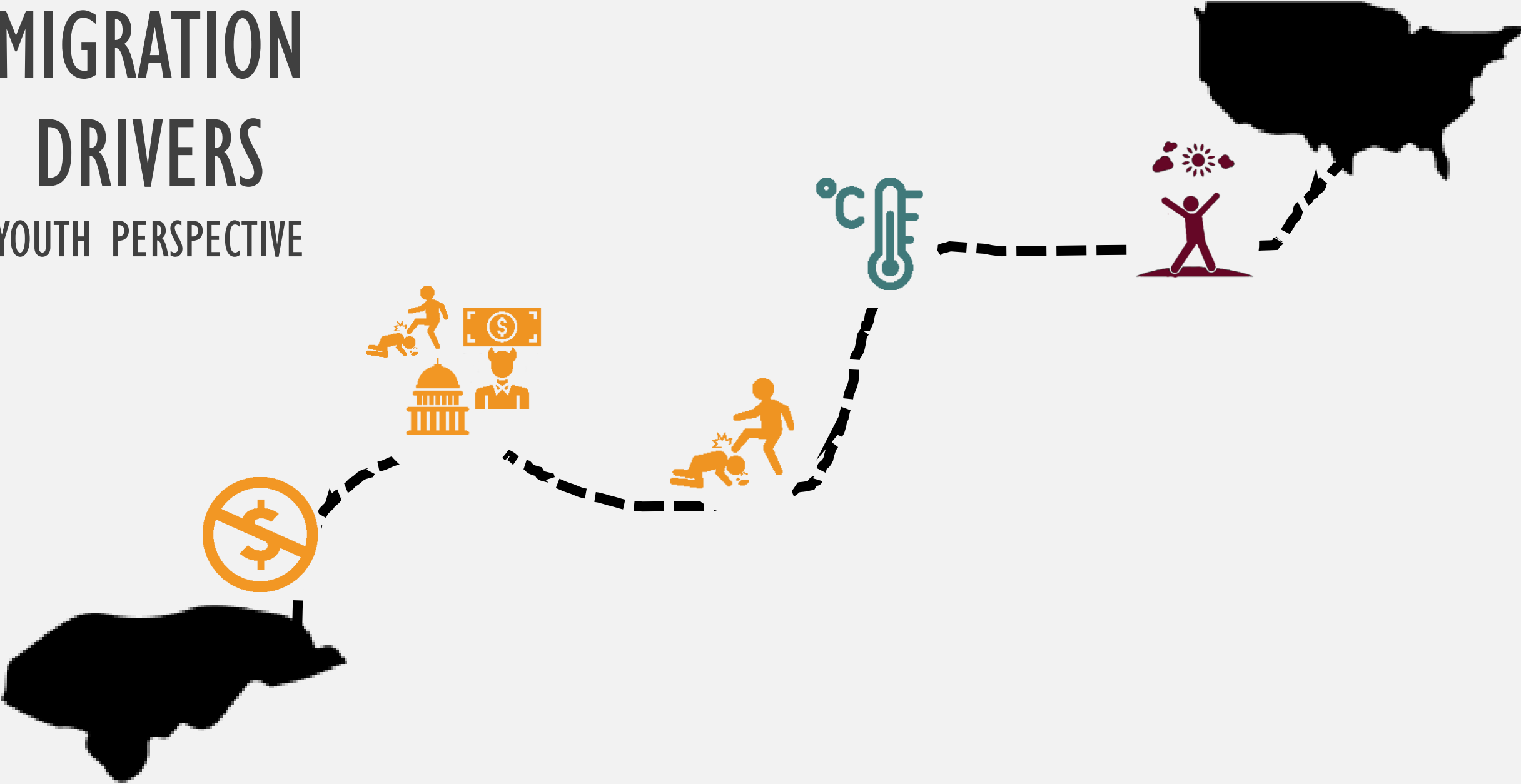
Education ≠ jobs

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**POINT OF DECISION TO MIGRATE**

