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Attitudes Towards Immigrants And The Integration Of

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Public Attitudes Toward Immigration in the United States, France, and Germany Russell Sage Foundation

My results confirm that predictions from factor-proportions models generally hold, but there appears to be a great deal of variation in the effect of individuals' political ideology: In the pooled EU-27 sample, higher degrees of social traditionalism, national pride and, perhaps surprisingly, stronger attachment to laissez-faire views are associated with less favorable views of immigrants, and with a higher likelihood of supporting restrictions on immigration. There is, however, a great deal of heterogeneity across countries in both the direction and magnitude of these ideological components' effects.

Do International Tourist Arrivals Change Residents' Attitudes Towards Immigration?

Cambridge University Press

Ethnic diversity plays a crucial role in shaping national economic and social policy. A change in the ethnic composition of a country affects citizens' everyday life and social environment and may challenge present societal values, such as solidarity with and trust in fellow citizens. Based on the European Social Survey, I show that more contact with members of other ethnic groups in daily life is positively related to more open attitudes of natives towards immigrants. More interethnic contact of natives reduces their social distance to immigrants, their perception of immigrants as a threat to society, and their opposition to future immigration. In turn, an open-minded and tolerant attitude promotes mutual trust and solidarity within society. Since attachment to fellow residents and a feeling of fellowship are essential drivers for supporting governmental redistribution measures, I argue that there is no direct, but an indirect relationship between ethnic diversity and natives' support for redistribution, with attitudes towards immigrants and immigration acting as mediators. By applying bivariate recursive probit estimations, I can decompose the predictors' marginal effects on natives' support for redistribution into a direct effect and an indirect effect that works through natives' attitudes towards immigrants. A decomposition method that has so far been relatively unnoticed in the empirical literature. Our results reveal that perception of immigrants as a threat to societal values or country's economy decrease natives' support for redistribution substantially by 15 to 22 percent. The same applies to natives who reject future inflows of immigrants. Natives' desire for social distance to immigrants in private and working life, however, does not affect their demand for redistribution. Thus, the diffuse fear of losing intangible goods triggered by immigration is substantial in the formation of natives' socio-political attitudes. Living in ethnically more diverse neighborhoods, though, increases natives' support for redistribution by 0.4 to 1.5 percent through the promotion of pro-immigrant attitudes and stronger solidarity with fellow residents. These results are robust to IV estimation strategies, which control for reverse causality and the possibility of

natives' selective out-migration.

Contact Vs. Information

Political turmoil surrounding immigration at the federal level and the inability of Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform have provided an opening for state and local governments to become more active in setting their own immigration-related policies. States largely dictate the resources, institutions, and opportunities immigrants can access: who can get a driver's license or attend a state university, what languages are spoken in schools and public offices, how law enforcement interacts with the public, and even what schools teach students about history. In *States of Belonging*, an interdisciplinary team of immigration experts – Tomás R. Jiménez, Deborah J. Schildkraut, Yuen J. Huo, and John F. Dovidio – explore the interconnections among immigration policies, attitudes about immigrants and immigration, and sense of belonging in two neighboring states – Arizona and New Mexico – with divergent approaches to welcoming newcomers. Arizona and New Mexico are historically and demographically similar, but they differ in their immigration policies. Arizona has enacted unwelcoming policies towards immigrants, restricting the access of immigrants to state resources, social services, and public institutions. New Mexico is more welcoming, actively seeking to protect the rights of immigrants and extending access to state resources and institutions. The authors draw on an original survey and in-depth interviews of a cross-section of each state's population to illustrate how these differing approaches affect the sense of belonging not only among immigrants, but among the U.S.-born as well. Respondents in Arizona, regardless of whether they were foreign- or native-born or their ethno-racial background, agreed that the state is unwelcoming to immigrants, and they pointed to Arizona's restrictive policies as the primary factor. The sense of rejection perceived by Latinos in Arizona, including the foreign-born and the U.S.-born, was profound. They felt the effects of administrative and symbolic exclusions of the state's unwelcoming policies as they went about their daily lives. New Mexico's more welcoming approach had positive effects on the Latino immigrant population, and these policies contributed to an increased sense of belonging among U.S.-born Latinos and U.S.-born whites as well. The authors show that exposure to information about welcoming policies is associated with an improved sense of belonging across most population groups. They also find that the primary dividing line when it came to reactions to welcoming policies was political, not ethno-racial. Only self-identified Republicans, Latino as well as white, showed reduced feelings of belonging. *States of Belonging* demonstrates that welcoming policies cultivate a greater sense of belonging for immigrants and other state citizens, suggesting that policies aimed at helping immigrants gain a social, economic, and political foothold in this country can pay a broad societal dividend.

