

POL 290A: Immigration and identity in the United States

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Thursday, 12:10-3:00

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Course Description

Few issues are more contentious and divisive than the issue of immigration. Writ large, immigration politics defines who “we” are, who the “other” is. The issue, so often imbued with questions pertinent to legitimacy, (il)legality, and geography, intersects with (and sometimes tries to define) notions of race, ethnicity, gender, and social identities broadly conceived. In this seminar, we will explore the issue of immigration politics in the United States, taking a multidisciplinary approach. While the major focus of the seminar will be on research done in Political Science, it is impossible to understand the implications of immigration politics without exploring questions addressed in other social science disciplines, particularly Psychology and Sociology. Over the course of the quarter, we’ll examine how immigration politics shapes political behavior, attitudes, elite rhetoric, social identities, and beliefs about belonging and exclusion in the United States.

Course Requirement

Active participation is crucial. This means: 1) readings are read and 2) readings are critically discussed. I will not ask for “thought papers” or “summaries” each week; however, there is an expectation that you will complete the readings and be prepared to discuss the results, the implications of the results (or lack of implications!). Fifty percent of your grade is based on participation and involvement in seminar discussions. Absent this discussion, seminars are not very useful, since I will not be preparing a lecture for each class.

In addition to participation, I’m asking you to write a theoretically motivated research design. By “theoretically motivated,” I mean it takes one (or more) of the course topics and builds on the literature. The design should lead to a testable hypothesis (or set of testable hypotheses) and articulate a design the permits testing of these hypotheses. I’m not asking you to complete a full-fledged research paper, although if you have a current project that is relevant to course materials, we can discuss the viability of producing a full research paper.

The assignment will have three stages. By January 30, I want a one-page statement of research interest(s). This will articulate some preliminary research questions and a justification for why you think these are useful questions to consider. By February 20, I would like to see a 5-6 page “introduction” and “theory section” culminating with a statement of your hypotheses. The full research design, which includes any revisions to the introduction/theory section, is due at the last class meeting. The full design should include a thorough discussion of the kinds of data you will require to test your hypothesis (or hypotheses). The data requirements should be realistically obtainable, ideally relying on extant data. If you are proposing an experimental

design, be explicit about the treatment and the dependent measures (and any possible moderator/mediator variables). If you're relying on observational data, discuss how possible confounders will be dealt with. The research design will comprise 50 percent of your grade.

Course itinerary

January 9: Setting the stage: Historical precursors to immigration and citizenship

Mae M. Ngai. 2007. "Birthright Citizenship and the Alien Citizen". *75 Fordham Law Review*. 2521. Available at: <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol75/iss5/10>

Massey, D.S. and K.A. Pren. 2012. "Unintended Consequences of U.S. Immigration Policy: Explaining the Post-1965 Surge from Latin America." *Population Development Review*. 38(1): 1-29.

Molina, N. 2010. "In a Race All Their Own: The Quest to Make Mexicans Ineligible for U.S. Citizenship." *Pacific Historical Review*. 79(2): 167-201.

Smith, R.M. 2009. "Birthright Citizenship and the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 and 2008." *Journal of Constitutional Law*. 11(5): 1329-1335.

January 16: What is (and is not) an "American"? Or should we even care?

Bonikowski, B. and P. DiMaggio. 2016. "Varieties of American Popular Nationalism." *American Sociological Review*. 81(5): 949-980.

Devos, T. and M.R. Banaji. 2005. "America=White?" *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. 88(3): 447-466. DOI: 10.1037/0022-3514.88.3.447

Fraga, L. and G. Segura. 2006. "Culture Clash? Contesting Notions of American Identity and the Effects of Latin American Immigration." *Perspectives on Politics*. 4(2): 279-287.

Schildkraut, D. 2007. "Defining American Identity in the Twenty-First Century: How Much "There" is There?" *Journal of Politics*. 69(3): 597-615.

