Contents

Acknowledgements | 11

- 1. Introduction | 13
- 2. Theoretical perspectives: discussing migration, return and belonging \mid 21
 - 2.1 Research on Mexican migration to the United States | 21
 - 2.1.1 Situating Mexico-U.S. migration research in the field of migration studies | 23
 - 2.1.2 Mexican migration to Chicago | 35
 - 2.2 Return migration | 38
 - 2.2.1 Return migration universe of cases | 39
 - 2.2.2 Return migration the U.S.-Mexico case | 44
 - 2.2.3 Return migration upon retirement | 46
 - 2.2.4 Implications for this study | 50
 - 2.3 Belonging | 52
 - 2.3.1 Collective belonging: criteria, consequences and dynamics of group membership | 58
 - 2.3.2 Individual belonging: affirmative situatedness at the interface of memberships | 59
 - 2.3.3 Formations and transformations of individual belonging \mid 62
 - 2.3.4 Narratives, belonging and the life course | 64
 - 2.3.5 Implications for this study | 65
 - 2.4 A conceptual framework for the analysis of retirement return migration | 66



3. Research design and methods | 73 3.1 Initial design of the study | 73 3.2 Periods of the fieldwork | 75 3.2.1 Fieldwork part I: San Antonio, Mexico, July and August 2010 | 75 3.2.2 Fieldwork part II: Chicago first phase, September-October 2010 | 80 3.2.3 Fieldwork part III: Chicago second phase, November 2010-February 2011 | 83 3.2.4 Fieldwork part IV: Chicago third phase February-July 2011 | 88 3.3 Methods of data collection in Chicago | 89 3.4 Personal circumstances of the fieldwork | 93 3.5 Data analysis | 96 4. Setting: exploring Mexican Chicago | 99 4.1 Mexican migration to the United States | 100 4.2 Chicago: an introduction to the Windy City | 106 4.2.1 A brief overview of history and populations trends | 106 4.2.2 People of Chicago today | 108 4.2.3 Chicago government and political entities | 100 4.3 Tracing Mexico in Chicago | 110 4.3.1 The history of Mexican Chicago: a journey through the past 100 years | 111 4.3.2 Mexican Chicago today | 116 5. Locating the people: elderly Mexicans in Chicago today | 123 5.1 Prologue - three scenes, three parts of a mosaic | 123 5.1.1 Lotería | 123 5.1.2 A Mexican Burger King experience | 124 5.1.3 Pilsen by night | 126 5.2 The people in this study: characteristics, backgrounds and lifeworlds | 127 5.2.1 Basic characteristics: age, gender, time spent in the United States | 128 5.2.2 Backgrounds in Mexico | 129 5.2.3 Life in Chicago today | 141 5.3 Epilogue – four scenes, four parts of a mosaic | 154 5.3.1 The routines of Harrison Park | 154 5.3.3 Karaoke at Casa Maravilla | 156 5.3.4 The ladies gathering at Dvorak Park | 157

6. Expectations: envisaging a place for the future and weighing the idea of return \mid 150

- 6.1 Residence intentions identified: the array of decision outcomes | 161
- 6.2 Factors influencing return considerations upon retirement | 165
 - 6.2.1 Reasons leading to a residence plan including Chicago | 167
 - 6.2.2 Reasons leading to a residence plan including Mexico | 168
 - 6.2.3 Motives with unclear implications | 169
- 6.3 Quantitative analysis | 170
 - 6.3.1 Statistical analysis: identifying systematic inter-personal patterns of reasoning | 171
 - 6.3.2 Qualitative Comparative Analysis: combinations of factors as conditions for a residence intention | 177
 - 6.3.3 Reflecting on the results: findings derived from the statistical analysis and QCA | 179
- 6.4 Qualitative analysis: adding narratives | 180
 - 6.4.1 Cases illustrating the residence intentions | 180
 - 6.4.2 Reflecting on the results: findings derived from the qualitative analysis | 201
- 6.5 Filling the 'blackbox:' reconfigurations of belonging as a key to changed return considerations | 207

7. Experiences: configuring belonging by remembering the past – narratives of emerging attachments and detachments | 211

- 7.1 Spaces of experience: context engagements, master narratives and anchoring points | 212
- 7.2 Beginnings: first contacts with Chicago | 218
- 7.3 "Seguir adelante"/ Getting ahead: pursuing and achieving the 'American Dream' | 223
 - 7.3.1 Coming to an industrial city: factory work for everyone in the "City of Big Shoulders" | 225
 - 7.3.2 Challenge or chance? Politics of belonging | 231
 - 7.3.3 Social capital from 'home': origin networks opening doors in Chicago | 247
 - 7.3.4 Reaping the fruit of one's sacrifice: the successful second generation | 250
 - 7.3.5 Reflections | 252
- 7.4 "Volver"/ Returning: origin matters | 254
 - 7.4.1 Mexico as resource and obligation \mid 256
 - 7.4.2 Aging parents and American children: Mexico fading? | 265
 - 7.4.3 Mexico emerging in Chicago | 273
 - 7.4.4 Reflections | 276

- 7.5 "Adaptarse"/ Adapting: the goals and contingencies of adjustment | 277
 7.5.1 Avoiding Mexico in Chicago | 280
 7.5.2 Reflections | 282
- 7.6 Contextualizing the results | 282

8. Expressions: practices of belonging today | 287

- 8.1 Social embeddedness: people's networks today | 287
- 8.2 Delineations from the current migrant generation | 290
- 8.3 Final resting places: relatedness in this world and beyond? | 291

9. Discussion and conclusion | 295

- 9.1 Main findings | 296
- 9.2 Relating the findings to the wider field of research | 301
 - 9.2.1 Adding to research on return migration upon retirement | 301
 - 9.2.2 Adding to research on belonging | 303
 - 9.2.3 Adding to research on transnationalism and assimilation | 304

Appendix | 307

- A. Results QCA analysis | 307
- B. Overview of correspondents | 328
- C. Structured interview questionnaire | 333

List of figures and tables | 345

Bibliography | 349