

Factors associated with attitudes toward U.S. immigration, 2004–2016

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What do we know?

- Political ideology
 - Liberals are more pro-immigration (Chandler, Tsai 2001; Haubert, Fussell 2006)
 - Association is not straightforward (Neiman, Johnson, Bowler 2006)
- Age and sex
 - Not always consistent (Espenshade, Hempstead 1996; Fetzer 2000; Chandler, Tsai 2001)
- Race
 - No association with migration attitudes (Chandler, Tsai 2001)
- Nativity and immigrant background
 - Immigrants are more pro-immigration (Haubert, Fussell 2006)
- Education
 - Higher educated are more pro-immigration (Berg 2010; Burns, Gimpel 2000; Chandler, Tsai 2001; Espenshade 1995; Haubert, Fussell 2006; Hood et al. 1997)
- Occupation
 - Blue-collar & service workers are less pro-immigration (Haubert, Fussell 2006)



What do we not know?

- Integration of national data for several years
 - 2004–2016 General Social Surveys
 - 2006–2016 American Community Surveys
- Influence of individual-level and county-level variables
- Estimation of models to better understand an ordinal variable about immigration attitudes
- Associations for disaggregated categories of several independent variables



Why is this important?

- Help understand what factors are shaping anti-immigration and pro-immigration feelings
- This topic has become more prominent in the public sphere due to the 2016 U.S. presidential election
 - Recent data captures social context of that election
- Inform the public about overall migration attitudes of the population



What did we find?

- ***Race and social class divide in terms of attitudes***
 - Pro-immigration:
 - Non-whites
 - Lower levels of racial resentment
 - Higher educational attainment
 - Those living in counties with higher proportions of college graduates
 - Anti-immigration
 - Lower end of the occupational stratum
- ***Exposure to immigrants shapes pro-immigration***
 - Those who lived in areas at the age of 16 that tend to have higher proportions of foreign-born individuals
 - Those living in counties with higher proportions of immigrants
- ***Other factors that increase pro-immigration attitudes***
 - Support to immigration has been increasing over time
 - 18–24 age group
 - Non-Protestants
 - Those with liberal political inclinations





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