Working Paper

We combine community-level outcomes of 27 votes about immigration issues in Switzerland with census data to estimate the effect of immigration on natives' attitudes towards immigration. We apply an instrumental variable approach to take potentially endogenous locational choices into

account, and we categorize immigrants into two groups according to the cultural values and beliefs of their source country to understand how the cultural distance between natives and immigrants affects this relationship. We find that the share of culturally different immigrants is a significant and sizable determinant of anti-immigration votes, while the presence of culturally similar immigrants does not affect natives' voting behavior at all in most specifications. The cultural distance between immigrant and native residents thus appears crucial in explaining the causal effect of immigration on natives' attitudes towards immigration, and we argue that the differential impact is mainly driven by natives' concerns about compositional amenities. We finally show that the elasticity of the share of right-wing votes in favor of the Swiss People's Party is much more elastic with respect to the share of culturally different immigrants than natives' attitudes themselves, suggesting that the party has disproportionately gained from changes in attitudes caused by immigrant inflows.

Does Information Change Attitudes Towards Immigrants? Representative Evidence from Survey Experiments

Immigration is an issue that is always on the political agenda. Today we see that the United States and European countries are reassessing immigration policies based on changed realities and needs of their countries. However, policy makers are not always in-sync with public opinion. Surveys show that the public generally is less concerned about the economic impact of immigration but care more about the cultural impact of immigration. The predominant narrative in political discussion and electoral campaigns, however, seems to be increasingly focused on the effects immigrants might have on the labor market and the welfare system. This paper analyzes individual attitudes towards immigration based on the 2011 Transatlantic Trends Immigration data for the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Italy. The results indicate that economic factors are not the most important predictors of public attitudes towards immigration.

Some Situational Influences on Attitudes Towards Immigrants

We analyze whether (correct) information provision on immigration is more effective than contact in shaping attitudes towards immigration. We collect data from a randomized experiment in 18 middle- and high-school classes in the city of Rome. Half of the classes meet a refugee from Mauritania and read a book about his story, whereas the rest of them attend a lecture on figures and numbers on immigration in Italy and the world. On average, students develop better attitudes towards immigration (especially in the case of policy preferences and the perceived number of immigrants in their country) and somewhat improve their feelings associated with immigrants after the information treatment more than they do after the contact treatment. Also, students having received the information treatment strongly adjust their knowledge on immigration. However, students' individual characteristics (sex and, to a lesser extent, age) affect treatments' relative effectiveness.

Regional Determinants of Attitudes Towards Immigrants

How do the attitudes of residents of a small Midwestern city of Dunkirk, NY compare with those expressed in the national poll? Dunkirk residents are typically significantly less educated than other New York State residents. They have seen a dramatic drop in the resale value of their homes as major industrial employers have closed their doors. The purpose of this randomly-conducted telephone survey will be to gauge the local attitudes toward immigrants as the cultural face of Dunkirk continues to change. Contrasts and comparisons will be made with the national study. --

Author abstract.

Anti-Immigrant Attitudes in Asia

Attitudes toward immigrants play a crucial role in voting behaviour and political decision-making. Such attitudes are shaped by individual characteristics, but the regional environment may also be important. This paper examines how individual attitudes toward immigrants are related to the economic, political, and social environment. We use individual-level data based on a large-scale representative survey and district-level administrative data. Specifically, we examine regional variation in economic growth, voting patterns, and characteristics of the immigrant population and their relation to beliefs about and attitudes toward immigrants. We also use an information experiment in which information about the actual characteristics of the immigrant population in Germany is provided and assess its impact on attitudes toward immigrants in the regional context. Our results suggest that the impact of the environment - over and above individual characteristics - is small and depends on the type of attitude.

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Abstract: Migration is an ever-increasing phenomenon that is unfailingly the topic of public discourse. Recently, empirical interest has expanded to include the study of attitudes towards immigration. However, the focus usually lies on the opinion of natives, that is, persons without a migration background. This is unfortunate, because in many countries the proportion of people with a migration background is quite high, and many of them hold the citizenship of the receiving country. I expect individuals with a migration background to have more favourable attitudes towards immigration than the general population because they can identify more strongly with other immigrants due to their own migration history. Furthermore, I expect this difference to decrease with each subsequent migrant generation, with earlier generations holding more positive attitudes than later generations. For the analyses, I pooled data from the 2008-2016 rounds of the American General Social Survey. The subsample used i