# MIGRATION DRIVERS

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE







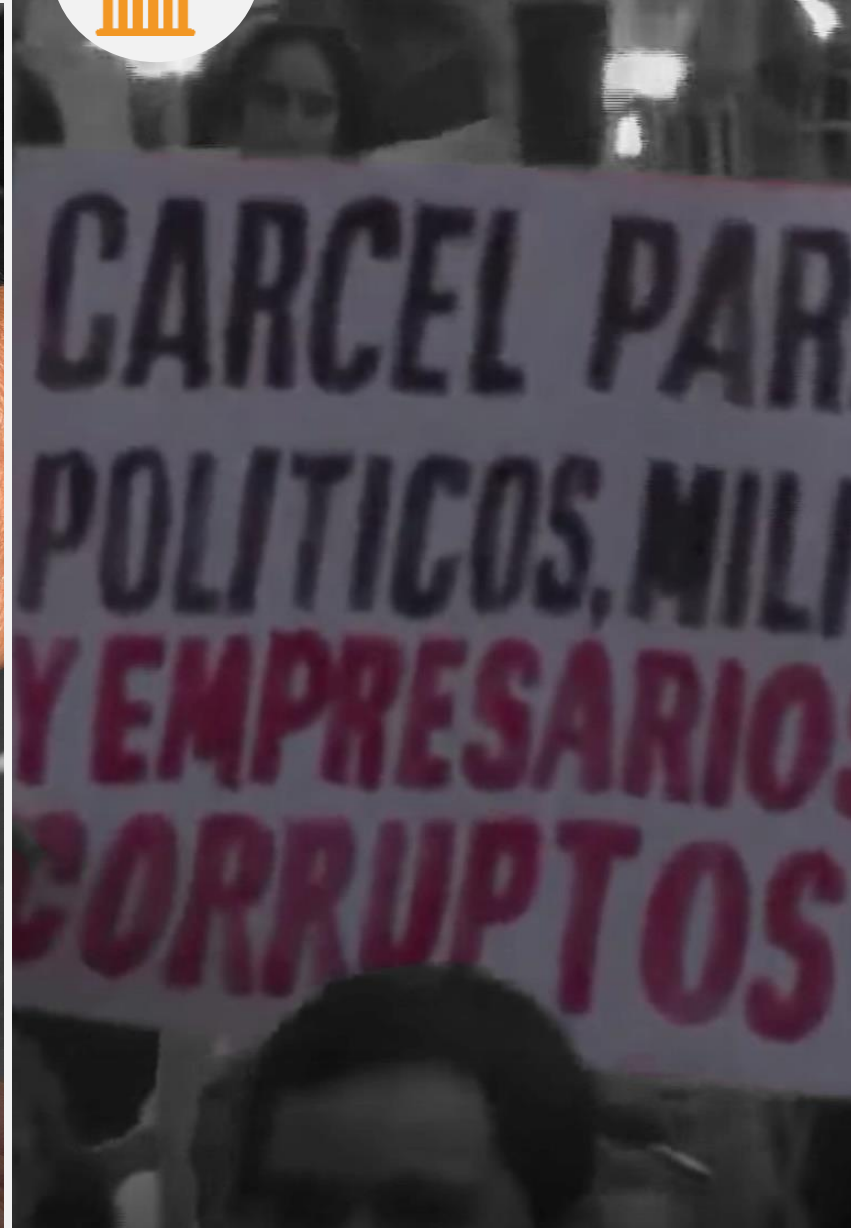
ECONOMY/WORK



STATE VIOLENCE



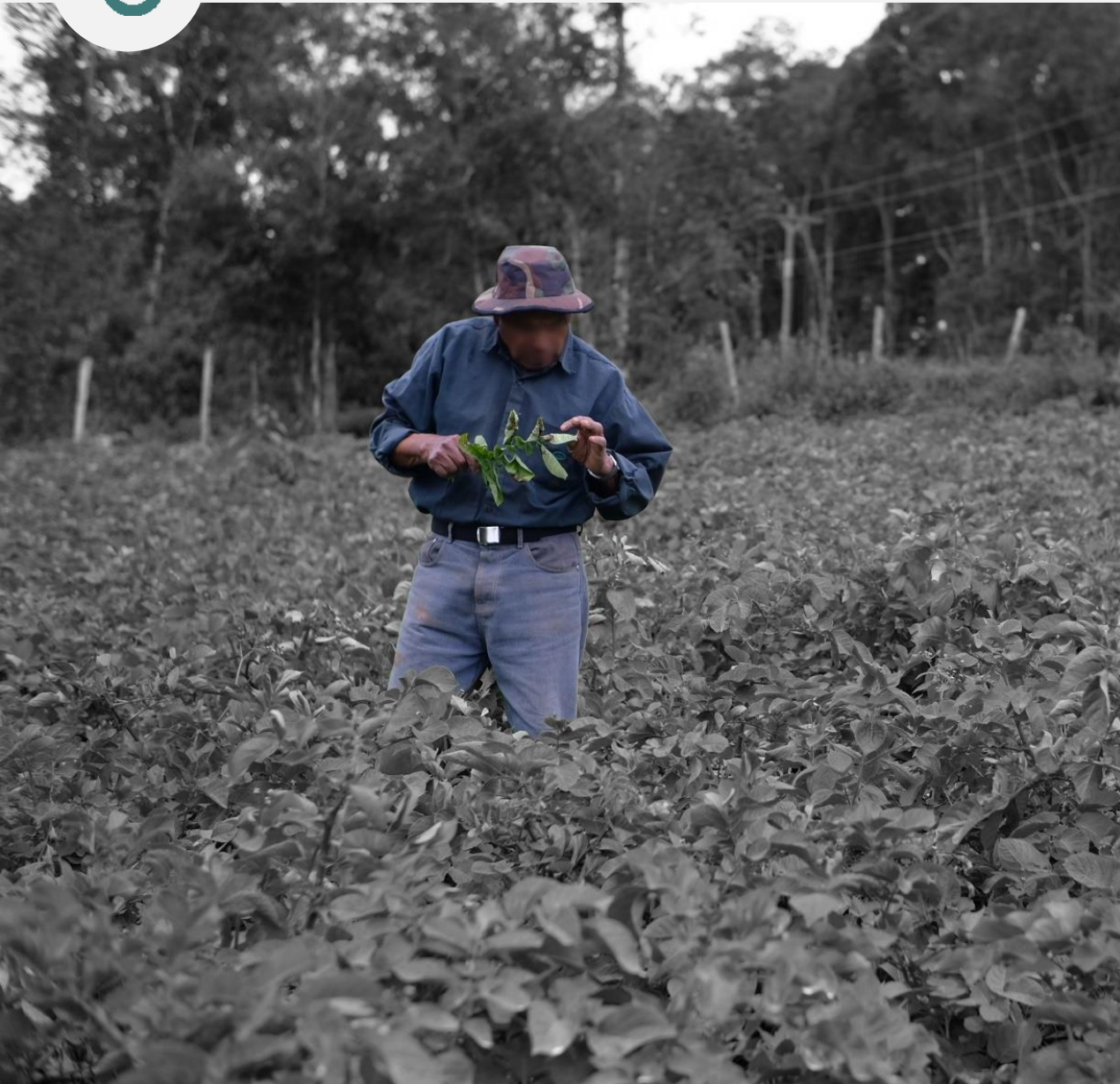
COMMUNITY VIOLENCE







# CLIMATE CHANGE & AGRICULTURE

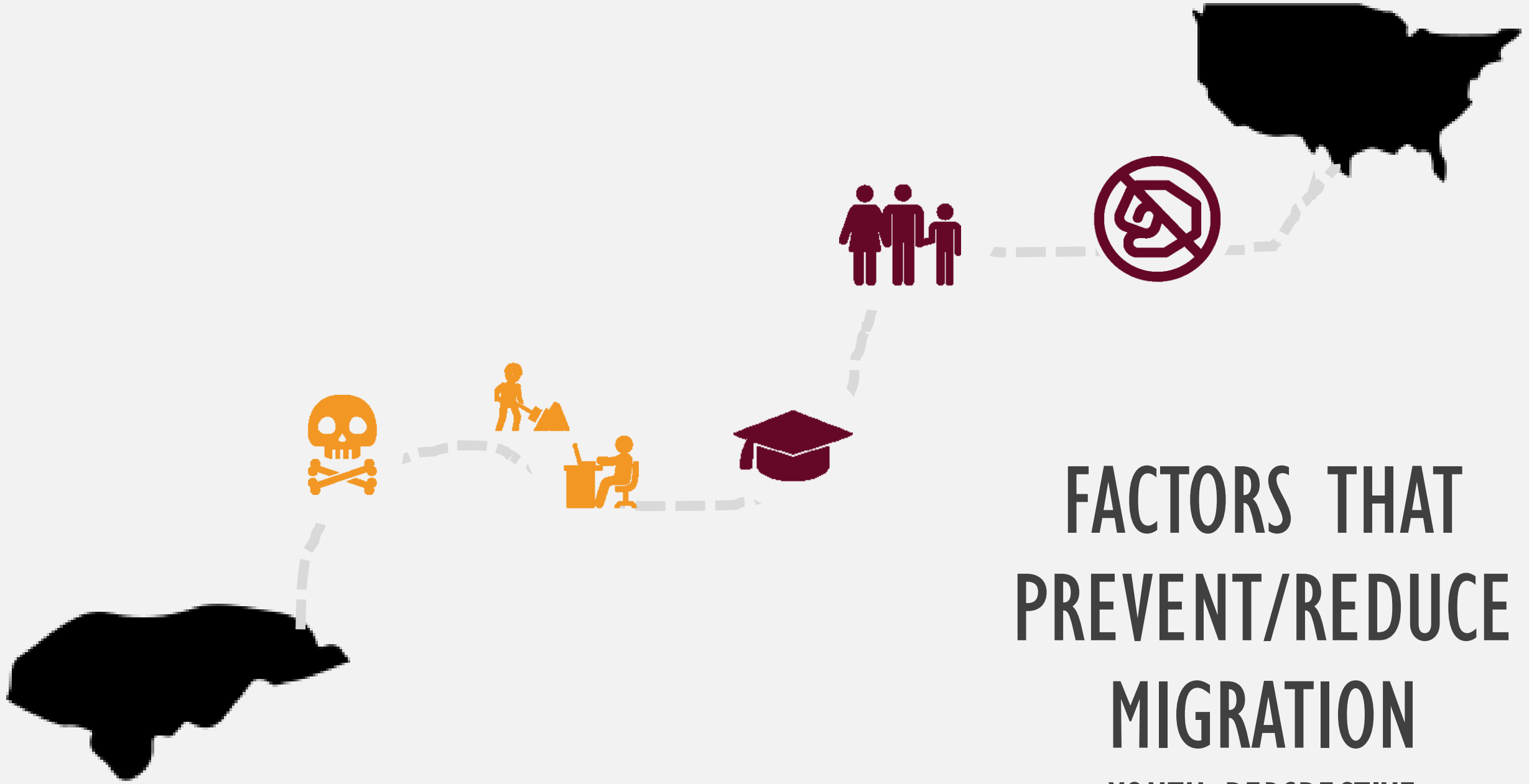


**"BETTER LIFE"**

**"MOVE FORWARD"**







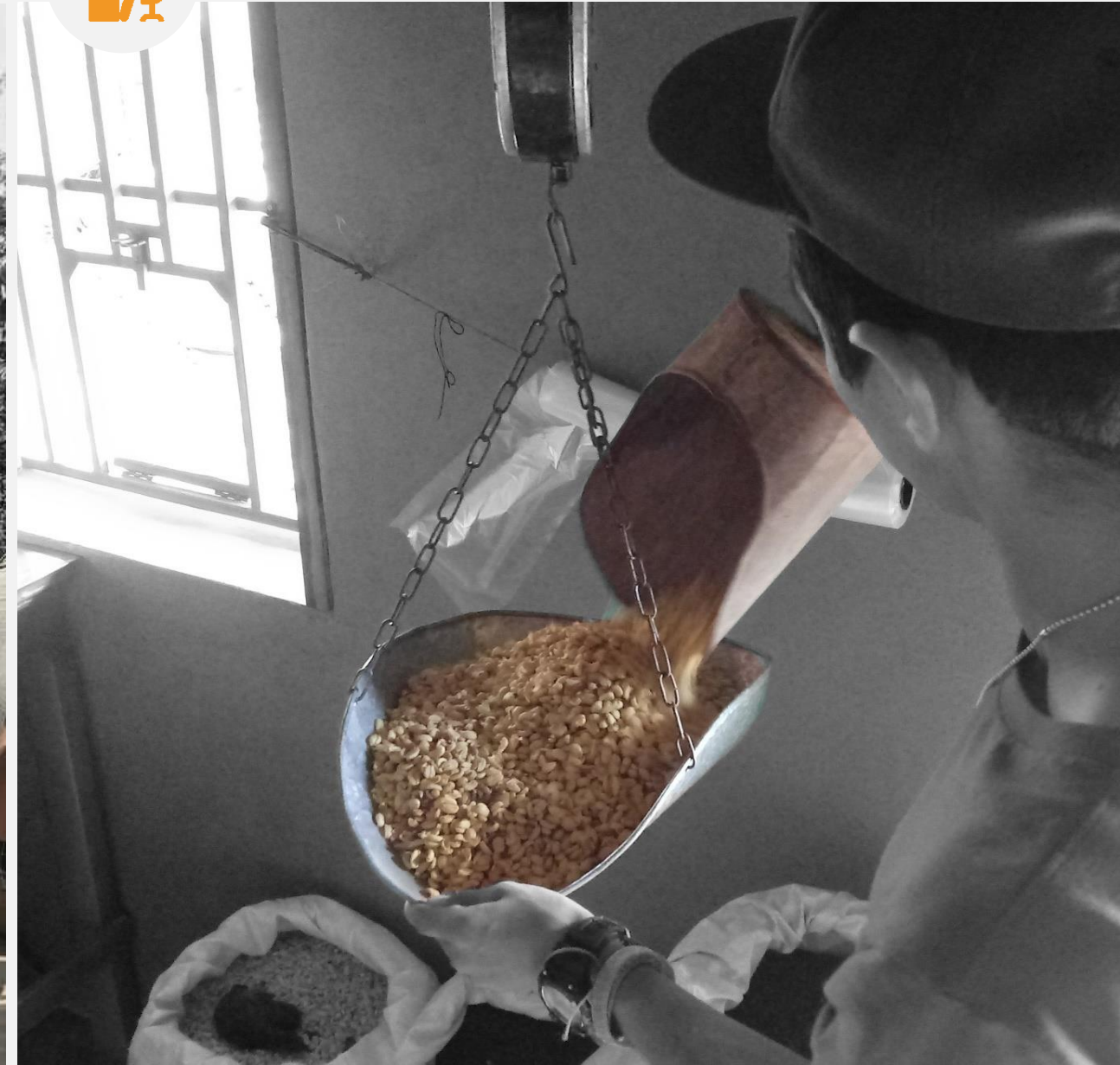
**FACTORS THAT  
PREVENT/REDUCE  
MIGRATION**  
YOUTH PERSPECTIVE



## DANGER OF MIGRATION



## JOBS & ADEQUATE PAY







QUALITY EDUCATION



