

Migración Mixteca: De Oaxaca to San Diego, CA

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Abstract

This ethnographic and archival research aims to understand how the Mixtec (*Ñuu Savi*) community of San Diego County have continued to exist as a transnational community in San Diego through their engagement in particular socio-cultural practices. I will start off by creating historical and statistical context for which the Mixtec community of San Jorge Nuchita, Oaxaca left the homeland during the 1980s and throughout the 1990s, what could be considered the first international wave of migration for this community. I will continue with setting the scene for the first destination of this community, being the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas. In doing so, I aim to understand the politics, and culture that existed in these cities upon the arrival of *the Ñuu Savi* community in the 1980s and throughout the 1990s, taking mainly into account the contestation Mixtec young boys and men experienced from both white supremacist of North San Diego County and those involved in the expansion of commercial San Diego. This research will also look at socio-cultural practices during the early international wave that allowed for the continuous existence of *Ñuu Savis* in the cities of San Diego County today. With the use of oral histories, archives and auto ethnography, I aim to unearth this relatively unknown part of San Diego history and highlight the brilliancy of Mixtec community members, specifically those from San Jorge Nuchita, who have maintained their identity as Indigenous people in the face of pressure to assimilate into American culture and the visibly present Latinx community of San Diego, CA.

Who are the Mixtec

- Indigenous people of whose region forms a part of, modern day Guerrero, Puebla and Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Mixtec community self identify as people of the rain, *Ñuu Savi* or *Ñuu N'davi*

San Jorge Nuchita

- San Jorge Nuchita is located in the Mixteca Baja region in the state of Oaxaca, with the closest city being Huajuapán de León.
- As of 2020, approximately 60% of the population living in San Jorge Nuchita still speak the Indigenous language of Mixteco.
- Through testimonios, community members identified five waves of migration that began internally, within Mexico, and later expanded to international migration. All of them stemming from the need to participate in globalizing economy.

Existing Research and Documentation

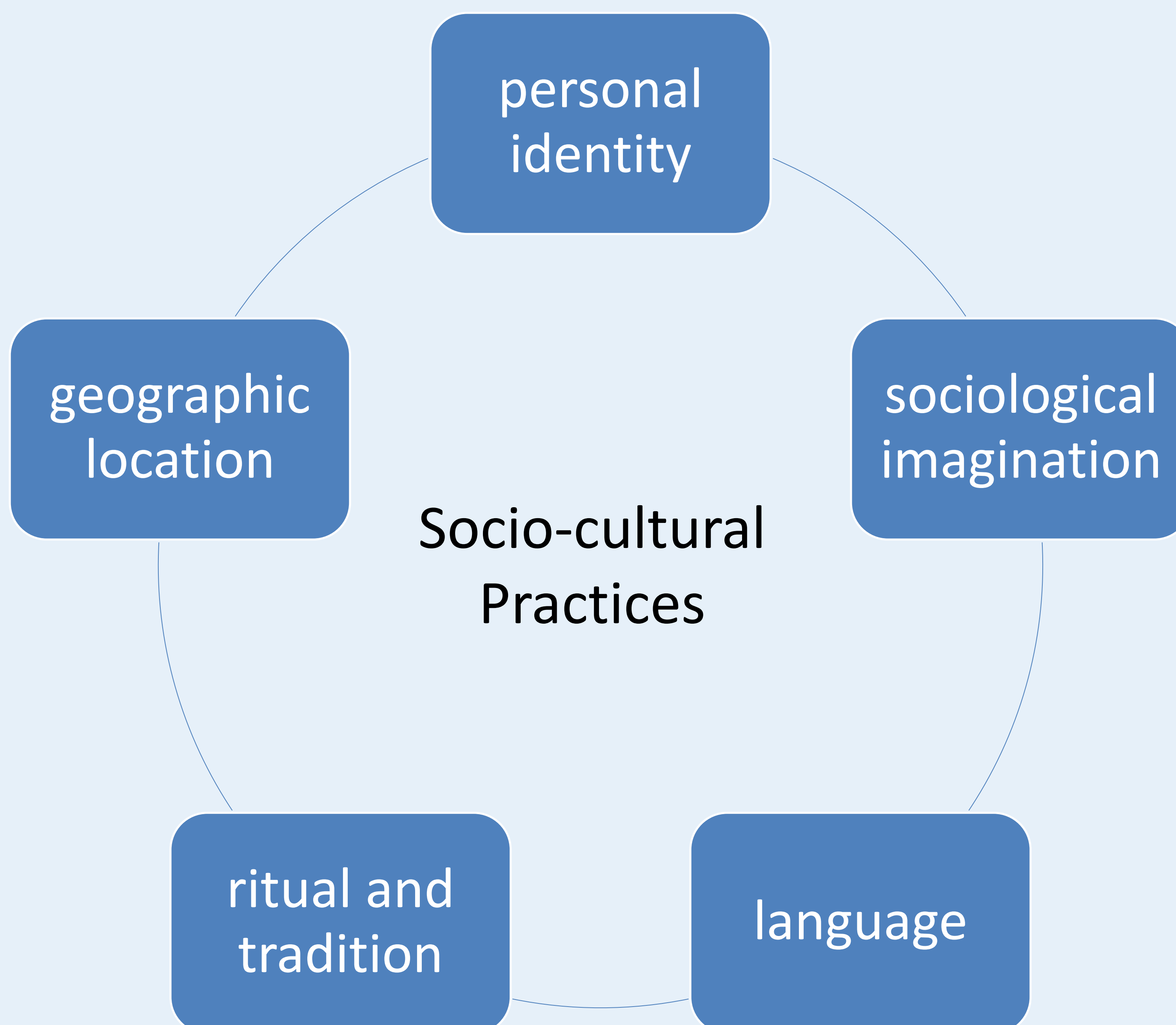
- There is no research dedicated to understanding the migration of San Jorge Nuchita specifically, but there has been attempts to collect quantitative data for understanding the amount of Mixtec people in California and general analysis of organizing efforts by Indigenous migrants in California
- Michael Kearny, "A Survey of Oaxacan Village Networks in California Agriculture"
- Gaspar Rivera-Salgado, Building Migrant Civil Society: Indigenous Mexicans in the US
- Brenda Nicolas. "Soy de Zochina": Transborder comunalidad practices among adult children of Indigenous Migrants
- The Invisible Chapel (2007)
- Rancho California (Por Favor) (2003)
- Uneasy Neighbors (1987)

Significance

- Challenge homogenous narrative about Mexican migration to the US
- Contribute to the large San Diego history and how Indigenous people from the diaspora form a part of it
- Present a new lens for which we can understand the neighborhoods we live in and how Indigenous people are not historical figures but active members of the community.



Findings



*Source: iSan Diego Real Estate.com