Song, S. 2009. "What Does It Mean To Be An American?" *Daedalus*. Spring: 31-40.

Walzer, M. 1990. "What Does it Mean to be an "American"?" *Social Research*. 57(3): 591-614.

January 23: Incorporation and concepts of and beliefs about "assimilation"

Abramitzky, R., L.P. Boustan, E. Jácome, and S. Pérez. 2019. [Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the US over Two Centuries](#). NBER Working Paper 26408

Hamilton, E., C. Patler, and J. Haile. 2019. "[Growing up without Status: The Integration of Unauthorized Children and Children of Unauthorized Parents.](#)" *Sociology Compass*. Online first.

Golash-Boza, T. 2006. "Dropping the Hyphen? Becoming Latino(a)-American through Racialized Assimilation." *Social Forces*, 85(1): 27-55.

Negy, C., S. Schwartz, and A. Reig-Ferrer. 2009. "Violated Expectations and Acculturative Stress Among U.S. Hispanic Immigrants." *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. 15(3): 255-264.

Rumbaut, R. 2013. "Assimilation's Bumpy Road." In M. Chowkwanyun and R. Serhan eds. *American Democracy and the Pursuit of Equality* Boulder, Co: Paradigm. pp. 194-219

January 30: Beliefs about discrimination and identity among immigrant group members

Dana, K., Lajevardi, N., Oskooii, K. and Walker, H. 2019. "Veiled Politics: Experiences with Discrimination among Muslim Americans." *Politics and Religion*, 12 (2): 629-677. [\[PDF\]](#)

Jones, B.S., K. Flores Victor, and D. Vannette. 2019. "Alien Citizens and the Canonical Immigrant: Do Stigmatized Attributes Affect Latina/o Judgment about Discrimination?" *American Journal of Political Science*. 63(4): 740-757. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12465

Jones, B.S., Sherman, J.W., Rojas, N.E., Hosek, A., Vannette, D.L., Rocha, R.R., García-Ponce, O., M. Pantoja, and J. Manuel García-Amador. 2020. "Trump-induced anxiety among Latina/os." *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*.

Lajevardi, N., K.A.R. Oskooii, H.L. Walker, and A.L. Westfall. 2019. "The Paradox Between Integration and Perceived Discrimination Among American Muslims." *Political Psychology*. doi: 10.1111/pops.12640

Wiley, S., K. Deaux, and C. Hagelskamp. 2012. "Born in the U.S.A.: How Generation Shapes Meritocracy and Its Relation to Ethnic Identity and Collective Action." *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. 18(2): 171-180.

February 6: Media and elite framing and coverage of immigration issue

Brown, H.E., J.A. Jones, and A. Becker. 2018. "The Racialization of Latino Immigrants in New Destinations: Criminality, Ascription, and Countermobilization." 2018. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. 4(5): 118-140.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2018.4.5.06>

Estrada, E.P., K. Ebert, and M. Halla Lore. 2016. "Apathy and Antipathy: Media Coverage of Restrictive Immigration Legislation and the Maintenance of Symbolic Boundaries." *Sociological Forum*. 31(3): 555-576.

Farris, E.M. and H.S. Mohamed. 2017. "Picturing immigration: how the media criminalizes immigrants." *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 6(4): 814-824.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21565503.2018.1484375>

Garcia-Rios, Sergio I. and Matt A. Barreto. 2016. "Politicized Immigrant Identity, Spanish-Language Media, and Political Mobilization in 2012" *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 2(3): 78-96.

Velez, Y.R. and B.J. Newman. 2019. "Tuning In, Not Turning Out: Evaluating the Impact of Ethnic Television on Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science*. 63(4): 808-823.

February 13: Opinion about immigration and immigrant restriction

Brader, T., Valentino, N.A., and E. Suhay. 2008. "What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and Immigration Threat." *American Journal of Political Science*. 52(4): 959-978.

Ebert, K. and D. Okamoto. 2015. "Legitimizing Contexts, Immigrant Power, and Exclusionary Actions." *Social Problems*.