FAMILY COHESION



REDUCE VIOLENCE



“When they go,  
they can help us  
to move ahead  
and improve our  
lives.”

“Yeah, the majority leave  
because they can't find a  
job. They have to leave  
the family, but then they  
can send money back.”

## POSITIVE IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

10/56 girls, 3/32 boys



One of the [migrants] is **my dad**. My dad is [in the U.S.] and he, well **I don't know him** very well because he works so much. He can't dedicate time to his children. The parents that are here they can spend time with their children. They can **help them** in the moment, **show them love**, and yeah my mom does, but my dad, no. **Everything is for work**. I do not know my dad. I feel like it is like slavery. There, they feel more like slaves.

## NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF MIGRATION

32/56 girls, 14/32 boys

VIOLENCE DRIVERS	MIGRATION DRIVERS	VIOLENCE PREVENTION/REDUCTION	MIGRATION PREVENTION/REDUCTION
Family conditions	Economy, lack of jobs	Parenting, fathers	Danger of migration
Economy, lack of jobs	Corruption and state violence	Corruption and police reform	Jobs with adequate pay
Lack of quality education	Community violence	Improve access/quality of education	Improve access/quality of education
Ambition, to move forward	“Better life”	Recreation and youth centers	Family cohesion
Drugs and alcohol	Climate change and agriculture	Jobs with adequate pay	Community violence reduction
“Easier than work”			
Love and belonging			



