

**Rey Koslowski**  
**Political Science and Informatics**

**Sponsor:** John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
**Dates:** December 1, 2010 – November 30, 2013  
**Amount:** \$450,000

**The International Context of Immigration Reform: U.S., Mexico and Beyond**

The proposed policy research project examines the politics of changing immigration policies and the implementation of reforms in the US and Mexico from an explicitly comparative and international perspective. The project examines the role that examples of other countries may play in political and policymaking processes as well as the interaction effects of reform movements in one country on the other. The research will focus on a side-by-side analysis of immigration reform in the US and Mexico and examine the ways in which Mexican immigration policies have influenced US immigration reform debates and the ways in which recent Mexican immigration reform efforts have been motivated by the politics of immigration reform in the US. The project will examine how Mexican immigration policies, law enforcement and border controls shape the flows of non-Mexican illegal aliens into the US and vice versa with respect to illegal migrants in Mexico who came through the US. The project will also consider comparisons made to other countries in the political and policy processes of the US and Mexico, respectively. Similarly, the project will examine international factors, such as global competition for desired migrants (e.g. foreign students, highly-skilled workers, investors and rich retirees), constraints on immigration policymaking due to international treaties and norms, and/or any opportunities in international relations presented to policymakers (e.g. assuming leadership roles among states on the issue of migration). Finally, the project will examine the implementation of any policy changes (or lack thereof) in both the US and Mexico, with an emphasis on the modernization of public administration processes using information technologies. Particular attention will also be paid to the ways policy implementation may be shaped by the international environment, including international cooperation, sharing of best practices, data sharing and public administration assistance. By providing a greater understanding of the political use of other countries policies and engendering more accurate media depictions of each other's policies, the research will help policymakers overcome political barriers to immigration policy reforms in both the US and Mexico. Comparative analysis of immigration policy implementation and the requirements of implementation of immigration reform proposals will facilitate formulation of reform proposals that have a greater chance of being effective once enacted and offer opportunities for the sharing of best practices.