Individual Attitudes Towards Immigrants

We study whether providing information about immigrants affects people's attitude towards them. First, we use a large representative cross-country experiment to show that, when people are told the share of immigrants in their country, they become less likely to state that there are too many of them. Then, we conduct two online experiments in the U.S., where we provide half of the participants with five statistics about immigration, before evaluating their attitude towards immigrants with self-reported and behavioral measures. This more comprehensive intervention improves people's attitude towards existing immigrants, although it does not change people's policy preferences regarding immigration. Republicans become more willing to increase legal immigration after receiving the information treatment. Finally, we also measure the same self-reported policy preferences, attitudes, and beliefs in a four-week follow-up, and we show that the treatment effects persist.

Attitudes towards immigrants and immigrant experiences

"This paper analyzes welfare-state determinants of individual attitudes towards immigrants - within and across countries - and their interaction with labor-market drivers of preferences. We consider two different mechanisms through which a redistributive welfare system might adjust as a result of

immigration. Under the first scenario, immigration has a larger impact on individuals at the top of the income distribution, while under the second one it is low-income individuals who are most affected through this channel. Individual attitudes are consistent with the first welfare-state scenario and with labor-market determinants of immigration attitudes. In countries where natives are on average more skilled than immigrants, individual income is negatively correlated with pro-immigration preferences, while individual skill is positively correlated with them. These relationships have the opposite signs in economies characterized by skilled migration (relative to the native population). Such results are confirmed when we exploit international differences in the characteristics of destination countries' welfare state"--Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit web site.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants in Australia

This paper examines the direct and indirect effect of immigration policy openness on attitudes towards immigrants. We argue that open immigration policies overall decrease anti-immigrant attitudes by reducing the perceived difference between the in-group and the out-group. We expect to find this effect for family reunification policy and for asylum policy. Furthermore, we predict that open immigration policies evoke labour market anxieties for individuals with high skill specificity and therefore increase the positive effect of skill specificity on anti-immigrant attitudes. This cross-level interaction should be significant for family reunification policy and labour migration policy. We analyse 23 European countries and conduct a multilevel analysis with data from the first five rounds of the European Social Survey (ESS) and data from the Immigration Policies in Comparison (IMPIC) project. We find a negative effect of immigration policy openness on anti-immigrant attitudes and a positive cross-level interaction effect between immigration policy openness and skill specificity. These results not only contribute to the existing literature on attitudes towards immigrants and solidify the validity of immigration policy as a macro-level explanatory factor, but they also have important social and political implications and raise a more normative question for policy-makers about what immigration regulations should look like.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants

A steady increase of new immigrants to the United States has sparked a great debate on the financial impact the foreign born population has on public services. While the United States government has an extensive history on exclusions for potential public charges, the impact of negative attitudes towards immigrants has caused substantial changes in eligibility criteria for legal permanent residents and ultimately immigration policy at large. This report uses group threat theory, which predicts a punitive response from a dominant group when these individuals perceive a threat to their group interests to explain shifts in attitudes and corresponding changes in eligibility criteria for public benefit programs for immigrants. Additionally, this study examines how U.S. citizens' misinformed perceptions of immigrants' utilization of public programs may negatively influence public support for increased government spending on public health care programs. To quantify the implications of public attitudes, the study uses repeat cross-sectional data on attitudes towards immigration from the General Social Survey (GSS) from 1994 (N=578), prior to Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. The responses are compared to a similar survey conducted by GSS in 2004 (N=365) an era of steep economic growth

and substantially higher health care costs.

The Impact of Natives' Attitudes Towards Immigrants on Their Integration in the Host Country

Exploiting the random allocation of asylum seekers to different locations in Germany, we study the impact of right-wing voting on refugees' integration. We find that in municipalities with more voting for the right-wing AfD, refugees have worse economic and social integration. These impacts are largest for groups targeted by AfD campaigns and refugees are also more likely to suffer from harassment and right-wing attacks in areas with greater AfD support. Positive interactions with locals are also less likely and negative opinions about immigration spillover to supporters of other parties in these areas. On the other hand, stronger support for pro-immigrant parties enhances social integration.

