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**Home Life and Familial Experiences of Migrant and Seasonal
Farm Workers in the United States: Results from a Nationally
Representative Study
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HRF Presentation Summary

JP Ryan began with a literature review on the concept of home and feeling at home for migrants. Strong relational association – where family is there is home. Intact family structures lead to more settled experiences even when physical circumstances are unstable. Religion is a major cultural aspect of the home and being able to continue these traditions strengthens identity and the ability to make a new setting feel like home. The psychological costs of living as a displaced person have not received the investigation they deserve, but poor housing, multiple jobs and feeling unwelcome all contribute to depression and anxiety. The stress of displacement should be considered, especially the trauma of forced migration, but so too should the benefits of finding a new place to thrive including resilience, adaptability and entrepreneurship.

Professor Barrueco drew upon 20 years of research on the Migrant Farmworkers Study of people “living in the shadows and working in the sun.” The key findings on home and family life reveal the poor housing choices available to such workers as they try to maintain family cohesion while working on the land. Provision for children is considered a benefit of this form of work and the hope that children will have US citizenship and better life experience. Hope is generally a key motivation for workers. Questions of resident status and freedom to return are very vexed as this is a moving population, going from job to job and harvest to harvest. Professor Barrueco has available policy and research briefs on governmental actions to improve the conditions and status of these key workers.

*Full paper is being prepared for publication. Further details to be announced.