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## Mutual aid groups in Mexico

The process of situating our podcast at the intersection of the Covid response, mutual aid, and migration from Mexico/Central America to the U.S. took a few twists and turns. At the outset, we knew we were interested in looking at the ways in which communities and small groups had mounted a response, rather than simply looking at the work of large organizations. The idea of looking at mutual aid groups arose as a good choice, as the work of such groups offers an interesting counterpoint to larger and more formalized forms of aid. We decided to look further into the context of Mexico both due to our connections with potential interviewees, as well as the history of mutual aid groups as humanitarian and political actors in this country.

Originally, our interviewee was going to be an academic specialized in conceptual and present-day history. The interview was meant to discuss the temporality of the crisis and the language of ‘emergency’. Janet Roitman’s book ‘Anti-Crisis’ and the writings of the German historian Reinhard Koselleck greatly inspired our theoretical framework. Nonetheless, we wanted this theoretical framing to be grounded in the reality of social movements in Mexico. To what extent was the language of crisis facilitating, or prompting, social movements that reimagine the world? As our interviewee cancelled shortly before, we had to quickly adapt our questions. Also, we had no choice but to rely on the spontaneity and flow of a conversation, something that fortunately the interview format allows. It also helped that Pablo was familiar with the topics we had originally thought of.

If we were to do the same interview again, it would probably be much easier. After actually having the experience of recording, editing and receiving feedback, we have acquired a more refined perception of the audio format. Despite having a well thought out script, the richest segments of the interview came from the spontaneous and out-of-script interactions with Pablo.

A challenge we faced with this project was to make academic jargon accessible to a lay audience. Keeping the questions simple and the language clear is the most difficult part, but it is also the most important aspect of a podcast. The art of podcasting consists in finding the right balance between clarity and analytical depth.