Us Vs. Them

Public attitudes toward immigration have attracted much scholarly interest and extensive empirical research in recent years. Despite a sizeable theoretical and empirical literature, no firm conclusions have been drawn regarding the factors affecting immigration opinion. We address this gap through a formal meta-analysis derived from the literature regarding immigration attitudes from the top journals of several social science disciplines in the years 2009-2019 and based on a population of 1185 estimates derived from 144 unique analyses on individual-level factors affecting attitudes to immigration. The metaanalytical findings show that two individual-level characteristics are most significantly associated with attitudes to immigration - education (positively) and age (negatively). Our results further reveal that the same individual characteristics do not necessarily explain immigration policy attitudes and attitudes towards immigrants' contribution. The findings challenge several conventional micro-level theories of attitudes to immigration. The meta-analysis can inform future research when planning the set of explanatory variables to avoid omitting key determinants.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants

This paper explores individual economic determinants of attitudes towards immigration in 15 European countries, using the 2014 round of the European Social Survey. Most literature tends to focus on economic data when analyzing attitudes towards immigration. While this can be useful, it may miss the fact that individuals' attitudes are often shaped by their perceived, rather than actual, economic status. This paper aims to fill this gap by examining respondents' self-assessed comfort in their household incomes as a determinant of their attitudes towards immigration. My findings show that there is a statistically significant relationship between how comfortable a respondent is with his/her own household income and how he/she perceives immigrants. Additional robustness checks were conducted, in addition to an instrumental variable analysis, to strengthen the validity of these findings. Given the recent influx of immigration, the largest since World War II, European governments could benefit to better understand their citizens' attitudes towards immigration. It could be beneficial to develop more integrative policy that is inclusive of both the local citizens and immigrants.

Do Europeans' Perceived Income Levels Affect Their Attitudes Towards Immigrants? A Regression Analysis of Individual Self-reported Comfort in Income Vis a Vis Attitudes Towards Immigration Using the European Social Survey

We exploit the regional variation in negative attitudes towards immigrants to Sweden in order to

analyse what are the consequences of such attitudes have on immigrants welfare. A well educated immigrant from a non developed country who lives in a municipality with strong negative attitudes earns less than what she would earn if she lived in a municipality where natives are more positive. If attitudes changed from the average level to the most positive level, her wage would increase by 12%. This would reduce the wage gap to well-educated immigrants from developed countries by 70%. We interpret this effect as evidence of labour market discrimination. The same reduction in negative attitudes would increase the welfare of immigrants from Africa and Asia, through their wage and local amenities, by an equivalent to one third of their wage. The analogous amount for immigrants from South America and Eastern Europe is one fourth of their wage if they are well educated and one tenth otherwise.

National Identity and Attitudes Towards Immigrants in the United States

Can international tourist arrivals change residents' attitudes towards immigrants and immigration? We discuss possible underlying mechanisms and provide the first evidence on this question using data from the European Social Survey (2002-2019; n=333,505). We find that, as tourist arrivals grow, residents become more positive towards immigration in Eastern Europe. In Western Europe, the relationship tends to turn from positive to negative at relatively high levels of tourism. The instrumental variable analysis suggests that incoming tourism has a positive causal effect on attitudes towards immigration in both Western and Eastern Europe. Overall, our study reveals an overlooked dimension of the tourism-migration nexus and highlights the role that international tourism may play in shaping attitudes towards immigration and, through these attitudes, immigration policy and flows, immigrant integration and more open and inclusive societies in tourism-receiving countries.

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Network Analysis of the Determinants of Attitudes Towards Immigrants Across Regions

This book explores the causes of public opposition to immigration in three industrialized Western countries.

Attitudes Towards Immigrants and Immigration

My dissertation examines the determinants of hostility and discrimination towards immigrants, with a regional focus on Asia. By focusing on Asia, I make an important contribution to the extant literature by challenging whether existing explanations of anti-immigrant attitudes built on the cases of North America and Western Europe necessarily travel to other regions of the world. This dissertation comprises three papers that examine important, yet understudied, pathways through which anti-immigrant attitudes are shaped: educational content and national stereotypes. In the first paper, I examine the effect of education on anti-immigrant attitudes using a difference-in-differences design that leverages a textbook reform in Taiwan. This chapter shows that educational content emphasizing a narrower form of national identification induces exclusionary attitudes towards immigrants. My second paper uses a conjoint experiment in South Korea to investigate how eight immigrant attributes affect native expectations about successful immigrant assimilation. I find that natives have a multidimensional view of successful assimilation and that their consideration of successful assimilation varies across different dimensions. My third paper uses a conjoint experiment in Japan to explore how stereotypes of an immigrant's country of origin moderate how natives respond to information about immigrants. My analysis suggests that negative country-of-origin stereotypes weigh more heavily when natives process information about immigrant attributes that might affect their preferences for immigrant acceptance. In general, this dissertation offers a more theoretically-nuanced understanding of anti-immigrant attitudes in different regional contexts.