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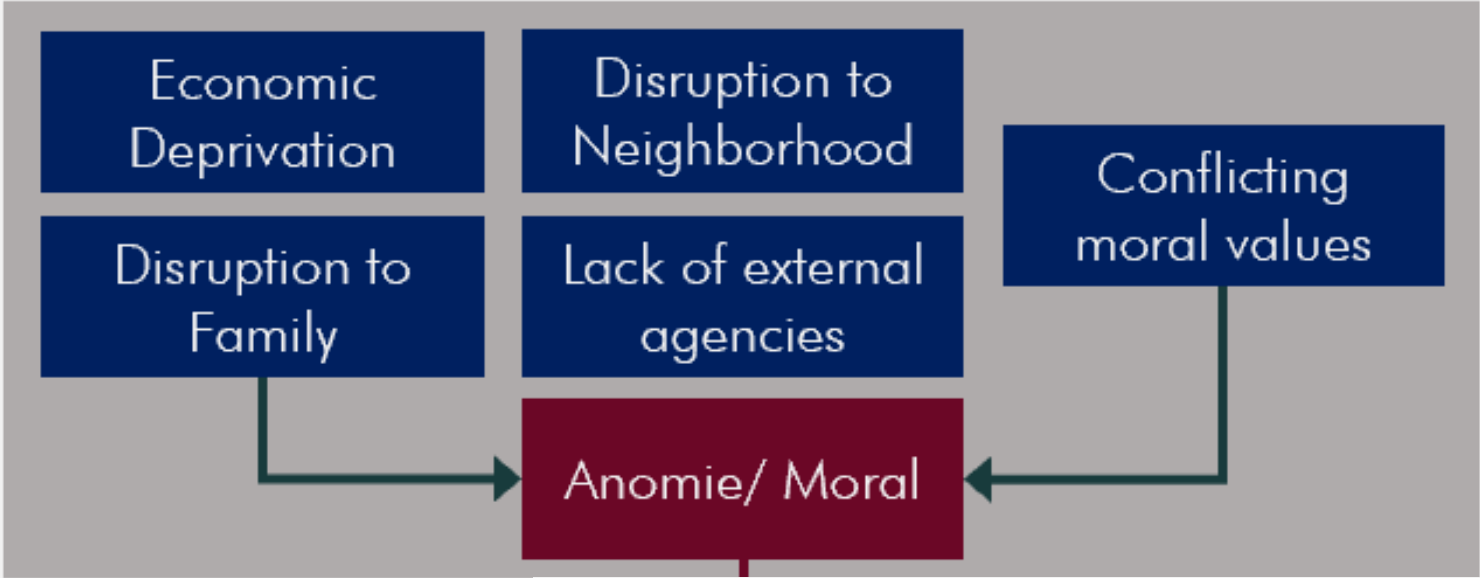


LOSS OF HOPE



MIGRATION

# Theoretical framework



## **SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION**

Duck, 2016



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Loss of lands

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## INFRASTRUCTURE/ URBAN RELATIONSHIP

Access to markets

## FOOD INSECURITY

↓ Purchasing Power

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Maras/ Narcos/ Unaffiliated Gangs in Rural Areas

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# POINT OF DECISION TO MIGRATE



## PHOTO CREDITS

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- Oro Radio
- PBS
- PinIMG
- Pixabay
- PXHere
- RadioHouse
- SDN
- SNN
- Telemundo
- The Nation
- Washington Daily Report





# RLVS TEAM

- Dr. Rebecca Williams, PI
- Nicholas Diaz, Field Supervisor
- Colleen Abel
- L.R., Y.O., R.H., E.G., L.G.
- Community Guides
- School Directors
- Host Families



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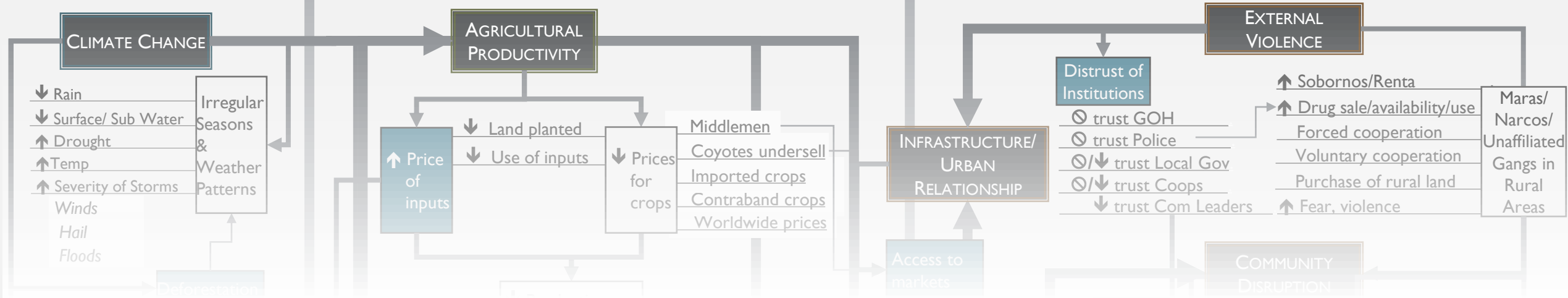
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**FLORIDA**



## ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM

## ECONOMIC SYSTEM

## SOCIO-POLITICAL SYSTEM



# THANK YOU, VIRGINIA TECH

Dr. Maria Elisa Christie, WGD

Dr. Larry Vaughan, CIRED

Dr. Loy Van Crowder, CIRED

Sofia Rincon Gallardo

Daniel Sumner

Pallavi Raonka



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