Jones, B.S. and D. Joesten Martin. 2016. "Path-to-Citizenship or Deportation: How Elite Cues Shaped Opinion on Immigration in the 2010 U.S. House Elections." *Political Behavior*.

Oskooii, K., Lajevardi, N. and Collingwood, L. "Opinion Shift and Stability: The Information Environment and Long-Lasting Opposition to Trump's Muslim Ban." *Political Behavior*. [\[PDF\]](#)

Utych, S.M. 2018. "How Dehumanization Influences Attitudes toward Immigrants." *Political Research Quarterly*. 71(2): 440-452.

February 20: Impacts and implications of immigration policy and enforcement

Ayón, C., D. Valencia-Garcia, and S. Heajin Kim. 2017. "Latino Immigrant Families and Restrictive Immigration Climate: Perceived Experiences with Discrimination, Threat to Family, Social Exclusion, Children's Vulnerability, and Related Factors." *Race and Social Problems*. 9: 300-312.
DOI 10.1007/s12552-017-9215-z

Gonzalez O'Brien, B., L. Collingwood, and S. Omar El-Khatib. 2019. "The Politics of Refuge: Sanctuary Cities, Crime, and Undocumented Immigration." *Urban Affairs Review*. 55(1): 3-40.

Hines, A.L. and G. Peri. 2019. "Immigrants' Deportations, Local Crimes, and Police Effectiveness." IZA Institute of Labor Economics. IZA DP No. 12413.

Rocha, R.R., B.R. Knoll, and R.D. Wrinkle. 2015. "Immigration Enforcement and the Redistribution of Political Trust." *Journal of Politics*.

Walker, H., M. Roman and M. Barreto. 2019. "The Direct and Indirect Effects of Immigration Enforcement on Latino Political Engagement." *UCLA Law Review*.67.

February 27: Implications of immigration control on physical and mental health outcomes

Androff, D.K. and K.Y. Tavassoli. 2012. "Deaths in the Desert: The Human Rights Crisis on the U.S.-Mexico Border." *Social Work*. 52(2): 165-173. doi: 10.1093/sw/sws034

Gupta, T., L. Rogers-Sirin, S. Okazaki, P. Ryce, and S.R. Sirin. 2014. "The Role of Collective Self-Esteem on Anxious-Depressed Symptoms for Asian and Latino Children of Immigrants." *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*. 20(2): 220-230.

Patler, C., E. Hamilton, K. Meagher, and R. Savinar. 2019. "[Uncertainty about DACA May Undermine its Positive Impact on Health for Recipients and their Children.](#)" *Health Affairs*. 38(5): 738-745.

Patler, C. and W.N. Laster Pirtle. 2018. "[From Undocumented to Lawfully Present: Do Changes to Legal Status Impact Psychological Wellbeing Among Latino Immigrant Young Adults?](#)" *Social Science & Medicine*. 199(1):39-48.

Vargas, E. D., Sanchez, G. R., & Juarez, M. (2017). "Fear by association: Perceptions of anti-immigrant policy and health outcomes." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*.42: 459–483. <http://doi.org/10.1215/03616878-3802940>

March 5: Provision of (or the lack thereof) social services for immigrant populations

Le, T. and A. Nowrester. 2020. "Immigrant and Native Consumption of Means-Tested Welfare and Entitlement Benefits in 2016." *Immigration Research and Policy Brief*. Cato Institute. January 14. https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/2020-01/IRPB_15.pdf.

Perreira, K.M. and J.M. Pedroza. 2019. "Policies of Exclusion: Implications for the Health of Immigrants and Their Children." *Annual Review of Public Health*. 40: 147-166. doi:10.1146/annurev-publhealth-040218-044115.

Xu, Q. and K. Brabeck. 2012. "Service Utilization for Latino Children in Mixed-Status Families." *Social Work Research*. 36(3): 209-221.

March 12: Wrapping up: What are the next set of important questions?